

Scott Walker
Governor

Gary H. Hamblin
Secretary



Mailing Address

3099 E. Washington Ave.
Post Office Box 7925
Madison, WI 53707-7925
Telephone (608) 240-5000
Fax (608) 240-3300

State of Wisconsin Department of Corrections

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Contact: Linda Eggert or Tim Le Monds
(608) 240-3737

Department of Corrections Employees Awarded for Service and Acts of Lifesaving and Valor

MADISON – To honor the work of Department of Corrections (DOC) employees and commemorate Wisconsin Correctional Employees Week, DOC Secretary Gary Hamblin will formally recognize the winners of the 2011 Secretary's SALUTE and Lifesaving/Valor Awards Wednesday, May 4, at the State Capitol.

The awards ceremony will pay tribute to numerous employees who have exhibited extraordinary service, dedication or acts of heroism during the past year. Among the 2011 winners are correctional officers who went into dangerous situations to help injured citizens and save lives.

"These awards recognize exemplary performance and additional honorable qualities and abilities from our staff members who collectively help make the Wisconsin Department of Corrections one of the finest corrections agencies in the nation," said DOC Secretary Hamblin.

The Secretary's SALUTE Awards Program was started in 2007. DOC Employees nominate their peers for an award under the categories of **S**ervice, **A**wareness, **L**eadership, **U**niqueness, **T**eam and **E**xcellence. The winners are chosen by a committee and forwarded to the Secretary.

The Valor Awards honor DOC employees who take action under extremely difficult situations, during which injury or death to the employee is possible. The Lifesaving Award recognizes employees who render assistance to another person in extreme jeopardy, to the extent an individual likely would not have survived without the employee's assistance.

Among the Lifesaving and Valor winners are:

- Corrections officer, Chad DeBroux of Green Bay Correctional Institution. Officer Debroux and four other good Samaritans rescued four people from a burning house in Kaukauna when they ran into the building while residents slept and alerted them to the fire.
- Corrections Officer, Lt. Michael Green of New Lisbon Correctional Institution. Lt. Green witnessed a horrific rollover vehicle crash. After finding a female passenger trapped in the vehicle not breathing and without a pulse, Lt. Green performed CPR on the passenger until she regained consciousness. He then assisted emergency personnel in removing her from the vehicle.

- Corrections Officer, John Caldwell of Stanley Correctional Institution. While on his way home from work, Officer Caldwell saw a garage fire at a farm putting a nearby home in peril. Officer Caldwell alerted the sleeping family inside the house, and also assisted in moving vehicles to safety and directing traffic for the local fire department.

“I salute all of this year’s winners as well as all Department of Corrections employees who dedicate themselves toward fulfilling our Department’s mission of public safety throughout the year,” Secretary Hamblin said.

What: Secretary’s SALUTE and Lifesaving and Valor Awards Ceremony

Where: Wisconsin State Capitol, Assembly Chambers

When: Wednesday, May 4th, 10:30 a.m.