

Maryland - National Capital

# Park Police

Montgomery County

## NEWS RELEASE

Lt. Dave McClintock 301-929-2753

FAX 301-942-1842

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **SIX Maryland-National Capital Park Police Officers Receive Awards**

Thursday March 23, 2006 marked the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Public Safety Awards. Over 1000 people including Lt. Governor Michael Steele, Representative Chris Van Hollen, County Executive Douglas Duncan, and many other notable public figures attended the ceremony, which was held at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center. The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Public Safety Awards recognizes acts of heroism and community service by members of the Maryland-National Capital Park Police, the Montgomery County Police, the Sheriff's Department, and the Division of Corrections.

During the ceremony six (6) Officers of the Maryland National Capital Park Police were recognized. They were as follows:

#### **Silver Medal of Valor**

- **Officer Alfredo Laporte:** On 7/29/2005 Officer Laporte rescued an unresponsive driver from a burning vehicle after a serious beltway collision that resulted in the officer's personal vehicle being struck as well. The driver was removed from the vehicle as flames were present in the passenger compartment.

#### **Bronze Medal of Valor**

- **Officers Gregory Worsey and Thai Giang:** On 06/19/2005 both Officers were nearby when a fire broke out in apartments located on Shorefield Road. After seeing smoke from third floor windows the officers raced to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor landing where despite heavy smoke they began checking for victims and evacuating residents apartment by apartment ahead of the fire. The fire eventually raised five alarms and took over 150 firefighters to extinguish while causing 3.5 million dollars in damage.

- **Officer Heather McLaughlin:** On 05/28/2005 Officer McLaughlin responded to a call for a woman in Seneca Creek to find an elderly woman tangled in debris. Wading through the creek, Officer McLaughlin realized the victim who was suffering from hypothermia had been missing from a group home since the day before and suffered from mental illness. While in thigh deep water and working to keep the woman's head above water Officer McLaughlin enlisted the aid of a citizen to break a large branch trapping the woman before she was able to untangle her clothing and remove her to safety.

### **Community Service Award**

- **Officer Jeff Coe and Lieutenant Brian Smith:** Both Officers have been active in Park Police youth outreach. During 2005 they coordinated and conducted the Punt Pass and Kick program at several locations and were able to reach over 400 youth. The program, which is sponsored by the NFL and Pepsi, challenges youth ages 7-14 to demonstrate their ability and skills through the game of football. This competitive program involves several levels that youth can advance through that could result in the children performing in FedEx Field during a half-time event. Both Officers have dedicated over a hundred hours of personal time to the program every year.

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