



TUPELO POLICE DEPT
400 FRONT ST.
Tupelo, MS



Captain Marty E. Mask
Tupelo Police Department
Tupelo, MS 38804
December 12, 2022

To: Major Chuck McDougald

Re: Commendation

I would like to submit this letter of commendation to recognize Officers Caldwell, Berryman, Ware, Farris, Payne, Tucker, and Lt. Carter. Their quick actions in searching for John Williams an injured man near highway 45 led to him being found and receiving medical treatment. Lt. Carter was on scene and did an excellent job of coordinating search efforts.

On Thursday, December 8, 2022, at 2303 hours, Charlie Shift officers were alerted by dispatch of a medical emergency. Dispatch advised a male caller named John Williams had fallen in or near a large ditch somewhere between Highway 45 / Eason exit and Tishomingo St. Williams advised dispatch during his fall he was impaled in the abdomen by a large stick. Officers quickly responded to the area and began searching for Williams. Officers Caldwell, Berryman, Ware, Farris, Payne, Tucker, Lt. Carter, and Capt. Mask walked through fields, water, mud, brush, and finally found Williams lying halfway down an embankment. The embankment was steep and uneven which made it difficult to get Williams.

Williams was located just west of the Highway 45 sound bound exit to Eason Blvd. Officers communicated with Williams until medics and TFD arrived on scene. It was discovered that the area where Williams was located was surrounded by adjoining creeks which made the area unapproachable by vehicle or side by side. Officers Tucker and Farris were able to cross the creek and get to Williams initially. It was then determined Williams had a quarter size in diameter stick lodged in his abdomen area. Once all avenues for the TFD side by side to get to Williams were exhausted, it was decided Williams would need to be carried out. Due to the cloudy weather and large power lines above the NMMC helicopter was not an option. TFD supplied a skid (basket type carrier) to put Williams in. Officers Tucker and Farris along with TFD placed Williams into the skid. A ladder was placed along top of a beaver dam and across the creek. Officers Tucker and Farris and TFD then carried Williams down the embankment, through the creek, and up the other embankment to safety. Williams was loaded up on the ambulance and transported to the ER to receive further treatment.

I would like to commend these officers on a job well done. It is my priviledge to work along side them daily and have them on my team. Their actions that night reflect greatly on the City of Tupelo and on our department and the professional qualities our officers possess.

Respectfully,
Captain Marty Mask