



NEWS RELEASE

COLTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Steve Ward, Chief of Police

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Four Police Officers to Receive Lifesaving Medal

Date: September 3rd, 2013

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: City Council Chambers 650 N. La Cadena, Colton CA 92324

Chief of Police and City Council are going to present four Colton Police Officers with The Lifesaving Medal

The City of Colton Police Department wants to invite all media personnel to help us honor and congratulate four Colton Police Officers who are going to be awarded the police department's lifesaving medal. The ceremony is going to take place at the Colton City Council meeting on September 3rd at 6:00 PM. This is the first item on the agenda and will be following the Colton Police Department's Honor Guard presentation of colors and Pledge of Allegiance. Immediately following the presentation of medals ceremony, there will be refreshments and photographs in the police department's briefing room. I have attached a synopsis below briefly describing the circumstances of the event that happened on May 2nd of this year, and the actions these officers took to save Officer Tom Dennie's life. As always, if there are any questions or concerns please give me a call, we would appreciate any media coverage as these heroes certainly deserve it.

-Synopsis of Event-

On May 2, 2013, Tom Dennie, an officer with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), was on his way to work at Chino Institute for Men, when he stopped at the Iowa Shell in Colton to put gas in his vehicle. While pumping gas, Tom was confronted by two gang members who attempted to rob him. Tom tried to escape the confrontation but was shot by one of the suspects, who then fled the area in their vehicle.

Must be approved by the Office of the Chief of Police prior to release
For additional information contact Corporal Ray Mendez, (909) 841-9423

After the shooting call was broadcast over the radio, Officer Greg Castillo, Sergeant Steve Davis and Officer Mike Collins were the first three to arrive on scene. Recognizing the severity of Tom Dennie's wound, and time being of the essence, Davis, Castillo and Collins quickly devised a plan to transport him to the hospital themselves. Sgt. Davis pulled his police unit alongside Tom, while Castillo and Collins lifted him into the backseat. Officer Collins stayed in the backseat with the Tom while Sgt. Davis drove with lights and siren to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC), with Officer Castillo providing an escort. In the mean time, Corporal Gary Gruenzner, who was assigned to work at ARMC, alerted the emergency room staff of the incoming wounded law enforcement officer. This triggered a unique response in which a full team of medical staff was assembled and waiting outside the hospital when Tom arrived. The quick response and immediate actions on the part of the officers and medical staff are credited with saving Tom Dennie's life.

The suspects responsible for this heinous crime were apprehended within minutes of the shooting by Riverside PD officers. They are incarcerated and awaiting trial on attempted murder charges.