



CITY OF NEW ALBANY

POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHRIS ROBERTSON
CHIEF OF POLICE

On June 5th, 2020, Officer Jimmy Dean Whitten and two other officers responded to an alarm call at 2A Armaments at or about 3:30 am. 2A Armaments is our local gun store, located two doors down from City Hall. The two other officers arrived on scene first and could visually see the front door had been busted out and the majority of the firearms gone. They radioed this information to dispatch. Officer Whitten, who was across town, was responding to the location.

Officer Whitten is a twenty-year Veteran of Law Enforcement with experience in investigation. Upon hearing the radio traffic, he immediately headed toward I22 and went west toward Memphis. It was his experience that caused him to take this action. In the past, the majority of our crimes of this nature have originated from persons from the Memphis area.

Officer Whitten's assumption was correct. In a short time, Officer Whitten was able to catch up to the suspect vehicle. Information had been received from a witness about the basic type of vehicle involved. Officer Whitten radioed into dispatch that he was following the suspect vehicle, but was going to wait on backup until he initiated the stop. Unfortunately, the suspects realized that it was a Police car behind them and immediately sped up. Officer Whitten decided to try and stop the vehicle. Once he activated the blue lights, the vehicle refused to stop.

Holly Springs Police Department was contacted and advised that we had a unit in pursuit of burglary suspects heading toward their jurisdiction. Holly Springs was able to get Officers on I22 and deploy spike strips. They were able to successfully strike the suspect vehicle. To the surprise of all the officers, the suspect vehicle stopped abruptly in the right lane of the West bound side of I22. Officer Whitten, immediately tried to stop in the left lane while the three suspects fled the vehicle on foot. As Officer Whitten, was exiting his vehicle he was struck from the rear by a Holly Springs unit. Both the Holly Springs officer and officer Whitten received significant injury and were transported to Oxford BMH.

The suspects fled the scene, but were later apprehended and charged. It was later determined that not only had the suspects broken into the Gun store, but had also broken into a gas station and stolen a safe. All firearms, ten plus AR style rifles and several semi-automatic handguns, were recovered in the suspect vehicle.

Due to the courageous actions of Officer Whitten, all the stolen items were recovered, and twenty-seven firearms were prevented from getting into the hands of criminals.

Officer Whitten, in all likelihood, will be permanently disabled from his injuries received in the line of duty. He was doing his job protecting the citizens of New Albany, which resulted in three criminals being arrested and charged, recovery of twenty- seven firearms and another business's safe that in total valued more than \$20,000.

LET IT BE KNOWN ON THIS DAY, MONDAY NOVEMBER 29TH 2021, THAT OFFICER JIMMY DEAN WHITTEN IS TO BE AWARDED THE, MEDAL OF VALOR, FOR PROVIDING THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF NEW ALBANY AND UNION COUNTY, MS. FOR DISREGARDING OF HIS OWN PERSONAL SAFETY, TO APPREHEND THE THREE SUSPECTS AND RECOVER THE STOLEN MERCHANDISE FOR OUR CITIZENS. FOR THE PREVENTION OF ALLOWING DANGEROUS WEAPONS ONTO THE STREETS, MOST CERTAINLY LIVES WOULD HAVE BEEN LOST IF NOT FOR THE SWIFT ACTIONS OF OFFICER WHITTEN.

OFFICER WHITTEN, CARRIED OUT HIS DUTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF PROFESSIONAL POLICING AND HAS EARNED THIS COMMENDATION AND AWARD FOR "VALOR".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Robertson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Christopher J. Robertson