

2005

Patrolman Jonathon Bush
Patrolman Daniel Moreland

Wickliffe Police Department

Sometimes you're lucky enough to be at the right place at the right time. Sometimes your instinct puts you in the right place at the right time. Sometimes trouble finds you, but many times you find the trouble. Sometimes you can do nothing right, and other times you can do no wrong. When all goes right, you may earn the nickname -"super cop." Patrolmen Jonathon Bush and Daniel Moreland had one of those years in 2005, and arguably became super cops.

Bush and Moreland had been on the Wickliffe Police Department for about 10 years. They were friends, and were aggressive officers, who were always in the thick of things and often led the entire department in arrests. During 2005, they continued in that vein of police work with three incidents standing out, and resulting in their nomination for the Blue Coats Award.

In February, 2005 the Western Reserve Credit Union was robbed for the second time in two months. Within minutes of the call, Moreland spotted the getaway car on Lloyd Road, and positioned his patrol car to block the suspects in. They took off running in different directions, with Moreland in pursuit. Bush joined the chase and tackled one of the robbers. The other was captured by officers who had set up a perimeter, as Moreland chased him.

In July, a potentially tragic situation was narrowly averted thanks to the work of members of the Wickliffe Police and Fire Departments, including officers Moreland and Bush. A fire had broken out at the Wickliffe Country Place Nursing Home. One wing of the facility was filled with heavy smoke, and patients remained inside. The actions of the safety forces personnel can best be described in the words of Police Lieutenant Robert Valko. "What happened next is something that I will always remember and will forever be proud to have witnessed."

"Windows were smashed, curtains and shades ripped through, and remaining glass raked clear. Smoke poured out. Physically disabled and emotionally disoriented patients were passed through open window frames and carried to safety by fire fighters and police officers. Heavy smoke filled hallways were traversed by police officers who blindly fought and hacked their way toward patients overcome and disoriented by smoke. They did not make one valiant charge through the smoke. They made several

until they were assured that all patients had been evacuated.” Eight patients were saved that day. Bush and Moreland made exceptional efforts in the rescue effort. They were nearly overcome themselves, and firemen helped them to retreat. They and other personnel were administered oxygen to help them recover.

Lastly, during September and October of 2005, a purse snatching spree was taking place in Mentor, Mentor-on-the-Lake, Willowick, and Willoughby. At least one elderly victim had sustained injuries after her purse was ripped from her grasp.

On October 19th, Moreland spotted a suspect vehicle. He was able to initiate an investigation, which led to possible suspects. Bush assisted in the apprehension of those three suspects, and their subsequent interrogations. When the suspects were turned over to the departments investigating the robberies, the confessions obtained by Bush and Moreland went with them.

Chief James Fox proudly nominated the two officers for the Jorge Medina Distinguished Service Award. He stated that the two officers “showed us that staying in shape to pursue and capture criminals, risking their lives to save others, and being dedicated to help solve crime in other communities, makes a difference in our world and deserves special recognition.”

The nomination was approved, and on February 8, 2006, they received their awards at the LaMalfa Center. In a letter to Wickliffe Mayor Ruffner, Fox announced the honor bestowed on his officers. He stated “It should be noted that each of the events cited in the nomination included the work of many other police officers and firefighters who also deserve recognition. The Blue Coats selected Officers Moreland and Bush for this award because of their significant roles in each of the criminal apprehensions and emergency responses.”