

PCNY 2015 Medal of Valor Award presented to Suffolk Co. Police Officer Mark Collins

On March 11, 2015 Suffolk County Police Officer Mark Collins, Shield 5705, was assigned to the Second Precinct Gang Unit.

Officer Collins and two partners were on patrol in an unmarked vehicle checking known gang locations. At 23:50 hours they observed a Honda Accord speeding and driving erratically on Jericho Turnpike in Huntington Station. The officers conducted a traffic stop and identified three of the four occupants as known gang members.

During the car stop, a subject P.O. Collins was well acquainted with fled on foot and was immediately pursued by Officer Collins. P.O. Collins was able to overtake the fleeing suspect and a violent confrontation ensued. Officer Collins deployed his taser, which had no effect on the individual. Officer Collins then engaged in hand-to-hand combat, during which the gang member produced a handgun and fired four rounds at point blank range. Officer Collins was struck twice, once in his neck and once in his hip area. P.O. Collins was seriously wounded and temporarily lost the use of his right arm and leg. With P.O. Collins being unable to get

to his service weapon or otherwise stop him, and with the suspect's gun out of rounds, the suspect fled.

Officer Collins, shot, bleeding and paralyzed, was still able to call for help.

As other officers arrived, he advised them

who had shot him and then instructed them how best to render him aid. (P.O. Collins is also a volunteer fire chief.) Officer Collins was airlifted by Suffolk County Police helicopter to Stony Brook University Hospital where the trauma team was successful in keeping him alive. The suspect was located by a K-9 unit, hiding in a shed, and placed into custody within one hour of the incident. After a period of rehabilitation, P.O. Collins



returned to work and is currently assigned to the Emergency Services section.

Officer Collins' bravery and fortitude in the face of death allowed a violent recidivist felon to be taken off the street. The perpetrator is currently serving 55 years to life in prison.

For the valor and bravery demonstrated by this officer we award Police Officer Mark Collins of the Suffolk County Police Department the 2015 Police Conference of New York Medal of Valor.

PCNY 2015 Life Saving Award
presented to

Southampton Town Police Officer Erik Breitwieser

On November 13, 2015 Southampton Town Police Officer Erik Breitwieser, Shield 234, was dispatched to a single-car motor vehicle accident in the Hamlet of North Sea within the Town of Southampton. The accident involved a single motor vehicle that crashed and overturned.

Upon Officer Breitwieser's arrival he could see that the driver of the vehicle was still in the car and unresponsive. The vehicle had caught fire and the front end became engulfed in flames. The driver's door would not open as the damage to the vehicle prevented it. Thinking quickly Officer Breitwieser utilized his ASP-Baton and after several strikes was able to break through the driver's window and enter through the broken glass. The driver, still unresponsive, was seat-belted in and caught up. Officer Breitwieser was unable to detach the belt as the adult male victim hung upside down. Once again thinking quickly, Officer Breitwieser pulled a knife from his gear and cut through the belt. He then pulled the victim and himself from inside the burning car to safety seconds

before the vehicle was fully engulfed. The fire was subsequently extinguished by the local fire department. If not for the quick actions and bravery of Police Officer Breitwieser the victim would have perished inside the burning car.



For his heroic actions PBA President Det. Kevin Gwinn submitted Officer Breitwieser for this award.

Erik Breitwieser is an eleven-year veteran of the Southampton Town Police Department and is also the Vice President of the PBA. He is a co-founder of the T.E.S.S. (Traumatic Event Support Services Group) for the organization and chairs multiple charitable events and initiatives. He was

named the Department's Police Officer of the Year for 2015 as well as PBA Person of the Year. In addition he was awarded a Bravery Bar for the aforementioned actions.

We award the 2015 Police Conference of New York Life Saving Award to Police Officer Erik Breitwieser of the Southampton Town Police Department for his heroic and life-saving actions.