On the evening of August 30, Darrell Fortin was in the drive-thru of McDonald’s off of 128th when he witnessed a disturbance between a group of men dressed in all black fighting with another male. One of the men was wielding a gun. Deputy Joshua Wheeler came on scene at the Albertson’s parking and saw the disturbance. The deputy intercepted two of the suspects and ordered them on the ground. Darrell saw that the males were refusing to comply with deputy’s orders. The deputy “tased” one of the suspects and the two struggled to the ground. A large crowd had now gathered and while the deputy was wrestling with one suspect, another started to approach the deputy. Fearing that Deputy Wheeler was about to be attacked, Darrel tackled the suspect and wrestled him to the ground, restraining him until back-up could arrived.

We most often ask the public to restrain themselves from interfering with law enforcement, but in this case, Darrell was unable to stand by and potentially witness an attack against a deputy. His call to action that day is very similar to the call to duty that leads so many of us to a career in law enforcement. We are grateful for Darrell’s act of heroism in the face of danger. It may have saved the life of Deputy Wheeler.

For his selfless act of extraordinary bravery and assistance to a Sheriff’s deputy during a difficult arrest, performed at the risk of his own safety, this Citizen Medal of Valor is awarded to Darrell Fortin.