

Officer of the Year 2023

Officer Steve Thomas has been named Officer of the Year for 2023, embodying our mission to Protect with Courage and Serve with Compassion. A former United States Air Force member, Thomas joined as a Reserve Officer in 2009 before becoming a full-time Patrol Officer for River Falls in December 2012.

Known for his positive attitude and ability to forge strong relationships, Thomas earns praise from peers, supervisors, and the community alike. Described as a calming and caring presence in high-pressure situations, his supervisor notes him as "a genuine positive influence."

In 2023, Thomas received recognition awards from peers, supervisors, and community members. Notably, during a high-stress search warrant, a supervisor praised Thomas' response as:

“Ofc. Thomas’s quick thinking and appropriate reaction to a fluid situation are in keeping with the high standards of field-leadership expected of a senior officer”.

Thomas's reputation for defusing stress adds to community and officer safety. He's also praised for his compassionate professionalism, as evidenced by numerous cards and letters of appreciation from community members in 2023.

With special assignments like Field Training Officer, Evidence Room Technician, and Emergency Vehicle Operations Course Instructor, Thomas plays diverse roles within the Police Department. He's also an active member of the Law Enforcement Honor Guard.

In 2023, Thomas showed professionalism attending three police funerals in Western Wisconsin, showing a willingness to serve in various roles.

Outside work, he enjoys spending time with his wife and two kids, as well as traveling.

Congratulations to Officer Steve Thomas, the River Falls Police Department’s 2023 Officer of the Year!

