

**OFFICER OF THE YEAR**  
**GARDEN CITY POLICE OFFICER RONALD KOZLOFF**

Although the call came only one hour after April Fools' Day ended in 2010, Garden City Police Officer Ronald Kozloff knew that the "man with a gun" report was anything but a joke.

The deadly chain of events began when a man pulled a gun and threatened to shoot as he argued with some Garden City residents who knew him. When one of the people threatened called police, the gun-wielding man fled.

En route to the scene, Garden City officers learned that the suspect matched the description of a man who had recently fired shots during an altercation in nearby Plymouth Township.

Officer Kozloff, checking the area near the incident, soon spotted a black car stopped at a stop sign. Its make and license matched the suspect's vehicle.

Kozloff updated dispatch as he tailed the car. Garden City Police Officer Steve Miller followed directly behind Kozloff. Fellow officer, Tim Gibbons, fell in line behind Miller.

With backup now supporting him, Kozloff activated his emergency equipment and attempted to pull the man over. But instead of slowing down, the suspect accelerated and began shooting at the pursuing officers through his window.

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Garden City Police Officer Shawn Stanchina and Lt. Mike Tackett joined in what was now an all-out chase as the man fired more than a dozen rounds at the officers while his car raced through seven miles of Garden City, Westland, Livonia and into Plymouth Township.

With the officers in close pursuit, the suspect sped directly into the driveway of his own Plymouth Township home. At this point Officer Kozloff — hoping to distract the man and possibly interrupt his escape plans once his car stopped — intentionally rammed the suspect's car with his police vehicle.

Undeterred, the suspect ducked down inside his car and fired at the officers. Unable to see the driver but knowing he was still inside the car, Kozloff fired multiple rounds into the car's interior.

The other officers, arriving just behind Kozloff, prepared to engage the determined gunman when one last shot rang from the suspect's car.

The man had fired his final fatal round directly into his own head.

Amazingly, the suspect's bullets hit neither officers nor bystanders during the high-speed chase. Nor was there any property damage. Kozloff later learned that only one of his shots had reached its target, barely grazing the side of the suspect's head.

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Garden City Police Officer Ronald Kozloff demonstrated the highest professionalism and training in apprehending a dangerous, gun-wielding suspect, who did not hesitate to fire at armed law-enforcement officers. Kozloff willing faced a potentially deadly threat to protect his fellow officers and the community at large.

His unflinching dedication and willingness to place his own life in jeopardy is what the POAM created its Police Officer of the Year Award to honor. Officer Kozloff, we commend you on your exemplary actions and present you with the 2012 Police Officer of the Year Award.

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