

Ex-Combat Engineer, Constable Curtis Barrett, Receives Star of Courage

Curtis Barrett joined the Canadian Army in 2000 and served as a Combat Engineer in 2 Combat Engineer Regiment in Petawawa until 2004 before joining the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

On 26 October 2016, Constable Barrett was awarded the Star of Courage from His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada.

Created in 1972, Decorations for Bravery recognize people who risked their lives to try to save or protect the lives of others. The Cross of Valour (C.V.) recognizes acts of the most conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme peril; the Star of Courage (S.C.) recognizes acts of conspicuous courage in circumstances of great peril; and the Medal of Bravery (M.B.) recognizes acts of bravery in hazardous circumstances.



RCMP Constable Curtis Barrett, of Chelsea, Que., receives the Star of Courage from Governor General David Johnston during the Bravery Awards at Rideau Hall, in Ottawa on Friday, October 28 2016. (Fred Chartrand / THE CANADIAN PRESS)

Constable Barrett's Citation reads:

On October 22, 2014, members of the House of Commons Security Services and the RCMP were instrumental in stopping an armed man who had stormed the Centre Block of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, Ontario. Constable Son was stationed at the front entrance when he spotted the man entering with a concealed rifle. The constable lunged to gain control of the firearm, but it discharged and struck him in the leg. Drawn to the Rotunda by the noise, Corporal Malo and Constable Thom took cover and exchanged several rounds with the gunman after he entered the building. Constable Létourneau tracked the gunman down the Hall of Honour toward the Library of Parliament and fired at him several times. RCMP Sergeant Rozon,

Corporal Daigle and constables Barrett, Bergeron, Bubelis, Célestin, Fraser, Marcoux, Palmer, Ruest and Wayne, who had assembled outside the Peace Tower, entered the Centre Block. Supported by their colleagues, Sergeant Rozon, Corporal Daigle and constables Barrett and Fraser assumed a tactical formation (IARD) as they charged down the Hall of Honour. With the shooter now cornered in an alcove leading to the Library, Sergeant-at-Arms Vickers, after being advised of the shooter's location, dove to the floor in front of him and fired his weapon. RCMP Constable Barrett walked directly toward the gunman while also firing his weapon. The collective actions of these 16 individuals brought the incident to an end in less than three minutes, and avoided further tragedy.

