

## **2024 St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office Department Awards**

Each year, the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office honors those whose bravery and dedication to protecting others distinguish them as heroes. In 2024, Sheriff Greg Champagne presented seven Distinguished Service Awards, one Letter of Commendation, and one Meritorious Unit Citation and Certificate of Recognition.

Recipients were honored for a variety of courageous acts including heroic life-saving measures, rendering medical aid, saving a woman in mental distress, and saving a missing swimmer.

- \* Distinguished Service Awards
- \* Letters of Commendation
- \* Meritorious Unit Citation and Certification of Recognition

### **Distinguished Service Award Deputy Mercier and Deputy Nash**

On August 22, 2024, Sheriff Greg Champagne held a ceremony to honor two deputies with the prestigious Distinguished Service Award. The awardees were recognized for their exceptional and heroic efforts in administering life-saving measures to two victims of a serious crash. The recipients' quick thinking and courageous actions played a crucial role in ensuring the safety and well-being of those involved in the accident.

“On June 29, 2024, deputies responded to a hit-and-run crash with injuries on Airline Highway near Ormond Boulevard in Destrehan. Upon arrival, Deputies Mercier and Nash located two crash victims, both with severed limbs. Both crash victims were on a motorcycle when they were struck and thrown several feet. Deputy Mercier applied his tourniquet to the male driver’s left leg, successfully stopping the bleeding. At the same time, Deputy Nash applied his tourniquet to the female passenger’s left leg, successfully stopping the bleeding. EMS arrived and continued to render aid. Flight care was requested. Because of the deputies’ life-saving actions, both victims were stabilized for flight care and flown to a Level 1 trauma center. Both victims survived the crash. EMS and Trauma Surgeons contributed that the two victims survived the crash because of the actions of Deputies Mercier and Nash.”

Sheriff Champagne stated during the award and medal presentation, “I am very proud and honored to present Deputy Mercier and Deputy Nash with the St. Charles Parish Sheriff’s Office Distinguished Service Award.”

**Distinguished Service Award**  
**Deputy Christopher Clary and Deputy Phillip Ibbitson**

On December 17, 2024, Deputies Christopher Clary and Phillip Ibbitson were awarded the Distinguished Service Award for rendering medical aid to a male who accidentally stabbed himself while sharpening a knife in October 2024. Deputies applied tourniquets, ultimately saving the individual's life.

**Meritorious Unit Citation and Certificate of Recognition**  
**SCSO Dive Team and K-9 Daisy**  
**Mark Michoud-SELUSAR founder**

On December 17, 2024, the SCSO Dive Team and K-9 Daisy, along with SELUSAR founder Mark Michoud, were presented with an award for recovering a missing swimmer in Bayou Des Allemands in September 2024. During the recovery, the divers and Mr. Michoud encountered extensive water debris, swift currents, and deep water that made the search challenging, but they eventually recovered the victim.

**Distinguished Service Awards and Letter of Commendation**  
**Sergeant Huff, Deputy James White, and Deputy Jerry Fountain**

On December 17, 2024, Sergeant Huff and Deputy James White were presented with the Distinguished Service Award, and Deputy Jerry Fountain with a Letter of Commendation for rendering medical aid and applying tourniquets to a male who suffered from self-inflicted wounds in August 2024.

**Distinguished Service Award**  
**Deputy Mercier**

On December 17, 2024, Deputy Mercier was awarded the Distinguished Service Award for saving the life of a woman in distress on top of the Hale Boggs Bridge. He was able to bring the woman to safety and get her medical attention.