

Medal of Valor, Purple Heart for 2018:

Troop Three, Medal of Valor

Trooper T.D. Landreth

In the early morning hours of Saturday, March 31, 2018, Trooper T. D. Landreth was on routine patrol in Troop Three, Post C (Greenville). Trooper Landreth was on Sulphur Springs Road when he noticed smoke coming from the Springwood Apartments. Trooper Landreth found this to be suspicious considering the time of morning and thought it may be trash burning.

As Trooper Landreth got closer, he realized the building was on fire and could see a bright orange glow coming from a second story apartment. Trooper Landreth notified Post C dispatch of his location and went straight to the apartment door which had fire coming from around the door. Trooper Landreth tried to alert anyone in the apartments but received no response. Trooper Landreth immediately started beating on all the doors in the building to alert the tenants of the building. Trooper Landreth put himself in harm's way in order to make sure the occupants of the burning building were notified and safely evacuated.

Without Trooper Landreth's quick and heroic actions, the tenants of the building would have been in grave danger.

The following includes a Medal of Valor and Purple Heart Award for the this incident in Troop Four:

TFC C. D. Nicholson (Medal of Valor) and L/Cpl. P.M. Wilkins (Purple Heart Award)

On October 15, 2018, Cherokee County Troopers were notified of a BOLO vehicle traveling south on I-85 and being driven in a reckless manner. L/Cpl. P. M. Wilkins and TFC C. D. Nicholson responded. During their response, they received another call of a collision that had occurred on I-85. During the course of the investigation, it was revealed that the collision and the BOLO were related and another person was threatened by the subject with a machete.

Upon L/Cpl. Wilkins and TFC Nicholson's arrival to the area, they encountered the BOLO vehicle that had exited the interstate. L/Cpl. Wilkins attempted to initiate a traffic stop, but the driver failed to stop and a pursuit began in the Meadow Creek Industrial Park. TFC Nicholson joined the pursuit with L/Cpl. Wilkins.

During the pursuit, L/Cpl. Wilkins and TFC Nicholson attempted a rolling roadblock, but the violator swerved into the side of TFC Nicholson's patrol car causing him to lose control and strike a curb. This caused TFC Nicholson's vehicle to have a flat tire. Even though he had a flat tire, TFC Nicholson maintained his position in the pursuit.

The pursuit eventually returned back to SC 329 and the driver began suddenly increasing and decreasing his speed. The violator eventually came to a stop, placed his vehicle in reverse and backed his vehicle onto the hood of L/Cpl. Wilkins' vehicle, disabling both Wilkins' and the violator's vehicle.

The violator fled on foot and L/Cpl. Wilkins and TFC Nicholson chased him. During the foot pursuit the violator, who had a machete in his hand, was ordered to drop the weapon. A struggle ensued and L/Cpl. Wilkins was stabbed in the right shoulder with another small-bladed weapon. The violator was eventually restrained and taken into custody.

L/Cpl. Wilkins was transported to Cherokee Medical Center by a Cherokee County Sheriff's Deputy for his injury. L/Cpl. Wilkins returned to work a few days later and continued with his duties.

L/Cpl. Wilkins, who received stitches for the wound, returned to work a few days later to continue his duties.

Troop Five (Medal of Valor)

Sgt. F.T. Cherry, L/Cpl. T.M. Graham, L/Cpl. M.L. McKenzie, L/Cpl. J.H. Wright

On October 3, 2018, Sgt. Cherry, Lance Corporals Graham, McKenzie and Wright responded to an active shooter call on Hoffmeyer Road in Florence County where multiple officers from Florence PD and Florence County Sheriff's Office had been shot while attempting to serve a search warrant at a residence. The troopers entered the Vintage Place Subdivision. Upon entering the subdivision, the troopers were

pinned down in the neighborhood by the shooter who continued to fire shots at responding officers. They could see some of the wounded/slain officers, but were unable to advance due to the gunfire.

L/Cpl. Graham who was off duty, received a call regarding the incident, and immediately suited up in his A-Cert gear and responded to the incident. Once on scene, L/Cpl. Graham boarded an MRAP (armoured vehicle) and proceeded to the shooter's location. L/Cpl. Graham assisted by providing suppressive fire so that injured and mortally wounded officers could be removed from the scene. He also assisted in taking the shooter into custody. These troopers, along with numerous other law enforcement, put themselves in harm's way for the well being of others.