



Medal of Honor

Officers Douglas Coyle, Brian Hill and Scott Jimenez

Today, these officers will be awarded the Police Medal of Honor, the department's highest honor, which may be given to a police employee who voluntarily distinguishes himself conspicuously by gallantry and extraordinary heroism. The act must be in excess of normal demands and of such a nature that the employee was fully aware of the imminent threat to his personal safety and acted above and beyond the call of duty at the risk of his life.

On October 3, 2018, an MISD school bus with approximately 40 children was on a scheduled afternoon bus route from Terry Middle School. While traveling down Lawson Road, the bus left the roadway, rolled over on its side and crashed into an electric pole, sparking an electrical fire. Jacob DeRieux, Stephen Adams, Jose Garcia-Avina and off duty Police Officer Douglas Coyle drove upon the chaotic scene and acted without any concern for their own safety. They helped the children exit the bus to safety and started their attempts to free 12-year-old Jazmine Alfaro. They all used tools at their disposal ranging from a socket set to a pry bar. Dispatch broadcast the call for help at 3:56 p.m. At 3:59 p.m., Officer Jimenez entered the bus and began to smother the flames with clothing. Officer Coyle retrieved a fire extinguisher from a patrol vehicle to control the flames from outside the bus. Officer Hill arrived at 4:01 p.m. and handed the fire extinguisher from his patrol vehicle to Officer Jimenez. While

Officer Jimenez battled the flames, Officer Hill tried to move the seat with physical force. By 4:03 p.m., Officer Jimenez left the bus with difficulty breathing. By 4:04 p.m., the smoke and flames forced Officer Hill to make the difficult decision for Stephen Adams and himself to leave the bus.

All of these individuals performed heroically under the most difficult circumstances. They did not hesitate to act even when faced with serious injury or possibly death. Each one of them demonstrated great courage in the face of danger.

The Mesquite Police Department is proud to award Jacob DeRieux, Stephen Adams and Jose Garcia-Avina the Citizens Certificate of Merit; and to award Officers Douglas Coyle, Brian Hill and Scott Jimenez with the Police Medal of Honor.