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Press Release

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[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

### MTA Bridge and Tunnel Officers Honored at Law Enforcement Award Ceremony

Two MTA Bridge and Tunnel Officers (BTOs), who last year assisted an off-duty NYPD officer grappling with a slasher near the Queens Midtown Tunnel (QMT), received the top award among more than 40 presented at the Annual Law Enforcement Award Ceremony co-sponsored by the Authority and the Officers' unions at agency headquarters on Randall's Island next to the Triborough Bridge last week.

Bridge and Tunnel Officers Darnell Eason of the Bronx and Caspere Caratelli of Long Island, both assigned to the tunnel, were able to handcuff a knife-wielding perpetrator who had just stabbed two other people. The officers received the Medal of Valor for an act of extraordinary bravery, performed with the knowledge of personal risk involved.

MTA Board Commissioner David Mack, MTA Deputy Executive Director for Security William Morange, Bridges and Tunnels Chief of Security Donald Look, BTO Joe Mauro, President of the Bridge and Tunnel Benevolent Association, and Lt. Marc Sirlin, President of the Superior Officers Association, were present to recognize the officers' public safety actions. Special Operations Chief James Fortunato served as master of ceremonies.

The following are awards by facility:

#### Queens Midtown Tunnel

- **BTO Thomas Goettelmann** received the Life-saving Award for assisting a motorist in a medical emergency; he was also honored for a separate incident when he came to the aid of a woman in labor.
- The law enforcement officers on duty at the Queens Midtown Tunnel received a **Unit Citation** for making 359 arrests last year, including taking 120 drunk drivers off the road.
- **BTO Reginald Ledee, Jr.** was honored for making an off-duty arrest of a driver who crashed his car through a glass-door entrance to the Sunrise Shopping Mall.
- **Sgt. Clarence Adams, Lt. Edward Aristizabal, BTO Darnell Eason, BTO Tyrone Pringle, BTO David Rivera, and BTO Adam Roman** were honored for confiscating counterfeit goods and making an arrest resulting from a truck inspection.
- **BTO Jason Green** and **BTO Lateef Howard** were cited for making multiple arrests.
- **BTO Wayne Joseph** and **BTO Oscar Nuñez** received awards for containing a car fire and prevented injury to vehicle passengers.

#### Triborough Bridge

- **Sgt. Terence Butler, BTO Jason Green, and BTO Mardakley Mardarhayev** received awards for confiscating counterfeit goods and making arrests as a result of truck inspection.
- **BTO Willie Gamble** and **BTO Edward Grimm (Special Operations)** were honored for making multiple arrests.

#### Throgs Neck Bridge

- **BTO Christopher Hulsen** and **BTO Joseph Marchese** were honored for making an arrest of a drunk driver who had a loaded weapon.
- **Lt. Moise Bonheur, Sgt. Richard Frisbie, Sgt. Gary Muckian, BTO Ralph Anzano, BTO Lawrence Clennan, and BTO Michael Millender** were recognized for preventing a suicide.

#### Bronx-Whitestone Bridge

- **BTO John Morano** received the Life-saving Award for rescuing a woman with a knife who was attempting suicide at the bridge.
- **BTO Joseph Garcia** was also honored for preventing a suicide.
- **BTO Daniel Houston** was recognized for confiscation of illegal drugs that led to an arrest.
- **BTO Giovanni Saravia** was cited for identifying a missing person.
- **BTO George Vann** was honored for assisting in the rescue of a drowning person.

#### Verazzano-Narrows Bridge

- **Sgt. Wayne Edwards** and **BTO Trevor Gibson** were recognized for subduing an emotionally disturbed individual.

- **Lt. Todd Suratt** was cited for identification and rescue of a lost child.
- **BTO Marc Bonilla** was honored for assisting a motorist in a medical emergency.

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#### **Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel**

- **Sgt. Casimir Bzomowski** and **BTO Michael Andino** were recognized for containing a vehicle fire and rescuing passengers.

The agency has almost 800 Bridges and Tunnel Officers and 166 Sergeants and Lieutenants, all of whom are New York State Peace Officers.

MTA Bridges and Tunnels' facilities, which connect the five boroughs of New York City, are the Triborough, Throgs Neck, Bronx-Whitestone, Henry Hudson, Verrazano-Narrows, Cross Bay Veterans Memorial and Marine Parkway-Gil Hodges Bridges, and the Queens Midtown and Brooklyn-Battery Tunnels.



***Photo (attached) caption: James Fortunato, Donald Look, William Morange, BTOs Darnell Eason and Caspere Caratelli and MTA Commissioner David Mack at Randall's Island awards ceremony on May 14th.***