

THE NEW ZEALAND BRAVERY MEDAL (N.Z.B.M.)

Joan Diane TAYLOR

Date of action: 12 November 2005

Date of award: 14 October 2006

Citation

On Saturday 12 November 2005, at 9.40 p.m. an 18 year-old woman was walking along a Nelson Street when she was dragged into a nearby vehicle by an offender. Her screams alerted Joan Diane Taylor, aged 62, and her husband, who were inside their house nearby. Mrs Taylor approached the car and demanded that the offender let the women go. She was not put off by an explanation that the woman was injured and told the offender that the Police and Ambulance had been called. She then repeated her demand that the offender let the woman go.

This distracted the offender and his victim was able to run from the car into the Taylor 's house, followed by Mr Taylor. As Mrs Taylor turned to follow them she was attacked by the offender, who heard her telling her husband the licence plate number of his car, so as to pass it on to the Police. Mrs Taylor was struck on the back of the head, the blow causing her to collapse onto her driveway. As she did so, she hit her head against the ground, splitting her head open.

The offender left the area on foot but was later apprehended when he returned to collect his car. He has since been sentenced to four years and five months' imprisonment for abduction, assault with intent to commit sexual violation and injuring with intent. Found in his car at the time of the incident were a pair of handcuffs, a balaclava and a length of rope.

Mrs Taylor's bravery and persistence probably saved the young woman from serious injury and possibly death at the hands of her attacker.