

Medals of Valor

Detectives Cantelli & Robichaux

Domestic violence has captured the public's eye with several high profile cases in the recent past. However, police officers have known for many years that these types of calls for help are the most dangerous.

Today's fast-paced lifestyle, both partners working and rising expenses, etc. all lend to the stress of the relationship. Add alcohol, drugs, and guns to the situation and you have an explosive situation.

Deputy Steve Cantelli responded to one of these situations in St. Rose. The wife stated that her husband was intoxicated, abusive, and had thrown some of her possessions out of the house. She wanted him arrested and taken to jail. She directed Deputy Cantelli into the house-trailer and said he was in a back bedroom.

Deputy Cantelli called to the man so that he could speak to him and calm the situation. He was; however, met by the angry man holding a rifle. Deputy Cantelli called on his radio for help and attempted to get the man to put the weapon down.

Deputy Robichaux arrived and entered the house and joined Cantelli. They removed the wife from the house and tried to calm the man down. He would not let the deputies approach him and moved in and out of two different bedrooms, while always holding the rifle. It was later learned that he was, in fact, loading the weapon as he moved in one of the bedrooms.

The man then approached the deputies and pointed the rifle directly at them. As the man tried to disarm one of the deputies and raised his rifle to fire, both deputies had no choice but to shoot him.

Both deputies displayed extreme courage in the face of imminent danger, not only to themselves, but also to the wife and other residents in the area.

Both Steve Cantelli and Chad Robichaux are now detectives with the Sheriff's Office.