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Rahway's finest put life on line

by Pat DiMaggio
Many people believe that a police officer's day is routine. They see patrol cars riding through neighborhoods or see officers parked at the side of the road issuing tickets. What many residents don't realize is that members of law enforcement put their lives on the line every day. "A policeman's life is a dangerous life," says Rahway Police Chief Barry Henderson.

The courage and heroism shown by members of Rahway's Police Department were highlighted Friday night at a dinner sponsored by the Honorary P.B.A. and P.B.A. Local 31 at the senior citizens complex on Milton Avenue. Awards to members of the Police Department for excellent police duty were made by Captain Edward Tilton, Chief Henderson and Mayor Daniel Martin.

"This is our way to give our guys something special," said Henderson. "The citizens of Rahway are very fortunate to have the caliber of these individuals serve them on a daily basis. They go out there every day and they do their job."

Police Officer Robert Post received a "B" award for excellent police duty. He had been summoned by a neighbor to come to the assistance of a young teenager who had been trapped in a hole after a cave-in. Post immediately responded to the scene and, through his quick, calm actions, began clearing an airway for the trapped youth. His actions were responsible for the prevention of a possible loss of life or serious injury.

Police Officer Frank D'Errico received a "B" award for excellent police duty. On May 1, 1988, he was confronted with an armed suspect who was holding another person at bay with a loaded double-barreled shotgun. Officer D'Errico, being out in the open and exposed to danger, displayed great courage and calmness in talking to the suspect into giving up the weapon without having to resort to deadly force.

Police Officer Thomas Hubert received a "C" award, medal of merit. On August 5, while enroute to work, he had observed two individuals in dispute. One was armed with a knife and was attempting to assault the other. Officer Hubert single-handedly intervened and physically disarmed and subdued the assailant. Officer Hubert's courage and dedication to the protection of the public prevented the possibility of a loss of life.

Police Officer George Barnick received a "C" award, medal of merit. On March 31, Woodbridge Police put out a radio alert on the kidnapping of a male victim and the theft of his motor vehicle. While on patrol, Officer Barnick observed the victim's vehicle occupied by the victim and the suspect. He gave chase and caught the vehicle in Linden. The suspect, who had been armed with a knife at the time of the kidnapping, was apprehended and the weapon recovered. Officer Barnick displayed courage and professionalism in making this apprehension.

Lt. William A. O'Leary received a "D" award, certificate of commendation. On September 20, he was called to assist in a search for three armed men who had just robbed a bank in Colonia. The suspect vehicle was located abandoned in the parking lot of one of the local taverns. Lt. O'Leary began checking parked vehicles knowing that it is not uncommon for fleeing felons to attempt to take refuge in nearby locations. He located one of the hold-up suspects crouched under the dashboard of a parked vehicle. Lt. O'Leary's experience and keen observations are well deserving of this commendation.

Sgt. Kevin White and Police Officer Thomas Hubert received "D" awards, certificates of commendation. On September 28, an armed holdup of one of Rahway's local businesses was perpetrated by an individual armed with a handgun. Just prior to the incident, Sgt. White had investigated an individual who was supposedly trespassing and was in possession of a gun. He and Officer Hubert began an investigation into the possibility that the two incidents were related. They went to the abandoned house where the initial report of trespassing took place and apprehended two suspects. One suspect subsequently admitted to the holdup as well as two other holdups in the area. Both officers are well deserving of this commendation as it displays initiative and professionalism on their parts.

Sgt. Richard Tomshaw received a "D" award, certificate of commendation. Sgt. Tomshaw was able to secure the confidence of a reliable informant, and information was developed and turned over to the Rahway Police Department, Narcotics Enforcement Unit, enabling them to secure a search warrant for a local residence. The search culminated in the confiscation of a quantity of narcotic drugs and the recovery of several stolen high-powered guns. Three suspects were arrested and charged with the possession of the drugs and stolen property. Sgt. Tomshaw's actions displayed a great deal of initiative and dedication to his job.



CITED FOR VALOR & PROFESSIONALISM... Rahway Police Chief Barry Henderson (left) poses with members of the force honored at a dinner January 20 with awards for excellence. Others pictured, including the several honorees, are (l-r) Capt. Ed Tilton, officers Frank D'Errico, Tony DeCarlo, Joseph Mikajlo, Paul Meo, John Rodger, George Barnick, Morris Clay Jr., Kevin White, Wm. O'Leary, Joseph Holley, Daniel McGrath, Allan Pitts, Thomas Hubert.

Police Officer Daniel McGrath received a "D" award, certificate of commendation. On September 13, he had stopped a motor vehicle occupied by six individuals, and, through further investigation, was able to detect a quantity of CDs, resulting in the arrest of the six suspects for possession. On further investigation, Officer McGrath identified one of the suspects as being wanted by the U.S. Marshall's Office in Dallas, Texas, on charges of violation of parole and drug trafficking.

Police Officers Robert Post and Paul Meo received "D" awards, certificates of commendation. On August 23, they were alerted by radio to be on the lookout for a motor vehicle occupied by two individuals armed with a handgun who had just threatened a citizen. They came upon the vehicle and the occupants, and placed them in custody. The handgun was also recovered. Both officers performed with great courage and the highest degree of professionalism.

Police Officers Allan Pitts and Joseph Holley received "D" awards, certificates of commendation. While on routine patrol, Officers Holley and Pitts observed a motor vehicle with a rear window broken out. When they discovered that the vehicle had been stolen, they maintained surveillance and gave radio direction to other units to position themselves to prevent the escape of the vehicle, thus avoiding the potential for a dangerous high-speed chase. The vehicle and occupants were apprehended without injury or damage to the vehicle.

Police Officers Joseph Holley and Joseph Mikajlo received "D" awards, certificates of commendation. They had observed suspicious behavior when a car pulled into a gas station on Route 1. Their investigation of the vehicle revealed that it was stolen, and two suspects were arrested. Burglar tools and a small quantity of marijuana were also confiscated. This is a shining example of alertness, aggressiveness and professional police work.

The same two officers received two additional "D" awards for their actions on January 9 and March 4. In the first instance, they had observed several persons breaking into one of the new cars in a lot on Route 1. After a brief chase, the officers apprehended three suspects and discovered that the vehicle they had occupied had been stolen. This self-initiated, aggressive patrol resulted in the arrest of three suspects, the recovery of one stolen motor vehicle and the

Cops honored at PBA dinner

Prevention of the theft of another vehicle.

On March 4, they had observed suspicious activity by two males in a parked truck. After a brief surveillance, they approached the suspects and found that the truck and its contents were stolen property. This very professional and aggressive police work resulted in the recovery not only of the

Police Officer Anthony DeCarlo received a "D" award, certificate of commendation. Officer DeCarlo observed a suspicious vehicle parked and occupied by one person. Upon investigation, Officer DeCarlo found that this subject and an accomplice were attempting to steal one of the new cars from a nearby lot. Both suspects were arrested and charged with criminal attempt and possession of burglary tools. Officer DeCarlo's actions were self-initiated and deserving of commendation for his aggressive patrol and alertness.

Petition deadline set for school board hopefuls Star athletes honored at meeting

by Pat DiMaggio
Rahway's Board of Education, meeting last week, announced that the school board elections will be held Tuesday, April 14. Residents interested in seeking a seat on the board, which governs policy in the districts schools, must file a petition with the board secretary by 4 p.m. on February 9.

The board will also adopt the tentative 1989-90 school budget on Monday, February 13, in the Louis Rizzo Board Meeting Room at the Intermediate School at 7 p.m. A public hearing on the budget will be held on

March 14, at 8 p.m., at the Intermediate School. The board also recognized students for excellence in sports. The following football players received commendations from the board: Carlos Garay, Barry Madden, Michael Mills, Gregg Chaillet, Roosevelt Coleman, Abdul Rashed, Rudy Rivera, Samson Steinman and James Ferraro.

Members of the boys soccer team also honored included Christopher Condron, Inmar Carbajal, Daniel Smith, Leonard Arevalo and Louis Romeo. Allison Dudley was recognized for her participation on the girls soccer team.

Seventh and 8th grade boys honored for their endeavors in boys soccer included: Frank Costanzo, Justin DeReamer, Rich Eger, Allen Gilchrist, Joe Komyati, Christian Mamczak, Daniel Manning, Daniel Martin, Robert Motz, Matthew Nieto, Corey Ott, Robert Pitts, Michael Sabuto, Willy Schweitzer, Ronald Solenske, Philip Stevenson, Eric Weil and Joseph Wysocki.

stolen truck and the arrest of two suspects, but also the recovery of \$25,000 worth of stolen property contained in the truck.

Police Officers John Rodger and Morris Clay, Jr. received "D" awards, certificates of commendation. In attempting to locate a vehicle and suspect involved in an aggravated assault with a knife, the officers located both, at which time the suspect turned the knife on Officer Rodger. Officers Clay and Rodger engaged in a brief struggle with the suspect before placing him under arrest. Both officers are to be commended for their courage in confronting an armed suspect and for the restraint exercised in subduing him without the use of deadly force.

Police Officer Robert Lanigan assisted members of the Rahway Police Department in subduing an apparently mentally disturbed person who was out of control and was menacing parishioners at a local church. Lanigan sustained a slight injury as a result of the struggle with this person, but were it not for his courageous actions, more injuries and further damage might have occurred. The City of Rahway and the members of the Police Department expressed gratitude for his willingness to help.

While members of the Rahway and Woodbridge Police were searching the neighborhood for three bank holdup suspects, Al Orsini observed an individual run through a back yard, gave chase and yelled for the man to stop. The man fell to the ground and thinking Orsini was a police officer, remained where he was. Orsini stayed put and kept the man under surveillance until police officers arrived. His actions displayed great courage and he was thanked by the City of Rahway and the Rahway and

Public hearing on cable contract

A public hearing to solicit citizens' input on current and future cable television needs in the City of Rahway will be held Tuesday, Feb. 7, 7 p.m., in Municipal Council Chambers, City Hall, Rahway. Residents are urged to attend to present complaints and recommendations regarding the refranchising of Suburban Cablevision.

Erik Bender promoted

Erik C. Bender, son of Norma D. Bender of Greslin Terrace, Rahway, has been promoted in the U.S. Army to the rank of private first class. Bender is an Infantryman with the 9th Field Artillery in West Germany. He is a 1985 graduate of Rahway Senior High School.

Service League offers scholarships

The Rahway Junior Service League will offer college scholarships to high school seniors graduating in 1989. Scholarships are available to students in public or private schools and the student must be a resident of Rahway. Applications can be obtained at the Rahway High School guidance office or at the Rahway Junior Service League Thrift Shop, 76 West Main Street. All applications must be returned by March 1.



HONORED GUESTS... Pictured from the left are Capt. Edward Tilton and Chief Barry Henderson of the Rahway Police Dept., Robert Lanigan, Thomas Grahill, Richard Walker and Al Orsini. The four civilians (and David Green - not pictured) are local residents who were honored at a PBA dinner for their voluntary services to the police.

Police honor Rahway citizens for courage

Residents who decided not to mind their own business and, instead, get involved - sometimes at the risk of their lives - were honored Friday night at a dinner sponsored by Rahway's P.B.A. Local 31 for their endeavors.

Four residents of Rahway were commended with certificates of recognition from the Police Department for their actions. Robert Charles Lanigan, Richard Walker, Al Orsini and David Green were applauded for their assistance and courage.

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CYRC sets baseball/softball, tee-ball sign-up

This spring, The Citizen's Youth Recreation Committee (CYRC) of Rahway will offer a 5- and 6-year-old tee-ball league with girls and boys combined who reach these ages on or before August 1, 1989. For information, contact Frank Eaton at 388-2719 or come to the next baseball/softball registration at the Claude Reed Center on January 28, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Girls aged 7-16 and boys aged 7-13 can also register for baseball/softball, same day, same time. Any questions contact Joann Hamel at 382-9142 or Doug Sides at 574-1862.



KING HONORED... Union County joined the nation in honoring Martin Luther King, Jr., by displaying two photographic exhibits at the Courthouse and Administration Building, depicting his struggle for racial equality, according to Jeffrey MacCarrelli, Freeholder Vice Chairman (right), and Gerald Green (left), Freeholder. The exhibits were compiled by Lillian Hannibal (center) of Rahway, who has lectured on the black experience for 50 years.

But Rhett, what would NED say?



LIFECALL... As a guest of the Rahway Police Department, the members, including Rocco Cozzi and Nick... lifecall signaling system for use in medical, the...