

LYON COUNTY SHERIFF



Brad Pope
Sheriff

“To protect and Serve”

To: Sheriff Brad Pope
From: Chief Deputy Mitch Brantingham
Date: September 24, 2024
Subject: Meritorious Service Medal Recommendation

On July 28, 2024 at approximately 1955 hours the Lyon County Sheriff's Office Communication Center received information regarding a reckless driver in the area of Fernley, Nevada. Shortly after, the Nevada Highway Patrol initiated a pursuit of the suspect vehicle. Deputy Ian Foster and Deputy Joshua Lynch joined the pursuit and became the primary officers leading it a short time later. Prior to and during the course of the pursuit, the suspect vehicle was unable to maintain its travel lane, nearly hit multiple pedestrians and collided with numerous fixed objects and vehicles in the area. The suspect also swerved his vehicle at Deputy Lynch and Deputy Foster's patrol vehicles, attempting to cause a collision with them. The deputies did not let this deter them and continued the pursuit, recognizing the danger the suspect posed the community if they were to terminate.

As the pursuit continued, the suspect led the deputies into a cul-de-sac at a high rate of speed. Deputy Lynch pursued him into the cul-de-sac. The suspect turned his vehicle quickly and sharply in front of Deputy Lynch. Deputy Lynch took evasive maneuvers, but ultimately collided with the rear of the vehicle. Deputy Lynch's vehicle was disabled during this collision and he sustained injuries, leading to hospitalization. The suspect fled the scene in his still functioning vehicle.

Deputy Foster continued the pursuit, following the vehicle to the east end of Newlands Drive. Deputy Foster appropriately backed off the suspect as the road turned to dirt, but the suspect ultimately lost control of his vehicle and rolled several times.

Deputy Foster approached the vehicle and observed smoke and flames coming from the cab. Deputy Foster attempted to extricate the driver through the driver door, but could not pull him through. As the flames became bigger, Deputy Foster knew he only had a few minutes or seconds left. With no regard to his own safety, Deputy Foster ran to the passenger side of the vehicle, broke out the passenger side window, used a fire extinguisher to knock down some of the flames and with the assistance of a Nevada State Trooper, pulled the unconscious driver from the vehicle and dragged him to a safe distance from the vehicle. Seconds later, the vehicle was fully engulfed in flames. Deputy Foster and North Lyon Fire Personnel attempted lifesaving efforts, but the suspect was ultimately pronounced deceased on scene.

Deputy Foster and Deputy Lynch demonstrated courage and perseverance in the performance of their duties in an effort to protect life, property and to prevent a major crime or the apprehension of an armed or dangerous criminal. Their actions clearly meet the standards for recognition with the Lyon County Sheriff's Office Meritorious Service Medal.

A blue ink signature of Mitch Brantingham, written in a cursive style.

Mitch Brantingham
Chief Deputy