

MEDAL OF VALOR

Officer Leslie Nicole Claunch began her career with the Stafford Police Department approximately 3 years ago; she brought with her several years of experience as an emergency medical technician (EMT). Although with few years of experience, her abilities are that of a veteran officer. Officer Claunch is a caring employee who provides service at a level that is exemplary and of the highest standard. Her attention to detail and knowledge of both her police duties and her medical training ensures that every day she is on patrol, the citizens of Stafford get the best police service possible.

Officer Claunch goes beyond the day's duties by her one on one attention to individuals and meticulous work on calls for service. Even in the midst of difficult times, Officer Claunch maintains self control, giving help where needed and often doing 110%; never complains about the number of calls she takes and performs as if every call is the first one of the day. She is a highly dependable officer and has recently become a Field Trainer.

Officer Claunch was recently involved at an officer involved shooting, where she was not the primary officer. She and her trainee arrived as the second officer on scene after the subject sustained gunshot wounds. Officer Claunch immediately began cardiopulmonary resuscitation on the subject and had the father of the subject assist while the mother stood by. During this time, she kept a keen sense of her safety as well as her trainee's safety, commanding her trainee on how to assist with the situation. After the incident, the parents of the subject, who passed away, stated over and over that Officer Claunch was the most professional officer they had ever met.

Officer Claunch's courage can also be exemplified during a call she responded to at the local bowling alley. Officer Claunch was the first to arrive on the scene of a disturbance call. Another officer had arrived to assist with the crowd. Officer Claunch had placed a male subject in handcuffs and her and the other officer were escorting him to her patrol car outside. Before she exited the business, a female subject came from behind Officer Claunch and stabbed her in her lower back. Officer Claunch, though seriously wounded, immediately detained the female subject on the ground and handcuffed her until additional officers arrived and escorted the female out of the business. Officer Claunch maintained her professionalism and sense of training during the incident. Even while she was being transported to the hospital, her concern was to get back to the police department and make sure the report and investigation was complete.

As a result of Officer Claunch's wounds, she was off work for more than two months, and returned to light duty for four months. Officer Claunch was the first Stafford Police Officer to ever be injured in the line of duty. During her light duty, she worked diligently with CID to assist in the investigation and closing of numerous cases. Once she returned to full duty, she resumed her performance at 110%, and continued to give her fellow officers and citizens the assistance and attention they deserve.