



New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

"Keeping New York Safe"

Officer Awarded Valor Award by NYSCOPBA

Union Recognizes Officer's Potentially Life Saving Actions

June 11, 2021

Dannemora, NY - Correction Officer Steve Jaquish was recently presented with the Valor Award by the New York State Correctional Officer & Police Benevolent Association for his actions in August 2020, where he saved another man from what could've been a serious, and potentially deadly situation.

On the morning of August 26th, 2020, while on his way into work his shift at Clinton Correctional Facility, Officer Jaquish stopped off at the Stewart's Shop on Cook Street in the Village of Dannemora to purchase something before work when he noticed another man, Steve Simmons, who looked to be in need of immediate medical assistance. After speaking to Mr. Simmons and helping him to his vehicle, Officer Jaquish, who is also a 32 year volunteer firefighter, insisted that Mr. Simmons didn't seem well enough to drive and pleaded with him to wait until after he received medical attention. Thankfully, Mr. Simmons agreed to wait until he was properly checked out.

According to Mr. Simmons' family doctor, at the time of the encounter, Mr. Simmons was unknowingly in the process suffering from a severe stroke, and if it hadn't been for Officer Jaquish intervening, Mr. Simmons could've been severely injured if he continued to go about his day and operate his vehicle. Recently, the Simmons family was able to finally identify Officer Jaquish and personally thank him for his efforts.

NYSCOPBA Northern Region Vice President John Roberts said: "I'm extremely proud of Officer Jaquish's actions that morning. Our officers spend every day working in harsh, unforgiving environments where they need to be aware of their surroundings at all times. I have no doubt Officer Jaquish's 15 years of experience as a CO, and 12 years as a member of DOCCS' highly-

trained CERT team, played a crucial role in this. It's also a reminder that many NYSCOPBA members not only work to protect us from what's inside the walls of a prison facility, but they are an integral part to the fabric of our communities."

(Pictured: Officer Steve Jaquish presented the "Valor Award" by NYSCOPBA Northern Business Agent Rick Brunelle)

