

# Illinois Sheriffs' Association

Christan Neff  
Marketing Coordinator  
Desk: 217-753-2372  
Fax: 217-753-2405  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



400 E. Washington, Suite 1000  
Springfield, IL 62701

[www.ilsheriff.org](http://www.ilsheriff.org)

**Jim Kaitschuk**  
Executive Director

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Fulton County Officer Named Illinois Sheriffs' Association 2020 'Deputy of the Year'**

On February 11th, 2021, the Illinois Sheriffs' Association recognized Fulton County Officer Ryan Maricle as their "Deputy of the Year" award winner at its Virtual Winter Conference.

Fulton County Sheriff Jeff Standard nominated Deputy Maricle for this award as a result of an incident that occurred on July 22, 2020. On the evening of July 22, 2020, Deputy Maricle was off duty when he learned that a female had rolled over a lawn mower and was trapped underneath. As Deputy Maricle lives in the vicinity of the accident, he arrived on scene to find the female pinned under the lawn mower with her head being the only thing above water.

Deputy Maricle observed the female's husband holding her head and jumped in to assist the husband in keeping her head above water. Upon arrival of additional First Responders, they were able to help roll the mower off of the female.

Deputy Maricle was off duty and had no obligation to help with the accident. He responded out of his personal sense of duty and desire to protect and serve his community. Deputy Maricle demonstrated tremendous heroism that is always present either on or off duty.

Thank you and congratulations on a job well done.

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