



# Gold Star Certificate Award

Mitchell Saunders  
Ohio State Highway Patrol - Jackson

**NOMINATED BY:**  
GLENDON WARD

I would like to nominate Dispatcher Mitchell P. Saunders, from the Ohio State Highway Patrol Jackson Dispatch Center, for a Gold Award for his exemplary handling of a human trafficking case.

On November 19, 2020, at approximately 09:38 P.M., Dispatcher Saunders received a call from Oak Forrest Police Department in Illinois. Oak Forrest Police Department advised Dispatcher Saunders that they had just pinged a cell phone of a suspected kidnapping suspect on US 35 eastbound in Jackson County.

Dispatcher Saunders retrieved all valuable information from the Detective at Oak Forrest Police Department. Dispatcher Saunders relayed the make and model of the vehicle, description of the suspect, and the description of the kidnapped victim to all Jackson Post units. Dispatcher Saunders was able direct Troopers in a good location to apprehend the suspect. Not only did he direct the Troopers at Jackson, but he made contact with Athens Dispatch Center to get Gallipolis units dispatched to the area as well.

Due to Dispatcher Saunders quick actions, Trooper C. Crisco was able to locate the suspect on US 35.

Once the suspect and victim was located, Dispatcher Saunders took the initiative to reach out to the FBI and OSHP OIS Sergeant Michael Maughmer. Dispatcher Saunders kept in contact with the Oak Forrest P.D. investigator and kept him apprise of the situation.

Dispatcher Saunders' work ethic and quick actions were critical in the recovery of an abducted juvenile. His actions resulted in saving a juvenile's life.

Trooper Crisco stated, "Dispatcher Saunders' quick actions and good communication provided the valuable information he needed to apprehend the suspect vehicle."





# Gold Star Certificate Award

Melissa Pearce & Garrick Payne  
Ohio State Highway Patrol - Jackson

**NOMINATED BY:**  
GLENDON WARD

I like to nominate Dispatchers Melissa A. Pearce and Garrick B. Payne, from the Ohio State Highway Patrol Jackson Dispatch Center, for a Gold Award for their exemplary handling of an active shooting that resulted in a homicide. Both Dispatchers coordinated multiple public safety responses which resulted in the apprehension of a murder suspect.

On November 29, 2020 at approximately 01:49 A.M, the Jackson Dispatch Center received a call from Ross County Sheriff Office asking for assistance in regards to a shooting at a residence where a female had been shot in the arm and a male was shot in the head.

Upon arrival of Trooper J. McCarty, it was determined that the female had fled on foot and the male subject was deceased in the house. Trooper McCarty advised that a witness stated he observed a vehicle leaving the scene. Dispatchers Pearce and Payne notified OSP hub of the situation and requested aviation and assistance from OSP Intel Unit. OSP Intel Unit began to ping a cell phone that was associated with the female victim.

Using the information from the cell phone pings, Dispatchers Pearce and Payne directed Aviation and the two Chillicothe units to multiple locations in search of the victim. OSP Aviation located a vehicle picking up three individuals on McCalla Road. Dispatchers Pearce and Payne directed the two Chillicothe units to the area in an attempt to locate the vehicle. With the assistance of aviation, Trooper Howard was able to locate the vehicle. Trooper Howard followed the vehicle until Sergeant Strawser arrived to assist in a felony stop. A felony traffic stop was initiated and the four subjects in the vehicle were apprehended without incident.

During the incident Dispatchers Pearce and Payne showed professionalism by taking the initiative to guide OSP personnel, notify OSP hub, get all resources coordinated quickly, and assist officers in making a safe apprehension within three hours of the 911 call.





# Gold Star Certificate Award

Michelle Hoover  
Ohio State Highway Patrol

**NOMINATED BY:**  
JENNIFER PAKISH

On December 12, 2020, Dispatcher Michelle Hoover received a phone call from Indiana State Police reference a missing juvenile who was kidnapped by her noncustodial parent. The vehicle was being pinged by OnStar and entering Ohio on the Turnpike which she was dispatching. Michelle gathered all the necessary information from both the Indiana Police and OnStar. On the phone for approx. twenty minutes she was able to direct the troopers and get the vehicle stopped. While the units safely secured the five year old girl, Michelle informed the other two dispatchers to call our Intel dept to locate a phone number for the girls father in Colorado because we had received an incorrect number. Dispatch was able to communicate with the father and relay information to the troopers because of Michelle's quick thinking. The proceed of return the child to her father became and the mother was incarcerated. Michelle's ability to manage tense situations under pressure was a great asset to a happy ending.





# Gold Star Certificate Award

Brandt Stout  
Ohio State Highway Patrol - Batavia

**NOMINATED BY:**  
PATTY DOWNING





# Gold Star Certificate Award

Amanda Hermann  
Ohio State Highway Patrol - Canton

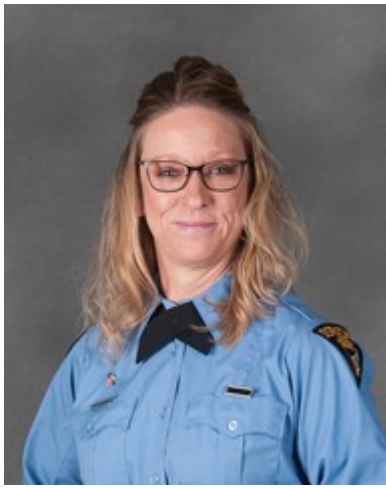
**NOMINATED BY:**  
BRETT CLAXON

Dispatcher Hermann is in recognition of outstanding service during 2020 at the Canton Dispatch Center. Post Management and her peers chose Dispatcher Hermann as the Dispatcher of the year based on her technical job knowledge, ability, enthusiastic work attitude, teamwork and prompt and courteous response to the public's requests for information and assistance. Dispatcher Hermann is known for her hard work and even temperament. She has participated in community food drives as well as taking on extra tasks in the dispatch center.

On November 21st 2020, Dispatcher Hermann Helped set up and oversee a "Can-A-Cruiser" Food and Donation Drive conducted at the Acme Fresh Market in Stark County. She donated her own time for this cause to ensure that it was successful.

During the 4 hour food drive 793lbs. of food and \$1,789.84 was donated. The food and money was donated to the Stark County Hunger Task Force, in Canton.





# Gold Star Certificate Award

Cynthia Bloomfield  
Ohio State Highway Patrol - Portsmouth

**NOMINATED BY:**  
JOSEPH BAISDEN

Dispatcher Bloomfield was selected the 2020 Dispatcher of the Year for the Portsmouth Dispatcher Center. Disp. Bloomfield is always very professional and polite to everyone she deals with. This became very evident when she was training a new dispatcher and had several troopers involved in a officer involved shooting and pursuit. Disp. Bloomfield stayed calm on the radio coordinating other units and agencies to the scene.







# Gold Star Certificate Award

Adam Brown

Ohio State Highway Patrol - Lebanon

**NOMINATED BY:**

CHUCK O'BRYON

Dispatcher Adam Brown, from the Lebanon Dispatch Center, exhibits the telecommunicator qualities deserving a Gold Star Certificate for 2020. During 2020 Dispatcher Brown stepped up and took on additional responsibilities as a facility TAC. He accepted this additional responsibility knowing it was voluntary on his part, and he would not receive additional compensation. Dispatcher Brown has embraced his additional responsibility and has made positive changes in dispatch operations at the Lebanon Center.

Dispatcher Brown takes pride in his routine dispatch operations, in addition to his TAC duties. He continually strives to increase his knowledge, and he will readily bring issues he finds to the attention of supervision. Dispatcher Brown can be relied on to assist in resolving scheduling issues, and he always provides possible solutions to problems he discovers.

Dispatcher Brown is respected by the patrol units he dispatches for and his troopers know he has their back. The road troopers know Dispatcher Brown has a vast understanding of their patrol area, and he has a wealth of knowledge in overall patrol operations. Dispatcher Brown also recently agreed to train a newly hired dispatcher. He has shown flexibility in his schedule to train the new hire, and he has gone above and beyond the call of duty to ensure his trainee receives the proper instruction to be a successful telecommunicator.

These are just a few examples of why Dispatcher Brown is deserving of a Gold Star Certificate for 2020. Thank You for considering this nomination.





# Gold Star Certificate Award

Matthew Williams

Ohio State Highway Patrol - West Jefferson

**NOMINATED BY:**

MATT STEGNER

On December 15, 2020 the West Jefferson Post was advised of a stolen silver Volkswagen Jetta traveling on Interstate 70 eastbound towards Columbus. The driver of the vehicle was a juvenile male wanted for a shooting in Indiana. Dispatcher Williams was quick to alert his units of the information and several minutes later the vehicle was spotted by Post 49 units. Dispatcher Williams requested assistance from the Columbus Police Department, OSHP Columbus Post, and OSHP Aviation. Post 49 units along with the Columbus Police Department attempted to stop the vehicle and a vehicle pursuit ensued. The fleeing vehicle reached high rates of speed and crashed several minutes later. The suspect was ejected from the vehicle, and taken into custody by units on scene. The suspect was transported to a local hospital for minor injuries. Located at the scene was a firearm and other evidence related to the Homicide. Dispatcher Williams remained calm throughout the incident and provided the dispatcher center and all units involved with a high level of professional communication. Dispatcher Williams' abilities allow him to provide his units with the highest level of officer safety and assist in successful apprehension of criminals on Ohio's roadways.







# Gold Star Certificate Award

Chelsea Rough

Ohio State Highway Patrol - Medina

**NOMINATED BY:**

DINA SLAGER

I would like to recognize the following Dispatcher at the Medina Dispatch Center for their exceptional contributions during 2020;

Dispatcher Chelsea L. Rough has adjusted to fluctuating manpower during a pandemic, disseminating information to the public regarding COVID, maintaining the influx of warrants due to jail closures and new procedures, training new dispatchers.

The center is scheduled for 10 dispatchers to operate efficiently. Throughout the year of 2020 the center has been operating with no more than seven dispatchers and has been as low as three. She has demonstrated her willingness to work together as a team by changing her schedule to facilitate training and maintaining a high degree of professionalism and dispatching services for Medina and Lorain Counties. Through all of this she was able to complete her assigned duties promptly and efficiently while assisting post management in completing their job tasks.

Chelsea's determination has been influential and helped create a more positive work environment. She makes sure everyone has what is needed, often before even asked. She understands that she is the lifeline for our officers and all those that she serves. She uses her position to serve others with respect while embracing humility.

I am impressed by how Chelsea works at a sustained elite level. She is always prepared to act with confidence and strengthened by the experience. When opportunity and adversity arrives, she is prepared and ready to take it on.





# Gold Star Certificate Award

Josa Muir & Kayla DeWitt  
Ohio State Highway Patrol - Medina

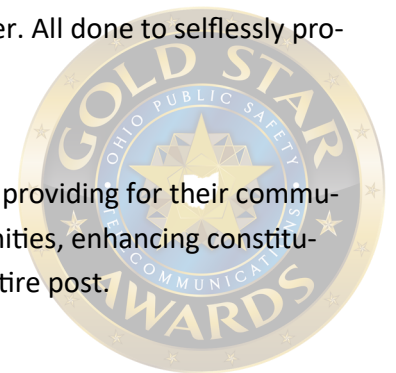
**NOMINATED BY:**  
DOROTHY O'NEIL

Dispatcher Josa Muir and Dispatcher Kayla DeWitt are being recommended for the 2020 Gold Star Certificate. As everyone is aware, the year 2020 has been unprecedented on many levels. As we all struggled to regain a sense of normalcy to our lives, and strived to provide the best service at work, both of these dispatchers took the level of service to a new degree.

Dispatcher Josa Muir, and Dispatcher Kayla DeWitt, of the Ravenna Dispatch Center went above and beyond to coordinate two events. Both of these events will continue to be annual events at the Ravenna Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. The first was for Halloween. Providing families a safe location to bring their children for trick or treating, and coordinating it as a drive thru event to provide safety during the pandemic. This event saw extraordinary results, and so they focused the same on a holiday drive thru. The holiday drive thru was beyond imaginable with families waiting in line, some over an hour or more, to come through the Holiday Lane experience. Santa was present at the event handing out candy to all the children, big and small. The families were excited, and again the event helped bring a sense of normalcy to an otherwise non-ordinary holiday season.

Aside from providing for the community, and allowing the community to see the positive side of policing, fire, and EMS. They also invited various elected officials, as State Rep. Randi Clites and Juvenile Judge elect Smith who attended. This also allowed them to participate in the event, make constituent contacts, and to see the positive impact the law enforcement community is bringing to the communities served. This event did several other things too. It pulled the post together, not only from within the dispatch center, but as an entire post, to work together. It brought a sense of pride and togetherness for all working the event. Additionally, these ladies also worked to include the other local law enforcement and fire departments in the event. This allowed more relationships to form with our partner agencies. They have forged ahead to bring the sense of fellowship for all. Neither event was a small undertaking. There were hours of planning, coordinating, preparing, and setting up that took place. They donated their own time, their own money, and coordinated efforts to pay for the remainder. All done to selflessly provide for their community they serve.

Dispatchers Josa Muir and Kayla DeWitt are shining examples for a Gold Star Certificate, providing for their community, showing the positive influence police, fire and EMS really do have for their communities, enhancing constituent relationships, and bringing a sense of togetherness and accomplishment for their entire post.





# Gold Star Certificate Award

Megan Miller

Ohio State Highway Patrol - Columbus

**NOMINATED BY:**

LAURA WINDBIGLER

On April 24, 2020, Dispatcher Megan R. Miller took a call from Sheepdogbloodhound.org, an organization that seeks out information needed to rescue victims from on-line exploitation.

Sheepdog reported an eight year old girl was broadcasting live, completely nude, from an address in Columbus, Ohio. Sheepdog didn't have an exact address, however; was able to provide Dispatcher Miller with a license plate seen on the live feed. Once an address was obtained, another dispatcher contacted Columbus Police Department and notified them of the situation. Dispatcher Miller continued to gather as much information as possible and kept the CAD incident updated.

Within 20 minutes of the original call, Columbus Police Department had two officers on scene and the SWAT team dispatched. The live stream continued until the officers knocked at their door. It was later discovered the girls' parents were involved with the broadcast, which lasted for over an hour.

Due to Dispatcher Miller collecting vital information and her quick actions, police were able to intervene, saving this girl from possible future exploitations.





# Gold Star Certificate Award

Columbus Communication Center Dispatchers  
Ohio State Highway Patrol

**NOMINATED BY:**

**BRIAN MANGIN**

This Gold Star nomination is for all of the Columbus Communications Center Dispatchers. (Lieutenant Bryan K. Mangin, Special Response Team Tactical Commander)

"I just wanted to take a second to thank all of the dispatchers that work with SRT on a daily basis. SRT has units spread out across the entire State of Ohio. SRT responds to and handles so many different critical incidents in which the Columbus Communications Center is our lifeline to critical information sharing. The dispatchers do a fantastic job at getting us the information we need and documenting everything that needs to be captured. From working with the U.S. Marshals, manhunts, barricades, warrant services or stopping out with a disabled vehicle, we greatly appreciate all you guys do for us and do not want your work and professionalism to go unnoticed."





# Gold Star Certificate Award

Timothy Kelly  
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

**NOMINATED BY:**  
BETH LAINHART

Dispatcher Timothy Kelly is one of the most versatile dispatchers in our center. Tim is trained at all positions throughout the center and gladly works wherever he is assigned. He is always willing to help out wherever he is needed, be it with sitting with a trainee passing along his wealth of knowledge, being a go-to person for questions that may pop up throughout the day or just being a person that someone can go to with everyday problems that are not a work concern.

Tim has volunteered for many outside assignments over his tenure. Tim was a member of the Hostage Negotiation Team for the Sheriff's Office, a current member of the Critical Incident Stress Management team assembled by officers, dispatchers, corrections officers from throughout our area and a self-appointed mentor within the center for anyone who needs help, volunteering to participate in National Night Out to answer citizen questions about dispatch and presenting year after year at a middle school during career day about the job he loves.

In 2020, Tim was recognized by the Sheriff's Office awards panel twice for going above and beyond during the performance of his duties. One was involving recognizing a stolen vehicle, from an earlier call for service that was involved in a crash injuring an officer from one of our jurisdictions. Another he was recognized for acting as the "master of ceremonies" for the Caravan of Lights recognizing fallen officers within Montgomery County. In the time of COVID, the regularly scheduled memorial service was cancelled and Tim stepped up to assist hundreds of officers give proper memoriam for the fallen heroes in Montgomery County.

Tim used his CISM training in 2020 helping a fellow Telecommunicator deal with a difficult call for service where a man took his own life while she was on the phone. Tim responded without hesitation to the PSAP to help her process the call and how to deal with the emotions. He gave her resources and an impartial ear so she could properly deal with the difficult situation and her own thoughts.

Tim always exemplifies what it means to be an all-around Telecommunicator and is beyond deserving of the Gold Star Certificate.

