



**Date of occurrence:** April 11, 2018

**Employee Name:** John Gentile

**Classification:** Police Officer

**Unit/Division:** Patrol

**Award/Commendation type and recommendations:** Officer of the Month

**Narrative:**

On the night of Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at approximately 2100hrs, a Bay Harbor Islands Police officer advised the Surfside Police Department that upon responding to a barking dog call he observed a dog in distress swimming along the seawall in the area of the 9400/9500 Block of Bay Drive. Officer John Gentile arrived in the area moments later. Officer Gentile observed the dog swimming southbound in the waterway behind the 9300 Block of Bay Drive. The dog was struggling and unable to exit the water onto land. Officer Gentile entered other back yards and also saw the dog, however were not able to grab him as the docks were too high above the water. Officers lost visual of the dog as he kept swimming and Officer Gentile requested the assistance of the Indian Creek Police Marine Unit. Officer Gentile then moved further south in the 9300 Block of Bay Drive and entered a backyard where he discovered a plastic floating dock. Officer Gentile saw the dog swimming toward him, jumped down on the floating dock and was able to grab the dog by a harness and pull him out of the water. The dog, Max, had a tag with a Surfside address. Officer Gentile responded to the address and returned the dog to the owner who was unaware of the incident and was very appreciative that Officer Gentile's selfless actions saved his dog's life. Officer Gentile's quick actions, determination and lack of concern for his own safety resulted in locating and saving the dog's life. Congratulations to Officer John Gentile as the recipient of Officer of the Month...well deserved!