

Award for Valor

Deputy Jennings was awarded two Awards for Valor.

1st Award for Valor

In January 2003, she was dispatched to a fire in Norco, and was advised that two people, one of whom was handicapped, were possibly trapped inside the residence. An elderly neighbor at the scene confirmed both were still inside the burning home, and were probably in a rear bedroom.

Deputy Jennings ran into the smoke-filled dwelling, made her way to the rear bedroom and out onto the backyard patio where she found the wheelchair-bound woman. Still inside the house were the other woman and two dogs.

Upon re-entering the bedroom, Deputy Jennings found the woman and a small dog in a cage. She assisted both out of the residence.

After learning another dog was still inside, Deputy Jennings entered the burning house a third time, located and removed the animal, and continued to help fire fighters enter another door to extinguish the fire.

All of the occupants and Deputy Jennings were treated for smoke inhalation at St. Charles Hospital. Afterward, the deputy returned to duty.

2nd Award for Valor

The second incident occurred June 5.

In the wake of several fatal accidents along U.S. 61, Deputy Jennings was dispatched to that highway. A passerby advised her that a vehicle had just entered the canal and was beginning to sink. The deputy spotted a blue pick-up truck with just the top of the cab sticking out of the water.

The driver, still sitting behind the wheel, began yelling for help. At Deputy Jennings' request, the driver exited the vehicle, however, because of the injuries he sustained in the accident, was unable to swim to the bank. He began sinking.

Deputy Jennings immediately jumped into the water, grabbing the driver before he slipped under the surface of the canal. With help from EMTs and other officers on the scene, the driver was pulled to the bank to safety and subsequently transported to St. Charles Hospital for medical attention.

If not for the quick thinking and the deliberate actions of Deputy Jennings, surely tragedy would have resulted in both of these instances.