



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

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Sheriff Recognizes Employees during Third Quarterly Awards Ceremony of 2019

The Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) celebrated the third quarter of 2019 with an awards ceremony on Wednesday. Sheriff Staly recognized exceptional service by Sheriff's Office employees and members of the community.

"This is a great team serving the community at the Flagler County Sheriff's Office, and this is my opportunity to recognize and thank them for their outstanding service," said Sheriff Staly. "Congratulations to all of our award recipients!"



Chaplain Juan Schembri and Sheriff Staly

July Employee of the Month and Certificate of Commendation - Chaplain Juan Schembri

On July 21, 2019, Chaplain Juan Schembri assisted Deputy Conway on a traffic stop where two individuals were being uncooperative with law enforcement. Chaplain Schembri recognized it as a potential officer safety situation and therefore parked his vehicle beside the deputy's and stood by in a safe manner to ensure the deputy was ok before additional units arrived. For Chaplain Schembri's consideration and assistance, he receives the Certificate of Commendation and the July Employee of the Month.

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Deputy Strack and Sheriff Staly

August Employee of the Month, Lifesaving Award, and Narcan Lifesaving – Deputy Robert Strack

On August 1, 2019, Deputy Strack responded to a medical call and performed CPR on the patient until medical personnel arrived. The patient was transported to the hospital where he made a full recovery. Upon closer inspection, drug paraphernalia was present and a possible accidental overdose may have occurred. For saving the life of another, Deputy Strack receives the Lifesaving award. For performing two lifesaving measures in one month, Deputy Strack is named the August Employee of the Month.



Chief Sepe accepted the awards on behalf of Sgt. Tietje

September Employee of the Month and Certificate of Appreciation – Sgt. Greg Tietje

Sgt. Greg Tietje discovered displaced sea turtles during the effects felt in Flagler County by Hurricane Dorian. During his overnight shift, he rescued five newly hatched sea turtles and brought them to safety. For his commitment to all residents of Flagler County, Sgt. Tietje receives the Certificate of Appreciation as well as September Employee of the Month.

Sgt. Tietje also received an award from PETA - People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals – who heard of Sgt. Tietje’s rescue and awarded him and the Flagler County Sheriff’s Office a Compassionate Police Department Award.

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Deputy Strack and Sheriff Staly

Narcan Lifesaving Award – Dep. Robert Strack and Dep. Adam Gossett

On August 30, 2019, Deputies Strack and Gossett responded to an overdose. Upon arrival, Deputy Strack observed an unresponsive male. Deputy Strack administered one dose of Narcan, which briefly revived the male. Once Deputy Gossett arrived on scene, he immediately administered a second dose of Narcan, which completely revived the male. The male was then transported to the hospital. Deputies Strack and Gossett receive the Lifesaving award for their quick response.

Narcan Lifesaving Award – Dep. Taylor Oldham

On August 2, 2019, Deputy Oldham responded to an overdose for an unresponsive female. Deputy Oldham administered Narcan and the female began to regain consciousness. The female was then transported to the hospital. Deputy Oldham receives the Lifesaving award for his quick response.

Narcan Lifesaving Award – Dep. Shannon Smith & Dep. Robert Lentino

On August 25, 2019, Deputies Shannon Smith and Robert Lentino responded to unresponsive male that was receiving CPR from a neighbor. Deputies Smith and Lentino took over CPR efforts as well as administering Narcan and deployed an AED. The male was then transported to the hospital. Deputies Smith and Lentino receive the Lifesaving award for their quick response.

Sheriff's Citation – Detective Diego Morales

Detective Diego Morales receives the Sheriff's Citation award for his many years leading the SWAT Team. Detective Morales has shown tremendous commitment to the team and has made many sacrifices along the way. For his leadership and dedication, Sheriff Staly presents Detective Morales with the Sheriff's Citation.

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Det. Rodriguez accepted the award on behalf of SIU.

Unit Citation – Sgt. Bernie Woodward, Cpl. Brian Finn, Cpl. Frank Gamarra, Det. Adam Barkoskie, Det. Artie Erlandson, Det. Agustin Rodriguez

On August 20th, 2019, the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) facilitated the Flagler County Sheriff's Office largest undercover narcotics operation named "Operation Heat Wave." Detectives spent eight months investigating drug dealers and working covert operations to make arrests. Forty felony warrants were issued for Operation Heat Wave. For the unit's dedication to removing deadly narcotics from Flagler County, they receive the Unit Citation.



Pictured from left: Dep. Cavas, Dep. Green, Sgt. Reckenwald, CA Sandberg, CA North, Cpl. Kandour, and Sheriff Staly.

Unit Citation – Cmdr. Jon Welker, Sgt. Jon Reckenwald, Cpl. Ron Mello, Cpl. Paul Kandour, Dep. Troy Cavas, Dep. Seth Green, Dep. Austin Chewning, Dep. James Crosbee, Dep. Mike Spinelli, Dep. Jordan Taylor, Analyst Shannon Sandberg and Analyst Nikki North

Through strategically securing information on the whereabouts of a dangerous fugitive out of Ohio, this team worked together to safely take the suspect into custody as soon as he entered Flagler County. This incident showcased the Intelligence Led Policing approach and the successful collaboration across numerous areas of the agency components. For the successful teamwork demonstrated on this case, this team receives the Unit Citation.

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Pictured from left: Sheriff Staly, Det. Lashbrook, Sgt. Miller, Det. Petkovsek, Cpl. Hristakopoulos, Cpl. Moy, Det. Rodriguez, Det. Castanheira, CA North, Det. Cangialosi, CSI Rittenour, VA Vazquez, Chief Bovino, Cmdr. Taylor

Unit Citation - Sgt. Mike Miller, Sgt. Bernie Woodward, Cpl. Mark Moy, Cpl. George Hristakopoulos, Cpl. Brian Finn, Cpl. Frank Gamarra, Det. Gabe Fuentes, Det. Dennis Lashbrook, Det. Darrell Butler, Det. Andrew Cangialosi, Det. Diego Morales, Det. Rich Petkovsek, Det. John Castanheira, Det. Agustin Rodriguez, Det. Fiona Ebrill, Sgt. Jon Dopp, Dep. Austin Chewing, Dep. Jacob West, CSI Lainie Rittenour, CSI Laura McKinlay, Victim Advocate Kathy Vazquez and Analyst Nikki North

On July 12, 2019, members from the Investigative Services Division responded to a homicide with a seventeen-year-old victim. Investigators traced all leads and pieced together all surveillance and security footage to quickly lay out a timeline of events which led to identifying the suspect. For their quick actions in taking a dangerous criminal off the street, this team receives a Unit Citation.



Pictured from left: Nunez, DiFederico, Sgt. Fields, Cmdr. White, Sgt. Millett, Huey, and Sheriff Staly.

Unit Citation – COP’s TCI Unit – Cmdr. Barry White, Sgt. Steve Fields, Sgt. Robert Millett, Albert DiFederico, Carlos Nunez, Chief Michael Muller

The Citizen Observer Patrol Traffic Crash Investigators assist the Sheriff’s Office as volunteers on the roadways. Over the past 42 months, the TCI squad had worked 3,255 calls. They work calls for minor crashes, traffic control, and much more. The TCI's are highly trained, dedicated professionals who do this difficult work without pay. For their commitment of the Sheriff’s Office, they receive the Unit Citation.

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Cpl. Hristakopoulos, Det. Conrad, Therapy Dog Dottie, and Sheriff Staly.

Distinguished Service Certificate – Det. Annie Conrad and Cpl. George Hristakopoulos

In June of 2018, the Flagler County Sheriff's Office received a report that a local doctor had inappropriately touched a patient. After a press release was disseminated to the public, sixteen additional victims came forward. Det. Annie Conrad worked diligently for months documenting each victim's case and providing support. Cpl. George Hristakopoulos assisted Det. Conrad with the case. On August 16, 2019, the doctor accepted a plea deal and cannot work in the medical field ever again. For their work on this case, Det. Conrad and Cpl. Hristakopoulos receive the Distinguished Service Certificate.

Citizen Certificate of Commendation – Julie Qualls

On July 23, 2019, a severe crash occurred on I-95 Southbound. Julia Qualls called 9-1-1 and reported that a Budget moving truck rolled onto the driver's side and there was another SUV involved with three occupants inside. It was discovered that the male driver in the Budget truck was Mrs. Qualls' husband and that Mrs. Qualls is a nurse. Until units arrived on scene, Mrs. Qualls simultaneously rendered aid to her husband as well as the occupants of the other vehicle and kept dispatch updated. For her selfless assistance, Mrs. Qualls receives the Certificate of Commendation.

Years of Service Awards

- 25 years – Adam Biss, Lisa Nesbitt
- 15 years – Laura Kruger
- 10 years – Ashlie Hicks
- 5 years – Ron Mello

Citizen Observer Patrol Years of Service Awards

- 5 years – Gerald Dickens

The next quarterly awards ceremony will take place after the first of the year.

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