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Media Release

The Nevada Department of Public Safety Academy 78 Shows Strength in Unity at Graduation Ceremony

CARSON CITY, Nev. - The Nevada Department of Public Safety (DPS) commissioned the state's newest Peace Officers on Thursday, October 26, at the Carson Nugget. Two seats on stage were empty to represent cadets facing health challenges who could not attend the graduation, but were recognized by their classmates. Academy 78 chose their class motto "In this family, no one fights alone" to represent the unity of their team.

Cadet Nicholas Walker developed pneumonia during the last week of training and had to be hospitalized. During a surprise visit organized by the Training Division and class members Wednesday afternoon, DPS Director James Wright and Acting Deputy Director Patrick Conmay administered the oath of office and swore in Walker. Officer Walker will continue on to Advanced Academy next week with the Nevada Highway Patrol. Walker received his badge, as well as the Academy Academic Achievement award, with his family and fellow cadets present at the hospital.

Also recognized at the ceremony was Cadet Frankie Candelaria. Three weeks from graduation, Candelaria became extremely ill and was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. His classmates rallied by his side, creating a [Go Fund me account](#) to help with expenses. A chair wrapped with green ribbon, the color that symbolizes liver cancer, was placed on stage during the graduation ceremony in recognition and support of the cadet. Candelaria is presently undergoing chemotherapy. The Go Fund me account web link is www.gofundme.com/frankie039s-fund.

"This Academy had many challenges during their 16 week training" said DPS Director James Wright. "Their unity exemplifies the meaning of being a part of the DPS family and just how strong the bond of the DPS family is."

Of the 26 Officers who graduated, seventeen will join the Nevada Highway Patrol (NHP), and nine will join the Parole and Probation division.

DPS Officers perform a variety of law enforcement and public safety functions. For information about DPS recruitment opportunities, visit www.dps.nv.gov.

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