



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
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Four HPD officers - Sergeant Brian Tusing, Officer John Denny, Officer Alaina McWhorter and Officer Rose Mary Nuno - were honored Tuesday night with the 2024 Award for Valor. (Pictured above, from left: Chief Craig Branch, 2023-24 VACP President; Sgt. Brian Tusing; Officer John Denny; Lt. John Hancock; Interim Chief Todd Miller; Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin.

Four Harrisonburg Police Officers Receive 2024 Award for Valor

HARRISONBURG, VA – Harrisonburg Police Department Sergeant Brian Tusing, Officer John A. Denny, Officer Alaina C. McWhorter and Officer Rose Mary Nuno were presented with the 2024 Award for Valor from the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police (VACP) on Tuesday for their actions responding to a domestic disturbance involving a firearm and abduction of a woman in May 2023.

The four responded to an incident on May 6, 2023, where an armed suspect had forced a woman into his vehicle and fled. Officers pursued the suspect to Liberty Street, where they were able to stop the vehicle. As Tusing breached the driver's side window, the suspect opened fire on officers. While the suspect was distracted by the officers returning fire, McWhorter and Nuno were able to help the victim to safety, ultimately saving her life. The suspect then opened fire directly at Denny, and all four officers returned fire, striking the suspect. No officers were injured in the encounter.

Although the suspect had just fired shots at officers, they immediately began rendering aid, saving his life. The victim also was able to walk away from the incident without any injuries.

These officers' ability to think quickly and work together under pressure saved lives, leading to their recognition from VACP.

"Their adept handling of the situation displayed their quick thinking, training and professionalism under extreme pressure," HPD Interim Chief Todd Miller said. "Tusing, Denny, McWhorter and Nuno showed an unwavering commitment to community safety and security through their selfless acts of service, just as HPD officers strive to do every day. Their actions on May 6, 2023, and every day show their commitment to Harrisonburg and protecting and serving its community members. We are immensely proud of our officers and thankful to the VACP for recognizing their hard work."

*The **City of Harrisonburg** is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 55,990 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.*

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