



TO: GWC President Mike Hutchins

FROM: Chief Jack Foster, Ret., Lynden Police Department; GWC Awards Chairman *JWF*

REF: Nomination of Deputies Ryan Rathbun and Jason Thompson for the SAR Heroism Commendation Medal

Date: 7 October 2022

I would like to nominate Whatcom County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Deputies Ryan Rathbun and Jason Thompson for the Sons of the American Revolution Heroism Commendation Medal, based upon the following information released by the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office regarding an incident that occurred on 10 February 2022. On that date at approximately 1618 Hours, WCSO Deputies Rathbun and Thompson responded to a neighborhood dispute call involving firearms in the Kendall area of Whatcom County. While investigating the complaint, probable cause was developed to arrest a suspect for felony harassment. While awaiting backup units, both deputies found limited cover and attempted to communicate with the suspect. At that point, the suspect shot Deputy Thompson in the head with a shotgun.

Without hesitation, Deputy Rathbun placed himself in a position of extreme danger between Deputy Thompson and their assailant in order to protect his wounded partner, and was himself struck in the head by shotgun fire from the assailant. Although seriously wounded himself Deputy Rathbun still managed to drag Deputy Thompson to a Position of cover. During this time Deputy Thompson provided critical data by radio to other responding units regarding their respective medical conditions, position and the location of the shooter. By this time, both deputies were in dire need of immediate medical attention.

Despite both being shot in the head and having limited vision, the two deputies left their position of cover and managed to assist each other to Deputy Thompson's patrol vehicle. Deputy Thompson then drove them both through the shooter's field of fire to aid units waiting in a position of cover, all the while exposed to the shooter and partially blinded as he bled profusely from multiple head wounds.

During this incident both Deputy Rathbun and Deputy Thompson willingly risked their own lives on more than one occasion to save the life of their partner and to protect the public from an immediate threat. At a time in our history when all law enforcement officers are being vilified because of the actions of a very few, Deputies Rathbun and Thompson unhesitatingly placed their own lives on the line to save each other and to contain a serious threat to society until more officers could arrive.

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By their actions, both Deputy Ryan Rathbun and Deputy Jason Thompson have proven themselves to be true heroes. Both are a credit to their department, law enforcement in general and our society as a whole, and I firmly believe they are both most deserving of the Sons of the American Revolution Heroism Commendation and Medal. I consider it both an honor and a privilege to nominate them for this award.