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★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★

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Distinguished Law Enforcement Meritorious Service Award

Patrol Officer Mark Meftah
Sgt. Sean Smith
Uhrichsville Police Department

The heroic actions of Sergeant Sean Smith and Patrol Officer Mark Meftah saved a drowning man's life on April 11, 2014, when they responded to numerous 911 calls reporting a man had fallen over a bridge and into a flooded, swiftly moving creek below.

When they arrived on scene, they learned the victim had floated more than 100 yards upstream. Officer Meftah swam quickly through the cold, fast current to reach the victim, who was face-down, had no pulse, and was not breathing. He turned the man over and headed toward shore. Sergeant Smith joined them in the water and assisted in bringing the man the rest of the way back. Officer Meftah and other responders alternated in performing CPR until the man was transported to the hospital.

The local creek was normally around 25 feet wide and 6 feet deep. As a result of the rain and flooding, it had swelled to about 60 feet wide and 12 feet deep, making conditions extremely dangerous for the victim and responders.

The victim was transported to the ICU by medical helicopter, where he remained in a coma for several days. When he was released from the hospital, he was able to express his gratitude to Officer Meftah and Sergeant Smith for saving his life in person.