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12 officer 'Survivors' are honored

Twelve Chicago police officers were honored recently with their entry into the Survivors' Club.

The officers were inducted into the club February 6 at a luncheon in the Ritz-Carlton Hotel by the International Association of Chiefs of Police DuPont Kevlar Survivors' Club.

The club, composed of officers from across the country who avoided more serious injury or death as a result of having worn personal safety vests, was organized to promote use of the vests by all officers.

The officers honored were Sergeant Robert Chernik, Patrol Specialists Thomas Ward and Harrison Speakes, and Officers Walter Bereta, James Fenoway, Daniel Duffy, Gerald Dahlberg, Kevin Lucas, Dennis Cappetto, David Kopala, Michael Granberg and H A McCarthy.

First Deputy Superintendent Charles Ford, representing Superintendent LaRoy Martin; Rafael Rios, administrative assistant to the mayor, representing Mayor Eugene Sawyer; and Ed Rudner, DuPont ballistics account manager, made the award presentations.

Deputy Superintendent Joseph DiLeonard, Bureau of Community Services, served as master of ceremonies.

Rev. Thomas Nangle, of the Chaplains' Unit, offered the invocation and benediction.

Other IACP/DuPont Kevlar Survivors' Club representatives were Helen A. Slatin, club administrator; Bill Brisley, DuPont law enforcement consultant; and Charles Higginbotham, IACP information services director.

Alderman William Bevens, chairman of the City Council Police and Fire



Boxed award was presented to Survivors' Club members. They are officers who have avoided serious injury or death as result of wearing safety vest.

EDITORIAL

A vested interest in you

Do you wear your personal safety vest?

There are at least 12 of your fellow officers, members of the Survivors' Club, who strongly advise you start the habit. The reason they are still here to offer this sound advice is because they wear their safety vests.

It's difficult to come up with a sensible reason not to wear your safety vest. "It's too uncomfortable."

We're not talking about the bulky body armor of yesteryear that weighed between 15 and 20 pounds. Thanks to a soft, flexible fabric called Kevlar, developed by the DuPont Company, modern safety vests weigh only three and one-half pounds.

Because of its warmth, the safety vest actually provides added comfort during our brutal winter months. Granted, in the summer the vests are somewhat warm but as one officer put it, "it's better to be a little warm than real cold." In San Diego and Houston, climates much warmer than ours, most officers wear their safety vest year-round. Chicago officers advocating the use of the vests say, "better hot than shot."

Each vest is measured and tailored to the individual officer. This ensures protection to all vital areas of the upper torso, and allows proper body contour for

Continued on page 3

Continued on next page