



The Illinois Sheriff

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With Special Thanks to the Members of the Illinois Sheriffs' Association



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Winnebago County Deputy McWhirter Named Deputy of the Year

In an off-duty encounter where shots were fired, heroic action by Deputy McWhirter saved lives and thwarted an armed robbery. Illinois Deputies, like McWhirter, provide an invaluable service to citizens in Winnebago County – and throughout Illinois.

McWhirter received the award during a special ceremony while attending the Illinois Sheriffs' Association's Winter Training Conference in February.

On the night of August 21, 2018, WCSO Deputy McWhirter was off duty when she and a friend visited a Rockford restaurant. McWhirter and her friend left the restaurant and walked to McWhirter's car, which was parked close by. McWhirter got into the driver's seat of her car while her friend remained outside the driver's door.

As the two friends talked, McWhirter observed an unidentified male walked around the corner of the parking lot. The male walked around the corner of the building with his sweatshirt hood over his head and covering his face. McWhirter found this suspicious as it was late in the evening and the business was closed.

McWhirter watched the man walk to within a few feet of her and her friend. He then reached inside his sweatshirt's pocket. Believing him to be reaching for a weapon, McWhirter retrieved her own handgun from her purse located on the front seat of her car.

When the male in the hooded sweatshirt reached her vehicle, he pointed the muzzle of a handgun at her and her friend. McWhirter responded by pointing her handgun at him, ordering him to back away.

The suspect then began shooting at McWhirter. McWhirter returned fire and ducked down behind her dashboard to avoid gunfire. McWhirter's friend was able to run behind her car for cover. After an exchange of more than 8 rounds of gunfire, the suspect escaped into a nearby wooded area.

McWhirter called the Communications Center to report the incident. When Rockford Police Officers responded to the scene, they met with McWhirter and treated her for several small cuts to her hand.

Had Deputy McWhirter not responded quickly, professionally and fearlessly, lives could have been lost. Winnebago County Sheriff's Office was proud to name Deputy McWhirter Deputy of the Year for the year 2019.



Deputy of the Year - Sarah McWhirter with Sheriff Caruana of Winnebago County.



A Note from ISA's 2020 Incoming President

Sheriff Mike Everett

I am thrilled to assume the responsibilities of the Presidency of the Illinois Sheriffs' Association.

As President of this fine organization, I am most eager to further the ongoing efforts by our Association in continuing to bring all branches of law enforcement in Illinois together, to try to combat the growing anti-law enforcement legislation in our state.

By way of introduction, please let me tell you about my background.

I began my law enforcement career in January of 1999 and worked for the Fairfield Police Department for 12 years. In those years, I was a patrolman and worked for 5-1/2 years as a K-9 handler. I was elected Sheriff in Wayne County on December 1, 2010.

In the 9 years that I have served as Sheriff, I have been active with the Illinois Sheriffs' Association and was appointed to the Executive Board in March of 2013.

I'm energized by the opportunity this office provides me. Working together I'm confident we can make changes that will bring much needed support to all men and women in our communities. They put their lives on the line every day. The Illinois Sherriffs' Association will have their backs.

Sheriff Mike Everett
Wayne County
2020 ISA President



From the Desk of the Executive Director

Jim Kaitschuk

Happy New Year to all of you! I certainly hope 2019 was one of the best for you and that 2020 will be even better. I am just completing my second year working for all of you and despite the challenges law enforcement faces, I truly couldn't ask to be in a better position than to have the opportunity to work for and with all of the 102 Sheriffs of Illinois.

Over the past 2 years I have now visited all Sheriffs and their offices and have had the opportunity to learn a great deal from all of them. The windshield time traveling to every county educated me on the diversity and size of our state. Sheriffs have tremendous constitutional responsibilities and appropriately so. With that said, while all have the same statutory responsibilities, none of them have the same population, budget, staffing and so forth.

The effect of these differences is that although their core responsibilities are identical, the programs they provide and the ways in which they meet those responsibilities may be very different. I am not sure that I have ever witnessed a more obvious example of how one size certainly doesn't fit all. The one thing that is identical for all of them is their unwavering commitment to the communities and constituents that they serve.

We are all extremely appreciative for the support that you have provided to this organization and all of law enforcement. Without you we would not be nearly as successful as we have been. There is no doubt that there is a great deal of work for us to do. Legislative efforts across the country and certainly here in Illinois have been and continue to target the erosion of what we have sworn an oath to protect.

Please know that we are committed to doing everything we can to protect you, victims of crimes and all the law-abiding families across Illinois from blatant attempts to take your rights and liberties away. We want to help all people find the support and help they need to be productive citizens, but we will not support efforts that do so to the detriment of others.

Officer Emling of Perry County Honored as Correctional Officer of the Year

The Perry County Sheriff's Office has named Correctional Officer Richard Emling of Pinckneyville 2019 Correctional Officer of the Year. He was recommended for the award by Sheriff Steve Bareis and Major Doug Clark, Jail Administrator.

Emling's brave actions occurred on August 19, 2019. At roughly 1845 hours, the J block of the Perry County Jail buzzed the control room. They reported their neighbor said he was bleeding and having some problems.

Corrections Officer Richard Emling responded to the cell, observing an inmate lying face down in a large pool of blood between the toilet and his bunk. Emling immediately had the cell opened to reveal the inmate unresponsive, not breathing, and without a pulse.

Emling picked up the inmate and placed him on his back in the middle of the cell. He instantly called for backup, requested Dispatch to send an ambulance, and started CPR.

After ten to fifteen compressions the inmate opened his eyes and began breathing on his own. Officer Emling, assisted by Officer Asbury, began searching for a wound causing the copious bleeding. During this time the inmate was in and out of consciousness. Emling continued to do sternum rubs and kept talking to the inmate.

An ambulance arrived at 1852 hours. EMTs cut the clothing off the inmate, continuing the search for a wound. They determined the inmate had cut his right arm, causing an arterial bleed near the bend of his arm. On-duty Deputy William Reagan brought a tourniquet and applied it to the inmate's arm to stop the bleeding.

The Perry County Sheriff's Office firmly believes that without the quick response of Correctional Officer Richard Emling, the inmate would certainly have died. For his quick, professional and heroic actions, they awarded Emling the Departmental Lifesaving Badge as Correctional Officer of the Year.



Left to right: Jail Administrator, Major Doug Clark, the Award Recipient Richard Emling and Sheriff Steve Bareis, Perry County

Fulton County Honored as Telecommunicators of the Year



Left to right: Tashina Bradford, Keith Wojtkiewicz, Megan Hickle, Sheriff Jeff Standard

There is no more terrifying call to Telecommunications than "Shots Fired. Officer Down." Eric Martin was the TC on duty when the shooting of Troy Chisum came in. Chisum was killed by shotgun fire during a residential disturbance.

As a former marine, Martin's training and discipline were revealed in that moment of crisis. His professionalism, calm leadership and courage became especially evident. He led a devastatingly short-staffed department through the complex task of coordinating multiple elements of response to a tragic event.

Martin immediately began gathering information, receiving calls, and making call out notifications. He handled, gracefully, a storm of unknown proportions, calmly communicating to the Sheriff who managed the radio traffic and dispatched resources to the scene. Officer Martin was assisted with phone calls by jail staff and administrative assistants in the minutes after the shooting, allowing him and his team to concentrate on the traffic at the scene as it unfolded.

Approximately 20 minutes after the shots fired call, TC Megan Hickle was signed into the radio system and helping Eric handle calls and radio traffic. Off-duty TCs arrived, ready to pitch in for their family. Eric Martin, Keith Wojtkiewicz, Megan Hickle, and Tashina Bradford were strapped in and ready to do whatever was needed. TC trainee Candyce Orwig was also available and committed to the tasks required.

The Fulton County Telecommunications Team exemplified teamwork. They handled hundreds of phone calls and radio transmissions. They answered calls from agencies offering support and services, and managed numerous media requests that flowed in at the early onset of the crisis. They did all of this with professionalism and pride, through a most difficult time of losing one of their own.

For these reasons, TC Martin and the team received the award for Telecommunicator of the Year.

Protect Yourself from Social Security Scams

Scammers are pretending to be government employees. Scammers will try to scare you and trick you into giving them your personal information and money. They may threaten you or your family and may demand immediate payment to avoid arrest or other legal action.



DON'T BE FOOLED! IF YOU RECEIVE A SUSPICIOUS CALL:

1. Hang up!
2. DO NOT give them money or personal information!
3. Report the scam at OIG.SSA.GOV!



WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR:

The call or email says there is a problem with your Social Security Number or account.

Someone asking you to pay a fine or debt with retail gift cards, wire transfers, pre-paid debit cards, internet currency, or by mailing cash.

Scammers pretend they're from Social Security or another government agency. Caller ID or documents sent by email may look official, but they are not.

Callers threaten you with arrest or other legal action.

Social Security may call you in some situations but will never:

- Threaten you
- Suspend your Social Security Number
- Demand immediate payment from you
- Require payment by cash, gift card, pre-paid debit card, or wire transfer
- Ask for gift card numbers over the phone or to wire or mail cash



Protect yourself, friends and family!

- If you receive a questionable call, hang up and report it at oig.ssa.gov
- Don't be embarrassed to report financial loss or sharing information
- Learn more at oig.ssa.gov/scam



Sheriffs' Scholarship Update



Thanks to your loyal support, the Illinois Sheriffs' Association plans to award over \$50,000 in college scholarships throughout the state. Scholarship funds help students defray the rising cost for college tuition, books and fees.

Student applicants are required to submit an essay of 350 words or less, along with their application.

This year's essay question is, "Over the last few years, law enforcement, especially Sheriffs' Offices, have experienced a decline in applicants for job of police officer. How do we, as Sheriffs, increase the number of applicants from youth of today?"

Applications and essay responses are to be returned or postmarked by March 15, 2020 to the Sheriff's Office in the same county where the applicant resides.

The only limitations to application are:

- Applicants must be permanent Illinois residents
- Scholarships must be utilized at certified institutions of higher learning within Illinois
- Students must be enrolled full time during the 2020-2021 school year (excluding summer session)

For more information, contact your local Sheriff's Office or visit the Illinois Sheriffs' Association online to download an application at: www.ilsheriff.org



Please send your most generous gift today, along with the enclosed reply slip.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping to make a difference in the lives of others.

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