

PURPLE HEART AWARD NOMINATION

By Joshua Bell, Past President

The Iowa State Police Association 'Purple Heart' award was developed in 2013 for the purpose of honoring law enforcement officers who have been seriously wounded or killed in the line of duty as a result of a combat incident.

The Purple Heart award is granted to any sworn Iowa peace officer who has been seriously, critically, or fatally injured in the performance of law enforcement duty. In addition, this award may be conferred if an injury was averted by the wearing of body armor. This award will be given in all cases resulting in line of duty death, but will otherwise be limited to those cases involving an attack by an assailant or the performance of an act of valor.

The 2023 Purple Heart Award will be given to 1 recipient at the 91st Annual Iowa State Police Association Conference in Iowa City on Tuesday evening October 10th, 2023.



On July 3, 2022, **John Williams**, a Sergeant with the Coralville Police Department, responded to and assisted with the emergency evacuation of a three-year-old child who had been shot in the head. After the child had been transported to the hospital by ambulance and while leading the investigation, Sergeant Williams began experiencing chest pains. He drove himself to the police department where he requested an ambulance for himself. At the station, he lost consciousness and all efforts to revive him were unsuccessful. Sergeant Williams served his community until the very end. His legacy will live on through all who knew him and the stories they tell. The Williams' family will forever remain a part of the Coralville Police Department family.