



**ILLINOIS SHERIFFS'
ASSOCIATION**

Protecting Our Communities,
HONOR • SAFETY • SERVICE



JUL 2025

The inside stories for you! **SHERIFFS, LAW ENFORCEMENT & MEMBERS NEWS & UPDATES**



2025 CYCLE ACROSS ILLINOIS

Honors Fallen Heroes with
380 - Mile Tribute Ride

This past weekend, dozens of cyclists journeyed across the state in the 21st Annual Cycle Across Illinois, a powerful four-day event honoring Illinois police officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. The ride began Friday morning in Champaign and concluded in Chicago, covering more than 380 miles and passing through communities where fallen officers had served. At each stop, riders paused to honor the memories of these heroes, offering tributes and connecting with the families and communities forever changed by their loss.

Organized by the Illinois Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.), the event served as a moving reminder that the sacrifice of law enforcement officers is never forgotten. Each mile cycled was a show of support, not just for the fallen, but for the survivors they leave behind.

Illinois C.O.P.S., a nonprofit organization, provides year-round support for families of fallen officers, offering everything from counseling and peer support to legal guidance and financial assistance. Their dedicated team responds to every line-of-duty death in the state, providing immediate and ongoing help to those who need it most.

To learn more about the mission of Illinois C.O.P.S. or to contribute, please visit www.ilcops.org.

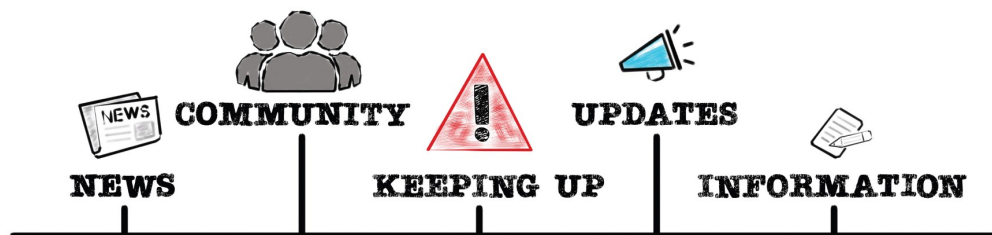






Pictured left to right: Jo Daviess County Retired Sheriff Kevin Turner, McHenry County Sheriff Robb Tadelman, DeKalb County Sheriff Andrew Sullivan, and ISA Executive Director Jim Kaitschuk.

Thanks to our Corporate ISA
Membership Sponsors.



CHECKING IN WITH A FEW OF YOUR SHERIFFS!



Peoria County Sheriff's Office

★ Favorites · July 11 at 2:44 PM · 🌐

Today, students from the E.L.I.T.E. Outreach program visited the Peoria County Jail for a powerful and eye-opening experience.

As part of their visit, students heard personal and heartfelt testimony from women currently incarcerated who are enrolled in E.L.I.T.E.'s Re-Entry program. These brave individuals shared their stories, their struggles, and their hopes for the future, offering honest insight into the realities of incarceration—and the possibilities for change.

The Peoria County Sheriff's Office is proud to partner with organizations like E.L.I.T.E. that are committed to prevention, education, and second chances. We believe that change is possible—and it starts with programs like this.



McDonough County Sheriff's Office

July 2 at 3:58 PM · ⚙️

Sheriff Petitgout and Chief Deputy Cremer stopped by to get some lemonade and support some young entrepreneurs this afternoon 🍋👏



Will County Sheriff's Office

★ Favorites · July 11 at 2:00 PM · 🌐

🐾 Did You Know? 🐾

You remember Lizzy the Bloodhound, one of the super-sniffers of the Will County Sheriff's Office K9 Unit! 🐕🔍

What makes Lizzy sooooo good at finding things?

Lizzy has over 300 million scent receptors — that's more than most other dogs and lightyears beyond her partner, Deputy Storz, who only has about 10 million. 😊

Her secret weapons?

- ◆ Loose facial skin that traps scent particles
- ◆ Long, floppy ears that sweep scents up toward her powerful nose
- ◆ And a nose that can track a scent that was left hours prior!

It's no wonder bloodhounds like Lizzy are legendary trackers. 🕵️🐕

We're lucky to have her nose on the job in Will County!

#WillCountySheriff #K9Lizzy #BloodhoundFacts #FunFactFriday #TrackingPro #K9Unit
#DidYouKnow



Kyle Bacon - Franklin County Sheriff

42m ·

American Legion Award:

O 5:1 11 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60

On Friday, July 11th, Franklin County Sheriff's Office employee, Samantha Forgatch, was recognized at the American Legion, Dept. of Illinois, 106th Annual Convention in Springfield. Her submission for recognition was one of only eight chosen by the statewide American Legion Safety, Law, and Order Committee and based upon an arrest of a violent individual that occurred in late 2023. We are appreciative to the members of the Thompsonville American Legion, Post 1194, for their nomination and continued support of the Sheriff's Office and our employees.

We are very proud of Samantha for her great work and continued service to the Sheriff's Office and citizens of Franklin County.



2025 - 2026 ISA Conference & Training Schedule



Sheriffs Summer Training Conference

September 20-23, 2025
Embassy Suites, East Peoria

Sheriffs Winter Training Conference

February 7-10, 2026
President Abraham Lincoln Hotel,
Springfield

Chief Deputy & Jail Administrators Conference

April 22-24, 2026
Embassy Suites, East Peoria

[Visit Our Website](#)

We would not be able to put our training and conferences on without our Preferred Vendors! The Illinois Sheriffs' Association would like to thank your vendors listed below!

LEVEL DIAMOND ELITE

 **BI² TECHNOLOGIES**
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2025 ISA Get to Know Your Sheriff Series - July | Douglas County



GET TO KNOW YOUR SHERIFF - *Douglas County*



*Elected as
Sheriff 2022*
23 Years in
Law Enforcement



Population
Douglas County
19,629



Average
Household
Income
\$74,186



1.

What first made you get involved with law enforcement?

As long as I can remember, I have been attracted to law enforcement through the positive experiences I had with local police officers and deputies growing up. After college, I was fortunate enough to get the

deputies growing up. After college, I was fortunate enough to get the opportunity to get into a field where I could be the positive influence while serving the same community that had given me so much.

2.

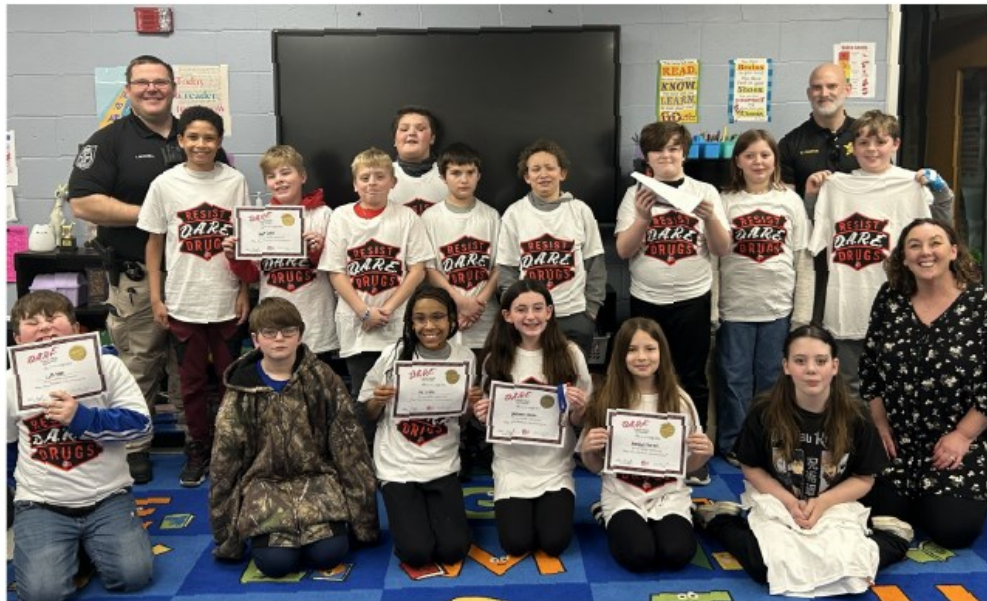
Describe your role as Sheriff in your Office and throughout your County:

I oversee operations within the Sheriff's Office, including a patrol division, a county-wide telecommunications center, act as warden of the County Jail, and oversee security and maintenance of the Douglas County courthouse. I also work to provide services to reduce recidivism by partnering with local social service and treatment groups.

3.

What is your favorite part about being Douglas County Sheriff?

I get the honor of representing and leading nearly 40 employees that give their all in the interest in protecting and serving the residents of Douglas County. It is a joy to see their growth and impact in the community.



4.

Describe what drives you to get involved within the community:

I have been elected to a position that allows me to directly affect the community that I grew up in myself. Not many people are fortunate enough to have that opportunity, and it is important to me to understand the impact I can have and not to squander it.

5.

What's the best thing to happen to you because of your community or career in peace keeping service?

Seeing the positive outcomes firsthand from my time as a Correctional Officer later as a Deputy. I also served as a DARE and a School Resource Officer. And now, as Sheriff, I have been able to place my staff in positions to flourish and grow. It is very rewarding.





6.

Tell us about someone or something that has influenced you:

Recently DJ Daniel, a young man facing many medical challenges who is succeeding despite the hand he has been dealt. He is using his time to share positive messages and build bridges between communities and their law enforcement agencies when he easily could be doing anything else. I find him very inspiring.

7.

What do you consider the biggest challenge in your community?

Recent changes to some of our laws in Illinois have created challenges in getting services for people that are greatly in need of them. What used to be a short jail stint where we could link offenders up to services to help them get clean and not reoffend are now, in most cases, cite and release. I have a hard time believing that was the intent, but it is creating a cycle of more repeat offenders, which is in turn creating more victims.



8.

How do you think someone meeting you for the first time would describe you?

time would describe you?

I hope I give the impression of someone that is straightforward and rational. I am very principled when it comes to doing what I believe to be the right thing.

9.

What advice would you give young people?

Be willing to get out of your comfort zone and take calculated risks. Don't be afraid to fail. I would have lost out on many opportunities in my career and in life had I not taken some chances.



SHERIFF CHAPLIN FUN FACTS:



**IF YOU WEREN'T DOING
WHAT YOU DO NOW,
WHAT WOULD BE
YOUR DREAM JOB?**

Playing outfield for
the St. Louis Cardinals!



**WHAT DO YOU DO
WHEN YOU AREN'T
WORKING OR
VOLUNTEERING?**

I'm either at the gym,
running, or tinkering with
old arcade machines



**WHAT MIGHT SOMEONE
BE SURPRISED TO KNOW
ABOUT YOU?**

I'm an introverted person
away from the job (which
surprises people because
I talk a lot at work)



FOLLOW THEM:
Douglas County Sheriff's Office

NEWS FROM IL AND AROUND THE COUNTRY



**The human connection
crisis: Why law enforcement
needs real relationships in a
digital world**

[READ MORE](#)

By: Police1.com



Joliet police to roll out body cameras with real-time translation capabilities

[READ MORE](#)

By: Jorge DeSantiago and
NBC Chicago Staff



Scholarship Feature



501(c)3 raising money for Illinois Law Enforcement Families & members of the Illinois Military.



2025 PEACEKEEPERS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Each year, the Peacekeepers organization proudly awards scholarships to outstanding dependents of Illinois law enforcement and military families. The program is coordinated through the Illinois Sheriffs' Association.

This year's recipients have shown exceptional promise in their fields of study and a strong commitment to service - qualities that reflect the mission of the Peacekeepers and honor the sacrifices of Illinois' law enforcement and military families.



We're proud to share that the Peacekeepers awarded a total of \$10,250 in scholarships this year. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all of the recipients and their families!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S WINNERS AND A "THANK YOU" TO ALL OF THE STUDENTS WHO SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS.

- **Megan Hughes** - McLean County - Saint Louis University - Chemistry, Pre-Med - \$2,500
- **Tyanna Thomas** - Will County - Kent Law - Law - \$2,000
- **Ava Stone** - LaSalle County - University of Wisconsin-Platteville - Criminal Justice/Forensic Investigation - \$1,500
- **Blake Bollow** - DeKalb County - University of Wisconsin-Platteville - Mechanical Engineering - \$1,250
- **Julia Verble** - Will County - SIU Carbondale - Nursing - \$1,000
- **Creedon Welsch** - Woodford County - Olivet Nazarene - Civil Engineering - \$1,000
- **Logan Bukowski** - Kankakee County - Kankakee Community College - Criminal Justice - \$1,000



Your ISA membership supports public safety across the state of Illinois. Individuals and businesses may join ISA. Your tax deductible dues support Illinois's 102 elected sheriffs and their staff as they strive to improve citizen and community safety.



Plan to LIKE, FOLLOW and SHARE posts from the ISA to help us spread the word about and educate others on public safety, policing and your rights that the ISA fights for!

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