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Media Release

Nevada Department of Public Safety Announces Employee Award Recipients

Nevada Department of Public Safety Director, Chris Perry is honored to announce this year's employee award recipients. The selection process was extremely difficult as many outstanding employees were nominated. However, the awards committee was tasked with selecting one employee for each category. Please join me in congratulating Karina, Alex, Kevin, and Mark for their outstanding contribution to public safety.

Civilian Employee of the Year

Karina Marich, Admin. Assistant I, Parole and Probation – Ely

This award recognizes a civilian employee distinguished for outstanding achievement and performance. Due to severe staff shortages, Karina willingly took added responsibilities well above her job requirements. In addition to her regular work, she completed all the set-ups, ran all criminal histories, did all OTIS entries, proof read all PSI reports, and took urine samples, and conducted pat searches of female offenders when necessary. Karina's outstanding commitment and performance has allowed the Ely office to continue to maintain high standards. Karina's excellent work ethic and willingness to get the job done is highly valued and appreciated.

Sworn Employee of the Year

Trooper Alex Perez, Highway Patrol – Elko

This award recognizes a sworn employee distinguished for outstanding achievement and performance. Trooper Perez's superior professionalism, high standards, and contagious positive demeanor have made a long-lasting impact on fellow employees and the public. Trooper Perez's initiative is demonstrated through his willingness to take informal leadership roles and to serve as a role model to his team and members of allied agencies. His interpersonal skills, professionalism, creative and consistent approach to traffic enforcement, and high ethical behavior are an excellent reflection on the department.

Supervisor of the Year

Sargent Kevin Honea, Highway Patrol – Las Vegas

This new award recognizes the outstanding achievement and performance of one supervisor, civilian or sworn. In 2011, Sgt. Honea effectively balanced his two full-time jobs as a traffic sergeant and the public information sergeant while serving as the Joining Forces Coordinator for Southern command. Under his coordination, the Joining Forces Program nearly doubled the grant allocation to the Las Vegas Valley. He volunteers countless hours to organizations such as Stop DUI, Drivers Edge, Special Olympics, and the Speedway Children's charities. Sgt. Honea is an excellent example of great supervision and leadership.

Innovation Award

Captain Mark Smith, Parole and Probation - Carson City

New this year, this award recognizes an individual who has creatively or effectively promoted the use of future thinking and/or methodology that advances the department's ability to meet its mission efficiently. Capt. Smith is credited with the increased automation of OTIS. After extensive state-wide research and collaboration, the innovation consists of using already-existing information entered into OTIS to auto-populate certain fields on forms used daily. The auto-populate figure has increased efficiencies. For example, a process that once took 20 to 45 minutes can now be accomplished in 5 to 10 minutes. The increased automation has been implemented in various processes and has saved substantial time and decreased errors.

Please join me in congratulating Karina, Alex, Kevin, and Mark for their outstanding achievements.

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