

02-02-2017 Nashville TN - Eric Mumaw - Leo - Rescue Attempt

## Nashville Police Officer Drowns While Trying to Save Suicidal Woman

[HTTP://WWW.NBCNEWS.COM/NEWS/US-NEWS/POLICE-OFFICER-DROWNS-WHILE-TRYING-SAVE-SUICIDAL-WOMAN-N715861](http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/police-officer-drowns-while-trying-save-suicidal-woman-n715861)

FEB 2 2017 BY CORKY SIEMASZKO



**[Metro Nashville PD](#)**  
**[✓@MNPDNashville](#)**

**In tribute to Officer Eric Mumaw, 44, an 18-year MNPD veteran, who gave his life this morning in service to Nashville.**

**8:24 AM - 2 Feb 2017**

Madison Precinct," police Chief Steve Anderson added. "Our department and Nashville have suffered the great loss of a true public servant."

An 18-year veteran of the force, Mumaw and two other officers were responding to a call from the woman's relatives who said she was thinking about committing suicide by driving her car into the river, police said.

The 40-year-old woman was in her vehicle at the bottom of a boat ramp when officers arrived.

A Tennessee police officer lost his life Thursday while trying to save a woman who had threatened to end hers.

Metro Nashville Police Officer Eric Mumaw apparently drowned after he fell into the Cumberland River around 4:30 a.m., police spokesman [Don Aaron](#) said at a news conference.

The police department later released a tweet confirming Mumaw's death.

"Our worst fears were realized today when Officer Mumaw was recovered deceased from the Cumberland River after having given his life to save a woman in distress," Nashville Mayor Megan Barry said in a statement. "Officer Mumaw dedicated his life to the safety and protection of us all, and today he gave his life to that calling."

"Officer Mumaw loved this city and very much enjoyed working the overnight shift at the



**Officer Eric Mumaw**  
Metropolitan Nashville Police



**Officer Nick Diamond.  
Metropolitan Nashville  
Police**

Mumaw and Officer Trent Craig were on the driver's side trying to convince her to climb out of the car while Officer Nick Diamond was on the passenger side, police said.

At some point Mumaw tried to open the door and the woman allegedly "put the car into gear and it headed into the river," police said in a statement.

"Officer Mumaw and Diamond went with the car and lost their balance when they stepped off the submerged end of the boat ramp."

Pulled deeper into the river by the car, Diamond reached for Mumaw and was able to grab his hand. But only for a moment.

"Officer Diamond lost a slight grip that he had on Officer Mumaw," the statement read. "Officer Craig ran along the riverbank for a short distance, saw the top of Officer Mumaw's head, and jumped into the water, which came up to his neck. The water temperature and conditions were too much to overcome, and Officer Craig was forced to get out of the water."

Mumaw went missing in the 15-foot-deep water and was not found until 9:15 a.m. by a fire department diver. He was less than 100 yards from the boat ramp.

The woman who launched the tragic chain of events managed to make it back to shore and was found on the riverbank, police said. She was taken to TriStar Skyline Medical Center and later detained by police.

"She showed clear signs of intoxication," the statement read.

She has not been charged with a crime.

## **Nashville police officer dies after dramatic rescue in Cumberland River**

<http://www.tennessean.com/story/news/crime/2017/02/02/water-rescue-efforts-underway-madison/97388112/>

Feb. 2, 2017 Natalie Neysa Alund and Holly Meyer , The Tennessean

### **Eric Mumaw gave his life to save another.**

The veteran Metro police officer ran into the Cumberland River early Thursday trying to save a driver whose car was quickly sinking beneath the surface of the frigid water. The current pulled Mumaw, 44, further from the bank, turning the dramatic rescue into a frantic search for the officer's body.

"I know he died doing what he loves," Metro Police Chief Steve Anderson said, fighting through tears as he spoke near the river bank off Neelys Bend Road in Madison.

The rescue began with a 4:16 a.m. phone call to the [Metro Emergency Communications Center](#). A family member of 40-year-old Juli Glisson reported that Glisson was in a vehicle at E.N. Peeler Park boat ramp and had a history of being suicidal, Metro police spokesman Don Aaron said.

Within five minutes, Mumaw and Officers Nick Diamond and Trent Craig had arrived and spotted Glisson inside the car at the edge of the water, Aaron said. Mumaw and Craig stood on the driver's side and Diamond took the passenger's side. For several minutes, they tried to persuade her to leave the car.

"At one point, they thought she was actually going to come out of the car and go with the officers," Aaron said.

**Read more:**

[Nashville police officer dies after dramatic rescue in Cumberland River](#)

[Fallen Officer Eric Mumaw had history of heroism](#)

[Tributes to Officer Eric Mumaw pour in on social media](#)

[Nashville man brings comfort with sign after police officer's death](#)

[Photos: Water rescue in Cumberland River in Madison](#)

[Videos: Crews recover body of Nashville police officer](#)

Craig reached through the driver's side window to prevent Glisson from putting the car in gear as Mumaw tried to open the door. But police think Glisson shifted the car into gear, and the vehicle rolled down the boat ramp into the river.

Mumaw and Diamond moved with the car, trying to save Glisson, Aaron said. She was still inside it.

The submerged end of the boat ramp ended abruptly, causing the two officers to lose their balance and fall deeper into the river, Aaron said. The motion of the car going into the river swept the officers further out. Diamond tried to grab hold of Mumaw, but he lost the slight grasp he had.

"Officer Mumaw was struggling. He was in despair in the river," Aaron said. "You understand how cold the water was and the shock to the body, and Officer Diamond was unable to continue his rescue efforts for fear of losing his own life."

Diamond was able to reach the river bank. Mumaw was not.

Craig saw the scene unfold from the boat ramp. He ran through the woods along the river bank and spotted Mumaw's head just above the water and jumped in. The water reached his neck as he tried to save his colleague. He was unable to reach him.

[Nashville Fire Department](#) personnel quickly arrived in boats and began searching the banks of the river for survivors. They spotted Glisson, who had escaped the car and swam to the river's edge, Aaron said. She was taken to [TriStar Skyline Medical Center](#) in stable condition.

Glisson is under investigation, Aaron said. She has a history of misdemeanor convictions, [Tennessee Bureau of Investigation](#) and Nashville court records show.

Diamond was taken to [Vanderbilt University Medical Center](#), treated and released. Craig was able to stay on scene and warm up in the back of an ambulance, Aaron said.

About a half-dozen boats and several helicopters scoured the Cumberland River for the missing officer. Emergency crews from several agencies, including the fire department, the [Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency](#) and the [Tennessee Highway Patrol](#), joined the search and rescue efforts.

Just after 8 a.m., a fire department diver found Mumaw's body less than 100 yards from the boat dock.

Condolences poured in to the police department and on social media as word of Mumaw's death and heroic actions spread across the city and beyond. Many shared their memories and praised Mumaw's nearly two decades of service on the police department. He had been recognized throughout his career for going above and beyond his duty.

The day's events became a tragic reminder of the dangers facing police officers as they work to protect residents.

"Our worst fears were realized today when Officer Mumaw was recovered deceased from the Cumberland River after having given his life to save a woman in distress," [Mayor Megan Barry](#) said. "Officer Mumaw dedicated his life to the safety and protection of us all, and today he gave his life to that calling."

Mumaw is the 18th Metro police officer to die in the line of duty since the Metropolitan government was formed in 1963. The three previous officers to die on the job were killed while working crashes throughout the city. Officer Michael Petrina died on May 10, 2014. About a decade earlier, Officer Christy Dedman died July 19, 2004, and Officer Candace Ripp died Dec. 8, 2001.

Barry ordered flags at half-staff at city buildings. The Korean Veterans Boulevard Bridge and the Historic Metro Courthouse were illuminated in blue lights Thursday night in honor of the officer.

[Gov. Bill Haslam](#) called the incident a "tragic situation" and offered his assistance to the mayor.

"They volunteer to go into dangerous situations every day, and obviously we're really sorry for his family and friends for the loss," Haslam said.

[Councilman Bill Pridemore](#), who represents the Peeler Park area and served in the Metro police department for 33 years, said he was awoken by a dozen emergency vehicles as they were heading toward the distressed woman shortly after 4 a.m. When he found out a police officer was missing, he headed to the scene.

"Naturally, I'm devastated," said Pridemore, who did not know Mumaw personally. "As expected, everyone's very somber and upset. He was a fine cop, a very well-liked officer. He volunteered for and enjoyed the midnight shift, which surprised me — not many people do.

"It's just a sad thing, not only for us, but for the other officers. That's something they're going to have to deal with the rest of their careers and lives."

[Councilwoman Nancy VanReece](#), who represents a different part of Madison, called Mumaw's actions "sheer bravery."

"It's a really sad day," she said. "We're all mourning. We hope that the other officer recovers quickly and the woman gets as much help as she needs to find peace as well."

After leaving the scene, Anderson, the police chief, briefly stopped by the Madison precinct where Mumaw was stationed. Ruth's Flowers delivered a bouquet in honor of Mumaw.

Ann Hinson, a resident who lives near the Madison precinct, brought marinated spaghetti late Thursday morning for personnel there when she heard about Mumaw's death.

"That was terrible, I wanted to cry," she said. "It's not much, but it's a little bit."

*Dave Boucher, Joel Ebert, Joey Garrison, Andy Humbles, Nate Rau and Tabitha Waggoner contributed to this report.*

## **Nashville Police Officer Drowns After River Rescue Of Suicidal Woman**

<http://patch.com/tennessee/east-nashville/nashville-police-officer-missing-after-river-rescue>

By J.R. Lind (Patch Staff) — February 2, 2017

**Eric Mumaw, 44, a decorated 18-year Metro Police veteran, died after saving a suicidal woman in the Cumberland River Thursday.**

MADISON, TN — Nashville Fire Department rescue divers have recovered the body of a Metro Police officer who drowned in the Cumberland River after he and another officer saved a suicidal woman off Neely's Bend early Thursday.

Eric Mumaw, 44, an 18-year veteran of the police force, died after he and a second police officer jumped into the river near Peeler Park early Thursday morning to rescue a 40-year-old woman who apparently drove her car into the water.

Police were called by a family member of the woman at 4:19 to say she was suicidal and at the park's boat ramp, according to police spokesman Don Aaron. Mumaw and fellow officer Nick Diamond talked to the woman and believed they had convinced her to come out of the car. As the driver's door opened, however, the car went out of park and rolled down the ramp and into the cold water.

Aaron said the officers ran down the ramp in an effort to save the woman but lost their balance at the submerged edge of the ramp and fall into the river. The motion of the car pulled Mumaw and Diamond into deeper water. Aaron said Diamond was able to grab Mumaw, but lost his grip. Diamond and the woman swam to the shore.

A third officer, Trent Craig, was onshore and saw Mumaw's head above the waterline. He dashed through the woods at the river's edge and jumped in the water in an effort to save Mumaw, but he was unable to reach him, according to Aaron.

Diamond is recovering and in stable condition at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. The woman is at Skyline Medical Center. Aaron said she is under investigation.

"We will have officers dealing with her this morning and it would be premature for me to say specifically what will happen to her later today," Aaron said. "The initial report from officers at Skyline is that she shows signs of impairment. She is being detained and is very much under criminal investigation by this police department."

Boats and helicopters from the fire department, Metro Police, as well as Hendersonville Police and a number of other agencies. were deployed. Mumaw's death was confirmed by Metro Police at 8:24 a.m. The fire department diver found Mumaw's body 70 yards from the boat ramp about 15 feet below the surface.

At a press conference, a tearful Metro Police Chief Steve Anderson remembered Mumaw as a well-regarded officer who enjoyed his third shift work.

"I know he died doing what he loves. He loved his midnight shift and he gave his life," he said "I know his whole detail is over there. They're grieving. They're going to miss him."

Mumaw was a decorated veteran of the police force. He won MNPD's Exemplary Service Award in 2003. In 2007, he received a departmental commendation after rescuing a baby from a stolen SUV, and in 2011 he was awarded the Life Saving Award as part of a group of officers who saved a woman from a drunken, armed relative.

"Our worst fears were realized today when Officer Mumaw was recovered deceased from the Cumberland River after having given his life to save a woman in distress.

Officer Mumaw dedicated his life to the safety and protection of us all, and today he gave his life to that calling. My thoughts and prayers are with Officer Mumaw's family and friends and all of our Metro Nashville Police Officers today," Mayor Megan Barry said in a statement.

"I want to thank the men and women of our Metro Nashville Police Department and Nashville Fire Department, as well as the city of Hendersonville, Tennessee Highway Patrol, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and Army Corps of Engineers who all came together this morning to assist in the search for Officer Mumaw."

## **Nashville Firefighters Recovery Body of Officer who Drowned**

[HTTP://WWW.FIREHOUSE.COM/NEWS/12301483/NASHVILLE-FIREFIGHTERS-RECOVERY-BODY-OF-OFFICER-WHO-DROWNED-FIREFIGHTER-NEWS](http://www.firehouse.com/news/12301483/nashville-firefighters-recovery-body-of-officer-who-drowned-firefighter-news)

FEB 2, 2017 SOURCE: FIREHOUSE.COM NEWS

Firefighters recovered the body of a Metro Nashville police officer who died in an attempt to rescue a suicidal woman early Thursday.

Eric Mumaw, 44, was one of several officers who tried to save the the 40-year-old woman after her car rolled into the Cumberland River around 4:30 a.m.

Mumaw fell off the edge of the boat ramp and officer Nick Diamond was unable to hold on to Mumaw, according to [The Tennessean](#).

"I know he died doing what he loves. He loved his midnight shift and he gave his life," Metro Police Chief Steve Anderson said. "I know his whole detail is over there. They're grieving. They're going to miss him."

Diamond, and the woman, Juli Glisson, were able to swim back to the river bank. Another officer was unsuccessful in his attempt to get to Mumaw.

A Nashville fire department diver located Mumaw's body about 70 yards from the boat ramp around 8 a.m.

"Our hearts are heavy today and thoughts and prayers are with Metro Police," the Nashville Fire Department tweeted this morning.

## **Tennessee officer who drowned during water rescue a graduate from Westerville South HS**

<http://nbc4i.com/2017/02/02/tennessee-officer-who-drowned-during-water-rescue-a-westerville-south-hs-graduate/>

February 2, 2017 WKRN Staff

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (WKRN) – The body of a Metro police officer who went missing during a water rescue Thursday morning was recovered by a Nashville Fire Department diver.

Metro police identified the fallen officer as 44-year-old Eric Mumaw, an 18-year veteran of the force. He was a member of the Madison precinct and had received numerous awards and reconditions over the years, including Metro's Lifesaving Award in 2011.

According to Westerville City Schools, Mumaw was a 1991 graduate from Westerville South High School.

"Eric was one of those guys that I was always glad to see come in. We always traded insults with each other in a friendly way. That's how he was with everybody," said Metro Police Chief Steve Anderson of Officer Mumaw.

His body was less than 100 yards from the boat ramp at around 8:15am.

The call for the rescue at Peeler Park Greenway Trailhead on Neelys Bend Road went out at around 4am.

Crews with the Nashville Fire Department and Metro police responded to the banks of the Cumberland River to reportedly save a woman who was threatening to drive into the water.



Mumaw and another officer spent nearly 10 minutes negotiating with Juli Glisson, 40, before Metro police said the vehicle slipped into gear and went into the river.

The officers slipped on the edge of the boat ramp and both were submerged, according to authorities. One officer tried to grab Mumaw, but was unable to stop him from being swept into the river.

Mumaw was last seen by his fellow officer 40 to 50 yards from the banks, where the water is estimated to be 15 feet deep.

The surviving officer was transported to TriStar Skyline Medical Center for treatment.

Metro police told News 2 Glisson was able to get out of the car and was later found on the banks of the Cumberland River. She was transported to a local hospital. Glisson is currently being detained as part of the investigation.

Nashville Mayor Megan Barry released a statement following Officer Mumaw's death.

*"Our worst fears were realized today when Officer Mumaw was recovered deceased from the Cumberland River after having given his life to save a woman in distress. Officer Mumaw dedicated his life to the safety and protection of us all, and today he gave his life to that calling. My thoughts and prayers are with Officer Mumaw's family and friends and all of our Metro Nashville Police Officers today. I want to thank the men and women of our Metro Nashville Police Department and Nashville Fire Department, as well as the city of Hendersonville, Tennessee Highway Patrol, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and Army Corps of Engineers who all came together this morning to assist in the search for Officer Mumaw."*

The Mayor said the Metro courthouse, Korean Veterans Bridge and other buildings will be lit in blue Thursday night in honor of Mumaw.

## **Woman faces homicide charge after Metro Nashville Police Officer's death**

<http://fox17.com/news/local/woman-faces-criminal-charges-after-metro-nashville-police-officers-death>

February 2nd 2017 by Adrian Mojica

UPDATE (2/3)--Metro Nashville Police say Juli Glisson will face an aggravated vehicular homicide charge for her actions which led to the death of Metro Officer Eric Mumaw.

Police say an arrest warrant for Glisson has been issued and she will be arrested upon discharge from the hospital. Glisson allegedly placed her car from park into gear while Officers Mumaw and Craig were trying to get her to safety.

Investigators say Glisson was legally drunk at the time of the incident and she is already on probation for a 2016 DUI conviction.

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--Metro Police have released details on events early Thursday morning which resulted in the drowning death of 44-year-old Officer Eric Mumaw. Metro Police PIO Don Aaron explained what led up to the tragedy, stating officers responded to a call for a suicidal woman -identified as 40-year-old Juli Glison, parked at the Peeler Park Greenway Trailhead. Officer Mumaw approached the driver's side of the vehicle while Officer Nick Diamond approached the passenger side of the car.

Police say as Glison opened her door, the vehicle drove into the water. Both officers lost their balance and were swept into the water while trying to pull Glison from the vehicle. PIO Aaron says both men were swept further into the water due to the motion of the vehicle. Another officer -Officer Trent Craig, was also at the scene and ran through the woods tracking the officers.

Officer Craig was able to spot the top of Officer Mumaw's head and jumped into the river in an effort to save him. However, Officer Craig was in freezing water up to his neck and could not get to the area where he spotted Officer Mumaw. Officer Diamond also at one point had a grasp on Officer Mumaw but was unable to hold on. Both Craig and Diamond were able to exit the water but each were treated for the shock absorbed from entering the freezing water.

PIO Aaron says Glison is now under a criminal investigation and says she showed signs of impairment. Glison was able to escape the submerged car and was found by officers on the river bank.

Mayor Megan Barry also issued a statement, saying "Our worst fears were realized today."

"Our worst fears were realized today when Officer Mumaw was recovered deceased from the Cumberland River after having given his life to save a woman in distress. Officer Mumaw dedicated his life to the safety and protection of us all, and today he gave his life to that calling. My thoughts and prayers are with Officer Mumaw's family and friends and all of our Metro Nashville Police Officers today.

"I want to thank the men and women of our Metro Nashville Police Department and Nashville Fire Department, as well as the city of Hendersonville, Tennessee Highway Patrol, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and Army Corps of Engineers who all came together this morning to assist in the search for Officer Mumaw."

**Megan Barry****✓@MayorMeganBarry**

Statement on the drowning death of @MNPDNashville Officer Mumaw in the line of duty:

8:58 AM - 2 Feb 2017

Mayor Barry's full statement is as follows:

"Our worst fears were realized today when Officer Mumaw was recovered deceased from the Cumberland River after having given his life to save a woman in distress. Officer Mumaw dedicated his life to the safety and protection of us all, and today he gave his life to that calling. My thoughts and prayers are with Officer Mumaw's family and friends and all of our Metro Nashville Police Officers today.

"I want to thank the men and women of our Metro Nashville Police Department and Nashville Fire Department, as well as the city of Hendersonville, Tennessee Highway Patrol, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and Army Corps of Engineers who all came together this morning to assist in the search for Officer Mumaw."

**Woman charged after officer drowned trying to save her**

<http://www.wbir.com/news/crime/driver-charged-after-officer-drowned-trying-to-save-her/396721654>

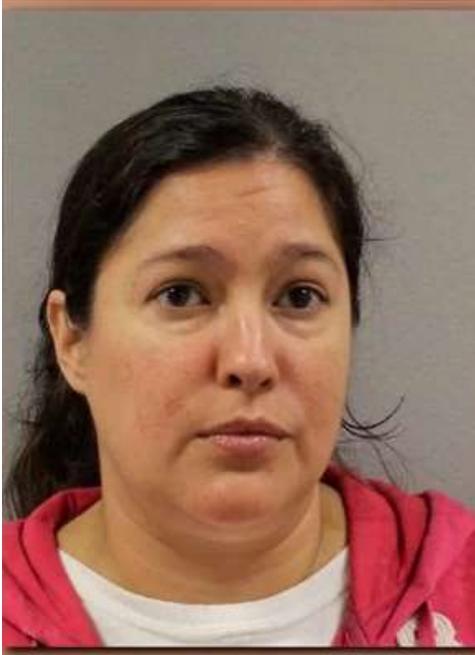
February 03, 2017 Natalie Neysa Alund , USA TODAY NETWORK – **Tennessee** , WBIR

A woman who police say caused the death of Metro Police Department Officer will be facing a charge of aggravated vehicular homicide, police said Friday.

A warrant has been issued for 40-year-old Juli Glisson, police said Friday morning. Police spokesman Don Aaron said she will be arrested upon her discharge from a local hospital.

Metro Nashville Police Department Officer Eric Mumaw, 44, died in the line of duty just before sunrise Thursday while attempting to rescue Glisson, who was reportedly suicidal and whose vehicle went into the frigid water of the Cumberland River in Madison.

Rescue crews discovered his body in the water several hours after he went missing.



**Juli Glisson, 40, will face a charge of aggravated vehicular homicide in the death of Metro Nashville police officer Eric Mumaw.**

*(Photo: Metro Nashville Police Department)*

and on Twitter @nataliealund.

Mumaw, an 18-year veteran of the Metro Nashville Police Department, died from an apparent drowning.

According to Aaron, the investigation alleges Glisson placed her car from park into gear as Mumaw and Officer Trent Craig were at the driver's door attempting to get her to safety and away from the edge of the Cumberland River.

The investigation also shows that Glisson was behind the wheel of the car legally drunk. Police said Glisson is presently on probation relating to an April 2016 DUI conviction. The police department has opened an email account, [OfficerMumaw@nashville.gov](mailto:OfficerMumaw@nashville.gov), for those wanting to send condolences to Mumaw's family and colleagues.

A vigil, open to the public, is set at Peeler Park at 7 p.m. Friday to honor Mamaw's life.

*This is a developing story.*

*Reach Natalie Neysa Alund at 615-259-8072*

*This story originally appeared on The Tennessean's website.*

## **Nashville Police Officer Drowning: Petition Asks for Park to Be Renamed for Eric Mumaw**

<http://patch.com/tennessee/nashville/nashville-police-officer-drowning-petition-asks-park-be-renamed-eric-mumaw>

By J.R. Lind (Patch Staff) \_ February 5, 2017

**A petition to rename Peeler Park for fallen officer Eric Mumaw garnered nearly 700 signatures in 48 hours.**

**NASHVILLE, TN** — In less than 48 hours, nearly 700 people signed a petition to rename Peeler Park for Metro Nashville police officer Eric Mumaw, who drowned in the Cumberland River during the successful rescue of an apparently suicidal woman Thursday.



A petition created by Christy Wilson asks Mayor Megan Barry and Metro Councilman Bill Pridemore, who represents the Neely's Bend area, to rename Peeler Park as Eric Mumaw Park, calling it a "fitting tribute" to the officer.

Peeler Park, at the end of Neely's Bend Road, is named for Euston N. Peeler, whose farm was bought by the city in 1963 as the initial 257 acres of the park. An additional 16 acres was added to the park in 1969 with the purchase of the former Sun Valley Swim Club and the park added another 388 acres with the purchase of the Taylor Farm in 2009.

It's unusual for Metro to rename parks, as [the petition](#) asks. Old Center Park was renamed Cedar Hill Park in 1964 and [what is now Cumberland Park was known tentatively as Adventure Park](#).

Mumaw, a decorated veteran of the Metro police force, and two other officers, Trent Craig and Nick Diamond, were talking to Juli Glisson, 40, on the boat ramp at Peeler Park on Neely's Bend around 4:30 Thursday morning, after a family reported that she was drunk and suicidal. According to investigators, Craig reached into the car to keep Glisson from putting the car into gear. As Mumaw opened the driver's side door, police say Glisson shifted the car out of park, causing it to roll down the ramp. Mumaw and Diamond went with the car, lost their footing on the edge of the ramp and went into the Cumberland River.

Diamond lost his grip on Mumaw, who was pulled into deeper water. Craig ran from the shoreline into the water to try to save his colleague, but was unsuccessful. [A Nashville Fire Department diver discovered Mumaw's body around 8:30 a.m.](#)

Glisson, who is on probation from an April 2016 DUI conviction, [will be arrested for vehicular homicide when she is released from the hospital](#). Metro Police will be handling the investigation, despite the fact that one of their officers was involved, [the department told The Tennessean](#).

Glisson's boyfriend, Kevin Hurt, told WSMV that she went to Smyrna's StoneCrest Medical Center on Wednesday because she was suicidal, but [was told she couldn't stay because she did not have health insurance](#).

[Mumaw's memorial service is set for noon Monday](#) at Cornerstone Church in Madison, with visitation at the church beginning at 9 a.m. The police department announced that [Mumaw's body will be escorted from Spring Hill Funeral Home to the church](#) by officers beginning at 7 a.m. via Due West and Graycroft.

## **Metro police officer dies while trying to save woman in Cumberland River**

<http://www.walb.com/story/34407886/police-identify-officer-who-died-while-helping-to-save-woman-in-cumberland-river>

February 17th 2017 by Kara Apel

MADISON, TN (WSMV) -

A Metro police officer died Thursday morning while trying to save a woman who was threatening to drive her car into the Cumberland River.

During the rescue attempt, 44-year-old Officer Eric Mumaw went missing in the river. His body was found hours later.

Mumaw, who was an 18-year veteran on the police force, is now being called a true hero. He leaves behind his longtime girlfriend and her daughter.

A criminal investigation is now underway while the driver, 40-year-old Juli Glisson, is questioned and detained by police. Police said she showed clear signs of intoxication and was being evaluated at a hospital.

It all began around 4:20 a.m. Thursday when police received a 911 call from one of Glisson's relatives. They told police Glisson was at the boat ramp at Peeler Park and was having suicidal thoughts.

Mumaw and Officer Nick Diamond responded just minutes after receiving the call and found the car on the edge of the water.

The two officers talked with Glisson for about 10 minutes and tried to get her out of the car.

Metro Nashville Police Department spokesman Don Aaron said they believed Glisson was about to get out of the car when her driver's door opened, but the car suddenly rolled down the ramp and into the water around 4:35 a.m.



Aaron said the two officers made "heroic efforts" to save the woman. They both went into the freezing water, but the boat ramp ended abruptly, and they lost their balance.

Mumaw slipped and was last seen about 50 or 60 yards into the river, which is about 15 feet deep in that area, at 4:40 a.m.

Diamond was able to get back to the riverbank and saw his co-worker struggling.

"He was in despair in the water, and Officer Diamond was trying to grab him and actually had slight contact with him at some point, but could not maintain the grip," Aaron said.

A third officer, Officer Trent Craig, saw everything that happened and jumped into the river and tried to save Mumaw. Aaron said Craig was up to his neck in water and could not get to where Mumaw was.

Dozens of firefighters and police officers desperately searched the water for hours. Boats circled the water where he went under and a helicopter searched from the sky.

At 8 a.m., about four hours later, a diver with the Nashville Fire Department found Mumaw's body about 70 yards from the boat ramp.

"Even though he lost his life, it's important that his body was recovered and he's now at peace," Aaron said.

Diamond was taken to Vanderbilt University Medical Center and was treated for hypothermia. He was released later in the morning.

Craig was treated at the scene for his injuries.

Glisson stayed inside the car as it submerged and was able to get out and swim to a riverbank. She was found by a fire department boat and was taken to TriStar Skyline Medical Center, where she remains in stable condition.

Aaron said they have detained Glisson and believe she may have been impaired by "some type of substance." She is now under investigation and could be facing criminal charges.

[\[CLICK HERE to see slideshow of images from the scene of the water rescue.\]](#)

Mumaw had been with the police department for 18 years. He received the department's Lifesaving Award on April 27, 2011.

One of Mumaw's colleagues told Channel 4 that he loved working the midnight shift and always had a big smile on his face.

"Officer Mumaw died truly trying to save the life of someone else," Aaron said. Aaron said police departments from all over the country have been reaching out and sharing their condolences.

Nashville Mayor Megan Barry released this statement:

*Our worst fears were realized today when Officer Mumaw was recovered deceased from the Cumberland River after having given his life to save a woman in distress. Officer Mumaw dedicated his life to the safety and protection of us all, and today he gave his life to that calling. My thoughts and prayers are with Officer Mumaw's family and friends and all of our Metro Nashville Police Officers today.*

*I want to thank the men and women of our Metro Nashville Police Department and Nashville Fire Department, as well as the city of Hendersonville, Tennessee Highway Patrol, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and Army Corps of Engineers who all came together this morning to assist in the search for Officer Mumaw.*

Barry said the Metro Courthouse, the Korean War Veterans Memorial Bridge and several other buildings will be lit up in blue on Thursday night in Mumaw's honor. Barry has also ordered for all Metro buildings to fly their flags at half-staff.

A memorial service is planned for Mumaw at Cornerstone Church in Madison on Monday at noon. Visitation will precede the service from 9 a.m. to noon.

An [email address](#) has been established for people to share their condolences with Mumaw's family.

Stay with Channel 4 and WSMV.com for updates on this story.