



ASHTABULA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

William R. Niemi, Sheriff

25 W. Jefferson St.
Jefferson, OH 44047
440-576-0055

MEDIA CONTACT:

Stacy Millberg, Public Information Officer
440-576-3514
smillberg@ashtabulacounty.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Two ACSO deputies honored with prestigious award

JEFFERSON – Detective Ted Barger and Deputy Lenny Emch were honored, Tuesday, as recipients of the Ohio Tactical Officers Association Steven Michael Smith Award for Valor.

Barger and Emch were nominated for the award for their response efforts in a 2019 shooting incident in Ashtabula Township that saved the lives of five people, including three small children.

Barger has been a deputy with ACSO since 1999 and has spent the last 20 years as a SWAT officer. Emch has 14 years of law enforcement experience and spent three years on the SWAT unit.

The Steven Michael Smith Award for Valor is presented each year to those who “distinguish oneself or themselves through valorous actions during a life-threatening action,” according to the association’s website. A selection committee reviews all the nominations and selects the individual or group that clearly acted without regard for his or her own life to save a fellow officer or an innocent victim or victims, according to the website.

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