



PHOTO BY IAN CHINI

Germanna Community College Police Chief Craig Branch presents Culpeper Town Police Officer John Slaughter with the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police Life Saver Award at the Culpeper Town Police Life Savers banquet May 15.

CPD honors lifesavers with awards

➤ Slaughter receives Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police Life Saver Award for hospital incident

By Jeff Say
Culpeper Times Staff Writer

It was just one incident - but it's a microcosm of what a law enforcement officer should be.

On the night of May 23, 2018, Culpeper Town Police Officers were called to the Novant Health UVA Health Center Culpeper Medical Center helipad for the report of a man with a shotgun to his head, threatening suicide.

Upon arrival, officers found the man

standing with a shotgun in his mouth - that's when Officer John Slaughter went into action. Years ago, Slaughter had a man commit suicide in front of him with a different agency and he wasn't about to let it happen again.

He calmly and quickly established a dialogue with the suicidal man, putting himself out in the open and in harm's way. For more than 30 minutes, Slaughter talked to the man in an attempt to get him to drop the weapon - setting up Sgt. Luke Altman to take a shot with a less-lethal shotgun that disabled the suicidal man and ended the harrowing standoff.

Slaughter was honored with the Virginia Association of Chiefs Police Life Saver Award May 15 at the Culpeper Town Police's 2019 Life Saver Award Ceremony, while Altman also was recognized by Culpeper Chief Chris

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