

Number 01/1993

BUDAL NA GOLD MEDAL 1993
(CIVILIAN BRAVERY GOLD MEDAL)

AWARDEE : T. R. Seneris
DATE OF INCIDENT : 6th October 1993
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Ukwatta

Sacrificed his life to save drowning people

Mr. Seneris operated a boat service taking people across the Kulu Ganga from the Ukwatte ford. On the fateful day of 06th October 1998, Mr. Seneris was operating his boat with at with six others on board when his boat toppled due to the heavy winds and choppy water. Although he could have easily saved himself, Mr. Seneris risked his life in order to save the six people that were to be consumed by the raging river.

Having saved 5 of them, he attempted to save the 6th person, 49-year-old Hettiarachchilage Charlotte Perera who was a mother of three. But after a valiant effort, both she and Mr T.R. Seneris who was 71 years old at the time lost their lives.

Number 06/1994

BUDAL NA GOLD MEDAL 1994
(CIVILIAN BRAVERY GOLD MEDAL)

AWARDEE : A.G. Mohotti Appuhami
Nakkawita, Daraniyagala
DATE OF INCIDENT : 1994
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Colombo – Kandy Road
RESCUSEE : Mother of four Children

CITATION:

Saved an unconscious woman carried down by heavy currents of the Sithawaka river.

On 8th February 1994, he saved the life of Mallika, a mother of four children, who was caught to the tides of Seetawaka Ganga, risking his own life.

Number 10/1995

BUDAL NA GOLD MEDAL 1995
(CIVILIAN BRAVERY GOLD MEDAL)

AWARDEE : Harishchandra de Silva

"Ranjani Sewana"
Kudawaskaduwa
Waskaduwa

DATE OF INCIDENT : 1995
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Waskaduwa

Donated his kidney

CITATION:

Harishchandra, a youth from Waskaduwa, Kaluthara donated one of his kidneys to a person ailing from kidney failure. The recipient had a daughter studying for her O/L examination which motivated the donor.

Number 11/1995

SILVER MEDAL OF CIVILIAN BRAVERY – 1995

AWARDEE : Madura Shelton (Student)
Thanamalwila

DATE OF INCIDENT : 1995
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Thanamalwila

Saved a student bitten by a cobra

CITATION:

Madhura Shelton of Thanamalwila. On 14th April 1995, the day of Sinhala New Year. When the children were playing 'keta', suddenly, a cobra attacked one of them Chaminda Sampath. Chaminda became unconscious. Madhura who was in the vicinity immediately sucked the venom by his mouth. The victim and the savior were both admitted to hospital and recovered.

Number 12/1995

SILVER MEDAL OF CIVILIAN BRAVERY – 1995

AWARDEE : M. P. Nimal Ananda
DATE OF INCIDENT : 1994
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Colombo Kandy Highway

Save the person was drwoning at Aththanagalu river.

CITATION:

In January 1994, during heavy rain, around 7.30 p.m., at the 32k.m. post of Colombo – Kandy highway, lives of four people who were trapped in a van which had fallen into deep water, were saved by Mr. Nimal Ananda.

Number 15/1996

BUDAL NA GOLD MEDAL 1996
(CIVILIAN BRAVERY GOLD MEDAL)

AWARDEE : Trevo Haris Denam Berk
No. 69/D/14,
Dayavirugama,
Coppiyawaththa Delduwa,
Wadduwa.
DATE OF INCIDENT : 1996
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Dehiwala Railway Station

Removed a Bomb planted by the terrorists

CITATION:

Trevo, a disabled soldier, was on his way home noticed explosives on board the train he was traveling in. The train was packed with passengers traveling home-bound at the time after office. He managed to remove the main bomb, but unfortunately the two other bombs also on the train exploded. But many lives were saved by Trevo' s actions to remove the main bomb.

Number 16/1996

SILVER MEDAL OF CIVILIAN BRAVERY – 1996

AWARDEE : K. L. Simon Perera
DATE OF INCIDENT : 23 February 1996
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Meegoda
RESCUSEE : Sashini Nimesha Mallika

Saving an infant who were fallen into a well well though not deep, the infant was not visible

CITATION:

Dusk had fallen on the 23rd of February, 1996 when one and half year old Sashini Nimesha Mallika was fighting for her life at the bottom of a well. Simon, who was passing by, heard the commotion of the people who were gathered around. There was no one to volunteer to go down the well to look for the child who was not visible either.

Simon immediately dived into the well and went down in search of the Sashini; in no time he came up with the child. Sashini was unconscious, but her life was saved.

Number 17/1996

SILVER MEDAL OF CIVILIAN BRAVERY – 1996

AWARDEE : P. P. M. Nandathissa
DATE OF INCIDENT : 1996
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Palawatte – *Burutha* Road
RESCUSEE : B. F. Mendis

Nandathissa saved a person from an assassin with gun and knife as he was prevented the shooting in nick of time acting bravely and wisely grabbing the attacker.

CITATION:

On 19 July 1996 around 2.30 pm, an assassin armed with a gun and knife, was about to shoot B. F. Mendis; However, Nandathissa prevented the murder in nick of time acting bravely and wisely grabbing the attacker.

Number 18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26/1996

SILVER MEDAL OF CIVILIAN BRAVERY – 1996

AWARDEE : S. Jayaveera
W. A. Ranjith Kumara
R. M. Wijesinghe Banda
K. K. Ruwan Hemantha
M. R. Kirthirathna
B. P. Wanigasekara
D. M. Indrasena
H. R. Senavirathna
R. M. Gunasiri Banda

DATE OF INCIDENT : 1996
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Mahavilachchiya yaya 06
RESCUEE : R. M. Punchi Banda
Layanal Premasiri

Two villagers were abducted by terrorists where the youth followed them; using fire crackers frightened the terrorists and saved the villagers

CITATION:

Mahavilachchiya is a farming area where everyone lived together in peace. A terrorist group, on the night of 6th March 1996 entered this area and abducted two farmers: R. M. Punchi Banda & Layanal Premasiri.

A heroic group of villagers followed the terrorists and deceived them by lighting crackers to mimic gun fire and saved the two villagers chasing away the terrorists.

Number 58/1997

BUDAL NA GOLD MEDAL 1997
(CIVILIAN BRAVERY GOLD MEDAL)

AWARDEE : Randoombage Prasanna (23 years),
Akkara 80, Uduwila, Tissamaharamaya,
Sri Lanka.

DATE OF INCIDENT : 1997 March 03
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Hikkaduwa

Saving lives of passengers in a bus, when waylaid and threated with a grenade which exploded killing him and a passenger

CITATION:

On 3rd March 1997, the Colombo bound semi luxury bus 23; Sri-9451 started at 9.05 p.m. from Kataragama. Prasanna was traveling in this bus returning to work after 4-day holiday at his home in Tissamaharamaya. When the bus reached Telwatta passing in Hikkaduwa, three armed looters who were in disguise started to plunder the fellow passengers of their cash and jewelry under threat. One of the passengers came forward and attempted to restrain one of the looters. At this time, another looter attempted to throw a grenade at him. Prasanna bravely jumped forward and held the culprit in an iron

grip. But unfortunately, the grenade exploded. Prasanna sustained serious injuries and was admitted to hospital at Karapitiya in Galle where succumbed to his injuries.

Number 59/1997

SILVER MEDAL OF CIVILIAN BRAVERY – 1997

AWARDEE : J. A. Yohan Chaminda

DATE OF INCIDENT : 19th October 1997

PLACE OF INCIDENT : Agalawatte

Saving a person who was hanging from branches of a tree, who was cutting branches of the tree, by climbing up and helping him to descend, as a school boy

CITATION:

At around 5:00 pm on the 19th October 1997, a student named Yohan Chaminda, heard a cry for help. He ran to the spot and saw Siripala trapped among the branches up on a tree; Siripala has fallen whilst cutting a branch standing on another branch. The branch on which he was standing had given way and had fallen through the branches. As the day was drizzling the tree was slippery. Since climbing the tree was risky nobody volunteered to climb up.

But Yohan was of full of courage and in no time, he was up the tree. He removed the entanglement of branches and descended with Siripala.

Number 94/1998

BUDAL NA GOLD MEDAL 1998
(CIVILIAN BRAVERY GOLD MEDAL)

AWARDEE : Miss. J.A. Malkanthi Dhammika Jayasuriya (Age 15)
No. 275, Weerasekara Mawatha,
Pepiliyana, Boralesgamuwa.

Student of Grade 11 at Sunethradevi Girls School, Pepiliyana

DATE OF INCIDENT : 1998

PLACE OF INCIDENT : Sunethradevi Girls School, Pepiliyana.

RESCUEE : 4 Years old girl

Student Dhammika saved a child catching miraculously whilst falling from the 3rd floor of the Sunethra Devi School

CITATION:

It was the last day of the term at Sunethra Devi Girls School in Pepiliyana. A teacher had brought her 4 years child also to school on this day. While the teacher was busy with the students, the child decided to explore the surroundings on her own climbing up to the 3rd floor of the school building. Seeing a table, she climbed on to that and ended up on the balcony. She did not know how to find her way back and shouted. School children on seeing, her asked her to stay there until someone came up but the excited child decided to jump down. Quick thinking Malkanthi Dhammika a 15-year-old prefect, rushed to the place where she judged the child will hit the ground, bent down and caught her bravely thus averting what would have been a certain tragedy.

Number 95/1998

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 1998

AWARDEE : Dr. D.L. Nimal Kelvin (Age 37)
Narawala, Deloluwa, Dehiowita

(Dr. at Government Medical Centre – Seruwila)

DATE OF INCIDENT : 1998
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Seruvila
RESCUSEE : R.D. Mallika Attanayake, Seruvila

Attended to a pregnant woman at her delivery in the road way in Seruwawila jungle at night where terrorist was operative, solely by himself

CITATION:

A pregnant lady had come for medical attention to the Government Dispensary that was functioning at the temple. This area was under terrorist threat. Noticing that the delivery of the baby was imminent, the mother was directed to the hospital at Seruwila.

The husband and wife started towards the hospital on their foot bicycle. Dr. Kelvin realizing that she will not be able to go that far in her condition followed them on his foot bicycle in the thick jungle which was frequented by aggressive animals.

As he expected, he met them on the way. She was lying at the side of the road suffering from labour pains. With the help of the light operated by the dynamo of the Bicycle he assisted the delivery of the baby saving both the mother and child in the midst of danger from wild animals.

Number 96/1998

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 1998

AWARDEE : Late R.A. Gunathilaka (Age 61)
Samoopakara Mawatha,
Unagalavehera, Polonnaruwa

(Died at the event)
Retired Lance Corporal at Sinha Regiment - Sri Lanka Army

DATE OF INCIDENT : 1998
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Unagalavehera, Polonnaruwa
RESCUSEE : Mr. Karunarathne, Dharmadasa Stores, Unagalavehera.

Died in an attempt to save his neighbour from robbers

CITATION:

When there was call for help in the night from a neighbouring house, Gunathilaka rushed to the scene to realize that the house was being robbed. His attempt to avert the robbery ended up in his untimely death.

Number 97/1998

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 1998

AWARDEE : F. F. Palitha Fernando
DATE OF INCIDENT : 13th June 1998
PLACE OF INCIDENT :
RESCUSEE : N. Junaid

Saved a person while drowning in the sea.

CITATION:

On 13th June 1998 at the breakwater bridge at Colombo harbor, after visiting vessel known as "Silk Route Supplier", they were boarding the pilot vessel when overseer N. Junaid fell in to sea; and he was struggling for life drowning in sea.

Palitha volunteered to dive in to sea and saved Junaid's life. **Number 127/1999**

BUDAL NA GOLD MEDAL 1999
(CIVILIAN BRAVERY GOLD MEDAL)

AWARDEE : Mr. H.K. Nandasena (Age 46)
Labor at D.S. Senanayake National School, Ampara.
DATE OF INCIDENT : 1999
PLACE OF INCIDENT : -
RESCUSEE : Coconut Plucker

Saving the life of a coconut plucker when his shoulder dislocated at the pinnacle of the tree

CITATION:

Coconut Plucker became disabled when his shoulder dislocated reaching pinnacle of the tree. Whilst clinging on to the branches of the coconut tree with his good hand, he cried for help. Nandasena, seeing the plight of the coconut plucker, volunteered to help. He climbed up the tree, clung to the branches by his legs and supported the victim to gradually reach the top of the tree, preventing him from falling off. Later a crane brought both to ground.

Number 128/1999

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 1999

AWARDEE : T. Ajith Lal Amarasinghe
DATE OF INCIDENT : 24 May 1999
PLACE OF INCIDENT :

Saving two passengers who fallen by a boat and were drowning in Kalu Ganga river.

CITATION:

On the 25th of March, 1999, D.S.A.P. Suraweera and K.L. Senevirathne boarded the Kanhangama ferry bound for Haldola. The route which usually lasts 10 minutes consists of a quick row upstream and dash across the normally perilous river. On this occasion, the ferryman, who was a novice, decided to row directly across. This caused great turmoil and the ferry toppled, dropping the passengers into the river.

Fortunately, an eagle-eyed Ajith, who was on the bund dived in to save their lives. He was able to save two of them.

Number 129/1999

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 1999

AWARDEE : L. Tharindu Sameera Wanigasuriya
DATE OF INCIDENT : 1999
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Piliyandala

12 years old Tharindu saved life of his brother while drowning in a canal.

CITATION:

Amila and his younger brother Tharindu were flying kites with their friend Upul. Suddenly, the kite string broke and the kite flew away. The boys gave chase and ended up at the bund of a nearby canal. The boys ran alongside the canal when Amila slipped and fell in.

Upul jumped in to save him but he was submerged in the waters. Tharindu then jumped in to save both of them. He saved Upul but unfortunately, Amila lost his life.

Number 130/1999

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 1999

AWARDEE : W. M. Chandrani Wanasingha
DATE OF INCIDENT : 1999
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Lebanon

Helped a fellow woman who was a house worker in Lebanon, to be free and escape from brutal harassments of the house owner.

CITATION:

In Lebanon, on a June day, in the year 1999, Chandrani noticing housemaid Hemlatha, employed in the neighborhood, was crying, Chandrani enquired as to why she was crying and learnt that Hemalatha was beaten by the agency owner who brought her to Lebanon.

Chandranni secretly photographed the contusions on her arms and legs. Thereafter Chandrani learnt that Hemalatha was called back by the agency owner and was kept in confinement by him. Unfortunately, a Sri Lankan could do nothing in situation like this Lebanon.

Chandrani complained to Sri Lankan embassy in Lebanon. Thereafter she sought the support of Reem Haddad a Staff reporter of Daily Star. Daily Star published Chandrani's account about Hemalatha and as a result Hemalatha's release was secured.

Number 163/2000

CIVILIAN BRAVERY GOLD MEDAL 2000

AWRDEE : Mr. D.P. Sunil Bandula, Prison, Negombo
DATE OF INCIDENT : 4th September 2000
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Negambo

Saving lives of 16 remand prisoners and prison officials from a grenade attack

CITATION:

Around 7.00 am on 4th September 2000 the Negombo Prison Officials were busy planning to take 16 suspects who were in their protective custody, to produce before the Magistrate at Marawila. The suspects were chained to each other. Suddenly one suspect produced a hand grenade, removed the safety pin and demanded the release of others and himself as well as a vehicle.

At this point, Sunil Bandula, did the most dangerous thing in the world at such a situation. He firmly held the suspect's hand holding the grenade, restraining him from throwing it. Taking the opportunity, the prison officials were able to take control of the culprit. A Police Officer threw the grenade away just saving all lives in the nick of time.

His courageous act to stop a grenade, which could have exploded in a second, exhibited his courage and the concern for others lives.

Prison authorities reported that this is the first time a person in prison custody was appreciated for his bravery in this country.

Number 164/2000

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL – 2000

AWARDEE : Nissanka K.S.K. De Silva
Molligoda, Wadduwa.

DATE OF INCIDENT : 1999 January 22

PLACE OF INCIDENT : Negombo

RESCUEE : O. Dhammasiri Silva, Molligoda Murawatta.

Attempt to save the life of a man who fell from 60 ft tree

CITATION:

On 22nd January 1999, Nissanka went to “Molligoda Murawatta”, at Wadduwa. His job involved using a cart to help transport trees which had been cut for timber mills in the area. He saw many people were watching a well-known tree cutter, Dhammasiri, cutting the top portion of a 60 feet tall coconut tree. Nissanka saw Dhammasiri, who was well known to him as an expert wood cutter, perched on a strip of wood tied to the tree and had encircled himself with a rope tied around him and the tree, a normal practice among tree cutters. When the top portion of the tree which was being cut, separated and fell, the strip of wood on which Dhammasiri was standing broke, dislodging him.

All who witnessed were horrified as Dhammasiri fell, sliding along the tree. Brave Nissanka reacted immediately, ran forward to position himself bellow the victim and caught him with open arms. However, the impact was so strong that both fell to the ground. They were admitted to hospital. Despite Nissanka’s brave attempt, Dhammasiri’s injuries proved to be fatal and the tree cutter unfortunately died on the same day. Nissanka had fractured his leg and underwent several surgeries.

Number 190/2001

BUDAL NA GOLD MEDAL 2001
(CIVILIAN BRAVERY GOLD MEDAL)

AWADEE : D. M. Samantha – Meegoda.

DATE OF INCIDENT : 1997 October 29

PLACE OF INCIDENT : Railway station - Maharagama

RESCUEE : K. M. M. Perera

Saving a man from being run over by train

CITATION:

Samantha and Perera are two friends from Meegoda & employed in Moratuwa. On October 29th, 1997 they were at the Maharagama Railway Station awaiting the train. As the train approached, Perera who was on the platform tripped and fell on to the rail track. Samantha, despite knowing the grave risk, jumped on to the rail track and was able to get his friend into a position where the train would pass over him. Fortunately, the train did not have the cowcatcher. To ensure the safety of Perera, Samantha lay beside his friend holding him to the ground. Unfortunately, Samantha was unable to help his friend to

pull his leg out of the rail track and Perera's leg was severed by the train. But by his unselfish quick action he was able to save Perera's life.

Number 191/2001

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 2001

AWARDEE : K. Mahesh Udaya Ranasinghe
Karunaratne Maha Vidyalaya,
Kotadeniyawa.

DATE OF INCIDENT : 2000 March 12 at 3.30 p.m.
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Kotadeniyawa
RESCUSEE : Two Men

Saving two men from drowning in Ma Oya at Kotadeniyawa

CITATION:

16-Year-old Mahesh Udaya Ranasinghe was talking with a friend near his house when he heard and appeal for help from the direction of the Ma Oya. He rushed to the scene and found that two were drowning among a group of people who were visitors bathing in the river. He jumped into the river with no thought for his personal safety and was able to save both.

Number 192/2001

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 2001

AWARDEE : L. S. Samantha

DATE OF INCIDENT : 15 April 2001
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Manik River - Katharagama
RESCUSEE : Two people

Saved two persons while drowning in Menika Ganaga – Katharagama.

CITATION:

21 year old Samantha was a mason by profession. He lived in Deiyandara. On 15th April 2001,he accompanied his grandmother on a pilgrimage to Kataragama with a group of villagers. At the Kataragama, as was customary Samantha went to take a bath at *Manik*-River.

While he helped his grandmother with her bath, he noticed a lady and a man both drowning in a river. Swimming against the increasingly strong tide, Samantha was able to save both of them.

Number 193/2001

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 2001

AWARDEE : Mr. G. K. G. Lalith Samaranayke
DATE OF INCIDENT : 2001 April 04
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Sri Ramachandra Hospital, Chennai, India
RESCUEE : D. B. Kumarasiri

Donating a Kidney

CITATION:

Lalith Samaranayake is a resident of Katugasthota who earns a living by engaging in sales. In 2001, he learned that 53-year-old D.B. Kumarasiri, a resident of Panadura was in need of a kidney transplant & Lalith was very generous in donating a kidney to him.

Number 233/2002

BUDAL NA GOLD MEDAL 2002
(CIVILIAN BRAVERY GOLD MEDAL)

AWARDEE : Diyapaththugama Vidanalage Lasantha Buddhika (Age 25)
"Priyasenava", Alakaka,
Haburugala, Bentota.
(Who died in the incident)

Lasantha a bachelor was an employee of a garment factory as a quality controller. He was a karate master as well. The day following his death, his admission to law collage was notified.

DATE OF INCIDENT : 2002 September 11
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Kanahenthota, Boraluketiya, Bentota.
RESCUEE : Ranjani Hemalatha (Age 46), Boroluketiya, Alakaka,
Haburugala. (Earned her living as a vendor at the monthly fair)

Saving a woman from gangsters resulting in his death

CITATION:

Lasantha Buddhika, a Garment factory worker, was returning home around 9:00 pm after the day's work. He got down from the bus at Kanahenthota junction. A vendor at the village fair, Rajani Hemlatha and a child who were fellow passengers sought his assistance to be escorted to their homes.

When they were walking along the dark Kanahenthota Road, some gangsters threatened Ranjani and attempted to grab her purse which contained her day's earnings at the village fair. Seeing that the life of Ranjani was in danger, Lasantha came forward to protect and save her.

Unfortunately, the gangsters were able to overpower him by stabbing him in the abdomen and throat resulting in his death. Ranjani escaped though she had received minor injuries.

Number 234-235-236/2002

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 2002

AWARDEE : **Mr. Heenkenda Mudiyansele Dinesh Padmakumara**
(Age 39)
61, Udammitta,
Ja-Ela

Mr. Kadupitige Premalal Silva (Age 36)
No. 240, Siyambalagahakotuwa,
Kindigoda, Ambalammulla,
Seeduwa.

Mr. K. Edward Perera (Age 44)
No 10, Kindigoda
Seeduwa.

DATE OF INCIDENT : 2002 October 14
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Canal of Dandugama Bridge, Negombo – Colombo road.
RESCUSEE : Man, women & infant

Rescuing a family with an infant from drowning when they fell into a canal

CITATION:

On 14th October 2002, he was driving home with his wife and infant in the car after administration of the triple injection. As the edge of the road was not visible due to well grown grass, the car slipped fell into Dandugama Canal at the bridge on the Colombo – Katunayaka highway.

As the car was fully battery operated (full option) they had a difficulty opening the doors and windows and after floating for a few minutes the car started sinking. Luckily one window opened, and the father and child got out of the car together; and the wife was expelled by the inflow of water.

Number 269/2003

BUDAL NA GOLD MEDAL 2003
(CIVILIAN BRAVERY GOLD MEDAL)

AWARDEE : **R. J. K. Channa Darshanpriya Ranatunge** (Age 38)
Iddamalpura, Haldanduwana,
Lunuwila.

Channa is married and a father of a son. He is a teacher at Anuruddha Central College, Lunuwila, Wennappuwa. He is the son of long distance runner R J K Ranathunga who participated in the Olympics held in Japan in 1965.

DATE OF INCIDENT : 2003 September 08
During the school hours on the morning
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Anuruddha Central College, Lunuwila
RESCUSEE : W. Trishan Madhushanka, year 6 student

Jumped into a waste pit on fire in the school to save a student in flames who fell whilst he was emptying waste into the pit.

CITATION:

The students were engaged in a "Clean the School Premises Campaign" on this fateful day. The refuse collected was dumped into a pit situated in a corner of the school premises. The pit was of twenty feet in circumference and eight feet deep. The refuse was set on fire and the flames were shooting out. Teacher Channa noticed a student dropping a basket of refuse and standing at the edge of the pit. Suddenly, the student lost his balance and fell into the pit. Channa ran to the pit at once and saw Trishan, a student of year 6, engulfed in the fiery flames and struggling to set himself free. Channa first, bent and tried to raise the child to the surface but was unsuccessful. Then with no thought for his own safety, he instantly jumped into the pit and with extreme difficulty raised the child to the surface where eager hands of others reached out to take the child him out. But unfortunately, by this time both the teacher and the student suffered intensive burns.

Three days later, plunging all in the school in sorrow, Trishan died.

Channa has suffered from severe burn injuries on the left hand, both feet and the back. He is still under treatment but regrets that he failed to save his student.

Number 270/2003

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 2003

AWARDEE : Hewa Nambu Aarachchige Punyawardane
C/O. J. Hettiarachchi, "Hemamali", Morawaka.

He's 33 years of age, a bachelor without any regular employment. He resides at Kalugalyaya in Morawaka known by his friends as "Kalumalli" (dark brother)

DATE OF INCIDENT : 2003 May 17 **Time:** 8.00 p.m. to 3.00 a.m.
During the school hours in the morning

PLACE OF INCIDENT : -

RESCUSEE : 21 victims of floods including an infant and pregnant woman who were residents of his village.

Saved people caught in floods by swimming in the dark

CITATION:

The water level was rising due to the heavy rain of the previous day. Kalumalli was returning home after helping teacher Nihal, whose home was at the brink of the river, to pack home his appliances. The time was around 7.00 p.m. The night was pitch black. The torrential rain continued to fall. From the direction of Kalugalyaya, he heard the screams of people calling for help. Kalumalli realized these were from victims caught in the floods shouting for others to save them. He quickly assembled the necessities for a heroic adventure. The apparatus comprised of four 20 gallon-plastic cans, a wooden pole and a rope which were given to him by a hardware store owner. The two ends of the pole were quickly tied to the four plastics cans. Keeping this device beneath his body, he swam in the direction the screams. The beams of headlights of a motor vehicle stationed at shore helped to light his path and he was able to locate the helpless people. He found a group of twenty-one who were resting on a roof top. Kalumallii first took an infant across the waters, tied to his back with the sarong worn by one of those on the roof. The next was a pregnant woman. He rescued twenty-one people in total over the next seven hours.

Number 271/2003

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 2003

AWADEE : Warnakulasuria Patabendige Basil Fernando
182, Wewelduwa, Kelaniya.
(Died in the event)

He was married, a father of three children, a gifted swimmer. He earned his living as a three-wheel driver. Born at Modarawella, he made Wewaldeniya his permanent abode after marriage.

DATE OF INCIDENT : 2003 December 29 **Time:** 4.00 p.m.
PLACE OF INCIDENT : -
RESCUSEE : Identity not known

Died after saving two girls caught in tides of sea at Galle Face sea and being drowned.

CITATION:

Basil came to Colombo with his wife and the three children for medical treatment for an eye ailment of his mother. On the way home, he took them to watch the sea at Galle Face. While enjoying themselves, he saw two women in the sea struggling to save themselves. Without wasting time, he removed his shirt and trousers and jumped into the sea to save them.

He saved their lives by bringing them to the beach on two occasions, but in the second attempt the waves of the mighty ocean took him back forever not tolerating Basil's defiance anymore.

Number 281/2005

BUDAL NA GOLD MEDAL 2005
(CIVILIAN BRAVERY GOLD MEDAL)

AWARDEE : Kenneth Randima Hewa Jayasinghe
No. 10/40, Hand Crat Homes,
Auburn Place,
Dehiwala
(Died in the event)

Kennath was born on 3 June 1981 and studied at Lalith Athulathmudali Vidyalaya and Prince of Wales Moratuwa. He was a member of the soccer team and sat for the Advanced Level in the science stream. He formed the Sri Nelum Sports Club. Every year he participated in a blood donation campaign.

DATE OF INCIDENT : 2004 July 20 **Time:** 6.15 a.m.
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Dehiwala Railway Track.
RESCUSEE : **M.K. Carolin Alwis**, Age 70 - Jagathpura, Modara,
Moratuwa.

M.K. Emalin Alwis, Age 68 – (died in the event)
Jagathpura, Modara, Moratuwa.

Running against the express train, Randima attempted to save two blind women crossing railway line by pushing them out of the rail road; one woman and Randima died.

CITATION:

Youth Randima opened his shop near the railway line at about 6.00 a.m. He saw two elderly beggar women trying to cross the rail track. He also saw the oncoming fast train on the track. Realizing the disaster that was about to occur, Randima ran towards them pushing them away from the track. He was able to save only one of them. Unfortunately, the other woman and Randima both lost their lives when they were knocked down by the train.

Number 282/2005

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 2005

AWARDEE : Thuraisingham Kumaranathan
Palavi North, Kodikamam, Jaffna.

An Undergraduate of the University of Jaffna
22 years of age

DATE OF INCIDENT : 2004 January 27
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Vellai Mavadi Pilliar Temple
RESCUSEE : Kumarawelrasa Vipulan - Temple Garden, Meesalai East,
Meesalai.

Saving a child fallen in a pond in a Kovil in Jaffna; he ran the risk of getting pierced by thrishula planted in bottom of the pond.

CITATION:

Vipulan had the habit of visiting the Pilliar Temple after attending his tuition class in Mathematics. One day, he was playing there when the ball fell into the temple pond. Vipulan jumped into the pond to take the ball and as it was deep he found himself struggling to keep himself from drowning. The other students in the vicinity called for help. Kumaranathan who was nearby came running to the spot and jumped into the pond straight away to rescue the child. After some time Kumaranathan was able to locate Vipulan, who was under water and rescued. What Kumaranathan did not know was that there were three pronged spears (thri-shulas), part of a religious ritual, which had been buried at the bottom of the pond which could have taken away the life of Kumaranathan. It is said both escaped due to a miracle of the God Pilliar.

Number 283/2005

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 2005

AWADEE : Swarna Aagnes Sirilin Vanderlath
St. Anthony's Avenue,
Toduwewa.

Swarna is a mother of two children who earns her living by selling lottery tickets.

DATE OF INCIDENT : 2004 Desember 15 **Time:** 6.20 p.m.
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Toduwawa Ferry
RESCUSEE : Chaminda Eranga, St. Anthony's Avenue, Toduwawa
Don Jayasinghe, Thambagalla, Medagama

Helped to save passengers on borad a ferry when thrown out into water when guiding cable broke.

CITATION:

As usual Swarna was selling lottery tickets near the ferry. She suddenly noticed the ferry rope had broken from its moorings and was moving away with some passengers on it. She was alone, but hurriedly rowed towards them in another ferryboat. The high-tide threw the occupants from the ferry and two of them were seen clinging to the overturned boat. They were rescued as well as two others by Swarna.

Number 284/2005

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 2005

AWARDEE : Stefaine White
No. 17, Templers Road, Mt. Lavinia

A student aged 13 year Studying at Holy Family Convent,
Dhiwala.

DATE OF INCIDENT : 2004 February 09 **Time:** 3.45 p.m.
PLACE OF INCIDENT : The well near their residence
RESCUEE : Melanie White

Student Stefani saved her sister who fell into a deep well by the support of rope used to draw water

CITATION:

Melanie White, a girl of seven years of age, had gone to the well for a body wash after returning home from school accompanied by Stefaine White, her sister. While peeping into the well, the child slipped and fell inside. At the time of time of the incident, Stefaine who was attending to some other work, heard a splash, ran to well and found her sister drowning in the well. She immediately lowered a bucket in to the well and asked Melani to hang onto it. While pulling the bucket out with her sister clinging to it, Stafaine called for help. With the help of those who arrived at the scene in response to her cries, Stefaine saved her sister's life.

Number 285/2005

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 2005

AWARDEE : Lolitha Sandaruwan Warnasooriya
No 391/8, Bodhiraja Mawatha,
Habarakada, Homagama.

An athlete and rugby player, Lolitha is in the Sports Division of the Sri Lanka Navy and is an undergraduate at Sri Jayawardenepura University.

DATE OF INCIDENT : 26th December 2004 **Time:** 9.15 a.m.
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Arugam Bay

RESCUSEE : Kushan Senerath & Miss. Sajani and Sesura

(his family members)
212/23, NelumPedesa, Kalapaluwa, Rajagiriya.
Chief Inspector Hajji (Special Tassk Force)
Officer in charge Ampara Police Ampara.
(O.I.C.) Arugam Bay Police.

Saved members of a famly who were drawn into sea at Arugam Bay on the day of Tsunami.

CITATION:

The family was on vacation Arugam Bay. The tsunami struck without warning and with no mercy. Kushan Senerath and his children were carried by the waves into the sea. The children were separated from the father. Sandaruwan saw the children and swam towards them ignoring the angry mighty waves and rescued them. He saved many others who were struggling for their lives in the sea. Amongst them was T. F. Hajji of the Special Task Force, then the OIC of the Arugam Bay Police Station and current OIC of Ampara Police Station.

Number 286/2005

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 2005

AWADEE : **Capt. Sumith Abyesiri Samarasekara**
Pahala Mawatta,
Magedara (Via Galle)
Mr. Sumith who is a Captain of the 2nd Battalion, Gemunu
Watch of
Sri Lanka Army, is married and is 36 years of age.

DATE OF INCIDENT : 2004 December 26 Time: 9.15 a.m.
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Mirissa, Southern Coast
RESCUSEE : H. Y. Wimalawathie – Egodawatta, Udupila, Mirissa.
G. L. Hettige - Meranchigoda, Udupila, Mirissa
Inoka Hettige - Meranchigoda Udupila, Mirissa

Saved two people who were struggling in sea drawn by sea waves caused by Tsunami.

CITATION:

When unprecedented disaster struck in the form of a Tsunami, Sumith was riding a motor bike in Mirissa and found he was engulfed in the Tsunami waves. He ran away leaving behind his motor bike. But he did not have the heart to leave behind Wimalawthie, G.I. Hettige and Inoka Hettige who were caught in the waves and were crying for help. He rescued all of them without caring for his life, demonstrating the true nature of a Sri Lankan Soldier.

Number 287/2005

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 2005

AWARDEE : Sikkuge Torin
No 27, R E De Silva Mawatha
Ambalangoda.

Torin is a 45-year-old father with one child. At present he is unemployed but previously worked as a substitute in the Department of Posts.

DATE OF INCIDENT : 2004 December 26 **Time:** 11.00 a.m.
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Sea area opposite Ambalangoda Police Station
RESCUSEE : Mr. Kalpa Silva – The Manager of Vanik Leasing

Saved many people who were caught inTsunami.

CITATION:

Torin saw Kalpa in the distant sea, barely visible, in the aftermath of the tsunami while many of the public were watching the brutal sea with anger. By this time the tsunami waves had retreated, but the water level remained high. Torin being a good swimmer immediately jumped into the sea to reach Kalpa who was holding on to an arm of a broken wooden chair, to help him keep afloat. Torin held Kalpa by his hand and pulled him. But for some unexplained reason Torin could not pull him out from where he was floating as if some force was holding him back. He advised Kalpa not to panic and hold on to the arm of the chair until he returns. Torin swam back and reached the shore to fetch ropes. He tied them hurriedly to make a single strong strand and swam back to the spot where Kalpa was fighting for his life. He gave one end of the rope to Kalpa while holding other end and swam back bringing Kalpa to the shore.

Number 288/2005

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 2005

AWARDEE : Dissanayake Mudiyansele Senerath Jayathilaka (Age 43)
“Mihiri”, Payarikkulama,
Mahananneriya

Mr. Senerath is an agriculture training teacher who conducts classes in agriculture for students of Grade 10 and 11.

DATE OF INCIDENT : 2004 November 30 **Time:** 10.25 a.m.
PLACE OF INCIDENT : U.B. Wanninayake National School, Galgamuwa
RESCUSEE : L.W.A. Charith Asan Thilakarathna at Grade 5,
U. B. Wanninayake National School, Galgamuwa

Saved a group of students covering up them with his physical body grabbing them together, to prevent attack of hornets.

CITATION:

A hornets' nest near the school was stirred around 10.25 a.m. The disturbed hornets started stinging the students. Asan who was in the middle of the playground became an open target for the hornets. Teacher Jayathilaka noticing the helpless child, ran to his rescue and took care of him disregarding the risk to himself.

Number 300/2006

BUDAL NA GOLD MEDAL 2006
(CIVILIAN BRAVERY GOLD MEDAL)

AWARDEE : Sekan Sathyamoorthy
No. 28/4, Mahaiyawa, Kandy.

DATE OF INCIDENT : 31 December 2005 **Time:** 12.30 p.m.

PLACE OF INCIDENT : House 60, 61 at Siyambalagastenna, Kandy.

RESCUEE : Fathima Hatsa Niyas – 4 years girl
Abdul Halseen Niyas – 3 ½ years boy

Saved two children caught in fire in their home when their parents were not at home

CITATION:

Sathyamoorthi noticed a lot of smoke rising up into the sky when he was returning to the hotel where he was employed. He rushed to the scene to find a two-story building on fire. A large gathering was watching the fire engulf the building. Sathyamoorthi learned that the building was occupied by three families. One of the family was not home at the time of the fire & another of the family had escaped to safety. Of the third family, the parents had left for work leaving their two children, Fathima, 4, Abdul 3 ½, in their home. The raging flames blocked the entrance to the room in which the children were staying and entry to same was unimaginable. Sathyamoorthi learned the location of the children from the family who had escaped, and without wasting time, he readied himself to enter the burning building through the rear. He was advised that the children could be dead by then and that no purpose would be served by his attempt, but Sathyamoorthi did not heed the advice. He entered the building by breaking through a window and then two doors with a hand axe and encountered huge flames. He had to lie down and creep forward. Sarthyamoorthi found one child lying unconscious on the floor. Again creeping, he took that child to safety through course he had entered the building. Although he feared to enter the house again, thoughts of the child; whom he felt was same age as his child at home overpowered his fear. Sathyamoorthi re-entered the building and found the other child unconscious near an almirah. Without wasting a moment, he took that child too to safety.

Number 301/2006

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 2006

AWARDEE : H.M.S. Jayalal Abeygoonawardane
No. 67/1, Mahingala, Bope,
Padukka.

A Police constable with 16 years' service presently attached to the Narcotics Bureau in Colombo. He is a past pupil of Ranpathvila Vidyalaya, Kahatagasdigiya, and is a happily married father of one.

DATE OF INCIDENT : 22nd November 2005 Time: 5.30 a.m. – 2.30 p.m.
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Near PusaliPoya, Padukka
RESCUSEE : H.B. Maithripala, W.S. Sunethra, H.B. Indika Anuruddha,
Inoka Vinodini, Buddhika Anuruddha, Wijeratne, alias
Lokkaiya

Saved many people swimming to safety carrying people caught in floods on his back

CITATION:

Sumith went to Padukka to inform his office that he would not be able to report due to the floods. However, while he was in the town, he was informed that one whole family had been marooned by the flooding. Since he had received a brief training in lifesaving methods, he swam to the affected place with a 200-meter- long rope. The water level had risen to about 10-12 feet, and Sumith felt its force. Several villagers had tried to save the marooned family but were not successful. When Sumith reached them, all the children tried to jump onto his back. He first took a small girl to safety. Not deterred by the force of the flowing water, he repeated the exercise four times to save two children, ages 10 and 13, and the chief householder and a woman. He took all of them safety on his back. Thereafter, he saw Wijeratne, 60, a heart patient, hanging to a jack tree, with nobody helping him. Sumith swam 800 meters to reach him. En route, he was carried away by a strong current, but he managed to reach Wijeratne. By that time, he was feeling very cold. Sumith helped Wijeratne regain his composure and then took him to shore safely.

Number 302/2006

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 2006

AWARDEE : J. L. Chandana Pushpa Kumara
“Jayasevana”
Karambaketiya, Beliatta.

A past pupil of Beliatta Central College.

DATE OF INCIDENT : 2 April 2005, 2.30 p.m.
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Public well at Karambaketiya.
RESCUSEE : Ms. Magilin Nona Samaraseka

Saved a woman struggling for life in a deep well.

CITATION:

Hearing that somebody had fallen into a well, Chandana Pushpa Kumara went to the scene and saw a woman struggling in the well. He observed that she was getting weaker. Seeing a bucket with a rope near the well, he tied the rope to a hook and, using the rope, lowered himself into the well despite his mother's protests. By that time the woman in the well had lost consciousness, and Pushpakumara saw only her hair floating on the water. While holding to the rope with one hand, he took hold of the woman's hair. Holding the woman with his legs, he tied the rope onto one of her knees, using one hand. With others pulling on the rope, Pushpa Kumara raised the woman gradually. The woman was rushed to the hospital, and later it was found that she had jumped into the well to commit suicide. Pushpa Kumara's presence of mind helped to save a fellow human who in a rash decision wanted to take her own life.

Number 303/2006**CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL – 2006**

AWARDEE : U. Kiribanda
Panagamuwa, Lokahettiya.

Father of two children

DATE OF INCIDENT : 22 November 2005, 12.30 p.m.
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Near Pahalagma Oya, Panagamuwa
RESCUSEE : M.N. Malini, E.M. Erandika Ekanayake

Saved 03 persons drwoning in the sea.

CITATION:

Kiribanda heard somebody crying loudly. He ran towards Pahalagama Oya and saw that three women who had been bathing were being carried away by flood waters. Without wasting any time, he jumped into the raging water and started to swim against the rising water level. Kiribanda knew that a rescue would be a difficult, but he did not give up his attempt. When he reached the victims, one of them held to his arms. As that hold would jeopardize the lives of the others, he freed his arm and tried to save the two other women, who were semiconscious. Kiribanda realized that he could not swim against the current carrying two women, so he held them by their hair and swam toward the bank, finding the stamina to do so. Then he jumped back into the raging water to save the other woman. He saw only her hands and could not save her. Sadly, she drowned.

Number 304/2006**CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 2006**

AWARDEE : Anura Deshapriya
No. 497/D 10th Mile Post,
Kaduwela.

Married and a father

DATE OF INCIDENT : 25th January 2005, 9.30 a.m.
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Near Ranala Ferry, Biyagama, behind village hotel
RESCUSEE : P.A. Senaka Perera

Saved a youth when he was drowning at Ranala ferry.

CITATION:

When Anura went to Ranal Ferry to remove san early in the morning, he saw Senaka, 18 struggling for his life in the Kelani River. The youth could not swim since his legs had stiffened due to cramps, and at the time he was in deep water. Anura took a great risk by entering the troubled waters and swimming a long distance to Senaka. When Anura reached him, the youth was drowning and out of fear caught hold of Anura. Anura managed to free himself, then he kept Sanaka on his back and began to swim to safety. Summoning courage, Anura swam to the bank, thereby saving the life of Senaka.

Number 305/2006

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL – 2006

AWARDEE : Pilididuwa Gamage Priyantha Gunawardhena
Yahalamulla, Ihalawalpola,
Imaduwa.

And electrician and labourer, married with two children Past
pupil of Polpagoda Central College.

DATE OF INCIDENT : 11th September 2005, 3.00 a.m.
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Ihala Walpola Puwakwatte Edanda.
RESCUSEE : Mr. W.K. Amarasena

Saved a person drowning in Stream Polathuoya, Ihalawalpola – Puwakwatta

CITATION:

After staging a drama for several days, the youths in the village spent the night close to a footbridge across the Polwatte Oya. Hearing some body crying in distress around 3.00 a.m., Priyantha, who was sleeping near the stage, woke the others and ran toward the Oya. His attention was drawn to a light from a submerged torch that was possibly the victim's, Priyantha realized that somebody had fallen into the water. Although many people gathered at the bank, nobody came forward to rescue the victim. Priyantha, however, lost not time. He lowered himself into the water from the footbridge. His friends helped him by lighting many torches to find the victim. Soon he saw a let at the surface of the water. Risking his own life, Priyantha dived into the water and emerged with the victim. The victim, identified as the Deputy Principal of Upananda National School, Manawila, was rushed to the hospital in an unconscious state. Priyantha's courage and willingness to take risks helped another person to live.

Number 317/2007

BUDAL NA GOLD MEDAL - 2007
(CIVILIAN BRAVERY GOLD MEDAL)

AWARDEE : R. M. Bandara Jayasiri
DATE OF INCIDENT : 2006 September 10
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Pahala Maragahawewa

Saved his wife when crocodile attacked his wife fighting with the crocodile fearlessly

CITATION:

R. M. Bandara Jayasiri was bathing in the Maragaha tank with Srimathi Menike and his little daughter on September 10, 2006 at 6.30 p.m. Whenever he dived into the water, he kept a sharp eye on his wife and daughter. On one dive, he heard somebody screaming. Surfacing, he found that his wife was missing, and there were only ripples in the water where she had been. Jayasiri rushed to the scene and dived, finding that a crocodile was dragging his wife away. He immediately grabbed the crocodile, but it did not let go of Srimathi. Jayasiri then stroked the crocodile's underbelly while holding on to it. Being tickled, the crocodile released Srimathi. Although he told Srimathi to return to the bank, she did not do so.

Jayasiri lifted the crocodile vigorously and threw it to deeper water. It returned and tugged at Srimathi's bathing cloth. Jayasiri removed the cloth and threw it toward the crocodile, and then he draped Srimathi's body with his own cloths and took her to safety. Although the crocodile had removed Srimathi's right hand, her life was spared by the heroic intervention of her husband.

Number 316/2007**CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 2007**

AWARDEE : M. Priyankara Madarasinghe
DATE OF INCIDENT : 20 October 2006
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Kudalahena
RESCUEE : Mother

11 years old Priyankara saved his mother who was fallen into a deep well by holding her in the surface of water until help came

CITATION:

Eleven-year-old Priyankara, living in his home at Kudalahena, Pitabeddara, got up at 6.30 a.m. on October 20, 2006, and was told by his sister that she could not find their mother. Priyankara had heard something fall, and he thought it was a coconut. Looking for their mother, Priyankara and his sister peeped into the well and saw bubbles on the surface of the water. However, there was no sign of the mother's visit to the well. Despite his sister's protests, Priyankara lowered himself into the well, using a rope tied to one of the well's posts. When he entered the water, his big toe touched his mother's foot. Priyankara dived and tried to lift his mother by holding her hair, but gave up the attempt, thinking that it was a sin to do so. When he pulled on her gown, it tore. He then held her by the shoulders and kept her head above the surface of the water. Meanwhile, the sister's screaming attracted the neighbours, who rushed to the scene. Those gathered helped the mother to be lifted out of the well. Everybody thought that the mother's fate was sealed, but Priyankara did not give up hope. He stopped a trishaw and rushed his mother to the hospital, where she was revived. Priyankara had saved his mother's life.

Number 318/2008**BUDAL NA GOLD MEDAL - 2008**
(CIVILIAN BRAVERY GOLD MEDAL)

AWARDEE : Dr. Charitha Prabath Rangana Senevirathna
No. 126/6, Thimbirigasyaya
Colombo 05
DATE OF INCIDENT : 2007 November 28
PLACE OF INCIDENT : -

Saved several persons aftermath of the bomb blast at Nugegoda who were injured and suffering from burns

CITATION:

It was around 5.30 p.m on 28-11-2007. Dr. Charitha Prabath Rangana Senevirathna, a student counselor attached to the University of Sri Jayawardhanapura is a resident of Thibirigasyaya, Colombo – 05. On his way back home, as he passed the Nugegoda Junction, he heard the sound of a big explosion. When he rushed to the spot, he saw some people burning alive in the fire caused by the terrorist bomb explosion.

None of the people present at the scene appeared to have volunteered to approach the point of disaster and to help those in agony. Charitha saw a woman in pain, unable to get up. He dragged he across the road to safety. Seeing another young man burning, he made him lie down & doused the fire using an umbrella which he picked up from the other side. Not stopping at that, he took that young man to the hospital where he helped him to get the right medical attention. Not heeding his own safety, he removed many more from the scene to the hospital and helped them there as well.

Number 319/2008

SILVER MEDAL OF CIVILIAN BRAVERY - 2008

AWARDEE : A. Ranathunga
DATE OF INCIDENT : 2007 October 24
PLACE OF INCIDENT : -

Saved 13 students who were drowning when thrown out of a ferry at Bandarawatta.

CITATION:

It was around 2.30 p.m. on 24-10-2007. A. Ranathunga the watcher at the Deraniyagala Pradesheeya Sabha Office, is a resident of Deraniyagala in the Kegalle District. When he was passing the ferry at Bandarawatta, he overheard the wailing sound of a person in great pain. He ran in that direction and, was shocked by what he saw; some students with their school bags in hand, were being carried away downstream in the river. Ranathunga who lost no time, putting himself in grave danger, jumped into the 40-feet deep water, and swam back with three children while screaming aloud so that the others too, could join him in the rescue operation. The overturned ferry was found stuck in between the rocks. Thus, Ranathunga succeeded in saving the lives of 13 children with the help of the neighbors who assembled there. It was later found that the ferry had capsized due to overloading.

Number 320/2008

SILVER MEDAL OF CIVILIAN BRAVERY -2008

AWARDEE : A. Bandula Kumara
DATE OF INCIDENT : 2007 February 10
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Little Worlds End at Hortan Place

Saved a youth fallen below 300 feet of the slope of Hortan Place.

CITATION:

It was around 2.00 p.m. on 10-02-2007. A. Bandula Kumara (Meepilimane Tony) of Meepilimana, Nuwara Eliya heard about a young man who was on tour to Little Worlds End at Horton Plains, who had fallen off the precipice. The Police who had come to the scene was unable to find him. Kumara, who rushed to the scene, climbed down the 500 feet precipice with the aid of a rope looking for the victim. He found him seriously injured but managed to reach the top with him after struggling for several hours. It was around 10.30 p.m. when he reached the top. Kumara acted with such dedication and determination to save his life.

Number 321/2008

SILVER MEDAL OF CIVILIAN BRAVERY - 2008

AWARDEE : Shehan Demian Mariyadas
DATE OF INCIDENT : 2007 July 21
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Kelani River

14 years old Demiyan saved a woman drowning in Kelani river.

CITATION:

It was around 2.00 p.m. on 21-07-2007. Shehan Demian Mariyadas at 14, Prince of Wales Avenue, Colombo 14 was having a bath in the Kelani River with two of his friends, Madhushan and Buddhika. They saw two girls who were standing on a wash-stone falling into the river. Shehan swam across quickly to the point where the girls fell and holding one of them by her hair brought her to the river bank. Although he made a valiant effort, he couldn't find the other girl.

Disanayaka Bandara who also heard their screams, rushed into the scene and tried to pull the boat but in vain.

In the meantime, **M. A. Thushara Indradasa, R. A. Thushara Chaminda Kumara** and **W. Douglas Samarathunga** also rushed in. Together, they succeeded in tying the boat that was drifting down to a mango tree and save those who were in peril unable to swim.

Number 352/2009

BUDAL NA GOLD MEDAL - 2009
(CIVILIAN BRAVERY GOLD MEDAL)

AWARDEE : Thambirajah Vinayagamoorthy
DATE OF INCIDENT : 2008 July 17
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Karathiw – 10

Saved four youths struggling in the stormy sea

CITATION:

It was around 11 a.m. on 17 July 2008, when Vinayagamoorthy, after fishing in the deep sea was returning to the beach. The annual Sri Kandasamy Kovil festival was in progress in the sea, with many youths and adults taking part in the ritual. Suddenly the sea became rough, and a violent wave carried several youths into deeper waters. Sighting the youths struggling for life, Vinayagamoorthy crossed over to them. After tying one end of a rope around his waist and the other on the boat, he entered the water and swam to the youths, even though he could see only their heads and hands that appeared above the water. He dragged four of the youths to his boat one by one, saving their lives. He learned later that two other youths had drowned.

Number 353/2009

SILVER MEDAL OF CIVILIAN BRAVERY - 2009

AWARDEE : W.W. Podi Menike
DATE OF INCIDENT : 2008 August 25
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Hasalaka

Rescuing husband from crock attack

CITATION:

On 25 August 2008 at about 7 p.m., W.W. Podi Menike, after finishing work in the field together with her husband Sunil Jayasinghe and her son, proceeded for a bath in the Mahaweli river. After the bath, she looked toward the river, but Sunil was not in sight. Thinking that he might be drowning, she jumped into the river and began to search for him. She saw Sunil's head and swam towards him and grabbed his head with all her might. She realized that his leg was in the grip of a crocodile, which was pulling him deep into the water. However, she managed to drag Sunil back to the bank. She saw the crocodile's eyes when it raised its head to the surface, and instantly she pricked one of its eyes hard with her finger. Frightened off by the yelling and the torch lights of those who rushed to the river, the crocodile disappeared into the water. Although Sunil lost a leg, Podi Manike was able to save his life.

Number 354/2009

SILVER MEDAL OF CIVILIAN BRAVERY - 2009

AWARDEE : Student J.M. Nissanka Prabath
DATE OF INCIDENT : 2008 Desember 26
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Hamegamuwa

Saves the life of two youth drowning in Hembegamuwa tank

CITATION:

At 10 a.m. on 26 December 2008, 17-year-old J M Nissanka Prabath, a student of Hambegamuwa Maha Vidyalaya, was on his way to the Hamegamuwa Tank to collect some reed to irrigate his chillie garden. He heard yelling from the direction of the tank, and when he looked in that direction, he saw two youths struggling while hanging to an overturned canoe. As there was no paddle, Nissanka improvised with a stick and paddled another canoe to the youths. He managed to put them into his canoe and, with a stick, paddle to safety. With help from the villagers, he dispatched the victims to the Hambegamuwa District Hospital. Later, he learned that at the time of the accident, there were four youths involved and that the other two had drowned. By his rescue act, Nissanka brought honor to his school and the village.

Number 372/2010

BUDAL NA GOLD MEDAL - 2010
(CIVILIAN BRAVERY GOLD MEDAL)

AWARDEE : W. K. Ajith Prema Kumara
Bosevana, Hathethanna
DATE OF INCIDENT : 2009 September 17
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Nilwala River

Saved a woman who was drowning in a Nilwala River

CITATION:

On 17/09/2009 around 6.45 p.m. whilst at camp, Private Ajith Premasiri of the Sri Lanka Army learnt that a woman had jumped in to the Nilwala River from the Mahanama Bridge at Matara in an obvious suicide attempt. In a split second he was at the Centre of the bridge and he could see only a head in the middle of the river. Even though he was not a good swimmer and being aware of crocodiles inhabiting the river, he jumped into the river to save her. He reached her and, grabbing her by the hair, swam towards the shore of the river. She survived after receiving treatment at the hospital.

Number 371/2010**CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 2010**

AWARDEE : A. M. A. Kapila Kumara
DATE OF INCIDENT : 2009 January 14
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Mahanama Bridge of the Matara Army Camp

Saved a woman who was drowning in a river at Matara.

CITATION:

On 14/01/2009 11:00 a.m. whilst on sentry duty at the gate facing Mahanama Bridge of the Matara Army Camp, Kapila Kumara was informed by a passerby, that he had seen a woman jumping to the Nilwala river. Arriving at the scene, he could not find any sign of such an incident. Scanning the water and moving to the other side of the bridge, he noticed an umbrella and slippers floating. he immediately removed his uniform and jumped in; and was able to find the woman drowning in the middle of the river. To complicate matters further, the woman was resisting the rescue attempt, hence, it was no easy task to bring her to shore. She survived after medical treatment. Later it was learnt that the woman was a mother of a baby just 40 days old and was suffering from a mental disorder.

Number 370/2010**CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 2010**

AWARDEE : H. Anura
DATE OF INCIDENT : 07 July 2009
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Athuurumodara river near Denipitiya fair

Saved a woman who was drowning in River Polathumodara.

CITATION:

On 7/7/2009 around 11:00 a.m. Anura, a disabled police constable travelling on duty from Weligama to Udukawa, observed a large crowd assembled at the bridge over Athurumodara river near Denipitiya fair. He learnt that a woman had jumped to the river and he saw her. As no one volunteered to drowning save her, he ran towards the bund of the river, removing only his shoes and jumped in. He did not consider vulnerability of a cramp, due to the gun shot injury in his right leg received in 1997 in the war against the LTTE. He reached the drowning woman in the middle of the river and brought her back to shore with the help of ropes that were thrown to him by the onlookers. It was a suicide attempt and she survived after treatment at the hospital. Police Constable Anura was duty bound to save the life in Danger, however, there was no compulsion to jump, especially being a disabled police constable.

Number 381/2011

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 2011

AWARDEE : Janaka Jayashantha
DATE OF INCIDENT : 2010 March 11
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Kaluthara Bridge

Attempted to save an infant who was thrown into sea swimming across but in no vain near Kalutara Town

CITATION:

While driving back from work on March 11, 2010, Janaka saw a large crowd gathered near the Kaluthara Bridge. Curiosity made him join the crowd to find out what had happened. What met his eyes was an infant who was floating face down in the river. Janaka could not swim, but this did not prevent him from endangering his own life while he waded into the water. As he struggled to get to the child, he saw a monitor lizard also approaching the child! Janaka hurriedly grabbed the child and then made a heroic effort to navigate to the shore. The child was then transported to the Nagoda Hospital and later transferred to the General Hospital in Colombo. The child was in critical condition and remained in the intensive care unit for a few days and, sadly, later succumbed to the trauma.

Number 380/2011

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 2011

AWAEDEE : Gunathunga Siriwardhana Devage Indra
Aththanayake
DATE OF INCIDENT : 2010 August 31
PLACE OF INCIDENT : His aunt house

Saved a child who was drowning in a deep well.

CITATION:

Ten-year old Kalum was visiting his aunt during school vacation. On August 31, 2010, at about 4 p.m., he was playing with a kite when he suddenly lost his footing and fell into a 45-foot-deep well that had been recently opened for maintenance. Indra heard the child falling and came running to the well. The neighbours who had gathered there discouraged her from going inside, as the well was deep and dangerous. Paying no attention to them, Indra started climbing down a water pipe that extended along the side of the well. Half-way down, she lost her grip, fell, and hit a rock. She felt immense pain and became faint, but she put her hand into the water, searched for the child, and pulled him out. She kept him on her lap as the neighbours who had gathered lowered a chair to her. They got both out of the well and rushed them to the hospital, where Indra underwent multiple surgeries.

Number 379/2011

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 2011

AWARDEE : Promod Arundaka Pathum Senarathna
DATE OF INCIDENT : 2010 September 11
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Werahera

In his Attempt to save his friend who was drwoning in a deep tank died.

CITATION:

On the evening of September 11th, 2010, Sithum and Chathuranga went to the former CTB ground in Werahera to fly a kite. At the same time, Pathum went there with his friends. They all got together to pluck 'Siyambala' and on the way, saw a large, 60-foot-long water tank and decided to explore it. They got on to the ledge of the tank and were running about when Sithum lost his footing, fell inside, and struggled for his life. Without thinking twice, Pathum jumped in to save him. Meanwhile, Chathuranga managed to grab Sithum and pull him out. Since Pathum did not surface, Nilantha jumped in to the tank to look for him. When Pathum was taken out of the water, he was in a critical condition. He died on the way to the hospital.

Number 382/2012

BUDAL NA GOLD MEDAL - 2012
(CIVILIAN BRAVERY GOLD MEDAL)

AWARDEE : Ven. Udawelawatte Dhammarathana Thero
Sivurudeniya Rajamaha Viharaya
Dambadiniya

DATE OF INCIDENT : 18 November 2011
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Avaragoda Lake

An extraordinary effort of the priest of the temple to rescue 3 from group of 7 who drowned in a lake

CITATION:

On 18th November 2011 about 2.30 p.m. Dhammarathana Thero was in a discussion with one of his lay members of the temple when he got a call about a crowd of people who had fallen into the Avaragoda Lake (Sivurudeniya Lake) and that their lives were in danger. When he arrived at the ledge of the lake, he saw a large crowd had gathered around. By then bodies of 3 people who had fallen in had been pulled out and one had been rescued alive with the help of a bamboo.

Dhammarathana Thero was told that 3 more persons were still in the water. He queried as to where they drowned, removed his robe and jumped in. He then realized that it was too deep and that he needed help to rescue them. He came up, got a rope and tied two ends securely over the water and asked those who could be under water to come in to help clinging to the rope. When Dhammarathana Thero went under the water again, he felt that the people who had drowned were holding onto ground with all their might. With great effort, he got them to release from their grip and handed over to those holding on the rope to take them shore. However, they all passed away by the time they were brought to land. Two men and four women died in this incident.

Number 413/2013

BUDAL NA GOLD MEDAL - 2013
(CIVILIAN BRAVERY GOLD MEDAL)

AWARDEE : R. M. Nilanthi Ratnayake
Ellewewa, Galkiriyagama
Age 36+ years, Mother of a child

DATE OF INCIDENT : December 19, 2012; 10.00 p.m.
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Palagala - Habaraththawala

Saved 05 public officers who were carried away in the night by flood waer currents to Hanwella river.

CITATION:

On this day Palagala Habaraththawala was declared a disaster area due to sudden floods. The Government Officers of Palagala Divisional Secretariat was returning by cab from the affected area, along Andigala - Galkiriyagama Road. The Hanwella River had over-flowed and was raging across the road. The vehicle carrying 5 officers glided into the river and the driver lost control. The officers just managed to get out of the vehicle and clung to whatever they could and shouted for help. Nilanthi's home is along this road near the river and she heard their cries of distress. She called a relative and came to the vicinity where the cries were coming from. She first reached those who were holding on to a timber log. She swam to them and brought three of them to shore one by one. As the location where the 2 others were holding on to a branch of a tree proved difficult to reach, she threw a rope and helped them to safety. The vehicle that was submerged in the water was salvaged the next day.

Number 418-419/2014

BUDAL NA GOLD MEDAL - 2014
(CIVILIAN BRAVERY GOLD MEDAL)

AWARDEE : S. P. A. Chaminda Sampath Kumara
No. 58, Aluth Oya,
Pimburuthalawa.

B. A. Priyantha Chandana Balasuriya
No. 248, Jayamuthugama,
Aralaganwila.

DATE OF INCIDENT : 2014 April 18
PLACE OF INCIDENT : ZD Canal, Aralaganwila

Saving lives of 13 in tractor that dumped into the ZD canal

CITATION:

On 18th April 2014, a group of relatives (23 persons) of Aralaganwila, Nikawanalanda, Bandaragama left for Asanka Chaminda's place who was a relative living in Sevanapitiya on a hand tractor. A main canal called ZD too was running alongside the road hand tractor was heading on. At around 12.45 p.m., hand tractor on which they all were traveling dumped into the canal when taking turn at the bend. No one could come out from canal due to concrete slopes on both sides of the canal. Balasuriya Arachchige Priyantha Chandana Balasuriya of Aralaganwila and Selvaperuma Arachchilage Chaminda Sampath Kumara of Aluthwewa, Pibureththewa who were riding on a motor bike at the time jumped into canal without caring their own lives. They first rescued a small girl of 6 months and a handicapped child. Following this, they were able to rescue 13 including 11 who could've lost their lives.

Number 420/2015

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 2015

AWARDEE : Aliyar Razmia
DATE OF INCIDENT : 2014 April 15
PLACE OF INCIDENT : -
RESCUSEE : Her sister Mofia

Saving sister from grasp of a crocodile

CITATION:

Ahamadulebbe Rushana Begam Mohommadu, Aliyar Rashmina and Mohommadu Mofia of Samanthurai are three sisters. These sisters had gone to a canal called Naiyakkaduu by their house to bath at around 4.30 on 15th April 2014. Two elder sisters searched for the younger sister as she was not within sight. Then the elder sisters had seen their younger sister shouting for help and they volunteered to save her by holding hands. They felt that the younger sister had been caught by a crocodile. The elder sister tried to drag the younger sister from her hair and Rasmia, another sister too attempted to help the victim. It took around 20 minutes to come out from the canal. The crocodile did not release its pray while the sisters cried for help. Mr. Abdul Salam Hirath who appeared at the scene put a huge stone on the crocodile's body. Then the crocodile had to release the leg and it disappeared in the water. Later Mofia was admitted to the Teaching Hospital of Peradeniya where her leg was amputated. Attempting to save the life of one's sister disregarding dangers involved is a great example set for the whole women kind.

Number 421/2015

CIVILIAN BRAVERY SILVER MEDAL - 2015

AWARDEE : M. L. M. Arshad
DATE OF INCIDENT : 2014 June 26
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Galle
RESCUSEE : Lalith Priyantha

Saving two from boat accident

CITATION:

At 3 p.m. on 26th June 2014, the boat carrying Mr. Lalith Priyantha de Silva together with 8 persons from Devata fishery harbor in Galle had turned upside down unexpectedly. All inmates had to swim to shore to save their lives but Lalith Priyantha failed. No one was there to help. Having observed this M. C. M. Asharad rushed to the scene with a tube. Though he threw a tube it became airless at the very same time. Giving instructions to the two people who were drowning to hold fast, a floating big piece of regiform was passed to another victim. However, lives of the two people were saved by accompanying them to the shore after two hours. It is a heroic act to save two valuable lives.

Number 435-436/2016

Budal Na Gold Medal - 2016
(Civilian Bravery Gold Medal)

AWARDEE : Ranjith Amarajeewa
R G S P Kumara

DATE OF INCIDENT : 2015
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Yodha Ela
RESCUEE : 3 Children's, woman and man

Rescuing more than 5 persons fallen into Yodha Ela (Giant water stream)

CITATION:

It was 12.30 p.m. Ranjith and Kumara who lived in Bakamuna were walking along the road near Yoda Ela. Suddenly a three-wheeler which came towards them went off the road and toppled into the lake. When they looked into it, they caught sight of three children being carried away by the rough waters. Instantly they jumped into the water and saved the three children and brought them to shore. At the same time, three women and a man were inside the sinking three-wheeler. Ranjith and Kumara were able to rescue them as well whilst risking their own lives. By saving these precious lives, Ranjith and Kumara did a task which cannot be done by ordinary people. They should be greatly admired.

Number 434/2016

SILVER MEDAL OF CIVILIAN BRAVERY – 2016

AWARDEE : Asela Jayasinghe

DATE OF INCIDENT : 11th November 2015
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Kekirawa

Sacrificed his life while fighting with the burglar at his working place (a bank)

CITATION:

Asela worked at a private security firm as a security officer. On this day, he was assigned to a private bank in Kekirawa. He noticed a man suspiciously rushing into the bank. Asela then tried to check the man, suspecting that he may be a burglar. Preventing this inspection, the man forced himself into the bank fighting with Asela and preventing him from safeguarding the bank. The man pulled the pin of a grenade he had and released it. Ultimately, Asela sacrificed his life to prevent this burglary and proved that he is a real hero like no other.

Number 433/2016

SILVER MEDAL OF CIVILIAN BRAVERY - 2016

AWARDEE : A.M. Ajith Nishantha

DATE OF INCIDENT : 14th May 2015

PLACE OF INCIDENT : Ampara

Saved a person drowning in the tank Ampara.

CITATION:

Ajith who was on duty near the Ampara dam heard a voice crying out for help. Looking around he saw a man drowning in the deep waters. Although he was surrounded by a crowd of people, he saw that no one was willing to save the drowning man. It was no use waiting any longer. Ajith handed over his gun to his colleague and jumped into the water filled with crocodiles and saved the man who was already unconscious and brought him to shore. After performing CPR several times, the man regained consciousness. The person rescued was a 20-year-old young man from Matara who was on his way home after a tour. A. M. Ajith Nishantha, who works as a police officer in Ampara, went above and beyond the call of duty to save an unknown man, thus proving that he is a real hero.

Number 432/2016

SILVER MEDAL OF CIVILIAN BRAVERY – 2016

AWARDEE : D. M. S. D. Lakshan

DATE OF INCIDENT : -

PLACE OF INCIDENT : Kantale

Saved two persons drowning in the tank Kanthale.

CITATION:

Lakshan is a Law undergraduate at the Colombo University. While he was walking towards the Kantale dam one day with a few of his friends, he saw a boat topple far away. Without even thinking about the danger, he immediately jumped into the thirty-foot-deep river and swam towards the boat. Upon reaching the boat he discovered three people who were drowning. He helped two of them to a rock several meters away. Subsequently he swam back to rescue the other who had unfortunately, drowned. He then went back to the remaining two and provided CPR until they gained consciousness. Lakshan, rescuing two lives, is truly a legend.

Number 431/2016

SILVER MEDAL OF CIVILIAN BRAVERY – 2016

AWARDEE : Romesh Maduwantha
DATE OF INCIDENT : 23rd October 2015
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Anuradhapura
RESCUSEE : His mother

Saved his mother from a grasp of a cocodile

CITATION:

Romesh Maduwantha is a youngster who works at a restaurant in Anuradhapura. While at home watching TV during his holiday, he heard a woman's cry coming from the Kala Wewa, behind his house. Suddenly he recalled that his mother had gone to bathe in the river a few minutes ago. He rushed towards the river and saw his mother hanging on to a log, whilst a huge crocodile was coming towards her from the middle of the river. Despite his fear, he swam across to stop the crocodile attack by putting his arm inside its mouth before it could grab her leg. With his strength, force and determination, he ultimately beat the crocodile and succeeded in saving his mother's life. However, the crocodile did manage to swim away with a part of his mother's leg. Yet he risked his own life and was able to rescue his mother. Romesh is a real hero to us.

Number 430/2016

SILVER MEDAL OF CIVILIAN BRAVERY - 2016

AWARDEE : W.H.G. Wikramathilaka
DATE OF INCIDENT : -
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Yakkalamulla
RESCUSEE : Mahesha Dilhani

Saving a lady agriculture officer fallen into a stream during floods at Yakkalamulla

CITATION:

It was a day where hundreds of people were evacuated from their homes due to flooding in the Yakkalamulla area. Agricultural Research Officers were on their way to help out and settle the claims of the farmers whose crops had been destroyed by the floods. Agri Research Officer Mahesha Dilhani too had come to this region in order to provide these services. While walking on a wooden bridge across a muddy lake, she lost her footing and fell in and was carried away by the rough waves. Wikramathilaka who was nearby, jumped into the lake with the intention of saving the officer's life. He was able to save her life, while risking his own, proving to be a real hero.

Number 443/2017

BUDAL NA GOLD MEDAL - 2017
(CIVILIAN BRAVERY GOLD MEDAL)

AWARDEE : Eranga Wikumsiri
DATE OF INCIDENT : 16.05.2016
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Aranayaka

Saved many villagers who were in the path of the oncoming land slide

CITATION:

Eranga Wikumsiri, an affectionate individual who served as an Economic Development Officer for the Aranayake Samasara Division, was in the middle of a committee meeting when he was informed of the horrifying landslide which took place bringing down the Aranayake Samasara mountains. He immediately rushed to the disaster-hit location with his brother to help his fellow villagers. Eranga shouted out to all villagers in the vicinity to evacuate the area immediately. While directing people of over 60 houses to safety, Eranga and his brother were unfortunately caught to the second landslide which took both their lives. Today Eranga is survived by his wife and child. Eranga and his brother will always be remembered and honored as selfless human beings who put the lives of others before their own.

Number 442/2017

SILVER MEDAL OF CIVILIAN BRAVERY - 2017

AWARDEE : Naveen Danushka Bandara
DATE OF INCIDENT : 21st December 2016
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Batticaloa lagoon
RESCUSEE : Infant & three Women

Saving infant and three women, one of them pregnant, fallen into Batticaloa lagoon with a trishaw.

CITATION:

On the 21st of December 2016, Naveen Dhanushka Bandara, an officer based at the Sri Lanka Air Force Base in Batticaloa, was on his way to town. En route, he noticed a huge crowd gathered at the bank of the Batticaloa lagoon. Approaching the area with caution, he assumed that the crowds were there to see crocodiles that the lagoon was infamous for. However, he was alarmed to find that a three-wheeler had slid down the precipice into the lagoon taking its four passengers with it. Without hesitation, Naveen jumped into the lagoon to rescue the victims. He dived through 15 feet of muddy water to find the hand of an infant. As he rescued the child and swam back to the bank with the baby, the crowds alerted him about the three others who were still in the water. Naveen immediately dove back in to the muddy lagoon and rescued a lady and a child who were drowning. Ignoring the heavy current and the difficulty of swimming in the mud, Naveen dived back in to rescue the fourth victim, who happened to be a pregnant lady. He had to swim around the drowning three-wheeler to rescue her. Having rescued all four victims, he admitted them to the nearby hospital and left them in the capable hands of the doctors and nurses. Completing his voluntary task, Naveen left the hospital with a towel borrowed from one of the nurses wrapped around his shoulders. A noble soldier that rescued the lives of four helpless people at the time of dire need is no doubt an admirable hero.

Number 444/2017

SILVER MEDAL OF CIVILIAN BRAVERY - 2017

AWARDEE : Herath Senanayake
DATE OF INCIDENT : 23rd January 2016
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Mahaweli River-Katugastota

Saving a boy from drowning in the river Mahawali

CITATION:

Police officer Herath Senanayake, attached to the Katugastota Police – Transport Division, was on his way to work on 23rd January 2016. Herath noticed a massive crowd gathered on the Katugastota Bridge over the Mahaweli River. During his daily commute, he had regularly seen crowds gathered there for various occasions. On that day though, he realized that the crowds were panicking. One individual who hurriedly approached Herath for help informed him that a young boy was drowning in the river. Having been in the police force for several years, dealing with such situations had become a normal occurrence to him. Without hesitation, Herath jumped in to the muddy waters of the Mahaweli River to save the boy. This point of the river, which is at least 20 feet deep with slushy mud, was a particularly dangerous place to swim in. But with a great deal of grit, Herath swam in the depths of the river to get a hold of the drowning boy. With the help of the gathered crowds, Herath was able to rescue and subsequently get the boy to a hospital. If not for Herath and his selfless act of bravery, the young boy wouldn't have been alive today. Herath Senanayake – a selfless human being devoted to serving mankind is certainly an admirable hero.

Number 445/2017

SILVER MEDAL OF CIVILIAN BRAVERY - 2017

AWARDEE : Nihal Sarath Kumara
DATE OF INCIDENT : 23rd January 2016
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Eththukala

Saved two people drowning in the sea, Negombo.

CITATION:

Nihal Sarath Kumara is a lifeguard who has dedicated his life to safeguarding tourists who visit the Eththukala beach stretch which comes under the purview of the Negombo Tourist Police. Being stationed there since 1986, he has rescued over 80 people to date from drowning.

One 25th September 2016, when was returning home after duty, Nihal noticed that two individuals had gone beyond the barricaded safe swimming zone. He witnessed them being helplessly dragged away deeper into the sea by the current in a matter of seconds. Nihal grabbed two life jackets and jumped in to the sea to rescue them. He was successful in saving one individual with ease and bringing him back to shore. He then went back for the other when a beach vendor came forward to help him. However, the current pulled the vendor deeper in to the sea. Another person who witnessed this chaotic situation jumped in to the waters to save the vendor. Both the vendor and the onlooker were unable to handle the strong currents and were being dragged deeper in to the waters. However, Nihal was able to rescue all these individuals by swimming back and forth during the heavy ocean currents.

Number 446/2017

SILVER MEDAL OF CIVILIAN BRAVERY - 2017

AWADEE : Dhanushka Lakmal Kumara
DATE OF INCIDENT : 19th November 2016
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Baddegama

Saved two women drowning in the river at Baddegama.

CITATION:

Dhanushka Lakmal Kumara is a driver by profession. On 19th November 2016, he noticed a group of villagers gathered on the bridge over the Gin Ganga on his way back from work. Joining them, he looked into the river and saw two dark objects floating in the water. Upon taking a closer look, he realized that they were actually two women drowning. Seeing that no one else was volunteering to help them, he rode his bike to the bank of the river to rescue them. Once he got there, he saw only one lady being dragged away by the current. He immediately jumped into the river, swam towards her and brought her back to the riverbank. He then swam back in to search for the other lady. Though it was an extremely difficult task to swim against the tide, he used every ounce of his stamina and courage to try and rescue her. He finally managed to bring her ashore using a rope thrown towards him by a police officer. What Dhanushka did that day is not something all of us would do. As a result, Dhanushka Lakmal Kumara is one of our society's true hidden heroes.

Number 447/2017

SILVER MEDAL OF CIVILIAN BRAVERY – 2017

AWARDEE : S. W. Karunadasa
DATE OF INCIDENT : 19th November 2016
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Thambuththegama

Many lives were saved by preventing a train accident acting on time

CITATION:

The 'Yaal Devi' train speedily runs from Colombo Fort to Jaffna and back daily through Thambuththegama. Walking along the rail track on 19th November 2016, retired Army Officer S. W. Karunadasa saw that a piece of rail nearly 3 feet long was broken along the track that the Yaal Devi travels on. Realising the potential danger faced by the speeding train that was carrying nearly 2500 passengers, he instantly ran towards the direction of the oncoming train, waving a red cloth. Alerted from afar by Karunadasa's signal, the engine driver managed to stop the train before it had reached the broken stretch of the track. Preventing a potentially tragic catastrophe involving human life and property, S. W. Karunadasa is a true hero.

Number 448/2017

SILVER MEDAL OF CIVILIAN BRAVERY – 2017

AWADEE : Tharushi Sujani Ranasinghe
DATE OF INCIDENT : 16th November 2016
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Bandaragama

Saved workers when threatened by robbers fighting with the robbers

CITATION:

Tharushi Sujani Ranasinghe works as a cashier at a super market in Bandaragama. Two armed men stormed into the outlet at around 8.00 p.m. on 16th November 2016, covering their faces with helmets. They forced everyone to kneel on the floor while they looted all the money and other valuables. One of them approached Tharushi and asked her for the gold chain she was wearing. The thought of having to part with the most valuable piece of jewelry she owned infuriated her. Overcome by anger, she attacked him with a chair that lay close to her. Encouraged by Tharushi's actions, one of her physically challenged colleagues too came to her aid. This made the robbers panic and shoot towards the ceiling, causing further terror and confusion amongst the hostages. However, in the end, the police were able to track the blood trail of one of the injured robbers and take him into custody.

Tharushi Sujani Ranasinghe's actions helped protect her colleagues and the valuables at her workplace. She is truly a brave and remarkable hero.

Number 449/2017

SILVER MEDAL OF CIVILIAN BRAVERY - 2017

AWARDEE : Rumesh Sayuranga Wannigama
DATE OF INCIDENT : 7th June 2016
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Dikwella

Saved a school girl drowning in the sea, Dikwella.

CITATION:

Rumesh Sayuranga Wannigama works as a Police Officer at the Dikwella Police division. Rumesh was in the middle of a regular discussion with the Sub Inspector on 7th June 2016 when two men rushed to the station with the news that a girl was drowning in the sea nearby. The SI and Rumesh dashed to the beach immediately and saw a girl drowning about 100 metres from the shore. Ignoring the warnings of the crowds, Rumesh jumped into the water without any hesitation. He then swam towards the drowning girl with little regard for the waves or the depth of the ocean. Rumesh grabbed her by the hair and swam back towards the beach. He was assisted by 2 other officers when he was about 30 meters from the shore. Together, they managed to bring the girl back to safety. Rumesh Sayuranga Wannigama is a true hero for going that extra mile to save a life.

Number 450/2017

SILVER MEDAL OF CIVILIAN BRAVERY - 2017

AWARDEE : Saman Priyankara Bandara
DATE OF INCIDENT : 9th November 2016
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Mahaveli River

Saved three children drowning in Reservoir, Polgolle.

CITATION:

Saman Priyankara Bandara lives in Polgolla, Kandy. On 09th November 2016, he heard that three school children were drowning in the Polgolla Reservoir built across the Mahaweli River. Having come across similar situations in the past, Saman dashed to the scene and dived into the river with complete disregard for his own life. Battling strong currents, he managed to quickly rescue two of the children during his first two attempts. While the muddy waters made it tougher to rescue the third child, Saman managed to bring him back to safety with the help of a diving kit.

This is just one of many such instances where Saman has selflessly risked his own life to save others. He volunteers to rescue drowning victims in neighbouring areas including Kandy, Polgolla, Balagolla as well as the Kurunegala and Nuwara Eliya regions.

We are truly appreciative of a true hero like Saman Priyankara Bandara.

Number 451/2017

SILVER MEDAL OF CIVILIAN BRAVERY – 2017

AWARDEE : Palitha Ananda Jayakody
DATE OF INCIDENT : 2016 May
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Rajanganaya

Saved passangers in Navy boat toppled at Rajanganaya Reservoir

CITATION:

Palitha Ananda Jayakody, a carpenter by profession, lives near the Rajanganaya Reservoir. In May 2016, the spillage gates of the reservoir were opened due to heavy rains and the low-lying areas around Palitha's village were flooded. Teams from the Sri Lanka Navy arrived at the scene in their boats and rescued several villagers.

During one such rescue operation, Palitha noticed that a boat carrying 18 people was on the verge of toppling due to the strength of the waves. The naval officer onboard had dropped the anchor to stabilise the boat. However, the anchor was no match for the force of the waves. The boat began tilting again. In the midst of this confusion, Palitha jumped into the waters with a rope from a nearby well in an attempt to prevent the boat from toppling. He tied one end of the rope to a Kumbuk tree and threw the other to the boat, instructing those onboard to secure it. Holding on to the rope, he moved towards the boat and helped it regain balance. Restarting the engine, he cut both the rope and the anchor away and bravely guided everyone to safety.

In a moment where most people would save their own lives, Palitha Ananda Jayakody volunteered to save others. This makes him a true hero.

Number 452/2017

SILVER MEDAL OF CIVILIAN BRAVERY – 2017

AWARDEE : Saman Rohitha Jayasinghe
DATE OF INCIDENT : 17th December 2016
PLACE OF INCIDENT : Katukurunda

Saved his working place (a bank) by two robbers.

CITATION:

Saman Rohitha Jayasinghe works as a security guard at a state bank in Katukurunda. On 17th December 2016, he saw two men approaching the bank on a motorbike just as he had returned to his station after lunch. His experience and intuition told him that there was something strange about them. He decided that it was best for him to stay alert and prepared for any eventuality.

One of the two men started firing with a hidden T56 rifle as soon as Saman had opened the door for them. Reacting quickly, Saman fired back with his T56 rifle. One of the robbers had run away in fear. Drawing on his experience working in the Air Force, Saman got hold of a suspect who had come to deposit money at the branch just before the attempted robbery. He was able to confirm that the suspect was indeed an accomplice to the crime and reach out to law enforcement authorities to give the robbers their due punishment.

Saman has a strong passion for his work and a superior understanding of his job role. Managing to save lives and property by putting his own life at risk, Saman Rohitha Jayasinghe is a true hero.