



Niagara County
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MEDIA RELEASE

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COUNTY LEGISLATURE HONORS HERO COPS FIVE PRESENTED WITH CITATIONS FOR VALOROUS DEEDS

LOCKPORT—Five local lawmen were honored by the Niagara County Legislature at Tuesday night's meeting for heroic acts performed in the line of duty.

The citations were presented by the County Legislature's Community Safety and Security Committee chairman, Legislator Paul B. Wojtaszek, R-North Tonawanda. Wojtaszek, who took over chairmanship of that committee in January, decided the county needed to do more to honor the heroic conduct of its lawmen and firefighters, including Sheriff's deputies, municipal policemen, and New York state troopers, who risked their lives in the performance of duty.

Honored Tuesday were Niagara Falls Police Officers Walter Nichols and Michael Bird, Niagara County Sheriff's Deputy Roger Schraeder II, and New York State Troopers Edward Stefik and William L. Persinger.

Last February, Nichols and Bird intervened to stop a gunman who had already shot one victim, receiving gun wounds themselves. Schraeder was honored for saving a passenger from a burning vehicle moments before it was totally consumed by flame. Stefik and Persinger were lauded for saving a suspect who jumped into the Niagara River from drowning at considerable risk to themselves.