



May 15, 2017

Chief Stephen M. Kruse  
Maplewood Police Department  
7601 Manchester Road  
St. Louis, MO 63143

Dear Chief Stephen M. Kruse:

Your nominee, Officer Levonston Hall, has been chosen to receive the John J. McAtee Award. In submitting this nomination, you not only honor the officer who made a difference in the life a person during a psychiatric crisis, you also recognize that citizens sometimes rely on law enforcement for a non-traditional response.

Your nominee and everyone you identified on the nomination form have been notified.

The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Police Recognition Luncheon will be held on:  
Wednesday, June 7, 2017, from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Missouri Athletic Club (downtown) - 405 Washington Avenue  
Complimentary garage parking  
Check-in begins at 11:30; Lunch at Noon

Missouri Attorney General Joshua Hawley will deliver the keynote address. Pat McGonigle, KSDK Channel 5, is our guest emcee.

We hope you and others will attend the award presentation. Family members of the awardee are also welcome. The cost for all non-awardees is \$25.00. Award recipients attend as our guests.

**Please let us know by May 31** the names of all guests, including the awardee, who will attend in your group. Payment can be made online at [www.mha-em.org](http://www.mha-em.org) or by calling our office at 314-773-1399. We accept check, cash or credit card.

I look forward to seeing you at the luncheon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Utterback". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "U".

Mark Utterback  
President & CEO

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**Good mental health is fundamental to the health and well-being of everyone.**

1905 S. Grand  
St. Louis, MO 63104

P: 314-773-1399  
F: 314-773-5930

[www.mha-em.org](http://www.mha-em.org)  
[info@mha-em.org](mailto:info@mha-em.org)





Date: January 17, 2017

To: Police Officer Levenston Hall

From: Chief Stephen M. Kruse

Subject: Commendation

Stephen M. Kruse  
Chief of Police

I am writing to commend your job performance with respect to a mental health crisis that occurred on December 30, 2016, at 7223 Anna as reported under Complaint Number 16-2621.

You were dispatched by radio to the above location on a report of a distraught individual threatening to kill himself with a knife. Upon arrival, you observed a male subject sitting on the curb who appeared distressed and incoherent. The subject was holding a large knife in his hand and began moving the knife back and forth in a cutting motion making it appear as if he was going to cut his wrist.

You quickly determined the person was a military veteran and established a rapport with him because of your own military service as a member of the United States Marine Corps. After gaining the subject's trust, you were able to remove the knife from his hand eliminating the threat.

You subsequently summoned an ambulance that conveyed the victim to a hospital for psychiatric evaluation and treatment. Your ability to relate to the victim and remain calm throughout the incident brought the situation to successful conclusion, and prevented the subject from taking his own life.

Congratulations on a job well done.

By Order of:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen M. Kruse", is written over a horizontal line.

Stephen M. Kruse  
Chief of Police

CC: Personnel File

Lt. Matt Nighbor

Sgt. Anthony Cavanaugh



## McAtee Award Criteria and Nomination Form

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT AN ONLINE NOMINATION](#)

### History of the John J. McAtee Award

Since 1987, Mental Health America of Eastern Missouri has formally recognized police officers who have shown concern and compassion when assisting a person in psychiatric crisis. In 1989, this act of recognition was officially named the John J. McAtee Award. Over the years, more than 600 officers have been recognized.



### What is the Nomination Criteria?

The McAtee award honors officers who have shown compassion, concern and understanding when interacting with a person who has mental illness. The specific elements of nomination are:

1. Nominees must be a commissioned officer associated with a police department, sheriff's office, National Park Service, campus police department or a Missouri State Trooper assigned to or located in the City of St. Louis or the Counties of St. Louis, St. Charles, Lincoln, Warren, Jefferson or Franklin.
2. The act cited must have involved someone with a psychiatric illness and the officer must have gone above and beyond the call of duty, providing outstanding compassion, concern and understanding in assisting the individual. *Examples include demonstrating compassionate understanding of the behavioral symptoms being displayed, using exemplary communication and de-escalation skills, and/or partnering with mental health organizations to increase the likelihood that the person in crisis is connected to services.*
3. The officer must be nominated by his/her departmental supervisor or by an employee of a mental health agency, hospital emergency room or social service agency who has direct knowledge of the act or acts.
4. Awards are presented annually. The act must have taken place between April 1 of the preceding year and March 31 of the current year.
5. **Nominations for 2017 must be submitted by May 12.**
6. **Nominees do not have to be a CIT-trained officer.**

## **Who is John J. McAtee?**

John J. McAtee became an attorney in St. Louis in 1930, and practiced law until his death in 1995. Shortly after becoming an attorney, McAtee held the office of president of the Bar Association, and in 1932, became the youngest judge in the State of Missouri. In 1942, he joined the Navy. Upon his return, he resumed his legal practice and served as St. Louis County Counselor for four years.



During his career, John J. McAtee served on numerous boards of directors for agencies that assisted people in need. Most notably, he dedicated much of his time as an advocate on behalf of persons with mental illness. His dedication to upholding the law, his interactions with law enforcement and the court system, and his compassion for persons with mental illness was the driving force behind the creation of an award bearing his name.

**[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT AN ONLINE NOMINATION](#)**