

We have been notified that during the HPD Annual Awards ceremony, Chief Blake will be presenting the Medal of Valor to one of our deputies as well. The deputy is Steve Pederson, and the incident in which he distinguished himself was the fire at the Caldwell Inn that occurred this past September 24<sup>th</sup>.

In the citation to receive the Medal of Valor, the Police Chief notes that "Although the building was fully engulfed with flames emitting and other fire and rescue personnel were only in the staging process of their rescue efforts, Deputy Sheriff Steve Pederson noticed that there were four people entrapped by flames and smoke on a balcony of the second floor. Putting himself in grave danger, Deputy Pederson was one of the responding officers that quickly secured a ladder and commenced rescuing victims, even climbing towards the flames as the building had begun to collapse." Chief Blake goes on to say that "...we believe lives were surely saved because of the quick and valiant efforts of Pederson and assisting officers. Deputy Pederson's noble and selfless actions, risking his own life during this hazardous moment, reflect great credit upon him, and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the law enforcement profession."

Sheriff Rick Davis is most appreciative that as Chief Blake was recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of his own Police Department, that he was mindful of the actions of Deputy Pederson as well. "We join with Chief Blake in acknowledging the courage displayed by so many law enforcement and rescue personnel on that day. It is certainly rewarding to have one of our own recognized for his particular actions. I am certainly proud of Deputy Pederson's professional commitment and quick actions in that very dangerous event."

For more information on the ceremony that takes place this evening, contact the Hendersonville Police Department.