

Illinois Sheriffs' Association

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PRESS RELEASE

Jefferson County Officer Named Illinois Sheriffs' Association 2021 'Deputy of the Year'

On February 14th, 2022, the Illinois Sheriffs' Association recognized Jefferson County Officer David A. May as their "Deputy of the Year" award winner at its Sheriff's Winter Conference at Embassy Suites in East Peoria, IL.

Jefferson County Sheriff Jeff Bullard nominated Deputy May for this award as a result of an incident that occurred on October 26, 2021. On the afternoon of October 26, 2021 at 12:59pm, a Jefferson County Correctional Officer was transporting an inmate to his jury trial at the courthouse. Once they arrived at the sallyport in the basement, and it was secured, the correctional officer began assisting the inmate into a wheelchair. Due to the judge's order, the inmate was uncuffed so not seen by the jury in any form of restraints.

While assisting the inmate in the wheelchair, the inmate grabbed the officer's gun and a fight over the weapon ensued. Both fell to the floor and continued to fight, while the inmate was able to pull the officer's handgun from the holster. As the fight continued, the inmate discharged a round close to the officer, striking the floor nearby. The inmate was able to get free of the officer, still with the gun, the officer was still on the floor, and was completely vulnerable at this point.

During the scuffle, Deputy David A. May was on the first floor at the metal detection station. He witnessed the attack on the video monitor system at his workstation and rushed down the stairs to get to the sallyport. He continued as he heard a gunshot from inside the sallyport. Once he arrived at the doorway into the sallyport, Deputy May looked in, the inmate pointed the gun in his direction, and he quickly took cover. Split seconds later, Deputy May came out from cover, fired one round, struck the inmate, and the inmate fell to the floor. The inmate threw the gun away and gave up. Deputy May radioed for assistance and raised the sallyport door to allow responding backup units quick access to the scene.

In December, Deputy May was awarded a medal of valor from his department and in January was awarded the Jefferson County Sheriff's Offices 2021 Deputy of the Year. Thank you and congratulations on a job well done.

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