

**NEWS RELEASE** | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | November 4, 2021

### **NDHP Award Ceremony**

On Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, the North Dakota Highway Patrol (NDHP) conducted an awards ceremony at the NDDOT-Valley City District. Five separate awards were presented during the ceremony:

- Trooper Jonathan Skalicky, NDHP, was awarded the NDHP Legion of Honor Medal
- Officer Jason Runge, Valley City Police Department, received the NDHP Colonel's Award of Excellence
- Bryan Bridgeford, West Fargo, ND, received the NDHP Colonel's Award of Excellence
- Trooper Gabriel Irvis, NDHP, received the ND Peace Officers Association Life Saving Award
- Trooper Joshua Page, NDHP, received the ND Peace Officers Association Exceptional Performance Award

An additional award was presented, but the individual was unable to attend. His award was mailed to him. The additional award was for Roy Del Ozo, Lawton, OK. He received the NDHP Colonel's Award of Excellence.

Trooper Skalicky, Officer Runge, Bryan Bridgeford and Roy Del Ozo received their awards for their involvement with the following incident:

- On July 26<sup>th</sup>, Bryan Bridgeford called 911 to report a reckless driver. The driver then entered and parked at the Oriska Rest Area. Mr. Bridgeford remained at the rest area observing the vehicle to report updates to law enforcement. Trooper Skalicky responded to the reckless driver call and located the suspect vehicle at the rest area. While attempting to arrest the driver of the vehicle, the driver placed the vehicle in reverse, dragging Trooper Skalicky, causing an injury to him. Shortly thereafter, the suspect attempted to disarm Trooper Skalicky. Trooper Skalicky had lost his radio during the struggle, so Mr. Bridgeford called 911 to report the resisting suspect and the need for additional law enforcement assistance. Mr. Bridgeford and Roy Del Ozo then asked Trooper Skalicky if they could help him. Trooper Skalicky accepted their assistance and the three of them were able to subdue the suspect, place her in handcuffs and into a patrol car. Officer Runge arrived shortly thereafter and assisted Trooper Skalicky on securing the crime scene and allowing Trooper Skalicky to obtain

needed medical care. Trooper Skalicky was out of work for approximately six weeks with the injury he sustained during the incident.

Trooper Skalicky was nominated for his medal internally within the NDHP. Officer Runge, Mr. Bridgeford and Mr. Del Ozo were nominated by Trooper Skalicky for their awards.

Trooper Irvis and Trooper Page received their awards for actions in the following incident:

- On December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Trooper Page attempted to stop a motorist for a traffic violation on I-94 in Fargo. The vehicle fled at a high rate of speed eastbound on I-94, crossing the Red River into Minnesota. After entering MN, the vehicle continued to flee. Trooper Page made the decision to discontinue the pursuit in MN. After discontinuing, Trooper Page continued to drive in MN, eastbound on I-94 to ensure the fleeing vehicle did not crash. Just east of the 34<sup>th</sup> St. overpass in MN, the suspect vehicle had rolled. Trooper Page located one occupant from the vehicle in the median. The male occupant had been ejected from the vehicle. The male suspect was alive and treatment was provided. A short time later, Trooper Irvis arrived, and a passing motorist alerted Trooper Irvis to a female laying in the westbound lanes of I-94 at the same location. The female had been the driver of the suspect vehicle and was ejected in the crash. Trooper Irvis provided medical treatment to include CPR to the female and was able to revive her. Once EMS personnel arrived, care was transferred, and the female suspect survived the incident.

The NDHP Legion of Honor Medal is awarded to NDHP personnel who are injured in the line of duty. NDHP members are nominated by another NDHP member and the nomination is forwarded to the NDHP Awards Committee for consideration and approval.

The NDHP Colonel's Award of Excellence is awarded by the NDHP Superintendent to NDHP employees and citizens for actions that have benefited the NDHP and State of North Dakota. Individuals can be nominated by any NDHP employee for this award.

The NDPOA Lifesaving Award is for law enforcement officers' actions that significantly contribute to saving a human life.

The NDPOA Exceptional Performance Award is for law enforcement officers who handle or confront an emergency and handle it in a professional manner.

Below are pictures of the individuals that received the awards. Colonel Brandon Solberg, NDHP Superintendent, presented the awards to the individuals today.

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Trooper Skalicky and Colonel Solberg

**Southeast Region** | 503 38<sup>th</sup> St. S | Fargo, ND 58103  
PHONE: (701) 328-2447 | FAX: (701) 239-8970 | [ND.gov/NDHP](http://ND.gov/NDHP)



Bryan Bridgeford and Colonel Solberg



Officer Runge and Colonel Solberg



Trooper Page and Colonel Solberg



Trooper Irvis and Colonel Solberg

**For More Information Contact:**

**Captain Bryan Niewind** 701-320-1309  
bniewind@nd.gov