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Medals of Valor of the New England Association of Police Chiefs were given posthumously to Manchester Police Chief Dana Thompson and to Village Chief George Hoag in ceremonies on Monday. From the left: Village police commissioner Richard Rockwell, Mrs. Hilda Thompson, NEAPC executive director Joseph Shea, Governor Thomas P. Salmon and Chief Hoag.

Thompson and Hoag honored by Police Chiefs Association

Almost 200 persons crowded into the Manchester Elementary School cafeteria on Monday evening to hear Gov. Thomas Salmon praise late Manchester police chief Dana L. Thompson and Village chief George Hoag for their part in the December 12 breaking and entering at Whipple's Pharmacy in which Thompson was killed and Hoag wounded.

Introduced by Village police commissioner Richard Rockwell, Salmon said, "Dana Thompson gave his life that this society would be safe for our families children and their children. Sacrifices such as these cannot

be forgotten. I as governor, came here tonight humbly to say that I am indeed proud of what this community is doing to recognize brave men."

Joseph Shea, police chief of Natick, Mass. and executive director of the New England Association of Police Chiefs told the audience of police officials from all over New England and private citizens had unanimously voted its annual Medal for Valour to both chiefs. He and Gov. Salmon then presented handsome desk sets with the awards inscribed on the base to Mrs. Hilda Thompson, Chief Thompson's widow and to Chief Hoag.

Rockwell had words of praise for the other officers who had been involved in the December incident. Most of them were in the audience. Those attending also gave the ladies who had prepared the banquet a round of applause.

The invocation was given by Rev. Martin Clancy of St. Paul's Church and Rev. Jerome J. Hevey Jr., pastor of the First Congregational Church in Manchester gave the benediction.

The ceremonies were shorter than usual since Gov. Salmon had and engagement to appear in Bennington later that evening.

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SOMETHING SPECIAL - Four grandchildren of late Police Chief Dana Thompson, hold the plaque presented to Mrs. Thompson by the Police Chief's Association of New England. Both late Chief Thompson, who was killed in breaking up a robbery last Fall, and Village Chief George Hoag, who was wounded, were honored. The grandchildren of Dana who were present went up to the head table after the ceremony and looked at the award to their grandfather...here they are: Cheryl Townsend, 13; Deborah Townsend, 14; Gary Townsend, 12; and Douglas Thompson, 10. Cheryl, Deborah and Gary are children of Victor and Betty Townsend. Doug is son of George and Zilpha Thompson.

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