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Nevada Department of Public Safety Employee Awards Announcement

The Director's Office is pleased to announce the recipients of this year's employee awards. The selection process was difficult as there were many outstanding employee nominations. Please join us in congratulating the following employees for their outstanding contribution to the Department.

Civilian Employee of the Year – Stephanie Wedin, AA III, P&P – Reno

This award recognizes a civilian employee distinguished for outstanding achievement and performance.

Stephanie has demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities by "going the extra mile." She has been referred to as a "Jill of all trades" and has earned the reputation of providing tremendous support to everyone. Among her many accomplishments is her role in the division's implementation of Brianna's Law, SB243. The bill mandates DNA samples to be taken on individuals arrested for a felony. Stephanie has served as the division's DNA Liaison and has played an integral part in informing and training staff on their role as it applies to this law. Stephanie takes on many additional duties including the Morale Committee, the Training Coordinator Assistant and ATAC.

Sworn Employee of the Year – Dennis Ely, DPS Officer, SFM – Carson City

This award recognizes a sworn employee distinguished for outstanding achievement and performance.

Officer Ely has performed a number of high-profile fire investigations throughout the state, including six fatal fire investigations claiming seven lives. Officer Ely conducted a fire fatality investigation in one of the most remote and challenging locations in the state, approximately 30 miles outside of Jiggs, during extreme inclement weather conditions. Without cell phone or radio contact, he was able to investigate and document the scene safely while simultaneously training a new fire investigator.

While investigating a structure fire in Fernley, Officer Ely located two homicide victims inside the structure. He was instrumental in determining the cause of that fire as an attempt to cover up multiple homicide victims. Officer Ely is an outstanding investigator whose knowledge of fire and criminal investigations is second to none.

Supervisor of the Year – Ryan Miller, Lieutenant (now Captain), ID – Carson City

This award recognized the outstanding achievement and performance of one supervisor, civilian or sworn.

Ryan has demonstrated exemplary leadership during his time at NTAC. During this past year, his ongoing efforts have continued to elevate the quality of the product NTAC produces. He has worked tirelessly to ensure that the various user entities to NTAC are properly classified and staffed. He is engaged in an ongoing campaign to educate the various user entities within the Department of Public Safety as well as throughout the state concerning NTAC capabilities and responsibilities, and proactively strives to ensure the timely gathering, analysis and dissemination of information to users through the state. Ryan is a professional and adept spokesperson on behalf of the Department and the state in the very competitive intelligence sharing environment that has developed in Nevada.

Innovation Award –Dan Solow, Lieutenant, NHP – Las Vegas

This award recognized 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.

Lt. Solow has initiated and introduced numerous innovative ideas and streamlined several processes in the Administrative Section of the Highway Patrol. Historically, members of the public could only pay for records (arrest/accident/citations) with cash. Lt. Solow offered a different payment solution to the public, a credit card machine. The machine was installed which now provides customers with an additional payment option for records.

Dan began a pilot program with the division's RMS system to eliminate having the troopers complete data entry into Spillman by having the arrest desk staff complete the entry. He also streamlined the division's current mandatory online training system to an improved version, revamped the PSTO program and overhauled the contract services processes making them more effective.

Lt. Solow worked closely with the Las Vegas City Attorney's office to get court scheduling for graveyard troopers to be more accommodating to the staff. He also finalized a project with Las Vegas Municipal Court regarding the collection of witness fees. Dan continues to look for ways to redeploy his resources and provide better efficiency.

Innovation Award –Robert Geraldo, Lieutenant, P&P – Carson City

This award recognized 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.

In early 2013, Robert came up with a cost savings idea which has saved the State of Nevada over one million dollars to date. His idea was to share information with the Division of Welfare and Social Services regarding supervised offenders returned from community supervision to NDOC. While in the community, offenders may apply for welfare assistance. However, once they become inmates, the benefits are no longer allowed. Robert made contact with DWSS and each month provided a status update of offenders who had their parole or probation revoked. As a result, from March 2013 through December 1, 2013, Robert's idea has saved the state \$1,039,110.

Congratulation to all of you for your outstanding achievements!!!

Employee Award Ceremony to be announced

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