

Background on the Hanna Awards:

The first awards ceremony was held in 1983 in honor of Trooper George L. Hanna, who was shot and killed in the line of duty during a routine traffic stop in Auburn on February 26 of that year. Three men and two women were in the vehicle that Trooper Hanna had pulled to the side of the road, and when he removed the occupants for questioning, he was shot six times by one of the male suspects. He died later that evening in a Worcester hospital, leaving behind his wife, Marilyn, and three children, Deborah, Kimberly and Michael. His three assailants are serving life sentences.

Trooper Hanna began his career with the Massachusetts State Police on October 15, 1974 and served nearly ten years with the Department before his death. Since 1983, the event has grown from a small ceremony at the base of the Grand Staircase to the most prestigious law enforcement award ceremony in the Commonwealth. It is an opportunity for the Commonwealth to publicly recognize the bravery of members of the law enforcement community who put their lives on the line to ensure the public's safety. The event is coordinated by the Massachusetts State Police and the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security.

1. MEDAL OF HONOR - The highest and most prestigious award

Awarded to a police officer who demonstrates actions above and beyond the call of duty, exhibiting extraordinary bravery and courage in the face of extreme risk and certain and imminent danger to life or limb. The police officer's actions are performed in the course of a dangerous incident to protect or save the life of a colleague or citizen, in selfless disregard for the officer's own safety and often result in great cost to the officer, including loss of life. Medal of Honor recipients should display exceptional levels of professionalism, competence, leadership, and clear thinking during a dangerous incident while on or off duty. The officer's actions must be so outstanding that they clearly distinguish heroism from lesser forms of bravery.

The award may be made to an officer who has lost his or her life in the line of duty under conditions in which the officer displayed professional law enforcement actions and duties consistent with good police practices.

This year, there are (6) six recipients of the Medal of Honor, represented by the:

1. Braintree Police Department

- A. Police Officer William R. Cushing Jr.**
- B. Police Officer Donald M. Delaney**
- C. Police Officer Paul H. Hamilton**
- D. Police Officer John M. Hurley**
- E. Police Officer Ryan P. McHugh**
- F. Police Officer Stephen T. Wallace**

On May 5th, 2017, Officers Donald Delaney, William Cushing, Ryan McHugh, John Hurley, Paul Hamilton and Stephen Wallace arrived at the Braintree Police Department for their tour of

duty as they has hundreds of times in the past. None of these officers knew then, what they know now. Their capabilities as officers, their dedication to their duty and each other, their commitment to the Braintree Police department, and their very lives, would be put to the ultimate test that evening.

At approximately 9 PM, each of these five officers attempted to serve a kidnapping warrant to a suspect known to be staying at the Braintree Motel. After verifying the suspect had rented a room at the motel, the officers approached the suspect's room to serve the warrant. When the suspect did not respond to repeated knocking at the door to his room, Officer Hurley attempted to open the door using a key card. The door, however, had been latched from the inside and would only open a few inches.

Through the small open space, the officers re-announced their presence and asked the suspect to open the door. The lawful demands of these five officers was answered by the suspect with a hail of gun fire.

A 9 MM round fired by the suspect struck Officer Delaney, who was standing in front of the still closed door, in the right side of his head. Knocked off his feet, the round sent Officer Delaney sprawling backwards onto his back. Additional rounds fired through the door drove Officer Hamilton to the ground, shattering his elbow and causing a leg wound. Despite having wounds to his left eye, arm, and a gunshot wound to his head, Officer Delaney returned fire from a prone position. Officer Delaney was able to scramble to his feet and begin to move to his left.

As if on cue, and with complete disregard for their own personal safety, Officer Cushing and McHugh stepped directly into the line of fire from a protected position on the right side of the door. Both Officers then returned fire into the suspect's room, from an exposed position providing cover for Officer Delaney's escape. Seizing the opportunity, and with split second decision making, Officer Hurley shepherded Officer Delaney to a more protected position on the left side of the door. With Officer Delaney out of the direct line of fire, Officer Cushing and McHugh fell back to a position behind a parked vehicle with Officer Hamilton.

Now standing behind a concrete signpost, Officer Hurley simultaneously tended to Officer Delaney while calling for back up and providing situational reports to responding officers.

Officer Hamilton, who had regained his footing, then ran to his cruiser to obtain a rifle, despite having a shattered elbow and a leg wound. While Officer Hurley was assessing his condition, Officer Delaney fell to his knees next to the sign post when a second barrage of gun fire erupted from the suspect's room. Officer Hurley pulled Officer Delaney to his feet, by the strap of his vest. Despite only being able to see from one eye and with a bullet lodged in his head, Officer Delaney then took a kneeling position on his own behind cover, performed a magazine change, and covered the suspect's room from his position. Responding to even more gunfire, Officers Delaney, McHugh, and Cushing again returned fire into the suspect's room.

Once the gunfire subsided, Officer Hurley guided Officer Delaney to an extraction point further away from the suspect's room. An ambulance waiting nearby, however, was unable to reach their location, as doing so would necessitate traversing the hot zone. Refusing to abandon their rescue, Officers Hurley and Wallace, a former firefighter and paramedic, coordinated Officer Delaney's evacuation using Officer Wallace's police vehicle. Transporting Officer Delaney to the ambulance required Officer Wallace to drive his vehicle through the suspect's line of fire, provide medical treatment to Officer Delaney at his location, and then transport both Officer Delaney and Officer Wallace to a waiting Advanced Life Support ambulance.

Officers Cushing, McHugh, and Hamilton maintained their positions, despite their injuries, until relieved by other officers and tactical personnel.

It gives me great honor to report that, true to his nature, Officer Delaney has made a full recovery and is back on patrol in Braintree.

2. MEDAL OF VALOR - The second highest award

Awarded to a police officer who demonstrates actions above and beyond the call of duty, exhibiting valor, courage and bravery while disregarding the potential for danger or great risk to him or herself and whose actions do not rise to the level of Medal of Honor, during the course of an individual incident.

This year, there are (9) nine recipients receiving the Medal of Valor.

- 1. Everett Police Department**
 - A. Sergeant Lawrence Jedrey**
- 2. Chelsea Police Department and MBTA**
 - A. Police Officer Robert Hammond, CPD**
 - B. Police Officer James J. Davie, MBTA**
- 3. Worcester Police Department**
 - A. Police Officer Robert D. Sansoucy**
- 4. Massachusetts State Police**
 - A. Trooper Michael C. Caranfa**
 - B. Trooper Robert R. Holland**
 - C. Trooper George N. Katsarakes**
 - D. Trooper David T. Nims**
 - E. Trooper Daniel T. Purtell**

All recipients being recognized at this ceremony were nominated for acts of bravery and heroism performed over the course of 2017.

- 1. Everett Police Department**

A. Sergeant Lawrence Jedrey

On the evening of October 15, 2017, Sergeant Lawrence Jedrey of the Everett Police Department responded to a report of an armed male who claimed to have already murdered someone and was threatening to kill police officers. When Sergeant Jedrey attempted to make contact with the individual, he was immediately confronted by the male suspect who was armed with a knife in each hand. Sergeant Jedrey issued multiple commands for the suspect to drop the knives, all to no avail. The suspect continued to advance on Sergeant Jedrey in an aggressive manner, all while threatening to kill him. Facing an impossible situation with the distance between himself and the armed suspect closing rapidly, Sergeant Jedrey faced the difficult decision of whether to use deadly force.

Sergeant Jedrey confronted that decision with courage and respect for the sanctity of human life. Ultimately determining he had no choice, Sergeant Jedrey fired his weapon to stop the suspect from advancing on him any further. Immediately upon doing so, Sergeant Jedrey initiated lifesaving first aid to the same suspect who had just attempted to kill him. The suspect was subsequently transported to Massachusetts General Hospital where medical staff noted that if it had not been for the medical aid rendered by Sergeant Jedrey and the other responding officers, the suspect would have likely died.

Sergeant Jedrey's vigilance, swift action, and commitment to rendering assistance to the suspect, undoubtedly saved the suspect's life. Sergeant Jedrey's actions are a testament to his demonstrated commitment to protecting the safety and well-being of all the Commonwealth's citizens.

2. Chelsea Police Department and MBTA

A. Police Officer Robert Hammond, CPD

B. Police Officer James J. Davie, MBTA

On the evening of May 22nd, 2017, Officer Robert Hammond of the Chelsea Police Department and Officer James J. Davie of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Police Department risked their lives while responding to an active shooter situation in Chelsea Massachusetts. At approximately 9:18 PM, Officer Hammond was on regular patrol when he received a radio call for an active shooter approximately four blocks from his location. The shooter had fired multiple rounds at his 10 year old daughter and his wife when he chased them into a neighbor's home before retreating back into his residence. Thankfully neither was struck. Officer Hammond arrived on scene within seconds of the radio call and the ShotSpotter activation, which had picked up the audio of the multiple shots that were fired, and immediately began approaching a residence on Warren Avenue believed to be the shooter's location. As Officer Hammond approached the residence on foot, multiple civilians approached him from hiding places in driveways and behind parked cars, reporting that the shooter was further up the street.

Officer Hammond continued his approach, using parked vehicles for cover. When Officer Hammond arrived at the residence believed to be the shooter's location, the front door opened and the shooter stepped through. Within seconds, Officer Hammond was under fire. With little to no time to react, Officer Hammond instinctively relied on his training and engaged the suspect. First diving behind a parked vehicle and then returning fire, Officer Hammond was able to draw the suspect's attention and gunfire toward himself and away from the civilians on the street. This split second tactical decision undoubtedly saved lives. During the ensuing gun battle, Officer Hammond persistently and accurately returned fire, forcing the suspect to make a hasty retreat back into the

residence. Without hesitation, Officer Hammond radioed for additional units and took up a position at the rear of the house to prevent the suspect's escape.

Officer James J. Davie and his partner were the first Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority officers to answer that call. Officer Davie and his partner immediately took up positions in a building adjacent to the residence where the shooter had barricaded himself. After resisting all contact by crisis negotiators, the suspect was observed setting the residence on fire which became fully engulfed in flames. Subsequently, the suspect emerged from the side of the home within a cloud of thick black smoke and exchanged gunfire with Officer Davie. The suspect, however, was forced to retreat back into the residence. Officer Davie maintained his position covering the rear of the home until it was no longer safe to do so and he was ordered to retreat and provide security for the Chelsea Fire Department who had arrived on scene and extinguished the fire.

Both Officer Hammond's and Davie's acts of heroism in the face grave danger to themselves and others demonstrated an exceptional commitment to uphold the law and protect the safety and security of this Commonwealth's citizens.

3. Worcester Police Department

A. Police Officer Robert D. Sansoucy

On the afternoon of October 9, 2017, Officer Robert Sansoucy of the Worcester Police Department risked his life while saving the life of a distraught individual who was in the process of committing suicide at the Union Train Station Parking Garage in Worcester. Officer Sansoucy was one of several officers who responded to the parking garage after receiving reports of a man walking along the outer edge of the roof, over 100 feet above the pavement, while slashing at himself with a razor knife. Over the course of several hours, Officer Sansoucy and crisis negotiators attempted to convince the distraught individual to drop the knife and come down off the ledge.

During this time, several rainstorms passed through the area making the conditions on the concrete roof slippery and extremely dangerous, for both the officers and the suicidal male. As time went on, the distraught male became increasingly agitated, volatile and despondent. The negotiations between the male and the officers began to deteriorate rapidly. The male then confronted some of the officers on the roof in a threatening manner. When these officers used a non-lethal beanbag gun in an attempt to subdue the male, he turned and jumped off the roof, to the street 100 feet below. Officer Sansoucy, who had been on the roof since officers first engaged the male, ran after him as he jumped. Without hesitation, Officer Sansoucy grabbed ahold of the male's torso, as he fell. Several other officers were able to hold onto Officer Sansoucy's legs to prevent him from also slipping over the ledge of the roof, under the weight of the male whom he now held in his arms.

Refusing to abandon the rescue, Officer Sansoucy maintained his grip on the male's body and continued to support his weight until additional officers could respond and render assistance. Officer Sansoucy's vigilance, swift action, and refusal to abandon his rescue, despite the risk of his own certain death, saved a life. Officer Sansoucy's actions are a testament to his demonstrated commitment to protecting the safety and well-being of all the Commonwealth's citizens.

4. Massachusetts State Police

- A. **Trooper Michael C. Caranfa**
- B. **Trooper Robert R. Holland**
- C. **Trooper George N. Katsarakes**
- D. **Trooper David T. Nims**
- E. **Trooper Daniel T. Purtell**

On June 15th, 2017, Troopers Michael Caranfa, Robert Holland, George Katsarakes, David Nims and Daniel Purtell of the Massachusetts State Police were responsible for the apprehension of an armed suspect who was the subject of an interstate manhunt. Wanted by the Maine authorities for a violent sex crime, the suspect stole a pick-up truck, a handgun, and ammunition during a home invasion. Aware that the suspect intended to commit suicide through a violent confrontation with police officers, known as “suicide by cop”, the Maine authorities immediately issued an alert to law enforcement agencies throughout the New England area.

Later that evening, the suspect’s stolen pick-up truck was spotted in Massachusetts by Officers of the Malden Police Department. When the officers attempted to approach the suspect’s stolen vehicle, he fled the area and a lengthy pursuit ensued. Responding to a call for assistance from the Malden Police Department, Troopers of the Massachusetts State Police intercepted the suspect on Route 114. Successfully deploying a tire deflation device, the Troopers were able to flatten two of the tires on the suspect’s vehicle. Undaunted, the suspect continued to flee from Troopers, who were now leading the pursuit to capture him. In an effort to thwart the Trooper’s dogged pursuit, the suspect began to drive erratically. Flicking his headlights on and off, he accelerated to speeds of up to 75 miles per hour driving on only the rims on the passenger side of the stolen pick-up truck. After throwing objects out of the truck failed to shake the Troopers who were pursuing him, the suspect began firing at them with the stolen hand gun. Undeterred and true to their nature, the Troopers continued the pursuit.

When the chase reached a construction zone on Route 495, the suspect crossed the median and began driving north in the southbound lanes with his headlights off. Realizing the grave risk the suspect posed to the public, Trooper Daniel Purtell began to maneuver his cruiser into position to make intentional contact with the suspect’s vehicle and force him off the road. Seeing an opportunity, when the suspect exited the highway, Trooper Purtell drove his cruiser directly into the suspect’s stolen pick-up truck. As the cruiser made contact with the suspect’s vehicle, the suspect began firing at Trooper Purtell from inside the truck. Steadfast in his pursuit, and with complete disregard for his own personal safety, Trooper Purtell attempted to make contact with the suspect’s vehicle for a second time. Again the suspect fired at Trooper Purtell. Despite Trooper Purtell returning fire to the suspect, the pursuit continued as the suspect’s vehicle fled the area.

The pursuit eventually entered Newton, New Hampshire and came to an intersection, where the suspect lost control of the pick-up truck, causing it to spin 180 degrees so that it was now facing the pursuing Troopers. Forced into a confrontation they had made every effort to avoid, the Troopers exited their cruisers with their weapons drawn. Trooper Robert Holland ordered the suspect to show his hands. In a demonstrated act of defiance, the suspect revved the engine of the pick-up truck and immediately accelerated toward several Troopers who were outside their cruisers. Standing directly in the path of the armed suspect’s accelerating pick-up truck, Troopers Michael Caranfa, Robert Holland, George Katsarakes and Daniel Purtell confronted the suspect from an exposed position. True to their nature, each Trooper stood their ground. With complete disregard for their own personal safety and having no other means to protect the lives of their fellow troopers,

each Trooper fired on the suspect's vehicle as it advanced on their position. The split second decisions of these Troopers forced the suspect's vehicle to veer off the road and avoided an attack that would have certainly resulted in the deaths of multiple law enforcement officers.

With supporting cover from the other Troopers on scene, Trooper David Nims approached the pick-up truck to check on the suspect's condition and render first aid. The suspect was subsequently pronounced deceased.