



## **Sergeant Nicholas Morawcznski**

### **Life Saving Medal**

On October 8<sup>th</sup> 2017, at approximately 11:00 P.M, Sergeant Morawcznski was asleep at his home in Loma Rica when he was awakened by his family dog. Sergeant Morawcznski detected the smell of smoke and discovered a large, rapidly growing wildland fire encroaching upon his home. He quickly woke his wife and children and assisted them in evacuating the area.

With a full understanding of the risk to his life, Sergeant Morawcznski chose to remain behind so he could alert his neighbors who were unaware of the fire. Sergeant Morawcznski was aware his immediate next door neighbors, Officer Dave Santanna and his family, were out of town but a house guest, Winston Nunes, was staying in the home. He ran to the home and pounded on the front door. When no one responded, he called Officer Santanna to confirm Winston would be there and what room he'd likely be sleeping in. After obtaining this information, Sgt. Morawcznski ran to the exterior window of the room Winston was thought to be in and pounded on the window, ultimately awakening Winston. As Winston fled from the home, burning embers from the fire ignited the roof. Winston later said he likely would have died in the home had he not been awakened by Sgt. Morawcznski.

Sergeant Morawcznski alerted his remaining neighbors and assisted them in evacuating as the fire engulfed their homes. He then assisted the Yuba County Sheriff's Department with evacuations in different neighborhoods within the Loma Rica area and used his chain saw to clear roadway obstructions as he encountered them.

The fire, later identified as the Cascade Fire, eventually burned some 10,000 acres in the Loma Rica area, causing the deaths of four people and the destruction of 200 homes and buildings.

Sergeant Morawcznski's actions in alerting his family and neighbors to the fire saved them from possible injury and death. His courage, selflessness and dedication to the protection of life are reflective of his character and are in keeping with the highest standards of the police service.

It is hereby ordered Sergeant Nicholas Morawcznski be awarded the Yuba City Police Department's Life Saving Medal for his actions on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**Issued on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**By Order of**

**Robert D. Landon**  
**Chief of Police**