



# Pueblo County Sheriff's Office

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*Detention*

## News Release

For Immediate Release  
Contact: Gayle Perez 719 924 5471  
Date: February 4, 2020

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### **Deputy Awarded Medal of Valor by Sheriff Taylor** *Two Other Deputies Awarded Purple Hearts After Being Injured in Inmate Assaults*

**Pueblo, CO:** Pueblo County Sheriff Kirk M. Taylor awarded Patrol Deputy Jason Hanratty with the Medal of Valor at the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Pueblo County Sheriff's Office Awards Banquet held Friday at Colorado State University-Pueblo.

The Medal of Valor is law enforcement's highest award and is presented for an act of outstanding bravery or heroism performed with selflessness, courage and devotion to duty.

Sheriff Taylor also presented Purple Heart awards to Detention Deputy Jana Hartless and Detention Deputy Clayton Kent for their courage and bravery during two separate incidents involving assaults by an inmate in the Pueblo County Jail.

Deputy Hanratty, who is now a Patrol Sergeant, was praised for his bravery the night of January 13, 2019, while responding to a call in which a vehicle fleeing from a Fremont County Sheriff's Deputy was entering Pueblo County. The suspect vehicle was involved in an incident in which the driver attempted to hit a Fremont County Deputy and then fled east on U.S. Highway 50. As the vehicle entered Pueblo County, a Pueblo County Deputy attempted to stop the vehicle using a PIT maneuver. The driver did not stop and continued driving east, entering Pueblo West. A second PIT maneuver was done causing the vehicle to crash through a fence and into a tree. As deputies approached the vehicle, the driver revved the engine and drove toward Hanratty. Deputy Hanratty fired his weapon, striking the suspect driver and causing the vehicle to stop.

"Deputy Hanratty's actions were truly heroic," said Pueblo County Sheriff Kirk M. Taylor. "He put his life on the line to protect himself and fellow deputies from harm. I am proud and honored to award him with the distinguished Medal of Valor for his courage, selflessness and dedication to duty."

A plaque with a photo of Hanratty and a citation highlighting his heroic actions will be placed permanently in the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office Hall of Valor, located on the first floor of the Emergency Services Center, 101 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

Deputy Hartless was awarded a Purple Heart for injuries she sustained in an assault by a combative arrestee on November 8, 2019. Deputy Hartless was assigned to transport a male

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arrestee from intake at the Dennis Maes Judicial Building to intake at the Pueblo County Jail. After arriving in the jail intake, the arrestee became uncooperative during the booking process and exhibited passive, resistive behavior. Deputy Hartless was able to gain voluntary compliance from the arrestee but then without warning or provocation, the man attacked Deputy Hartless, hitting her to the face and head with a closed fist. Despite suffering serious bodily injury, Deputy Hartless, with assistance from other deputies, was able to successfully subdue the arrestee.

Deputy Kent was recognized for his bravery after he was assaulted by an inmate while he was returning the inmate to his cell on October 23, 2019. Deputy Kent was assigned to the maximum-security floor as an escort for medical staff when an inmate became aggressive and started taking items from the medical cart. In an effort to protect the medical staff and put a stop to the inmate's disruptive behavior, Deputy Kent intervened and was taking the inmate back to his cell when the inmate began to assault him. Although he suffered serious bodily injury, Deputy Kent was able to force the inmate a safe distance away from medical staff where he deployed his taser and restrained the inmate. Deputy Kent's quick thinking and ability to utilize his training skills prevented any of the medical staff from suffering injury.

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Deputy Jason Hanratty

Deputy Jana Hartless

Deputy Clayton Kent