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December 1, 2017

RE: *National Sheriff's Association's 2018 Deputy Sheriff of the Year, for Valor* -or- *National Sheriff's Association's 2018 Medal of Valor*

TO: National Sheriff's Association's Awards Committee Members

The Jail Services Section of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office (Cincinnati, Ohio) would like to nominate *Deputy Terry L. Harper* for the **National Sheriff's Association's 2018 Deputy Sheriff of the Year, for Valor Award** -or- the **National Sheriff's Association's 2018 Medal of Valor**.

A certified Corrections Officer is a mixed-bag of several different Law Enforcement aspects. You have completed a state-sanctioned Police Certification Academy, have arrest authority throughout your state and the authority to carry a weapon but your primary duties are inside a detention facility where the people you deal with have already been arrested and you're not allowed to bring your weapon. Rarely, if ever, are you called upon to exercise your arrest authority. You are eligible to be promoted to a different Division and work off-duty details, but certified Corrections Officers are rarely exposed to a volatile "Patrol" situation. They do not have the benefit of relying on their "Patrol" experience or 'past practices' thus putting a limit on an Officer's knowledge of Law Enforcement techniques.

Deputy Terry L. Harper #201 is a 28-year veteran of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office/ Jail Services Section and is assigned to 1<sup>st</sup> shift/ Intake, where he operates within the Court Holding section, M-F, from 0700-1500. On Wednesday, March 8, 2017, Deputy Harper started the day like every other day.....stopping for coffee, for he and co-workers, at a United Dairy Farmers, on the way to work. After bringing two cups of coffee to the counter, Deputy Harper left to retrieve the third but on the way back, saw a man lying on the floor. Believing this to be a medical emergency, Deputy Harper approached the man but when he came around the ATM machine, he saw (who was later identified as) Simeon Thomas (MB/21) pointing a handgun at the store's clerk while screaming for him to give him "all the money". Instinctively, Deputy Harper broke cover, drew his weapon and clearly yelled for Thomas to drop his weapon and get on the floor. When Thomas turned toward Deputy Harper, the handgun turned also. Fearing Thomas would fire at him, Deputy Harper fired first, missing Thomas but scaring him sufficiently that Thomas fled deeper into the store, to a dining room area. Deciding not to chase Thomas, further, into the store, Deputy Harper gave Thomas instruction to come back out, drop the gun and 'get on the ground'. Several tension-filled seconds had passed before Thomas yelled that he was coming out, placed the handgun on the counter and laid, face-down, on the floor. Deputy Harper directed the store clerk to call 911, approached Thomas and cuffed him. Simultaneously,

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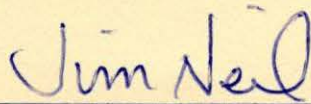
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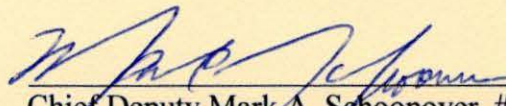
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a Cheviot Police Officer ran into the store. In the very short span, of mere seconds, Deputy Terry Harper saved 4 lives. He is a hero. Thomas was charged with 2 counts of Robbery, convicted and sent to prison for 6 years. As an aside, Detectives from our Patrol Division have said that Deputy Harper handled this situation "absolutely perfectly" and that they intend to use this situation in future training scenarios to demonstrate how an Officer should react because Deputy Harper "did everything right". This incident received extensive media attention and reflected the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office in an extremely positive light.

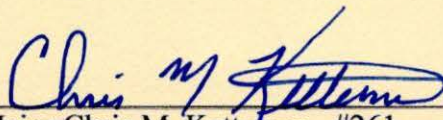
We are staggered at Deputy Harper's compulsion to duty and the intestinal fortitude it took to bring this volatile situation to a peaceful conclusion and feel that Deputy Terry L. Harper should receive the *National Sheriff's Association's 2018 Deputy Sheriff of the Year, for Valor Award* -or- the *National Sheriff's Association's 2018 Medal of Valor*.



Sheriff Jim Neil



Chief Deputy Mark A. Schoonover #449



Major Chris M. Kettelman #261

OPERATIONS COMMANDER

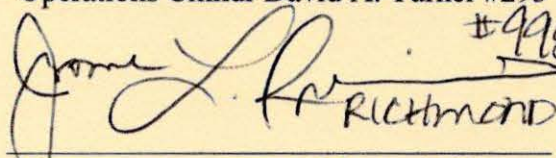
DAVID A. TURNER #293

12/4/17

Operations Cmndr David A. Turner #293



Captain Scott A. Kerr #1488



Lieutenant Jerome L. Richmond #998

#998  
JR  
