

2015 Distinguished Law Enforcement Valor Award



Captain David A. Brown

Sergeant Michael P. Batchik

Captain David Brown Sgt. Michael Batchik Uniontown Police Department

Despite the danger, a captain and sergeant rescued an unconscious man from his burning vehicle.

On Sept. 15, 2014, Captain Brown and Sergeant Batchik responded to calls of a man trapped in a burning vehicle in the parking lot of a grocery store. When the two arrived, they found the driver unconscious with his foot jammed on the accelerator, the doors locked and the windows rolled up. His vehicle was smashing into a parked car. The two tried to quickly break a window with a fire extinguisher but failed. Sgt. Batchik ran back to his cruiser to get a window punch. Smoke from the fire and the spinning tires made it hard to see or breathe.

Sgt. Batchik climbed in the vehicle to unlock the driver's door. Capt. Brown and Sgt. Batchik together pulled the 6-foot-2-inch, 220-pound victim to safety, away from the burning vehicle. Firefighters and paramedics soon arrived to help. The victim was treated at the hospital for several days and released.