

Sammie McElvain

Nominated by Sgt. Troy Turner and Capt. Matt Smith

On March 27, 2017, Officer Nick Francescon stopped a vehicle for having improper registration. Officer Francescon saw the driver put something into his pocket, and asked the driver to step out of the vehicle.

Within moments, a struggle ensued. A handgun fell from the driver's possession and the driver and Officer Francescon fell to the ground, the driver trying to reach the handgun and Officer Francescon trying to subdue him.

Several residents gathered around as the two struggled on the pavement. Dispatchers trying to reach Officer Francescon were unsuccessful, hearing only "clicks" on the radio. They dispatched additional officers to his location.

Sammie McElvain called 911 and said an officer was fighting with a man and needed help. She told dispatchers the man had a gun and the two were on the ground, struggling. Ms. McElvain's concern for the officer was evident, and she remained on the phone with dispatchers until the suspect was under control.

Ms. McElvain's compassion courage and actions were immeasurable in providing information for a safe and successful outcome for everyone involved.

Jason Sesock

Nominated by Det. Jason Hicks and Capt. Justin Crowell

On June 30, 2017, a young woman was making an after-hours deposit for her employer at Regions Bank, 2921 Broadway. As she was making the deposit, a man, armed with a crowbar, began attacking her.

Mr. Sesock was walking past and realized what was happening. He came to the young woman's rescue, fighting off the attacker and saving her from serious injury. He also prevented the attacker from stealing the deposit.

In addition, he was able to provide a detailed description of the suspect that helped lead to his identification and arrest. Without his help, it would have been more exceedingly more difficult to solve this case.

Shela Mitchell

Nominated by Officer Will Gilbert

On Sept. 13, 2017, I was dispatched to 2200 Bridge St., Lot 24, in reference to a baby that was not breathing, turning blue and was unresponsive. Upon my arrival, a woman I later identified as Shela Mitchell handed me the baby, who was crying and appeared to have regained her normal color.

Ms. Mitchell told me that her neighbor had run to her home, frantic that the baby was not breathing. Ms. Mitchell said she began CPR and, after a partial cycle, the baby began to cry and its color returned.

Ms. Mitchell was calm and collected, and after handing me the baby, she began to calm and comfort the baby's mother. The baby was checked out by Paducah firefighters and taken to the hospital as a precaution.

At the time, the baby was only six weeks old. She now is a normal, healthy six-month-old and the two families have developed a close friendship. Ms. Mitchell has had the opportunity to spend time baby-sitting.

The actions taken by Ms. Mitchell that day helped to save that child's life. She remained calm and collected throughout the incident, something that not everyone is capable of. The way she handled herself contributed to the positive outcome and I am proud to nominate her for this award.

Kerria Bruyns
Nominated by Sgt. Shawn Craven

On Oct. 7, 2017, Ms. Kerria Bruyns called 911 to report that she was parked next to a car occupied by a woman whose breathing appeared to be labored. She feared the woman was in danger, and provided a description of the vehicle, an exact location of the vehicle and other pertinent information.

Paducah firefighters arrived and said the woman was slumped in her seat and they could barely see her. They broke out a window to get to the woman, whose lips and skin were turning blue.

Firefighters and Mercy ambulance personnel managed to regain a pulse and the woman was taken to Lourdes Hospital. Officers learned from hospital personnel that the woman would not have survived much longer in the vehicle. Ms. Bruyns likely saved her life by calling and reporting her condition.

Raven S. Freeman
Nominated by Sgt. Shawn Craven

On Oct. 25, 2017, Raven Freeman called the city's Emergency Communications Services Department and said she feared something was wrong at the home of her neighbor, an elderly woman.

Ms. Freeman said the woman normally keeps her doors locked, but her front door had been open for several days, and she had not heard any movement in the apartment. Ms. Freeman told police she was concerned for her neighbor's well-being.

Officers checked, and could see the elderly woman through the cracked door. She was on the floor and initially appeared to be deceased. But when officers entered the apartment, they found the woman was breathing, but unable to communicate. She weighed less than 80 pounds, and was extremely malnourished and dehydrated. In the apartment, there was no refrigerator, food or any type of telephone for the woman to call for help.

This elderly woman probably would have passed away in the floor of her apartment had Ms. Freeman not grown concerned and called for help.