

Award for Valor

Deputy Michael Kinler

Sheriff Greg Champagne was honored to present the Award for Valor to Deputy Michael Kinler during a staff meeting on December 18, 2023.

On October 17, 2023, off-duty Deputy Michael Kinler was traveling to an in-service training class in St. John Parish when he responded to a call for service for a woman in crisis. Deputy Kinler observed a frantic man on Airline Highway standing next to the woman's vehicle. The vehicle then sped away, made a U-turn, and quickly accelerated before crashing into a pond south of the spillway off Airline Highway. Seeing that the vehicle was drifting and sinking, Deputy Kinler immediately entered the water and swam to it, sacrificing his own personal safety to recover a one-year-old child that was secured in a child safety seat. Deputy Kinler swam back to the shore with the child while three good Samaritans recovered the woman in crisis from the vehicle.

Once everyone was safe, Deputy Kinler briefed responding officers on what had transpired and asked if he could be dismissed because he did not want to leave the in-service training class short on role players. Deputy Kinler's dedication and loyalty to this agency and service to the community are outstanding and second to none. His actions are commendable. He risked his own personal safety to ensure the safety of a child. For these reasons, Deputy Michael Kinler is awarded the Award for Valor.