

WEAU (Eau Claire)

Local law enforcement officers recognized with Badge of Bravery

Two local law enforcement officers are recognized as heroes for their courage and selflessness during a domestic violence call in March 2010.

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ONALASKA (WEAU) -- Two local law enforcement officers are recognized as heroes.

The Badge of Bravery represents the courage and selflessness both La Crosse County Deputy Dan Baudek and Onalaska Police Officer James Page showed in the line of duty during a domestic violence call in 2010.

“Officer Page and Deputy Baudek, congratulations and thank you for your service. You’ve made your departments, families, communities and today, the entire state of Wisconsin extremely proud,” announced U.S. Senator Herb Kohl at Wednesday’s ceremony at the Onalaska City Hall.

During the ceremony, speakers recalled what the night of March 29th, 2010 was like.

Both Baudek and Page came across a risky situation at a home in West Salem where both were approached by a domestic violence and stabbing suspect Keith Marchbanks with a butcher knife.

That’s when Officer Page shot Marchbanks.

Investigators say the brave men rescued two girls in the home while securing the scene.

Now, the men are being awarded for their courage with the U.S. Justice Department’s Congressional Badge of Bravery.

“They’re really special. These law enforcement officers had bravery and courage,” said Kohl.

Kohl presented the badges to the men. The Badge of Bravery was given to just 21 officers in the nation this year; two of them going to Baudek and Page.

But the heroes say they're being praised for something any officer in the line of duty would do and they don't want to take all the credit.

"I think Jim and I and the rest of the officers involved did as we were trained to do," says Baudek.

Page says he agrees.

"It's work, it's what I do, it's what I've done for years," says Page.

Both Baudek and Page say they're humbled by the experience and will remember it for the rest of their lives.

"This is going to be part of who I am forever. It's made me a lot stronger," says Page.

Baudek says he could never dream up a call like the one from March 29th.

As for his kids, they say they're proud of their dad, Deputy Baudek.

"He's a wonderful police officer and he's an assistant firefighter and he saves people from the fire," says 10-year-old Olivia Baudek.