



# SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

*Incorporated March 11, 1929*

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### **Mercer County Sheriff's Detective Joshua Hahn to Receive National Sheriffs' Association Medal of Valor and Purple Heart Awards**

March 19, 2008-On Thursday, March 20, 2008, the Mercer County Sheriff's Office will present to Mercer County Sheriff's Detective Joshua Hahn the National Sheriff's Association's Medal of Valor and Purple Heart awards at 11:00 a.m. at a ceremony to be held at the Ancient Order of Hibernians, 2419 Kuser Rd., Hamilton Twp., during the monthly Sheriffs' Association of New Jersey meeting.

President of the Sheriff's Association of New Jersey, Sheriff Edward V. Rochford, remarked that "Detective Hahn exhibited tremendous bravery and courage, and absolutely exemplifies the meaning of the National Sheriffs' Association *Medal of Valor* and *Purple Heart* citations. We are extremely proud of Detective Hahn."

Mercer County Sheriff's Detective Joshua Hahn was unarmed and off duty, on July 15, 2007, when a gang member shot him after the officer intervened in an assault on a female being committed by his assailant. On the day he was shot, Detective Hahn and his father were traveling in their personal vehicle when they observed a male striking a female outside a Hamilton Township pizzeria. Detective Hahn and his father pulled into the pizzeria's parking lot to render assistance. Detective Hahn was unarmed, as he had been repairing a roof with his father prior to the incident. As Detective Hahn attempted to exit his vehicle, the accused ran over to him, pulled a handgun and struck the officer in the head with the butt of the gun. Detective Hahn, a trained member of the sheriff's SWAT team, was injured but still closed the distance between he and his assailant and was able to deflect an aimed shot directed at the center of his chest. His assailant fired a shot that entered the Detective's upper left shoulder/chest area that pierced both lungs and severed a main artery.

Detective Hahn was able to survive until he could be transported to a trauma hospital for extensive surgery. The accused, who has a career of violent crime, was arrested later that day, with the help of witnesses' accounts and the detective's father who provided a description of the vehicle that was used to flee the scene.

Detective Hahn's actions that day were selfless and he exhibited vast personal bravery in the face of imminent danger. Moreover, even after being shot and severely wounded, the officer willed himself to survive relying on his training and inner strength.

For more information, please contact Mercer County Sheriff's Office Chief Warrant Officer, Dennis McManimon at (609) 278-8040.

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*The Sheriff is the highest and only law enforcement official elected by you, the people of New Jersey*