

2021

Patrolman Dan Thompson
Sergeant Matt Tycast

Painesville Police Department

Ask any first responder what is the worst call they ever have to handle, and nine times out of ten, they will answer that it is a call involving a young child. Maybe that is because most enter their profession at a young age, and typically are young parents themselves. They relate to every pain, every trauma, and every fear that a child experiences when they are the victim in an incident. You can imagine what Office Dan Thompson and Sergeant Matt Tycast felt in June, 2021, when they received an assignment of a missing 4 year old boy.

The two officers searched for an extended period of time without any real leads as to his whereabouts. They then were advised of a possible body floating in the Painesville Recreation Park Pool. Racing to the pond, they observed bubbles coming to the surface of the water, and the silhouette of what appeared to be a body within the debris under the surface. Without any hesitation, they entered the water, retrieved the lifeless boy, and brought him to the shore. While Tycast worked to clear his airway, Thompson started CPR. Their efforts resulted in the boy taking breaths and expelling water from his lungs. They kept monitoring his condition as the Fire Department arrived on scene and took over his medical care. The boy completely recovered from this potentially life threatening ordeal.

Blue Coats President Jason Wuliger presented the Jorge Medina Distinguished Service Award to these officers stating that "all of our first responders are heroes and deserve recognition, but these honorees were selected for going above and beyond even that day to day heroism."

Thomson stated that "there wasn't time to really think in that situation, You see what you need to do and you do it." Tycast agreed, saying "that's the last call you ever want to go on. We went in (the water) because we had to. It's what any officer would have done."

Those "any officers" in this case were Dan Thompson and Matt Tycast who deservedly were honored with this award.