

Loudoun County Public Safety Personnel & Citizens Honored at 2007 Valor Awards
Loudoun County, Virginia- Sixteen Loudoun Sheriff's Deputies and four citizens were among those recognized Tuesday afternoon at the 2007 Valor Awards ceremony at the Washington Dulles Airport Marriott Hotel.

Sergeant Jeff Hunt and Deputy Anthony Cooper received a Lifesaving Award after they save a woman who was attempting to take her life. The two forced their way through a barricaded fence last September in the backyard where a woman had hung herself. Cooper and Hunt worked together to free the woman. Their quick response and direct actions saved the woman's life.

A Unit Citation was awarded to Captain Chuck Wyant, Lieutenant Charles Richardson, Sergeant Michael Cox, Sergeant Prince Hearn, DS Todd Smedley, Deputy Phillip Largent, Deputy Stanly Miller, Deputy Melissa Tenant, Deputy Patrick O'Neil, Deputy Duy Nguyen, Deputy Julius Shazier, and Deputy George Simpson. The group worked together last January to secure the inmates at the Loudoun County Adult Detention Center during a simultaneous gas leak and water leak.

A second Unit Citation was awarded to Lieutenant Chris Athey, Deputy Jose Giron, Master Deputy Ray Sullivan and Deputy David Martin last March for their actions during a standoff with an armed suicidal suspect. During the incident a man with a knife threatened to come at the deputies. Lt. Athey deployed less lethal beanbag rounds at the subject. He was taken into custody without having to use deadly force and avoiding any injuries to any of the deputies.

Three citizens also received Life Saving Awards for their efforts when a woman collapsed during church and was not breathing. Dr. David Steward, **Patty Russell, and Marni Frazee** were all in the congregation and responded to the victim to begin administering life saving CPR. **Russell and Frazee are both EMT volunteers.** The patient was in cardiac arrest but due to their efforts and possibly divine intervention she is now doing well.

Raul Mazariegos received the Citizen's Award after he pulled a man from a burning car on Route 15 near Lucketts on Christmas morning. Mazariegos was driving down the roadway around 2 AM when he saw a vehicle leave the roadway and strike a tree. The driver was suffering from multiple injuries and was unable to get out the car. Mazariegos risked his own life and pulled the man to safety as the car became engulfed in flames.

Also recognized at the event were members of the Leesburg Police Department, personnel from Loudoun County Fire & Rescue and two Loudoun County Public School employees.

The Loudoun County Valor Awards program awards are established by the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the local public safety agencies, to recognize and acknowledge members of the various public safety departments, as well as everyday citizens, who have placed themselves in harm's way over the past year to ensure the

safety of others.

The awards celebration took place April 10th at the Washington Dulles Airport Marriott Hotel in Dulles, VA. The keynote address was given by current Virginia Attorney General Robert McDonnell. The awards were presented by WJLA's Alison Starling who is co-anchor for Good Morning Washington.