

4

20-27

NOMINATION #
(To Be Completed By The 100 Club Staff)

100 Club Heroes Awards Nomination Form
Law Enforcement or Firefighting Agencies
(For Guidelines see last page)

Nominating Agency: SAN JACINTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE 75 WEST CEDAR AVE COLDSRING TX 77331
(Name) (Address)

Nominating Officer or Firefighter: GREG CAPERS - SHERIFF
(Print Name & Rank)

Work Number: 936-653-4367 Email address greg.capers@co.san-jacinto.tx.us

Law Enforcement Agency Nomination OR Fire Department Nomination

Officer/Firefighter Of The Year Rookie Of The Year Lifetime Achievement

Service Animal

(PLEASE MARK ONE)

NOMINEE: SERGEANT JONATHAN CORTEZ
(Rank/Title) (First Name) (Last Name)

NOMINEE'S AGENCY: SAN JACINTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Nominee's Supervisor: LT. CHARLES DOUGHTERY Work Phone # 936-653-4367

ATTACH OR WRITE A DETAILED NARRATIVE OF THE INCIDENT
SURROUNDING THE NOMINATION. (No supportive documentation please.)

SEE ATTACHED LETTER OF COMMENDATION

(ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGES AS NEEDED)

Nominator's Signature: _____

Date: 9/22/2020

Agency Head's Signature: _____

Date: 9/22/2020

Mail completed form to: The 100 Club, 5555 San Felipe St Ste 1750, Houston TX 77056-5527

WFS
10-5-20



Greg Capers, Sheriff

SAN JACINTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

75 W. Cedar Avenue
Coldspring, Texas 77331

Main – 936.653.4367
Fax – 936.653.5058

July 30, 2020

Letter of Commendation and Life Savings Award

On July 23rd, 2020, my office received information that the Walker County Sheriff's Office, Department of Homeland Security and other agencies were in pursuit with a known criminal of one of the deadliest gangs known to this country.

The suspect was traveling at speeds well over 100 miles an hour through a construction zone thereby causing a pursuing agency to wreck. At this point our units took over the pursuit of this dangerous criminal in which they traveled approximately four to five miles where he lost control of the stolen truck he was operating, overturning the vehicle hitting a tree then bursting into flames.

Sergeant Jonathan Cortez and Constable Ray Atchley were the pursuing units and first to the scene of the accident. As they arrived so did Sergeant Stephen Countz and Constable Sam Houston all of which started devising a plan of extraction for this known criminal from the burning vehicle of which he was now trapped inside of.

As Sergeant Countz was holding the suspect at gunpoint, due to him having a loaded gun by his side next to the door, everyone else tried to open a door but they were all jammed closed from the accident. They utilized several fire extinguishers while awaiting the arrival of local fire departments but this proved to be ineffective as the flames were growing stronger and encroaching on the suspect as they noticed gasoline leaking from the truck.

At this time Constable Atchley jumped in his truck turned it around as Constable Houston and Sergeant Cortez, with great risk to their own personal safety began to tie a tow strap to the door of the suspects truck as Atchley jerked the window section of the door away from the post so they could remove the suspect from the interior of this flaming inferno of a truck while Sergeant Countz held cover for officer safety.

All of this was performed in a matter of a few seconds as the fire then engulfed the interior of the truck. This suspect's life was saved by these very brave and courageous men who went over and above the call of duty to preserve a human life.

It is with great pride I write this letter in hope all four of these brave and courageous men receive recognition for their valiant service in the face of danger and receive the "Life Saving Award". This type of action puts faith back into all citizens that no matter who you are most all policemen are here to protect and serve the public in any way they can.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Capers", with a large, stylized flourish underneath.

Greg Capers, Sheriff