

The SAR Central Mississippi Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution Public Service Committee recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of those engaged in fire protection, public safety, emergency medical services and law enforcement who risk their lives to preserve and protect the general public.

This year's nominee, Deputy Sheriff Jason Haven, has served with distinction and devotion in the field of law enforcement. A Ridgeland native, Jason Murphy Haven, graduated Ridgeland High School in 2008. He served the Ridgeland Police Department for six and one-half years rising to the rank of Corporal and role as a field training officer. He is currently in his second year as a deputy and patrol officer serving with Madison County Sheriff Randy Tucker.

Jason is an experienced patrol officer and supervisor with a demonstrated history as a law enforcement professional. He is two-time recipient of officer of the month awards (April 2015 and June 2016) and publicly commended by the Ridgeland Board of Aldermen. He is graduate of the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association Supervisor Leadership Institute which develops communication and skills in first-line supervisors and middle managers, the executive leaders of tomorrow. He is also a graduate of the Department of Homeland Security's Active Shooter Threat Training Program, a four-day course designed to provide officers with the knowledge and skills to successfully handle an active threat event. He's been a college recruiter for Ridgeland college career fairs. Jason is even a NHTSA-trained Child Passenger Safety Restraint Inspector.

He is member of the Law Enforcement Alliance for Peer Support (LEAPS). This group provides support for fellow officers and their families through those unique high stress events and situations which hold the potential to invoke unusually strong emotions which have the potential to interfere with our ability to function, either at the scene or later. As a member, he is there to respond and counsel his fellow officers through the physical, emotional, cognitive, behavioral, and spiritual effects of job-related stresses.

One magnificent demonstration of Jason's experience and skill--during a 2016 multi-family domestic dispute call at the Park Place Apartments, once the situation was in hand, Haven and a fellow officer turned their attention to the neighborhood kids to distract them from the arguing adults and engaged them in a quick game of football.

According to Haven:

"To shield the kids from the ugliness of the argument was instinctual. I think it's just kind of natural. We had enough officers there, so we saw once we had the situation under control—we still kept an eye on the actual call—it was kind of natural to talk to the kids."

A bystander's video of the encounter went viral on Facebook with overwhelmingly positive comments and eventually received local television news coverage. According Ridgeland Police Chief John Neal, "that's exactly the difference police can make in situation like the one Haven found himself involved." Later, Haven received accolades from the local television media, as well as the Clarion-Ledger and the Madison County Journal.

The Law Enforcement Commendation Medal is presented to those who have served with distinction and devotion in the field of law enforcement. The medal is intended to recognize exceptional service or accomplishment in the field of law enforcement. Eligibility is not limited to peace officers but extends to the entire range of persons who make and enforce the law to include but not limited to peace officers, attorneys, judges, prosecutors and legislators who have performed an exceptional act or service beyond that normally expected.

This year the Central Mississippi Chapter is pleased to recognize Deputy Sheriff Jason Murphy Haven for his distinctive service and commendable devotion to the field of professional law enforcement, his fellow officers and the people of Madison County, Mississippi.



President Ben Eubanks of Clinton, Deputy Jason Haven and Grayson Morrison of Ridgeland