

ST. CHARLES PARISH DEPUTY RECEIVES "OFFICER/DEPUTY OF THE YEAR IN RECOGNITION FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AWARD" AND "CRIMESTOPPERS GNO DEPUTY OF THE YEAR FIRST PLACE WINNER AWARD"

Deputy Austin Mercier, who has been with the Sheriff's Office since 2015, was honored today at the CrimestoppersGNO Annual Awards Luncheon in New Orleans. He received the Deputy of the Year award for the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office and the Overall CrimestoppersGNO Deputy of the Year award. Each year, CrimestoppersGNO and the Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust recognize law enforcement officers who exemplify the core values of the law enforcement oath of honor, including character, courage, public trust, community service, reverence for the law, respect, and integrity.

Deputy Mercier demonstrated Heroic Acts of Service in two incidents, both within a few months of each other:

On June 29, 2024, deputies responded to a hit-and-run crash with injuries on Airline Highway near Ormond Boulevard in Destrehan. Upon arrival, Deputy Mercier and another deputy located two crash victims, both with severed limbs. The crash victims were on a motorcycle when they were struck and thrown several feet. Deputy Mercier applied his tourniquet to the male driver's left leg, successfully stopping the bleeding. At the same time, the other officer, Deputy Nash, applied his tourniquet to the female passenger's left leg, successfully stopping the bleeding. EMS arrived and continued to render aid. Flight care was requested. Because of the deputies' life-saving actions, both victims were stabilized for flight care and flown to a Level I trauma center. Both victims survived the crash. EMS and Trauma Surgeons attributed the two victims surviving the collision to the actions of Deputies Mercier and Nash.

Additionally, on August 10, 2024, several calls came in for a female in distress on top of the Hale Boggs Bridge in Luling. As Deputy Austin Mercier arrived, the female began climbing the railing of the bridge in an apparent attempt to end her life. Deputy Mercier ran toward the female and pulled her down from the railing of the bridge. Deputy Mercier was able to sit her down, calm her, and encourage her to be safe while waiting for EMS. Additionally, he went to the hospital with the female and sat with her in her room to keep her company until her family arrived. The deputy's actions not only saved her life in that moment, but the female also stated that she no longer wished to die.

Congratulations, Deputy Mercier, and thank you for your service and dedication to the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office