



Media Release

International Association of Women Police – Bravery Award, 2020

Deputy Riley Jarecki Napa County Sheriff's Office, USA.

Napa County Deputy Riley Jarecki comes from a family with a history of public service. She follows in the footsteps of her father, a retired sheriff's sergeant, her grandfather who was a Napa Police Department captain, and her aunt who is a member of the Napa Fire Department. Prior to joining Law Enforcement, Deputy Jarecki earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications and received a certificate in public relations from Boise State University. She joined the Napa County Sheriff's Office in June of 2018 and currently serves in the patrol bureau and is a certified DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Instructor. She is also a member of the Napa County Sheriff's Office Dive team. In March of 2019 she was named Honorary Woman of the Year and First Responder of the Year.

On February 17, 2019, Deputy Jarecki was on duty, patrolling a rural area in Napa County. At 10:59 p.m. she noticed a car parked on the road facing in the wrong direction. She called in her location and proceeded to check the car and its inhabitant out. She found a man sitting behind the wheel and spoke with him through the slightly open window from the passenger side telling him to keep his hands on the wheel. The man agreed that she could look around and she proceeds to shine her flashlight into the car as she walked around the rear of the vehicle and approached the driver side.

As Deputy Jarecki approached the driver's door, she told him to roll the window down. The suspect muttered something to himself before complying, he then pointed a gun at her and fired several shots, one was at point blank range. Deputy Jarecki backed up to the rear of the car as the suspect started the engine. She radioed in that shots had been fired and then fired shots from her weapon into the vehicle, aiming for the suspect. Deputy Jarecki said she saw the gun flash and her ears started ringing, she thought she had been hit but was still able to fire her weapon and call in for backup. The suspect had been killed and Deputy Jarecki was uninjured.

The suspect had multiple aliases and an extensive criminal history, including charges of selling controlled substances, assault with a deadly weapon, driving drunk and battering of a peace officer. He had been living in his car at the time of the incident and the car was registered to a fake name, so Deputy Jarecki was unaware of his previous history. Officers also found a Winchester 74, .22 calibre rifle and a gas-powered pellet rifle in the car, along with .22 calibre cartridges on the suspects person. Although the suspect died from his gunshot wounds, he was found to have methamphetamine in his system. Despite only two and a half years of experience, by following her training when facing the threat Deputy Jarecki survived.

IAWP President Deborah Friedl, "The IAWP is so pleased to recognize the outstanding work of our colleagues in law enforcement. These stories exemplify that with the right tools, training and opportunity, women excel in policing and keep our communities safer."

The **Mission** of the IAWP is: To strengthen, unite and raise the capacity of women in policing internationally. The **Vision**: IAWP envisions a world where police reflect the diversity of the communities they serve and where human rights are protected.

For more information about IAWP visit www.iawp.org

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