



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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July 14, 2015

Awards Presented During 2015 NSA Annual Conference

Alexandria, VA - Each year, during the annual conference, the National Sheriffs' Association recognizes law enforcement officers for their hard work and dedication. These officers are honored with various awards that are presented at the conference. Below, you will find a list of the awards presented during the 2015 Annual Conference and Exhibition in Baltimore, Maryland this June. For photos of the award presentations, contact mreed@sheriffs.org.

NSA Law Enforcement Lifetime Achievement Award**John Walsh, host and executive producer of America's Most Wanted**

NSA is presented the first annual "Law Enforcement Lifetime Achievement Award." This prestigious award honors an individual whose professional career and/or personal advocacy work have greatly contributed to the law enforcement profession, the men and women who serve, and the communities they protect nationwide.

John Walsh has been selected to receive this inaugural award. Mr. Walsh was selected based on a lifetime of dedication to and work in support of law enforcement, including his relentless championing of justice for all in our great country, and, most especially, the protection of our treasured children.

Charles "Bud" Meeks Valor Award for Deputy Sheriff of the Year**Deputy Michael Norris & Deputy Jeff Wilson, Monroe County, GA**

On Saturday, September 13, 2014, deputies Jeff Wilson and Michael Norris responded to a home in southern Monroe County to provide assistance to a man threatening suicide with a handgun.

The deputies walked to the front door of the house, with their weapons drawn, in order to make contact with the suicidal man. Deputy Norris pushed the door open with his foot and the man inside the home quickly fired upon the deputies, immediately shooting Deputy Norris in the head and leg. The man continued firing at Deputy Wilson as he attempted to dodge the man's gunfire. While attempting to take cover behind his patrol vehicle, Deputy Wilson was shot three times.

Emergency Services responded and transported Deputies Wilson and Norris to the Medical Center of Central Georgia. Deputy Norris was declared brain dead the next day. Per Deputy Norris' wishes his organs were donated. Deputy Wilson, who was shot three times, is currently undergoing physical therapy and is expected to make a full recovery.

**Charles "Bud" Meeks Merit Award for Deputy Sheriff of the Year
Deputy John McCulloch, Franklin County, PA**

Deputy John McCulloch found himself helping fellow campers when a deadly tornado turned his vacation upside down. He was one of several vacationing first responders moved to help when a tornado and high winds hit the Cherrystone Family Camping Resort on the Delmarva Peninsula in July 2014. He was among the first to tend to the three people who died in the tragedy.

**Crime Victim Services Award
Fayette County, KY**

The Office of the Fayette County Sheriff (FCSO) strives each day to serve the Lexington-Fayette County community and, moreover, to intervene where there is a gap in community services. Accordingly, under the leadership of Sheriff Kathy Witt, the FCSO Victim Services Division was created. Furthermore, when it was noted that the community lacked a centralized point where victims of domestic violence could come for help, referrals, and resources, a 24-hour, all-encompassing resource center was established within the Division in 2010 that provides wrap around services for domestic violence victims.

**J. Stannard Baker Award for Highway Safety
Sheriff George T. Maier, Stark County, OH**

Sheriff George T. Maier of the Stark County Sheriff's Office, Stark County, OH, has been selected as the J. Stannard Baker Award winner because of his exemplary law enforcement career for nearly thirty-five years. The Award represents a lifetime achievement and dedication to the issue of Traffic Safety. Sheriff Maier was selected by a group of his peers to honor his traffic safety work as a police officer prior to joining the Ohio State Highway Patrol, retiring as District Commander and Captain. Governor Ted Strickland then appointed him to the position of Assistant Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, where he served for four years implementing innovative programs to improve traffic safety for the state. Upon leaving the Ohio Department of Public Safety, he became the Safety and Service Director for the City of Massillon, Ohio where he applied those same innovations until he became Sheriff of Stark County.

**Reserve Deputy of the Year Award
Special Deputy Dean Allen Youngman, Daviess County, KY**

Special Deputy Youngman's law enforcement career began after returning from active duty with the U.S. Army in Vietnam, when he entered law school and was appointed as a full time investigator with the Lexington-Fayette County Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority. After graduating from law school he was appointed as a Daviess County Special Deputy Sheriff, serving in that capacity until becoming an Assistant State's Attorney in 1982.

In 2004, Special Deputy Youngman was re-appointed as a Daviess County Special Deputy and currently serves as the senior firearms instructor for the department. His primary responsibility has been to develop and manage an enhanced firearms training program for the Daviess County Sheriff's Office.

**Law Enforcement Explorer Post Advisor of the Year
Master Deputy James Cole, Orange County, FL**

During Master Deputy Cole's 32 years with the Orange County Sheriff's Office, he has diligently worked to make a difference in the lives of the citizens of Orange County. His career with the sheriff's office began in 1980 as a reserve deputy. In 1995, he was hired as a full time deputy sheriff. In 2010, he became the senior advisor for the Orange County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post 2061. Master Deputy Cole visits schools, sharing information about the explorer program, distributing flyers for upcoming events and handing out brochures on how to become an explorer. He receives over 80 requests a year for Explorer Post 2061's participation.

**Chaplain of the Year
Chaplain Gregory Clayton, Orange County, FL**

Chaplain Clayton became a member of the Orange County Sheriff's Office Chaplains Unit in October 2009. The unit consists of 32 volunteer chaplains from various religious backgrounds, who respond to calls when needed. In addition to his hundreds of selfless hours volunteering with the Orange County Sheriff's Office, Chaplain Clayton is the pastor of Open Door Ministries of Orlando. He has been ministering/pastoring for over 20 years.

**Corrections/Jail Innovations of the Year Award
Sergeant Richard "Todd" Bailey, Pinellas County, FL**

In 2013, Sheriff Robert Gualtieri was approached by the local board of county commissioners and asked to provide misdemeanor probation services to the citizens of Pinellas County. This enormous responsibility necessitated the need for a supervisor that was capable and willing to take on such a project.

The individual who was tasked with the responsibility of evaluating whether or not the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office could effectively construct, implement, and administer these services was Detention and Corrections Sergeant Bailey. Sergeant Bailey began to devise an operational plan, which has ultimately led to the creation of the Misdemeanor Probation Unit (MPU) of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. The MPU opened its doors for the first time in September 2013.

**Court Security Agency/Professional of the Year Award
Sergeant Joe Thompsen, Wicomico County, MD**

The Wicomico County Courthouse processes over 300,000 people throughout the year. The enormous amount of people highlights the need for a highly trained security detail. Sergeant Joe Thompsen, Supervisor of Judicial Protection, approached his sheriff with two ideas to modify their best practices, prepare for the worst-case scenario and train for a favorable outcome.

For decades the Wicomico Circuit Courthouse was gazed upon as a historical building and many felt it should be open to the public with little accountability for security measures. Sergeant Thompsen stressed the importance of preventing, preparing for, and managing the impact of serious violence in courthouses.

Triple Crown Awards

Broward County, FL

Marion County, IN

Monroe County, FL

Orange County, NY

The Triple Crown Award was established by NSA to recognize those sheriff's offices that achieve simultaneous accreditation from the Commission on the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies, the American Correctional Association's Commission on Accreditation for Corrections and the National Commission on Correctional Healthcare.

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The National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) is one of the largest associations of law enforcement professionals in the United States, representing more than 3,000 elected sheriffs across the nation, and a total membership of more than 20,000. NSA is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising the level of professionalism among sheriffs, their deputies, and others in the field of criminal justice and public safety. Throughout its seventy-five year history, NSA has served as an information clearinghouse for sheriffs, deputies, chiefs of police, other law enforcement professionals, state governments and the federal government.