

## PURPLE HEART AWARD NOMINATION

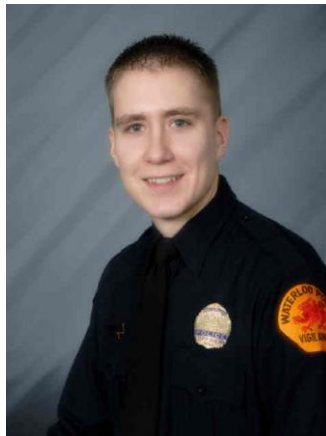
By Judy Kellen, Past President

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 because 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 2025 Purple Heart Award will be given to seven recipients at the 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Iowa State Police Association Conference in Davenport, Iowa on Tuesday evening October 7th, 2025.

The 2025 Purple Heart Recipients are:



Police Officer Jason Chopard  
Police Officer Tom Schuster  
Waterloo Police Department  
Date of Incident: June 30, 2024

Officers Jason Chopard and Thomas Schuster were dispatched to 209 Manson Street for a trespass call where a known felon was seen with a gun. Officer Chopard located the suspect on a bike in Sullivan Park. The suspect attempted to elude officers, fell to the ground, and began to fire rounds at Chopard's patrol vehicle and then at Schuster. During the exchange of gunfire, Officer Schuster was shot two times by the suspect. He was shot once in the chest center mass, which was stopped by his ballistic vest and once in the lower left leg. Officer Chopard was shot once. This round went through the driver's door and struck him in the lower left abdomen. Officer Chopard returned to full duty November 4, 2024 and Officer Schuster December 14, 2024.



Police Officer Dao Meunsaveng  
Des Moines Police Department  
Date of Incident: July 9, 2024

Officer Dao Meunsaveng was driving his marked patrol car to the police station with his K9 partner Bero when an intoxicated driver lost control of his vehicle and struck Officer Meunsaveng's patrol vehicle in the front driver door. Officer Meunsaveng was trapped inside of his vehicle and had to be mechanically extricated by the fire department. He suffered serious injuries to his head, neck, back and arm which caused him to be off work for more than 9 months while he recovered.



Police Officer Cade Moritz  
Police Officer Jacob Boekhoff  
Des Moines Police Department  
Date of Incident: September 16, 2024

Officer Cade Moritz and a second officer initiated a traffic stop which resulted in a short pursuit, ending at E 24<sup>th</sup> and Easton. The driver, Joshua Green, refused to get out of the car and after failing to obey command, was tazed by Moritz. Green retrieved a gun from his waist band and began firing. Officer Jacob Boekhoff, who had also arrived on scene, was stuck in the arm and Officer Moritz was struck in the head. At least three officers returned fire, striking the suspect multiple times. Officer Boekhoff returned to full duty on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Officer Moritz is still recovering and is hoping to return to full duty this fall.



Police Officers Landry Blunk  
Police Officer Brian Morrissey  
Bettendorf Police Department  
Date of Incident: May 21, 2025

Officers Landry Blunk and Brian Morrissey were dispatched to 2602 Cypress Drive, Bettendorf for domestic disturbance and stabbing. Officer Blunk encountered three children and removed them from the residence. Officer Blunk heard yelling in the basement and the sound of a firearm slide rack. He opened the basement door, and Jamey Myles fired two rounds, striking Officer Blunk in the forearm and hip area. One of those rounds also struck Officer Morrissey in the thumb. Officer Blunk exited the residence and began administering himself medical aid. Officer Morrissey then assisted with checking Officer Blunk for additional injuries. Officer Morrissey then drove himself and Officer Blunk to an area hospital for medical treatment. Officer Morrissey has returned to full duty and Officer Blunk remains on light duty.