Niles officer brings state honor home

City council recognizes action of saving suicidal man

By JON WYSOCHANSKI
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NILES — A Niles police lieutenant brought a state honor home for his role in saving the life of a suicidal man in December.

Lt. Dan Adkins, a 19-year veteran of the police force who also serves as a negotiator on the crisis intervention team, was named Ohio’s Crisis Intervention Team Officer of the Year by the Ohio Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Adkins, who is trained in crisis negotiation and intervention, was able to convince a suicidal man to come down from a radio tower Dec. 11 after about an hour of talking to him.

Each of Ohio’s 88 counties nominates an officer and Adkins received his local nomination from the Trumbull County Mental Health and Recovery Board.

He traveled to Columbus May 4 to bring back the award and Niles City Council then presented him with a special recognition resolution Wednesday.

“Lt. Adkins has gone above and beyond the call of duty,” Barry Steffey, city council president, said.

“There are certain times in our lives where we need help and the help may not be there. Fortunately for us and for a resident, help was there.”

— Barry Steffey, Niles City Council president

Adkins, who has never received such an award although he’s previously been honored by the Trumbull County Homicide Task Force for cases he’s worked, said he was shocked to learn he received a state honor for his work in December.

“I’ve never received anything like this from the state of Ohio,” he said.

“There’s 88 counties and every county puts up a nominee. I certainly never expected something like this, but I appreciate the recognition.”

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Police Chief Jay Holland, left, holds an award given to Niles police Lt. Dan Adkins, who was recently named Ohio’s Crisis Intervention Team Officer of the Year by the Ohio Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.