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DOC Secretary Hamblin Recognizes Winners of the 2012 Secretary's SALUTE Lifesaving/Valor Awards

MADISON – During a ceremony held at the State Capitol today, Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) Secretary Gary Hamblin formally recognized the winners of the 2012 Secretary's SALUTE and Lifesaving/Valor Awards.

The awards ceremony paid tribute to numerous employees who have exhibited extraordinary service, dedication or acts of heroism during the past year. Among the 2012 winners are correctional officers who went into dangerous situations to help injured citizens and save lives.

“At the Department of Corrections, our professional and dedicated workforce contributes in a variety of ways toward making Wisconsin the great state that it is,” said Secretary Hamblin. “At times, our employees have demonstrated uncommon valor or taken actions that have saved another person's life. I am very proud of the individuals recognized here today and thank them. They represent the kind of employees who make Wisconsin a safer place to live and work.

The Valor Award honors DOC employees who take action under extremely difficult situations, during which injury or death to the employee is possible. The Life Saving Award recognizes employees who render assistance to another person in extreme jeopardy, to the extent an individual likely would not have survived without the employee's assistance.

Valor Award Winners

Kent Vande Kolk, Colton Renderman, Wesley McLinn, Susan Kasuboski, Ross Dehnel, Peter Schalk, Keith Barzyk and Captain Wayne Bauer, Correctional Officers, Waupun Correctional Institution – Together put out a fire that had started in a laundry area.

Josh Navis, Correctional Officer, **Carl Martin**, Facility Maintenance Specialist, Dodge Correctional Institution – Responded to an assault on a staff member.

Life Saving Award Winners

Bill Smith, RN, Dodge Correctional Institution – Administered CPR to a citizen who had collapsed.

Tim Nelson, Deputy Warden, Chippewa Valley Correctional and Treatment Facility – Assisted in helping victims of a fatal vehicle crash.

Tina Cottingham, Correctional Officer, New Lisbon Correctional Institution – Assisted an elderly woman with Alzheimer’s disease who had become lost and was in distress.

Michael Buettner Captain, **Brad Frisch**, Sergeant, Oakhill Correctional Institution – Helped save the life of an inmate’s girlfriend who was attempting suicide.

Shane Lewandowski, Sergeant, Kenosha Correctional Center – Performed the Heimlich Maneuver to rescue a youth who was choking.

Mark Sears, Richard Gondert, Correctional Officers, Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility – Assisted in preventing a suicide attempt by a civilian on a nearby bridge.

Ted Woods, Correctional Officer, Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility - Performed the Heimlich Maneuver to rescue a fellow officer who was choking.

Timothy Jochman, Taycheedah Correctional Institution – Treated an inmate who was having a severe reaction to a peanut allergy.

Brian Wackett, Dave Behling, Correctional Officers, Dodge Correctional Institution – Responded to an assault on a staff member.

Ralph Ramos, Sergeant (**Lifesaving and Valor Award**), Oakhill Correctional Institution – Saved the life of a victim of a vehicle crash who had become trapped.

Scott Hanser, Correctional Officer (**Lifesaving and Valor Award**), Dodge Correctional Institution – Saved the lives of snowmobilers who had gone into the water while snowmobiling on a lake.

The Secretary’s SALUTE Awards Program was started in 2007. Employees nominate their peers for a SALUTE Award recognizing Service, Awareness, Leadership, Uniqueness, Teamwork and Excellence. From these nominations, a review committee then makes final selections which are forwarded to the Secretary.

The 2012 Secretary’s SALUTE Award winners are:

Service: Allan Crevier, Juvenile Review and Release Specialist, Division of Juvenile Corrections

Awareness: Myron Olson, Chaplain, Jackson Correctional Institution

Leadership: Joan Gerl, Staff Development Specialist, Division of Management Services

Uniqueness: Patti Bailey, Correctional Officer, Prairie du Chien Correctional Institution

Team: Mental Health Program Escort Officers Dwayne Vilwock, Jason Krockner, Gregory Garrison, William Conroy, Debra Wilson and Joseph Hamele, Columbia Correctional Institution

Excellence: Laurie Kuhn, Probation/Parole Agent, Division of Community Corrections

