



200 Club of Monmouth County

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www.monmouth200club.com

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For Immediate Release:

Six Police Officers in Monmouth County Honored with Valor Awards for Exceptional Bravery

Spring Lake, New Jersey, June 7, 2019 – “The *200 Club of Monmouth County* is proud to recognize the outstanding achievements of first responders. Today, we honor more than 100 first responders for exemplary service to our community. Among them are six police officers receiving our highest honor, the Valor Award, in recognition of particularly exceptional bravery, putting their own lives at risk to save and protect others. They deserve, and have earned, our utmost respect and gratitude,” said Kim Guadagno, the President of *The 200 Club of Monmouth County*.

The awards were presented to the first responders at *The 200 Club's* Annual Awards Luncheon at the Spring Lake Golf Club. The more than one hundred honorees include law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMTs, dispatchers, first aid members and paramedics from Monmouth County. The awards include Certificates of Recognition, Plaque Awards, Commendation Awards, Merit Awards... all the way up to *The 200 Club's* highest award, the Valor Award.

The six police officers who received Valor Awards are from three different police departments in Monmouth County. Their acts of heroism are listed below:

- **Officer Adam Sosnowski**, K-9 Unit, Manalapan Township Police Department,

“a suicide by cop scenario was avoided due to his actions”

- **Officers Timothy Griswold and John Sarno**, Asbury Park Police Department’s Street Crime Unit, “arrested a gunman who was carrying a semi-automatic pistol after a dangerous foot pursuit through the many obstacles of backyards and adjoining streets”
- **Officer Daniel Savastano**, Asbury Park Police Department’s Street Crime Unit, “conducted a field stop on a group and detected a concealed handgun, a foot pursuit ensued leading to the suspect’s arrest”
- **Sergeant Alastair Sweeney**, Asbury Park Police Department’s Street Crime Unit, “managed to disarm a gunman after a foot pursuit and violent struggle”
- **Officer George Samol**, Long Branch Police Department, “wrestled a suspected murderer for his gun at the crime scene, disarmed him, and arrested him without incident”

It is important to note that some of the above incidents involved other officers who also received awards at different levels.

The 200 Club of Monmouth County’s main mission is to provide financial assistance to families of first responders who die or are seriously injured in the line of duty. Last Thanksgiving, *The 200 Club* gave \$15 thousand dollars to the widow of NJ State Trooper Joseph Erb who died after decades of suffering from injuries sustained in the line of duty.

Each year, *The 200 Club of Monmouth County* also awards college scholarships to deserving children of first responders. In 2018, *The 200 Club* gave more than 100 students college scholarships totaling \$109,000. To date, the club has given out more than \$2 million in college scholarships.

The 200 Club of Monmouth County was founded by Bill Wingard and other Monmouth County philanthropists in the 1970s, when each pledged an annual donation of \$200. The organization is governed by officers who serve a two-year term and a Board of Trustees. It is a 501(c)3 charitable organization with about 1000 members. Community support allows *The 200 Club of Monmouth County* to continue its mission. To make a donation or apply for membership, please visit our website at www.monmouth200club.com. Be sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and our new YouTube channel.

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