

Titusville hall of fame honors Fort Hood heroes

Pair named Officers of the Year at Police Hall of Fame



Sgt. Mark Todd and Sgt. Kimberly Munley wear the medal of St. Gabriel Possenti, given to them by John Snyder, founder and chairman of the St. Gabriel Possenti Society, during Monday's ceremony honoring them as national Officers of the Year at the American Police Hall of Fame in Titusville. (Tim Shortt, FLORIDA TODAY)

WHAT THEY RECEIVED

In addition to various plaques, National Law Enforcement Officers of the Year Kimberly Munley and Mark Todd Sr., sergeants with the Fort Hood Police Department, will receive:

- A handgun from Glock.
- A range bag from U.S. Peacekeeper.
- Tickets to the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, SeaWorld and Walt Disney World.
- Letters from Florida Gov. Charlie Crist and Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

TITUSVILLE -- — Sgts. Kimberly Munley and Mark Todd Sr. had served in the same Texas police department for more than two years, but never worked together until a day last November when they responded to a call at Fort Hood.

They arrived on the scene at about the same time, shortly after a gunman had fatally shot 13 people and wounded 31 others.

Within about two minutes, the Fort Hood Police Department sergeants apprehended the suspect, Army Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, and likely prevented other deaths and injuries. Munley was the 32nd person wounded in the attack and is still recovering from her injuries.

For their heroism, Munley and Todd on Monday received the National Law Enforcement Officers of the Year award from the American Police Hall of Fame in Titusville.

"This is an opportunity to honor real heroes in our day," said Titusville Mayor Jim Tulley, before reading a proclamation during the ceremony.

Recalling the incident during interviews prior to the ceremony, Munley and Todd said that just four minutes and 16 seconds elapsed between the initial 9-1-1 call of "shots fired" at Fort Hood, and the shooting of the suspect, who remains hospitalized and awaits prosecution.

It was by chance that Munley and Todd were the initial officers on the scene.

Todd, a trainer in the Fort Hood Police Department's Military Working Dog Branch, had volunteered to fill in on road patrol that day because several vacations and scheduled days off had left the unit short. He was dispatched to the call first as the officer closest to the scene.

Munley, a sector supervisor for patrol officers on duty that day, was finishing paperwork as the end of her shift approached, when she heard the call on her police radio. Because she was nearby, she responded, even though she wasn't initially dispatched.

"They never even physically met each other until that day," said Fort Hood Police Chief David Ross, who attended Monday's award ceremony.

Ross credits their training with Munley and Todd working together to bring the gunman down about two minutes after getting to the scene. The officers' teamwork helped prevent more lives being lost that day, he said.

Both Munley and Todd said they were within feet of the suspect when he was shot and apprehended. As Munley put it, they were "up close and personal."

Todd said a final report detailing the shooting of the suspect have not been released.

Neither Munley nor Todd spoke during Monday's event. They received an extended standing ovation from those attending the ceremony. People crowded around the Fort Hood sergeants after the event to offer congratulations and have photos taken with them.

"It's a tremendous honor to be honored by fellow law enforcement," Todd said prior to the event.

Munley was shot three times in the incident -- in her hand, upper leg and knee. She remains on leave from the Fort Hood Police Department while recovering from those injuries. She walks with the help of a cane.

Todd returned to work after the Food Hood shootings.

The pair have been to the White House, met President Barack Obama and been honored at various law enforcement events around the country.

"I think it is a very good thing for this community to recognize them," said Titusville resident Ling Snyder, who attended the event. "They were very heroic. They didn't take into consideration their own safety, and focused on what their duty was."

"They are true heroes," said Cocoa Police Department Detective Nellie Woodruff, one of seven local law enforcement people also honored at Monday's event. Woodruff was recognized for helping locate a 3-year-old boy who allegedly was kidnapped by his father in Cocoa in November and then taken to a sailboat off the coast of St. Petersburg.

Brevard County Sheriff's Office Cpl. Jay Church, another local honoree, said that being recognized in the same ceremony as the Fort Hood sergeants was "very prestigious. I was very happy to be in their presence."

Church was honored for his work on three major cases -- one involving money laundering, one involving a man with a knife holding a hostage, and one in which he helped save an accident victim whose vehicle was submerged in the water.