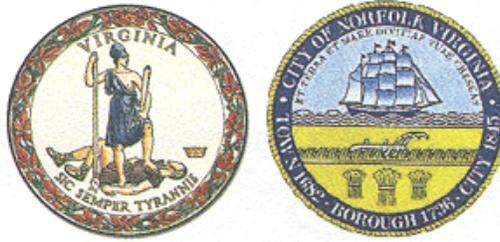


COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



CITY OF NORFOLK

Award of Honor

Recognizing Norfolk Police Officer Victor E. Decker

On March 19, 2009, at 12:30am, Norfolk Police Officer Victor E. Decker was in uniform on routine, single bicycle patrol in Downtown Norfolk when he heard gunshots. As he neared the corner of Plume Street and Bank Street in response to the gunshots, he observed two men running toward him. When Officer Decker saw a black, semi-automatic weapon in the hand of one of the men, he immediately jumped off of his bicycle and yelled at the men to get down and drop the gun. One man complied with the instructions, but the other man, with the gun in his hand, raised his arm and fired the gun at Officer Decker. Once the man's gun fired, Officer Decker returned fire with his service weapon. The man was struck, fatally wounded. Officer Decker then approached the men, secured them, and called for assistance.

The initial gunshots heard by Officer Decker were the result of a robbery and fatal shooting of a man carried out by the two men. The victim, unknown to the suspects, was simply sitting in his car when they approached him and attempted to rob him. The man was then fatally shot by one of the men.

Officer Decker's death on October 26, 2010, in an unrelated incident, prevented him from being able to appear in Norfolk Circuit Court and testify in the jury trial of the surviving suspect charged with the attempted robbery and fatal shooting of the man sitting in his car. However, the exemplary, justified in the line of duty actions taken by Officer Decker on March 19, 2009, as documented by other sources, still enabled a successful prosecution to occur and the man was convicted and sentenced.

When confronted with the dangerous and unexpected on March 19, 2009, Officer Decker – alone and without substantial cover – was a potentially vulnerable target to the suspects. Still, he selflessly responded to the criminal behavior on the streets he was sworn to protect and serve. In doing so, he wholeheartedly supported the field of public safety by properly assessing the threat and taking immediate action to prevent possible additional harm from occurring to innocent citizens. He also contributed greatly to the criminal justice system by having pride and integrity in his challenging work before, during, and after that life-threatening shift.

It is for these reasons the *Norfolk Commonwealth's Attorney's Award of Honor* is posthumously awarded to *Norfolk Police Officer Victor E. Decker* on the twenty-fifth day of May 2011.

Gregory D. Underwood
Commonwealth's Attorney