Oklahoma Sheriffs’ Association  
Mission Statement

*Maintain the office of the Sheriff through training and education; developing laws and policies that promote public safety and; providing technical and informational support to assist the Sheriffs of Oklahoma in providing effective and quality law enforcement services to the citizens of the State of Oklahoma.*

Objectives:

Provide training and education information in the fields of law enforcement, crime prevention and detection, jail management, public safety and civil process to all Oklahoma Sheriffs.

Support the development of laws and policies, which focus on the primary responsibility of government and the public safety of its citizens.

Provide information and technical assistance in support to the Sheriffs of Oklahoma to assist them in providing effective and quality law enforcement services to the citizens of Oklahoma.

Encourage the involvement of each Sheriff to work towards promoting professionalism and high standards in county law enforcement.

Promote positive interaction among all criminal justice agencies and associations in an effort to increase the effectiveness of law enforcement services to the citizens of Oklahoma and for the betterment of the law enforcement profession.

Provide an objective analysis for planned activities for achieving targeted objectives and assuring proper expenditure of funding.

Maintain and enhance the Office of the Sheriff in the State of Oklahoma.
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WELCOME TO THE OKLAHOMA SHERIFFS’ ASSOCIATION

No greater honor can be bestowed upon an Oklahoma Sheriff than to be sworn in as the President of the Oklahoma Sheriffs’ Association. I am extremely proud of this organization and the hard work done daily to enhance the daily operations of the office of all Oklahoma elected Sheriffs. The Association provides all Sheriff’s offices with the resources, personal knowledge and training all Sheriffs need to operate their offices.

The OSA remains active inside the walls of the State Capitol to insure that legislation related to Oklahoma Sheriffs is vetted to the benefit of all Sheriff’s Office and the people we were elected to serve. Get to know and meet with your State Representatives and Senators, they do want to hear from you.

2019-2020 will be busy with several pieces of legislation that will directly affect the Office of Sheriff, from issues related to Mental Health to Deputy Retirement. As a board of directors overseeing the business of the OSA we can only accomplish our goals with the participation of all Sheriffs their deputies and staff to be successful. Get involved with your regional representatives and fellow board members.

The Oklahoma Sheriff’s Association belongs to all Sheriffs in all 77 Counties. I invite you to reach out to your association whenever you have a need.

God bless, remain safe.

Harlan M. Moore
Oklahoma Sheriffs’ Association President
Delaware County Sheriff’s Office
Dear members,

Welcome to the Annual Conference Edition of the Oklahoma Sheriff. In this edition you will find where 15 Oklahoma Sheriffs along with 176 other from across the country went to Washington DC to lobby for the Federation from American Immigration Reform Act, the Oklahoma Sheriffs' Association 1st Annual Sheriffs Appreciation Picnic and as always a review of the annual conference.

2019 proved to be a good year for the Sheriffs legislatively. Legislation which was a long time coming passed to reimburse the jail on Department of Corrections inmates from the date of sentencing and to reimburse for Department of Corrections transports. We now have an open dialogue with DOC now that the new Director Scott Crowe is in place, something we have not had for over six years. During the legislative session the OSA hosted an ice cream social for all the legislators and spent many days and nights working on legislation that would enhance the office of Sheriff and protect the citizens in Oklahoma. Next year will be our opportunity to finalize legislation that will provide a 20 year drop plan to every new hire Deputy and Detention Officer.

The OSA is beginning to make some progress in the training arena. In the later part of 2019 and beginning in 2020 there will be several courses of training at the training facility. It is our hope to have online training up and running within the first quarter of the year. This will provide you the opportunity to view and interact with the training while on your computer. We welcome any suggestions or ideas for training subjects.

In closing I want to thank the OSA Board of Directors for their great leadership all of our members active, honorary, business, and lifetime for your continued support. We are the largest law enforcement association in the state with the most engaged members. Everyone of you who work for the Sheriff’s office continue to show your passion for the job and for making this state a safer place to live for all the citizens.

Ray McNair
Executive Director
It has been a busy time here at the OSA. We are proud of the fact that the association has been able to bring more training to our sheriffs’ offices and other law enforcement agencies.

In this short amount of time we have been able to provide training on numerous topics from the First and Second Amendment to rural school crisis management and response. We have partnered with state agencies to provide training and have also been able to bring in outside resources from the federal government.

We are also excited about our upcoming online training option that will soon be available. This will allow more opportunities for those who are wanting to attend our training but are unable to do so due to time and distance. Once we have this in place, they will be able to log in and attend online in real time and have actual interaction with the instructor just as if they were sitting in the classroom.

We had the great honor of hosting a panel discussion with Mr. Tim Downing, the new U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma and also some of the various Agents in Charge of the FBI, U.S. Marshalls Service, Homeland Security, Secret Service, D.E.A, Immigration and the ATF.
Sheriffs and Undersheriffs completed the 80 hours of the 2019 New Sheriffs’ Academy. Congratulations!

2019 DETENTION OFFICER ACADEMY

The Oklahoma Sheriff Association hosted our first detention officer academy. We had 30 officers from 16 different county jails register and attend what will become a certified training for detention officers in the State of Oklahoma. This was a 40 hour block of instruction covering a variety of topics from the history and introduction to policing and corrections, the current jail standards, understanding what it means to be a detention officer and how to make a career of it and more.

The training was developed and taught by Stan Florence in partnership with the OSA and jail administrators from across the state.

SPECIAL AGENTS IN CHARGE DISCUSSION PANEL

Sheriff’s had the opportunity to meet with Federal Law Enforcement partner agencies. Those present were special agents from the FBI, US Marshal Services, Alcohol Tobacco & Firearms, US Secret Service, DEA, HSI and The US Attorney of the Western District Tim Downing. Each agency provided an in depth presentation on how they can assist the county and afterwards held a Q&A session. It was a tremendous honor to have the Agents in Charge from every federal law enforcement agency here at the Oklahoma Sheriffs’ Association.
Canadian County Sheriff Chris West
Chosen to Sit on Prestigious National Board

Alexandria, VA – The National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA) today announced the newest members of its’ Board of Directors, which includes Canadian County Sheriff Chris West.

The Sheriff who has been serving on the board after being appointed temporarily was elected at the NSA Annual Conference in Louisville on June 17th. The NSA board of directors represents all 3,080 sheriffs across the country and sets guidance and direction for the association. The NSA is routinely called upon to provide expert testimony on law enforcement, corrections, and court security issues before Congress.

“We are honored to have Sheriff West serve on our board,” said NSA Executive Director Jonathan Thompson. “Sheriff West brings a breadth of experience serving his community as Sheriff and serving in law enforcement for the past three decades for the people of Canadian County and Oklahoma.”

About The National Sheriffs’ Association:
Sheriff West said, “The National Sheriffs’ Association is one of the largest associations of law enforcement professionals in the U.S., representing more than 3,000 elected Sheriffs across the nation, and with 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 law enforcement, public safety, and criminal justice. Throughout its seventy-eight-year history, NSA has also served as an information resource for all law enforcement, as well as State governments and the Federal government.”

Seminole County Sheriff chosen to Represent the State of Oklahoma for the Western States Sheriffs’ Association

Sheriff Shannon Smith Seminole County SO was voted by the Oklahoma Sheriffs’ Association Board to be the Representative of Oklahoma to the Western State Sheriffs’ Association.

This Sheriff not only serves the citizens of Seminole county but serves on several boards and committees. He is the 1st Vice President for the Oklahoma Sheriffs Association. He is on the Council of Law Enforcement Education and Training Curriculum Board, Board Member Oklahoma Highway Safety Committee, National Sheriffs Association Member, and President of the Seminole County Fallen Heroes Memorial.
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On September 25, 15 Oklahoma Sheriffs along with 176 other Sheriffs from across the country traveled to Washington DC to meet with leaders on immigration reform.

The Federation for American Immigration Reform, or FAIR, covered travel expenses for 191 sheriffs to convene on Capitol Hill Wednesday for “Badges and Angels,” a press conference with the relatives of people killed by undocumented immigrants, or
It started out with a little rain and cloud cover but that did not dampen the spirits of those in attendance. Everyone had a great time at the Sheriffs Appreciation Picnic.

St Crispin’s had all the events lined up including kayaking, archery, climbing wall and some even dared to take on the zip line and the screamer. The bounce houses were a big hit with the little ones.

Sheriff Shannon Smith brought out their food trailer and served hamburgers, hot dogs and a new favorite a Nathans hot dog wrapped in bacon, jalapenos then deep fried. Sheriff Tim Turner supplied the pulled pork for BBQ sandwiches and smoked sausage. The corn-hole tournament was won by Sheriff Tony Head and Sheriff Shane Booth. The evening was capped off with Hunter Thomas and his band.

Special thanks to Gordon Green with Capital Distributing for the beverages and Matt Jackson with Benchmark Solutions for saving the day.
OSM Annual Golf Tournament

3RD PLACE
Team: Brewer, Bodkin, Souders, Bodkin

2ND PLACE
Team: Kelley, McConnell, Hewett, Seale

1ST PLACE
Team: Palmer, Columbus, Weddle, Beaver
On Monday, August 5th, 2019, the OSA held our Annual Golf Tournament at the Golf Club of Edmond. Team Sponsors included: Pottawatomie County, Ellis County, Account Management Resources, TurnKey Health Clinics, CTC, Inc., Tiger Correctional Services, Oklahoma Employees Credit Union, Prodigy Solutions, Securus Technologies, Voice Products, and Collins, Zorn, and Wagner. Players enjoyed a beautiful day of weather while playing and the Tournament ended with a delicious lunch. Door prizes were provided by the Oklahoma Sheriffs’ Association and Oklahoma Employees Credit Union.

Closest to the Pin:
Mark Olsen

Longest Drive:
Felipe Solis
On August 5th, 2019 the Oklahoma Sheriffs’ Association hosted the Annual Pistol Match at the Oklahoma County Sheriff’s Office Training Facility. The Pistol Match is a Firearms Competition for the Sheriffs, Undersheriffs, and Deputies of the Sheriff’s offices across Oklahoma. Additionally, The OSA would like to thank the Oklahoma County Sheriff’s Office for the use of their facility, Benchmark Government for the refreshments and of course all of our participants. Congratulations to all of our winners!

TEAM COMPETITION WINNERS

1st – Undersheriff Blake Green & Deputy Les Sanders

2nd – Sheriff Chris Elliot & Deputy Dustin Dorr

3rd – Undersheriff Tim Donaldson & Deputy Danny Elliott

SHERIFF CLASS WINNERS

1st – Sheriff Johnny Christian, Bryan Co.

2nd – Sheriff Chris West, Canadian Co.

3rd – Sheriff Chris Elliott, Wagoner Co.

UNDERSHERIFF CLASS WINNERS

1st – Undersheriff Blake Green, Cleveland Co.

2nd – Undersheriff Tim Donaldson, Lincoln Co.


DEPUTY CLASS WINNERS

1st – Deputy Bill Myers, Payne Co.

2nd – Deputy Nick Myers, Payne Co.

3rd – Deputy Les Sanders, Pottawatomie Co.
The OSA Annual Exposition Show was held during the 2019 Annual Training Conference at the Sheraton Hotel and Reed Conference Center in Midwest City.
Over 90 exhibitors filled the Exhibit Hall, bringing the Sheriffs of Oklahoma the latest products and cutting edge technology.
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The conference started off with a new event and it was a hot muggy day that felt like 100 degrees in the shade and probably felt like 110 degrees for the Sheriff’s that competed in the 1st Annual Cookout Competition. There was a 130 in attendance to get a taste of what these Sheriff’s cooked up and they enjoyed every bite of it. We had fajitas and all the trimmings from Sheriff Johnny Christian Bryan County, a shrimp boil with corn and potatoes from Sheriff Tony Head Atoka County, BBQ brisket and bologna from Sheriff Tim Turner Haskell County, BBQ cowboy beans from Sheriff Jeremy Floyd Ottawa County, and Fried Fish from Shannon Smith Seminole County. The attendees were given playing cards to drop in a tote and vote for the winner. Some folks said Sheriff Waters could be seen trying to sell additional playing cards to influence the outcome of the vote. In the end, there could only be one winner and the vote went to Sheriff Shannon Smith of Seminole County. The evening capped off with music from Hunter Thomas and the presentation of the traveling trophy. We hope next year to see more Sheriff’s compete in the annual cookout competition.

Special thanks go out to:
Sheriff Johnny Christian and the Bryan County Sheriffs Office
Sheriff Tony Head and the Atoka County Sheriffs Office
Sheriff Tim Tuner and the Haskell County Sheriffs Office
Sheriff Shannon Smith and the Seminole County Sheriffs Office
AIP Architects In Partnership
Phil Chalmers is a true crime writer, law enforcement trainer, youth culture specialist and a television personality.

He is the author of several books, including “Inside the Mind of a Teen Killer” and “True Lies.” He has been researching homicide and interviewing offenders for 30 years, and his work has been featured on dozens of television shows and networks, including A&E’s “Killer Kids” and Fox’s “Crime Watch Daily.” He has interviewed over 200 killers face to face, including teen killers, school shooters, mass murderers and serial killers. His current projects include three new books- one about teen killers, one about the myths surrounding today’s serial killers, and a men’s inspirational book.

TRAINING TOPICS INCLUDE:
- School Shooting Trends
- School Safety Tips
- Dangerous Youth Culture
- Myths of a Serial Killer
- Hundreds of Crime Scene Photos
- Active Shooting Videos
- Audience Interviews Killers LIVE

Sponsored By: TurnKey Health Clinics
Training Topics for the 2019 Annual Training Conference Included:

- Why Teens Kill {MH}
- Medical Marijuana “But it’s Legal Now “
  - Drone Usage & Federal Laws
- Patron Saints of Mexican Drug Underworld
  - Human Trafficking
- Internet Crimes Against Children
- Involved Shootings
- Opioid Overdose Recognition
- Mass Violence Workshop
- We Need Each Other {MH}
- Cold Cases/Missing Persons & “Francines Law”
- National Integrated Ballistic Information Network
- Overview of ICE Enforcement Removal Operations
- Jail Suicide Prevention & Intervention {MH}
- Critical Incident Stress Management
- Surviving your Career Emotional Survival
  - Basic Officer Counseling Skills
  - Benefits of Peer Support
  - Overview of Jail Healthcare
  - HIPPA
- Fair Labor Standards Acts
- Professional Female’s in Today’s Law Enforcement
- Domestic Violence/Project Safe Neighborhood/ Operation 922
- Protecting the House of Worship
LADIES EVENTS

Our Conference this year hosted two events for the Ladies of the Conference. On Wednesday we featured a Paint and Pallette the ladies enjoyed painting and getting to know one another there was much laughter and fellowship.

On Thursday, we had a Ladies Tea in which we had Guest Speaker Melissa Littles A published author, blogger and advocate for law enforcement officers and their families. They had tea, snacks and Door Prizes. We thank all the Ladies of the conference and can’t wait to see you back next year!
August 8th, 2019, Tiger Correctional Services Sponsored Sheriff’s Appreciation Night at the Ball Park. The evening consisted of a Hamburgers and hot dogs, socializing, and night of Baseball.
On August 7th, 2019, the Oklahoma Sheriffs’ Association hosted President’s Night. The evening consisted of a socializing, and many rounds of Bingo played until the late hours of the evening. The OSA and counties all across the state donated door prizes to be given away to the winners. This year, our county donors outdid themselves and our prizes consisted of brand new TVs, gifts cards worth up to $500, vacation stays, and firearms. The event was sponsored by BI2 Technologies.
The Legislative Award is presented to an Oklahoma Legislator for a significant act or support of the Oklahoma Sheriffs’ Association and the Sheriffs of Oklahoma.

Masters of Ceremony for this event was U.S. Attorney Western District Tim Downing.

Many people in the political campaigns often claim to “Back the Blue” or “Support Law Enforcement”. But many times, after campaigns are over, when the hard work of legislating begins, and tough votes are on the board, there aren’t always as many as there were during the election season. This event was our opportunity to honor the legislators that chose to support the Sheriffs of Oklahoma when tough choices had to be made.

• The first group honored were beneficial to Sheriffs or the law enforcement community as a whole.
• Senator Chris Kidd SB853 which increased travel allowances for county officers.
• Senator Lonnie Paxton and Representative Sherrie Conley SB281 an OSA request bill that makes technical changes to how fees are added to the Sheriff’s Service Fee Account.
• Senator Dwayne Pemberton, Representative Ross Ford and Representative Matt Meredith SB259 which allows officers in the field to access Real ID photographs through the OLETS system.
• Senator Dave Rader, Representative Dean Davis HB2037 An OSA request bill that allows Sheriffs to recover costs when hosting data services for other agencies.
• Representative Jadine Nollan and Senator Wayne Shaw HB1995 is a Tulsa County request bill that shortens the retention schedule for body camera recordings and should save a significant amount of money for Sheriff’s Offices that utilize body cameras.
• Senator Jason Smalley, Representative Josh West and Representative Mark Lawson HB2272 which authorized the actuarial study relating to deputy retirement. This bill provided a crucial first step in the process to change the retirement for deputies to a 20-year retirement system.
• Representative Johnny Tadlock and former Sheriff, Senator Bill Coleman HB1024 cleaned up language from the recent change in alcohol laws that would have prohibited off duty deputies from working part time for convenience stores and grocery stores that sold alcohol.
• Representative Brad Boles and Senator Lonnie Paxton HB1939 established a basic salary range for county official resulting in an increase to salaries.
• Senator Darrell, Representative Ross Ford SB658 which allowed additional counties and municipalities to hold the basic academy.
• Senator JJ Dossett SB33 prohibited vaping products on school property.

Legislation that is introduced with the best of intentions can sometimes have unintended consequences. This next group had a significant role in either amending or stopping legislation that could have been potentially harmful to Sheriff’s offices or is contrary to legislative policy of the Oklahoma Sheriff’s Association. When approached by the Association, these individuals went above and beyond to not only listen to our concerns but act on them as well. Representative Jeff Boatman, Representative Stan May, Representative Garry Mize, Representative Chris Sneed, Representative Kevin West, Senator Chuck Hall

The next list honorees have worked in Public Safety positions prior to their election and their experience has been invaluable in the debates at the Capitol surrounding Criminal Justice Reform. Other legislators acknowledge their experience and look to them on this crucial topic. Thank you for being the voice of reason in an often-emotional debate. Representative Rande Worthen, Representative Ty Burns, and former Sheriff Representative David Hardin

Our next group are legislators although they may have authored a bill or an amendment, they were indispensable in their roles as part of House and Senate Leadership teams. By virtue of their powerful positions, they are often the final voice on whether important legislation passes or fails. Representative Ross Ford, Chairman of the Appropriations Sub Committee on Public Safety, Senator Wayne Shaw, Chairman of the Senate Public Safety Committee, Representative Brad Boles Chairman County and Municipal Government, House Deputy Floor Leaders Dustin Roberts and Representative John Pfeiffer.
Legislative Awards Continued

When we recognize leaders at the capitol the following make law enforcement paramount in their decision making:

House Floor Leader, Jon Echols
Leader Echols, a longtime friend of Oklahoma Sheriffs, is one of the most powerful members of the Oklahoma Legislature. He not only is responsible for the committee assignments of bills but is often the final voice on whether a bill is considered on the House Floor. His leadership and counsel are invaluable to this Association.

House Judiciary Chairman, Chris Kannady
Representative Kannady, is the son of a former Oklahoma Deputy, and currently serves his country as a JAG Officer in the United States Marine Corp. As Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Representative Kannady considers more bills than any other policy committee in the House. In this role, he has been a powerful ally to law enforcement. And his extensive legal experience has been invaluable in the debate surrounding Criminal Justice Reform.

House Chairman of Public Safety, Justin Humphrey
As a retired Parole Officer and Reserve Deputy, Justin Humphrey brings a wealth of experience to the Public Safety Committee and as Chairman. A great deal of legislation that is important to Sheriffs across the state goes through his committee. As Chairman, he has been a crucial choke point for bad legislation as well as a springboard for pro law enforcement legislation and one of the biggest cheerleaders for law enforcement at the Capitol.

The next two honorees probably have the most difficult job in the entire Capitol. As the Chairmen of Appropriations for the House and Senate, they are responsible for the entire state budget. Many bills that enact meaningful change in any area cost money. And when they do, they are tagged with a fiscal impact. That is the estimate of the impact that bill will have to the final budget. It is the job of these two men to decide whether the good achieved by the bill outweighs the cost. It is a very difficult decision that they must make on hundreds of bills every session. Naturally many bills that are important to Sheriffs, sometimes cost money. Sometimes a lot of money. The Oklahoma Sheriff’s Association achieved unprecedented success in the most recent legislative session, and we could not have done that without the support of these two legislators:

Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Representative Kevin Wallace and Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Roger Thompson
The current Speaker of the House has shown unprecedented support and loyalty to the Sheriffs across this state. His friendship to the Sheriffs runs deep and often when meeting about legislation he'll ask, "What do my Sheriffs think about this?" Anytime this Association has reached out to his office, he's always answered the call. Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, Charles McCall.

The current Senate Pro Temp has always had the best interest of the Sheriffs when looking for bills that may have unintended consequences. As the leader of the Senate

In mid-March, almost halfway through legislative session and many months past the deadline for introducing new legislation, it was discovered that there was a statutory discrepancy regarding non-lethal weaponry within the Department of Health’s Jail Standards. Despite being authorized by the Department of Health for more than two decades, there was a statute restricting such weapons only to counties above 400,000 in population. District Attorneys across the state began ordering tasers and other such tools out of the jail until the discrepancy was fixed. This catapulted jails into untenable situations and required quick action by the legislature. These legislators answered the call. It was decided that the best vehicle was HB2282. Under normal circumstances, it takes around three to four months for a bill to work through the legislative process. That amount of time would have put lives in danger. It was simply unacceptable.

With hard work from these legislators and cooperation from House and Senate leadership, HB2282 authored by Senator Paul Rosino, Representative John Pfeiffer and Representative Brian Hill, from concept, to the day that the Governor signed and enacted it, only a little more than three weeks passed.

The next bill, HB1374 authored by Representative Zack Taylor and Senator Paul Rosino was envisioned during the OSA Board Retreat in October. A statute passed long ago forced Sheriff’s to transport inmates to the Department of Corrections after judgement and sentence is not only expensive and burdensome to Sheriff’s Offices across the state, it violated the Oklahoma Constitution. HB1374 addresses these concerns and provides reimbursement to the Sheriffs to recover the costs of transport.

And finally. A bill we’ve been working on for several years. SB244 by Senator Micheal Bergstrom and Representative Zack Taylor, repeals the unconstitutional five-day rule imposed by the Department of Corrections upon post judgement and sentence inmates.

These people work tirelessly every day of session and deserve more than the awards we bestow upon them they deserve our thanks not only during session but when they are back home in their districts. When you get the chance to see them outside of the capitol make sure you show them your appreciation.
The Oklahoma Sheriffs’ Association hosted our Annual Awards Banquet at the Reed Conference Center in Midwest City on August 9th 2019. The event honored over 100 individuals from the Sheriffs’ Offices statewide. Awards such as the OSA Scholarship Awards, Meritorious Service Awards, Medals of Valor, Life Saving Awards, are all given at the Awards Banquet. Additionally, the traditional Of-the-Year awards are also given that evening. This year, Sheriff Chris West Canadian County was the recipient of the 2019 Sheriff of the Year award. The OSA also inducted Sheriff R.B. Hauf Payne County into the Sheriffs’ Hall of Fame. The Banquet had nearly 450 individuals in attendance, consisting of many Sheriffs and their families from across the state. The honorable Mike Hunter Oklahoma Attorney General graciously acted as our key note speaker. The Oklahoma Sheriffs’ Association would like to thank all who attended and showed their support for the OSA. It is our pleasure to honor those individuals yearly who go above and beyond the call of duty for the Sheriff’s Office.
The Table, with its place setting, is a way of symbolizing the fact that members of our profession are missing from this event.

The table is set for one, though the number is many.

The Chair is empty. They can no longer join us.

The Tablecloth is white - symbolizing the purity of their intentions to serve their communities.

The Candle is lit - symbolizing their spirit to serve.

The Glass is inverted - they cannot drink nor toast with us this day.

A slice of Lemon is on the bread plate to remind us of their bitter fate.

The single Red Rose displayed in the vase is to remind us of their families and loved ones.

The Salt upon the plate is symbolic of their tears.

The Blue Ribbon tied so prominently on the vase reminds us of the "Thin Blue Line" which stands strong before those who would destroy law and order in our great nation.
2019 Annual Award Winners

Scholarship Award Winners

In 2019, the Oklahoma Sheriffs’ Association offered scholarships to deserving applicants. Sheriffs’ offices statewide received the notice of their availability and a large number of applications were received. Funds were available to award twelve (9) $750.00 scholarships for the 2017/2018 school year thanks to the continued support of donors.

- Alexandra Thomas
- Alexis Booth
- Ashlyn Mitchell
- Cassidy Stowers
- Jamian Maxwell
- Kael Tucker
- Kailee Daney
- Violet Stephensen-Turner
- Zachary Sykes

Commendation Award Winners

Recognition Awards are presented to an employee for conduct or a specific act in the performance of their duties.

- Deputy Sabrina Tice.................................................................Oklahoma County Sheriff’s Office
- Deputy Joel Ramirez...............................................................Carter County Sheriff’s Office
- Captain David Duggan.........................................................Carter County Sheriff’s Office
- Deputy Jared Trotts...............................................................Carter County Sheriff’s Office
- Detective Michael Stevenson..............................................Cleveland County Sheriff’s Office
- Deputy Aaron McCormick.....................................................Pottawatomie County Sheriff’s Office
- Deputy Kaleb Phillips............................................................Wagoner County Sheriff’s Office
- Major Tracy Shaw.................................................................Delaware County Sheriff’s Office
- Loran Greenlee
- Brown & Son’s Wrecker

Meritorious Service Award Winners

Meritorious Service Awards are presented to those who have distinguished themselves by outstanding meritorious achievement or service to the Sheriff’s Office.

- Deputy Kaylynne Gauger.......................................................Logan County Sheriff’s Office
- Undersheriff Sean Grigsba......................................................Kay County Sheriff’s Office
- Captain Jeff Fox........................................................................Cleveland County Sheriff’s Office
- Cathy Suttle............................................................................Cleveland County Sheriff’s Office
- Deputy Kevin Smetter..............................................................Cleveland County Sheriff’s Office
- Lieutenant David Mobley & The Judicial Svs. Division..............Cleveland County Sheriff’s Office
- Malissa Hubbard....................................................................Pottawatomie County Sheriff’s Office
- Lieutenant Ron Walker.............................................................Rogers County Sheriff’s Office
Lifesaving Awards are presented to an employee for a specific act which resulted in the life of another being saved.

**Deputy Randy Taylor**
Sequoyah County Sheriff’s Office

On the night of April 22nd, 2019, Sequoyah County Sheriff’s Deputy Randy Taylor responded to a rollover accident. When he arrived, along with two Sallisaw PD officers, they found the overturned vehicle was on fire and there was a female and a small child trapped inside. Without regards to their own safety, Deputy Taylor and the Sallisaw officers immediately started trying to free the woman and child from the car. As the flames grew bigger, Deputy Taylor ran back to his unit and got a fire extinguisher. While the Sallisaw officers held the door open, Deputy Taylor fought the fire back with the extinguisher. After getting the fire suppressed enough, the officers began breaking out windows and cutting seatbelts to free the child’s car seat. As they fought to free the woman and child, the fire erupted again; putting the officers in extreme danger. Deputy Taylor again used the extinguisher to suppress the fire enough that the other officers could finally free the woman and child and remove them from the car. The car then became fully engulfed and burned completely up. People at the scene said that, If not for the heroic actions of Deputy Taylor and the Sallisaw officers, this woman and child would have definitely perished in the fire.

**Reserve Deputy Kaleb Phillips**
Wagoner County Sheriff’s Office

On March 8, 2019 Deputy Kaleb Phillips was heading North on Highway 377 traveling home from the C.L.E.E.T Academy in Ada. They were two hours from Wagoner when a gray SUV passed him in a no pass zone forcing a semi-truck off the road. 30 seconds later he saw a fire and went to help. The crash involved a Konawa School district bus. The bus was carrying members of the Konawa Middle School Softball team when a car hit it head on killing a 12-year-old girl. Deputy Phillips immediately took lifesaving action and began moving the children away from the bus and to Safety. Deputy Phillips risked his life as he boarded the bus that was engulfed in flames from to search for more children.

Phillips was the first, of many first responders on the scene. The Deputy said this changed the way he looks at his job knowing they can be called to action at any time or place. The deputy said earlier in the day at their training, their instructor asked them the question “why do you want to do this job?” When I saw that fire. All I could think of was why I want to do this job. It’s to help save people. Help people that are in distress.

On October 17th, Deputy Patrick Garner was at LKQ Salvage. Deputy Garner was off duty and was looking for a part in the salvage yard. Deputy Garner heard a woman yelling a mans name multiple times. Deputy Garner then observed the woman panicking and attempting to wake the man while he was slumped over a car. Deputy Garner immediately took action to help the semi-responsive male. Deputy Garner picked up the man and carried him over his shoulder through the salvage yard, through the lobby and into the front parking lot. Deputy Garner placed the man on the ground and then attempted to speak with him but realized that his medical condition was rapidly declining. The man began to turn blue and was completely unresponsive. Deputy Garner saw that the man was not breathing and checked his pulse which he could not find. Deputy Garner saw that the mans life was in danger and knew he needed to take further action. Deputy Garner called 911 and provided dispatch with his location. Deputy Garner passed his phone off to an LKQ employee to remain on the phone with EMSA while he performed CPR on the man. Deputy Garner continued CPR until Tulsa Fire Department arrived on scene and relieved Deputy Garner. The man became more responsive as he was being loaded into the ambulance. Deputy Garner’s quick action and willingness to serve a random citizen of Tulsa County saved the life of the man that day.
On the night of May 26th, 2019, Deputies Baysinger and Bouillon responded to a request for assistance from the El Reno Police Department after a tornado struck the Skyview Mobile Home Park, leaving behind a chaotic scene of destruction and multiple critically injured people. Deputies Baysinger and Bouillon, entered into this scene searching for the injured, knowing full well that it was not safe. There were downed power lines, gas leaks and structurally unsafe homes scattered throughout the area making it an extremely hazardous environment. Despite this hazardous environment, these Deputies continued searching for and assisting the injured wherever they found them.

Deputies Baysinger and Bouillon pulled several people from the rubble of their homes, and provided life-saving first aid, specifically Deputies Baysinger and Bouillon applied tourniquets to an individual who had suffered multiple amputations and then carried them to a triage site for evacuation to a local hospital. Deputies Baysinger and Bouillon then went back into the mobile home park to look for more injured. At times crawling through the debris and destroyed homes in search of more victims. Without a doubt both Deputies saved lives and demonstrated their ability to perform under pressure.

Deputy Corey Loftice
Grady County Sheriff’s Office
On April 10, 2019 Deputy Corey Loftice heard a call dispatched from Chickasha Police Department’s dispatch center of a stabbing. Deputy Loftice was close to the location and reported one male victim was reported as being “down”. Deputy Loftice arrived seconds after the call came out and while approaching, Deputy Loftice could hear a male on the second-floor landing moaning in the breezeway, calling for help and saying he was bleeding. Deputy Loftice was attempting to give medical aid to the victim when he began yelling “no, she’s killing her mother, she’s stabbing her and killing her right now!”. After asking where, the victim informed Deputy Loftice in the apartment the stabbing was actively taking place. When Deputy Loftice approached the apartment, he could hear yelling coming from within the apartment. After announcing, Deputy Loftice immediately forcibly entered the apartment even though it had been barricaded. Deputy Loftice observed Lauren Day on top of Gina Juarez and had her pinned down on the ground. The two women were in a struggle over a large knife. Deputy Loftice observed Day leap off of Juarez and began to crawl away from her. Deputy Loftice gave Day commands to get on her stomach and place her hands behind her back. Day did not comply with verbal commands and Deputy Loftice physically rolled Day over and placed handcuffs on her. It was obvious Day was attempting to continue stabbing Juarez if she would have been able to gain control of the knife and had Deputy Loftice not forcibly enter the residence to stop the assault.

Deputy Loftice observed a deep stab wound to Day’s upper right thigh and she was losing large amounts of blood. Deputy Loftice took his personal tourniquet and applied it to Day’s left leg as high above the wound as possible and as tight as possible in an attempt to stop the bleeding. Deputy Loftice continued treating Day until Chickasha EMS arrived.
On the night of October 3, 2018, Lieutenant Dominic and Deputy Anderson were dispatched to a single vehicle accident in rural Cleveland County, OK. Upon arriving they noticed a car fully engulfed in flames. The car had severed power poles and live power lines were down limiting safe access. The vehicle was only occupied by the driver. The driver had been removed from the car and was placed on the ground in close proximately to the vehicle fire. Due to driver's physical size and injuries, the person that removed him from the vehicle was having extreme difficulty extracting him from the danger zone.

Knowing the extreme dangers, which were potentially life threatening, Lieutenant Dominic and Deputy Anderson didn't hesitate to take action. They negotiated the down powerlines which were arcing to get to the injured man. Then again around the down power lines carrying the injured man from the danger zone. They provided a safe area for paramedics, assuring they were not placed in harm's way so that they could attend to injured man's medical needs.

The on-duty patrol supervisor said, "The power lines were arcing long after the accident, while waiting for the electric crews to arrive. I thank God that they deputies were being watched over and kept safe. I know, without a doubt, the victim could have died if not removed from the immediate area. There is no doubt their actions potentially saved his life." What they did epitomizes the basis of our agency’s mission statement, to Courageously Protect. Their actions saved a life and brings the utmost credit upon them, the Cleveland County Sheriffs Office, and law enforcement profession. They did not waver to do what had to be done, to ensure the best possible outcome.

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Without a doubt both Deputies saved lives and demonstrated their ability to perform under pressure.

Deputy Cody Blagg
Love County Sheriff’s Office

On October 25th, Deputy Cody Blagg was dispatched to Marietta Landing at Lake Murray in reference to a person contemplating suicide. Upon arrival to the area of Marietta Landing and the spillway, Deputy Blagg came in contact with a man who was on a ledge approximately 35 feet high.

Two Marietta Officers went to that location also both were also on the ledge with Pierce trying to talk him down. Deputy Blagg, noticed that Pierce was in a very dangerous position on the ledge. He was sitting on the edge of the ledge with his elbows on his knees and hands holding his head.

Seeing the position that Pierce was in and the ledge that he was on, Deputy Blagg knew he had to talk the Pierce down. If Deputy Blagg attempted to grab Pierce and pull him back, they both could fall the 35 feet to the bottom injuring or killing both of them. Deputy Blagg began talking to Pierce, but Pierce wouldn't look at Deputy Blagg. Deputy Blagg spoke with Pierce approximately 20 minutes before Pierce even acknowledged Blagg. Deputy Blagg had given one of the Marietta Officer a hand signal to stand behind him and be ready to catch Blagg for Deputy Blagg was still considering grabbing hold of Pierce and pulling him from the edge.

The Marietta Officer began talking to Pierce about his truck and how it was fixed up. That was an interest to Pierce and for about 15 minutes Glaze and Pierce talked about trucks. Deputy Blagg asked Pierce if they could get off the ledge because Deputy Blagg told him that he was afraid of heights. Pierce got up and began to walk down the cliff.

If not for the quick actions, thinking and communications of the Deputy Cody Blagg and the Marietta Police Officers, this incident could have ended with a very differently.
On May 6th, 2019, Deputy Colten Harris and Master Sergeant Ludvig Williams were dispatched to a call regarding a juvenile male threatening suicide. Dispatch provided responding deputies with vital information that the juvenile male indeed had a loaded rifle and was holding it to his neck. Deputy Harris was in the woods with the rifle. Both Deputies maintained a safe distance while using Deputy Harris’s patrol car for cover, trying to get the juvenile to give up peacefully. At one point, the juvenile male pointed the rifle in the direction of the Deputies, threatening their lives. Both Deputies believed the juvenile was attempting “suicide by cop”. I believe Deputy Colten Harris and Master Sergeant Ludvig Williams would have been well within their rights and justified to use deadly force against the juvenile. Both Deputies stated they wanted to give the juvenile a chance to surrender. As both Deputies decided to engage the juvenile, a family friend from the other direction tackled the juvenile to the ground. Both Deputies took that opportunity to advance quickly, securing the juvenile in handcuffs. The juvenile was placed in protective custody for mental health reasons. It was obvious the juvenile was in crisis and needed treatment. It's only in opinion of their supervisor that both Deputies accepted great risk, putting their own safety aside to give the juvenile a chance to surrender and rethink his actions while they were being threatened with a loaded rifle. I think it commendable to have that much self restraint to not use deadly force in a situation that would have justified it.

Deputy Colten Harris and Master Sergeant Ludvig Williams
Cleveland County Sheriff’s Office

On May 6th, 2019, Deputy Colten Harris and Master Sergeant. Ludvig Williams were dispatched to a call regarding a juvenile male threatening suicide. Dispatch provided responding deputies with vital information that the juvenile male indeed had a loaded rifle and was holding it to his neck. Deputy Colten Harris and Master Sergeant Ludvig Williams arrived in the area observing the juvenile male walking into the woods with the rifle. Both Deputies maintained a safe distance while using Deputy Harris’s patrol car for cover, trying to get the juvenile to give up peacefully. At one point, the juvenile male pointed the rifle in the direction of the Deputies, threatening their lives. Both Deputies believed the juvenile was attempting “suicide by cop”. I believe Deputy Colten Harris and Master Sergeant Ludvig Williams would have been well within their rights and justified to use deadly force against the juvenile. Both Deputies stated they wanted to give the juvenile a chance to surrender. As both Deputies decided to engage the juvenile, a family friend from the other direction tackled the juvenile to the ground. Both Deputies took that opportunity to advance quickly, securing the juvenile in handcuffs. The juvenile was placed in protective custody for mental health reasons. It was obvious the juvenile was in crisis and needed treatment. It's only in opinion of their supervisor that both Deputies accepted great risk, putting their own safety aside to give the juvenile a chance to surrender and rethink his actions while they were being threatened with a loaded rifle. I think it commendable to have that much self restraint to not use deadly force in a situation that would have justified it.
Medal of Valor Award Winners
The Medal of Valor Award is presented to a member for an action of great personal risk.

Detective Sgt. Mike Bouziden
Delaware County Sheriff’s Office

On August 21, 2018 Detective-Sergeant Mike Bouziden, was among the Deputies of the Delaware County Sheriff’s Office responding to a domestic disturbance with reported “shots fired”. The aggressor, Gary Miller fled prior to the arrival of law enforcement. While Detective Bouziden conducted an on-scene investigation, Gary Miller returned to the residence in a “sport utility” vehicle. As the vehicle approached, Deputies attempted contact. Miller responded by accelerating and steering in the direction of Deputies. Miller then shifted his vehicle into reverse and attempted to elude Deputies at high speeds.

Miller lost control of his vehicle, briefly coming to a stop. As Detective Bouziden stopped his own vehicle, Miller rammed him with the SUV. Miller ran from the scene with Detective Bouziden in foot pursuit. Miller led Detective Bouziden through a residential area, returning to the residence of the original call. Miller took two adult females and several children hostage inside the residence. Detective Bouziden, recognizing the shift of events, directed officers to tactical positions. He maintained a calm and professional demeanor though radio communications while coordinating a secure perimeter with multiple Law Enforcement Agencies. Det. Bouziden coordinated the release of one of the adult females and all of the children from the residence. He maintained command of the scene until relieved. Miller was later taken into custody and they learned Miller was involved in previous officer involved shootings.

Due to the actions of Detective Sergeant Mike Bouziden, Gary Miller was taken into custody without injury to citizen. Sheriff Moore wrote “Det. Bouziden maintained professionalism, courage, and determination “under fire”. His actions were in disregard to self, nothing short of heroic, and should be recognized as such”.

Deputy Nicholas Orr & Deputy Kaleb Phillips
Wagoner County Sheriff’s Office

Deputy Nicholas Orr stopped at a local gas station to fuel his patrol car when he heard someone squalling tires and driving erratically. The vehicle pulled in behind Deputy Orr who noticed the driver acted strangely. Deputy Orr had already phoned his partner Deputy Kaleb Phillips who was in-route to the location. Deputy Orr again heard squalling tires while in the store then observed erratic driving.

Deputy Phillips pursued the vehicle about three fourths of a mile from the gas station. Deputy Phillips turned on his emergency lights and the vehicle came to an abrupt stop in the center turn lane of a four-lane highway. Deputy Phillips observed the driver’s door fly open and noticed the driver was attempting to exit the vehicle. Deputy Phillips began to give commands to the driver to stay in his vehicle. Deputy Orr arrived and gave the location to other deputies who had started to the location of the traffic stop. The driver who remained non-compliant with deputies reached out longer and used their body weight to hold the suspect down until backup arrived.

The deputies who were in complete exhaustion removed their selves from the area and attempted to cool down and catch their breath. Within several minutes another deputy noticed the suspect was not breathing. EMS began work on the suspect who went into cardiac arrest. Shortly after their arrival at the hospital the suspect died from what we believe is cardiac arrest. Deputies Orr and Phillips acted bravely by attempting to take the suspect into custody and selflessly by putting their selves in harm's way without fear nor regret to safely take the suspect into custody.
Deputy Rick McGehee  
LeFlore County Sheriff’s Office  
On June 11th, 2019 the Dispatch Center received a call that the store clerk at the E-Z Mart store was being attacked by an unknown black male with a knife. Deputy McGehee responded to the call along with officers of the Poteau Police Department. Deputy McGehee heard a gunshot from inside the store. When he ran inside McGehee saw the Poteau officer leaning over the counter where he had already shot the suspect in the leg without effect. The suspect was on the floor with the clerk attempting to stab her in the neck with a knife while dragging her across the floor trying to get into the office. The store clerk was desperately trying to hold the suspect's arm to prevent being stabbed. Deputy McGehee ran behind the counter, immediately and fired one round into the suspect as he moved his head from behind the clerk into the clear, ending the threat and saving the life of the clerk who was tired and unable to keep fighting the suspect. Deputy McGehee reacted immediately and without hesitation to a deadly situation to end the threat and his actions, without question, saved an innocent life.

Sheriff Seale wrote his courage, clear thinking in the face of danger to himself and others, and determination to protect our citizens fellow law enforcement officers is the true definition of valor. Deputy McGehee's actions reflect what a law enforcement should be, and I am proud to recommend him for the medal of valor.

Deputy Korey Carruba  
Payne County Sheriff’s Office  
On November 17th, 2019 a 911 caller reported that their house had been shot up and the suspect was a James Clyde Jenkins. Jenkins had been incarcerated by the Oklahoma Department of Corrections for multiple violent felonies and weapons charges. He was recently paroled after nearly twenty years in prison. Deputy, Korey Carruba, was in the area and he noticed a maroon car at a high rate of speed approaching him. Deputy Carruba turned around and attempted to stop the vehicle. A high-speed pursuit ensued out of town and into a rural part of the County. Speeds reached over 100 mph during the pursuit. Upon the approaching an intersection the suspect's vehicle came to a stop in the intersection. As Deputy Carruba exited his vehicle the suspect also exited his vehicle with a scoped rifle. The suspect pointed the rifle at Deputy Carruba and then Deputy Carruba took cover to the rear and passenger side of his patrol car just as the suspect began shooting. The suspects rounds hit deputy Carruba's vehicle. As soon as the shooting from the suspect stopped, Deputy Carruba returned fired forcing the suspect to take cover and attempt to flee. During the exchange of gunfire, the suspect was hit an unknown amount of times. Deputy Carruba continued to engage the subject as he attempted to flee striking the vehicle and suspect. The final round fired from over 100 yards by Deputy Carruba entered the trunk of the car, passed through the rear seat and drivers seat hitting the suspect in the back paralyzing him and stopping the suspect from fleeing. Additional units arrived on the scene and the suspect was taken into custody. James Jenkins now resides in the Department of Corrections.
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Dispatcher of the Year

The Dispatcher of the Year award is presented to a member of the communications staff for performance above and beyond the call of duty.

Dispatcher Meghan Patton
Sequoyah County Sheriff’s Office

Meghan Patton is currently the dispatch supervisor for Sequoyah County 911 and has worked as a dispatcher for Sequoyah County for 10 years. Meghan has always had an outstanding work ethic and always goes above and beyond to keep dispatch running smoothly. Meghan often covers her regular shift as well as covering extra shifts so other employees can take vacation or sick leave. The deputies and other officers are always relieved when they hear Meghan on the radio, they know everything is going to run smoothly, even in the most hectic situations, she remains calm and therefore the officers remain calm. Meghan recently orchestrated a huge transition by combining the Sheriff’s dispatch and the 911 center into one central dispatch center. This merge has made communication, safety and emergency calls run much more smoothly and efficiently. Sheriff Larry Lane said “I don’t think the merge of 911 and our Sheriff’s dispatch could have been possible without Meghan, she is one of our most solid and reliable employees, she has the respect and admiration of all of our deputies and employees”.

Detention Officer of the Year

The Detention Officer of the Year award is presented to a member of the jail staff for performance above and beyond the call of duty.

Detention Officer Brandon Eikleberry
Oklahoma County Sheriff’s Office

Detention Officer Eikleberry is currently attending OSU-OKC and pursuing a degree in Police Science and Criminal Justice. He currently holds the rank of Sergeant E-5 in the United States Marine Corp Reserves, where he has completed multiple leadership courses to include Lance Corporals Course, Corporals Course and Sergeants Course. He is currently assigned to the Disciplinary Unit. Detention Officer Eikleberry, through his Disciplinary Investigations, gathered intelligence that led to the discovery of multiple cell phones, tobacco, marijuana and a large amount of methamphetamine resulting in the criminal prosecution of numerous inmates. The discovery of these items helped to prevent medical issues with inmates and helped to keep staff and the facility safe. He assists in Disciplinary and Grievance Investigations, provides facility tours, has been instrumental in streamlining the Disciplinary and Grievance process, works tirelessly without complaint and is role model for other Detention Officers in the Oklahoma County Detention Center. He contributes significantly to the goals of American Correctional Association Accreditation by providing outcome measures to the accreditation department. He is a problem solver which is demonstrated daily, dependable, eager to learn and work, and strives for excellence in everything that he does. He contributes to the overall mission of the Sheriff and promotes the facilities Character First Program.
Reserve Deputy of the Year
The Reserve Deputy of the Year award is presented to a Reserve Deputy for outstanding contribution to the Sheriff, county, state or nation.

Reserve Deputy Shaun Copelin
Pottawatomie County Sheriff’s Office

Deputy Copelin has been with the Sheriff’s Office for approximately 4 years. Last year he accepted the challenge of being our Environmental Crimes Investigator. He applied for and secured a grant from Dept. of Environmental Quality and went about building an outstanding program. Deputy Copelin immediately orchestrated the clean up of five legacy dumpsites throughout the county. Some of these sites have been used for decades. Deputy Copelin seized the initiative and formed a FaceBook page called Keep Pottawatomie County Clean. Using social media he got the vision of the program out to the public. This captured the imagination of the public and the page and program took off. Currently having almost 700 active followers who post questions about environmental statutes and report illegal dumpsites and dumping. He also has established a tip line for citizens to call or text with reports or questions. Seeing that the task was immense and required an out of the box solution he recruited seven local businesses to sign up as Community Partners. Those partners donate time, materials, and equipment to assist in the clean up of our County. Seeing a need he organized a county wide clean up over six weekends and spread out across the county. Providing the citizens of Pottawatomie County a place to bring their trash, scrap metal and tires. The response was incredible with 145,160 pounds of refuse being brought to the pick up points. The statistics for this last year are staggering; 351 tons of refuse, 3,772 tires removed, 5 legacy dumps cleaned up and deterrence fencing erected, 49 dumpsites identified and logging 1,680 hours.

Deputy Copelin assisted in rewriting environmental statute legislation that will be signed into law in August. He also co-founded the Oklahoma Environmental Crimes Investigator Association and was elected their first Vice President. Deputy Copelin personifies the ethos of protect and serve.

Jail Administrator of the Year
The Jail Administrator of the Year award is presented to a Jail Administrator for performance above and beyond the call of duty.

Undersheriff Donnie Edwards
LeFlore County Sheriff’s Office

Undersheriff Donnie Edwards serves many functions in the office. He is not only an excellent Undersheriff, but also serves as Training Officer and more importantly as Jail Administrator. Undersheriff Edwards is always the very first to arrive at the office each day, but is constantly on field patrol almost every evening to assist field deputies with calls and provide advice on how to handle difficult situations. He makes sure that all deputies are completing required CLEET training each year. He has been responsible for the recovery of large amounts of stolen property that has been returned to our citizens. Working as the Jail Administrator, Edwards has put into place new policies and procedures, streamlined the booking process, and reduced waste in the jail, keeping our facility operating in the black month after month. He has switched booking and commissary systems saving the county thousands of dollars each year.

Sheriff Seale said “I rely heavily upon Undersheriff Edwards to take care of much of the day to day business at the office”. “I can always trust that every task will be taken care of and he only has the best interest of the Department in mind each and every day”. “He is a man that will always be there when I, or any other member of the Department need him”. “I am proud and grateful to have him serve as my Undersheriff".
**Deputy of the Year**

The Deputy of the Year award is presented to an Undersheriff or Deputy Sheriff for outstanding contribution to the Sheriff, county, state, or nation.

**Lieutenant Travis Sullivan**

Pottawatomie County Sheriff’s Office

Lieutenant Sullivan has been a valued member of the Pottawatomie County Sheriff’s Office for nine years. During that time, he has been a stalwart pillar of professionalism, integrity, and service. Travis believes that his primary job is to take care of his deputies and the citizens of our county. There are innumerable examples of how he does this. He has forgone several training opportunities so that his deputies could attend, focusing on the continued growth and education of deputies under his command. Lieutenant Sullivan has turned down promotions to ensure that his deputies are taken care of and providing them mentorship and guidance. He is more concerned with the development of his deputies and the service to the citizens of our county than his own advancement.

Lieutenant Sullivan is above all else a "lead from the front" supervisor. His experience as an Army Sergeant taught him that leaders don't ask from others what they aren't able to or can't do themselves. For example, he recently negotiated a barricaded suspect from his residence without incident displaying his ability to communicate effectively during crisis situations. He also single-handedly apprehended a suspect following a 100+ mph pursuit in a crowded business without any injuries to civilians. When asked what was going through his head at the time, he replied "I just wanted to make sure everyone was safe, that is my job." These are just a few examples of his leadership qualities and his dedication to serving the citizens of the county.

The dedication to his deputies takes many forms; from working weekends so that his subordinates can have time off, to leading the man tracking team, to volunteering to be Field Training Officer for incoming deputies. No task is below him and he is the first to volunteer to help out his team.

He has balanced his busy personal life with his professional life. As a foster father to 37 children, adopting 4 of those, to supporting his wife with a long-term progressive illness his dedication to duty has not wavered once. He comes in early, stays late to ensure his deputies reports are reviewed in a timely manner.

We are all very lucky to have Lt Sullivan not only as a part of the Pottawatomie County Sheriff’s Office, but a part of the Law Enforcement family that he is so proud of and dedicated to.
Of the 767 inmate visits at Cass County Jail in March 2019, 96% were conducted remotely with video visitation. That’s 737 civilians who didn’t walk through the lobby doors.

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Sheriff’s Cross Awards
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Undersheriff Monty Johnson
Pawnee County Sheriff’s Office
E.O.W 2.21.2019
Undersheriff Johnson started as a deputy in 2004 and moved up through the ranks promoted to Undersheriff in 2011. Monty had a wealth of knowledge and was the person people went to for answers. He had a calming effect in any situation. Monty was a mentor to many, even the people he would have to chase down and take to jail. He was known for one that led with his voice and not with force.
Sheriff Waters stated that Monty was one of the only employees he knew that could take someone to jail and by the time they got to the jail they would be thanking Monty over and over for what he had done.
Monty was a well-known history buff and collected Indian artifacts, providing numerous pieces to the Gilcrease and Philbrook Museums. Monty was also a 32nd Degree Mason and a member of the Jennings Hebron Lodge 151.
He loved his family dearly and cherished each and every one of his grandkids. Monty is described as a Godly man who touched everyone.

Monty Thomas Johnson passed from this life on February 21, 2019, at the age of 63, following a motor vehicle accident on Highway 18 South of Pawnee, Oklahoma. Undersheriff Johnson went on duty in his county patrol car for an authorized special assignment on February 21, 2019. Undersheriff Johnson was in route to the Pawnee County Sheriff’s Office to pick up a Pawnee county employee who was also attending the assignment. Undersheriff Johnson was traveling north bound on State Highway 18 in his marked patrol unit when his patrol unit was struck by a pickup traveling south bound on State highway 18. The pickup departed the roadway on the right, overcorrected then crossed the centerline entering Undersheriff Johnson’s path striking Undersheriff Johnson’s patrol unit which then caught fire after impact. Both vehicles came to rest on the east side of State Highway 18. Undersheriff Johnson died on impact.

Monty you are one of a kind and will be truly missed but never forgotten.
Sheriff R.B. Hauf
Payne County Sheriff’s Office
Presented to a Sheriff who has been lawfully appointed or elected for a minimum of 10 cumulative years; has provided a high level of service to the Office of Sheriff in Oklahoma through activities of the Oklahoma Sheriffs’ Association; has implemented proactive programs and crime prevention initiatives; has demonstrated leadership to employees, the citizens of the County, and the State of Oklahoma; and has demonstrated and maintained the highest degree of character in their law enforcement career.

This public servant has been with the Sheriff’s Office for thirty years and some say he grew up in the Sheriffs office. He began as a dispatcher and jailer before being promoted to deputy. He served in that capacity for 15 years, before being promoted to Investigator. He continued to rise through the ranks of the Sheriff’s Office until he was elected Sheriff overwhelmingly defeating the incumbent sheriff. He has been unopposed in the last two elections, indicating overwhelming community trust and support for the work he is doing.

After he took office, he made many changes to streamline and modernize the department. He instituted a chain of command to include captains, lieutenants and sergeants. He issued standard department pistols and provided patrol rifles and back-up pistols for the entire department, as well as rifle rated body armor. He added on-board computers in all patrol cars, making the deputies jobs much more efficient. He added the Sheriffs office to the federal surplus which allowed the department to access armored vehicles and other surplus equipment, which was a huge cost savings to the department.

Since taking office, the working relationship among area law enforcement agencies has grown into a unified front. There is excellent cooperation and camaraderie among agency leaders, and they all have a great deal of respect for one another and their respective agencies. The district attorney’s office has also enjoyed the positive working relationship they have with the Sheriff’s Office.

His influence in law enforcement has not been limited to the County. He has been an integral player in influencing lawmakers to support the Sheriffs of Oklahoma and their communities. His Undersheriff recalls a recent visit to the Oklahoma State Capitol: “While at the capitol, I noticed as we visited various legislator’s office that everyone called the Sheriff by his name. He always answered them by name as well and asked about their families. As the visit moved into the reason we were there, he always received the undivided attention of the legislators. He was articulate and precise about what Oklahoma Sheriff’s needed and why it was necessary. I was amazed with the influence he commanded as we walked around the capitol.”

He has been a leader for Oklahoma Sheriffs across the state, serving two terms as President of the Oklahoma Sheriffs’ Association. During OSA meetings, he has the same effect on Sheriff’s throughout Oklahoma. He is highly respected by his peers for his constant work to advance the office of the Sheriff. He leads and serves on several committees with a true servant’s heart.

He is a quiet, humble servant. He is a regular, ordinary guy who does extraordinary things. He is passionate about people, justice and fairness. He’s a mentor, a role model and just an easy-going guy that is fun to be around. He makes all his employees feel comfortable and supported, and he treats them like family. He truly cares about those around him. That’s what makes him a wonderful, natural born leader. He has served his community well for over 30 years but will retire as Sheriff on September 1st. His influence will be long reaching into the future of the County Sheriff’s Office and the entire state of Oklahoma.
The 2019 Sheriff of the year was given to Sheriff Chris West. This Sheriff is a sought-after speaker with community leaders and local organizations within the county. He is frequently requested to be a member of various boards and civic groups whose leaders develop community policies for its citizens. His election to Sheriff and broad involvement in community activities has raised the status of law enforcement and the office of Sheriff among the county’s citizens. He is a role model for citizens and law enforcement officers. He’s a true Ambassador for Oklahoma Sheriffs.

Recently there was a statewide initiative petition to bring to a vote of the people a measure to make marijuana use legal for medicinal purposes. It was the opinion of many in the law enforcement and medical community that the measure, if approved as written, would result in marijuana being readily available for recreational use. In his law enforcement experience, he knew the devastating effects that marijuana has on people’s lives. Before the vote, he vigorously campaigned against its passage and spent many hours and miles traveling to educate voters on the consequences of the proposed law change. In the end, the measure was passed by the citizens. He immediately accepted the vote as the will of the people. His office’s enforcement policies concerning marijuana usage today reflect the letter and the spirit of the measure that was passed by the voters.

This Sheriff’s District Judge wrote: I have known this Sheriff for over twenty years. During that time, I have worked closely with my Sheriff in my official capacity as a district court judge and as the first-assistant district attorney. He is an accomplished, career law enforcement professional that deserves special recognition by his peers and the Oklahoma Sheriffs’ Association for his contributions and leadership to law enforcement. He is well known as an aggressive, proactive crime fighter and strong advocate for the protection of the rights of our citizens. He’s also very well respected in the law enforcement community in our county and across our state.

The reputation and respect that this Sheriff has earned over thirty years in law enforcement has resulted in him being appointed to serve on several boards. He is also a highly effective public communicator- a talent of his that was frequently utilized in his former position to address the public and media about matters of public concern. I cannot imagine that there is a more deserving candidate for the Sheriff of the Year award.

He was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the National Sheriffs Association in June of 2019, representing over 3,000 Sheriffs across the nation. He formerly served as the Oklahoma Sheriffs Association’s representative to the Western States Sheriffs Association. He was appointed to Oklahoma’s Council for Law Enforcement Education & Training by the Oklahoma Sheriffs Association after taking office in 2017, representing sheriffs with county populations above twenty-five thousand. West also serves as Board Member to the Oklahoma Board of Tests for Alcohol & Drug Influence, representing the Oklahoma Sheriffs & Peace Officers Association; and he also serves as a member of the Oklahoma District Attorney’s Council’s Forensic Sciences Improvement Task Force.
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