

A RESOLUTION honoring Covington police officers Sergeant Justin Wietholter and Specialist Michael Lusardi.

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2014, the Covington Police Department responded to an incident of domestic violence that involved shots fired; and

WHEREAS, upon reporting to the scene, officers surrounded the trailer where the shooting had occurred. Officers learned that a woman had been held at gunpoint by her husband, and when the woman's son tried to intervene, he was shot in the arm. The victim and three of her children were able to escape the trailer, but an elderly woman and a sleeping eight-year-old girl remained inside; and

WHEREAS, as officers formed a plan, the elderly woman rushed from the trailer. Moments later a smoke alarm began to blare from inside the house and smoke began to pour from the home as the suspect was apprehended attempting to escape; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Justin Wietholter and Specialist Michael Lusardi could see fire spreading and knew the young girl was still inside. They quickly forced entry into the trailer, risking their own safety, and made their way through the smoke in search of the child; and

WHEREAS, the officers found the little girl in bed, and Sergeant Wietholter carried her to safety as Specialist Lusardi searched the trailer for more victims; and

WHEREAS, for their actions under duress and their remarkable bravery, Sergeant Wietholter and Specialist Lusardi were nominated by Commonwealth's Attorney Rob Sanders for the Chief Robert Shields Memorial Award for Outstanding Police Officers of the Year, a commendation that was awarded to the two at the recent Northern Kentucky Police Chiefs Association's annual banquet; and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Body rightfully commends those officers of the law who put the greater good ahead of their own well-being and who go beyond the normal call of duty in an effort to protect their fellow citizens. Sergeant Justin Wietholter and Specialist Michael Lusardi are hereby honored for their efforts on May 19, 2014, lauded

for their bravery and courage, and granted best wishes as they continue their exemplary careers as proud members of the Covington Police Department;

NOW, THEREFORE,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

→Section 1. The Senate honors Covington Police Sergeant Justin Wietholter and Specialist Michael Lusardi for their heroism on May 19, 2014, congratulate them for being awarded the Chief Robert Shields Memorial Award for Outstanding Police Officers of the Year, and duly thank them for helping to make Covington a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

→Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of Covington Police Sergeant Justin Wietholter and Specialist Michael Lusardi.

→Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Senator Christian McDaniel for delivery.