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Upper Darby police officer receives Badge of Bravery

By LINDA REILLY

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MEDIA COURTHOUSE -- An Upper Darby police officer, who is the first Pennsylvania recipient of the U.S. Congressional Badge of Bravery, dedicated the award to Officer Dennis McNamara who was killed in the line of duty. The prestigious award, created in 2008 to honor exceptional acts of bravery in the line of duty, was presented to Officer Raymond Blohm III at a ceremony Thursday night in Court Room One.

Congressman Patrick Meehan, R-7, of Upper Darby, and Eastern District U.S. Attorney Zane Memeger presented the Congressional Badge of Bravery and Badge of Bravery plaque to the officer.

"We're here to honor one of Pennsylvania's finest, Officer Ray Blohm," Meehan said offering thanks to Blohm, "for a job well done."

Township Police Superintendent Michael Chitwood summarized Blohm's heroics on May 21, 2010, while on routine patrol.

"He found himself in a life-threatening fire fight," during an exchange of bullets on the street with a suspect, Chitwood said.

The chief reported Blohm was shot four times and returned fire striking the suspect and detaining him until backup officers arrived.

"Ray still has one of the bullets in his back lodged next to his hip," Chitwood said. "He displayed tenacity and courage."

Blohm, 33, hired in 2001, was accompanied by his parents, his wife, Kelliann, and their daughters, Kyleigh, 6, and Kierstyn, 5, members of Upper Darby Police Department and officers and chiefs from area police departments and township officials.

Joining in the award ceremony presenting additional citations were Mayor Thomas Micozzie, Delaware County Council Chairman Thomas McGarrigle and Delaware County Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Glackin in behalf of Jack Whalen.

Citations from the Pennsylvania State House and Senate were also presented to Blohm for his heroics.

Blohm thanked Meehan and all the officials for the honor.

"I work with a lot of good cops in my community and surrounding communities," Blohm said. "They are great cops. I was fortunate in the end. I want to dedicate this award to an officer who didn't make it home, Dennis McNamara, who died 10 years ago on Monday (Jan. 30)."

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