

Denver Sheriff Department
Press Release

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Undersheriff Oliva to Award Honorees at Ceremony

The annual Denver Sheriff's Department award ceremony will be held on Friday, August 30, 2002 to honor twenty Sheriff's deputies for distinguished service to the City and County of Denver and its citizens. It will be held at the Roslyn Center at 5440 Roslyn Street, Building #5 in the event center on the second floor.

The recipients are as follows:

Personnel to be presented the Department's highest honor – the Medal of Valor:

SERGEANT FRANKLIN GALE (Recruitment), On May 6, 2000, Sgt. Gale and several deputies responded to a disturbance in the Emergency Room entrance, at the Denver Health Medical Center. Sgt. Gale was informed by radio that there was volatile situation taking place between two rival gangs (of approximately 15 males), in which one of the gang members had drawn a gun. Without regard to his own safety, limited manpower and resources, Sgt. Gale immediately responded to the scene. Upon arrival, he assisted the deputies on scene in successfully disarming the assailant without a shot being fired. Three assailants fled while the remaining gang members were taken into custody shortly thereafter. His quick thinking and coordination of the incident not only brought the situation under control, but kept the public out of harm's way. Sgt. Gale's efforts demonstrated tremendous leadership and courage, preventing serious injury and loss of life to everyone involved.

DEPUTY EUGENE ELIZALDE (Court Services) On June 21, 2000, Deputy Elizalde was escorting a prisoner to a courtroom in the City and County Building through the Court Services holding area. Upon arrival to the exit door, the prisoner pulled out a homemade weapon with a large caliber round protruding from the barrel's end. The prisoner pointed the weapon at Deputy Elizalde and threatened to shoot him. Deputy Elizalde was able to distance himself from the threat and pointed his service weapon at the prisoner, as the prisoner continued to make threats. After commands to drop the weapon, the prisoner placed the weapon down and went on the floor. Elizalde immediately took the prisoner into custody, with the assistance of responding deputies. Deputy Elizalde's quick actions prevented harm to himself and the prisoner during the incident.

DEPUTY KATHY DALE (Denver Health Medical Center) On January 29, 2002, a prisoner was in custody at Denver Health Medical Center and was about to be prepared for transport to the Pre-Arrest Detention Facility. As Deputy Dale entered the prisoner's room, she saw blood on the prisoner's hospital gown. Deputy Dale observed cuts on the prisoner as a result of the prisoner stabbing herself with a scalpel. Deputy Dale immediately grabbed the prisoner's wrist, forcing it to the bed and was able to remove the scalpel from the prisoner's hand. The state of mind of the prisoner was clouded and disturbed. According to the medical staff, the prisoner sustained multiple stab wounds. Deputy Dale's courageous action not only prevented further bodily harm to the prisoner, but also prevented harm to herself and other staff.

Personnel to be presented the Distinguished Service Award:

DEPUTY PAULA CLARK-MARTIN (Court Services) On September 6, 1987, Deputy Paula Clark-Martin was assigned to the Emergency Room at Denver Health Medical Center. During her shift, medical staff notified her that an escaping prisoner had shot her partner, Deputy Daniel Stillwell. Upon arrival to the scene, medical staff was working on Deputy Stillwell and informed her of the direction the prisoner had fled. After an immediate search of the area, she located the prisoner, armed with Deputy Stillwell's duty weapon and pursued him. While in the process of the pursuit, she warned staff and the public of the pending danger, directing them to immediately depart the area. Although Deputy Stillwell died from his injuries, Deputy Clark-Martin's courageous action prevented others from being in harm's way.

DEPUTY MICHAEL NESTER (County Jail) On April 13, 2001, a female exiting a bus at Colfax and Colorado Boulevard, when an unknown man struck her several times with closed fists and caused her to fall to the pavement. Deputy Nester (who was off-duty at the time) observed the assault, as he was traveling southbound on Colorado Boulevard and went to the scene to intervene. Deputy Nester subdued the attacker, took him into custody and secured the scene until police arrived. It was determined by police that the unknown male attacked the victim without cause and did not know the victim. Deputy Nester's willingness to intervene in a volatile situation prevented further injury to the victim and brought the situation under control.

DEPUTY ISAIAH RASHAD (Work Release/Community Corrections) On July 22, 2001, while off-duty, Deputy Rashad was traveling eastbound near the State Capitol, when he observed a Colorado State Trooper pursuing a suspect. Deputy Rashad joined the pursuit as the assailant turned and attempted to attack the trooper. Deputy Rashad took down the suspect and with the assistance of the trooper, brought the suspect into custody. Deputy Rashad's quick response was not only instrumental in preventing injury to the trooper, but to innocent bystanders as well.

Personnel to be presented the Merit Award:

CAPTAIN JACOB KOPYLOV (County Jail) Capt. Kopylov is responsible developing the Russian Citizen's Police Academy in conjunction with the Denver Police and the Glendale Police Departments. Through this program, he was able to successfully educate the Russian community about municipal and state laws and the role of law enforcement officers. Through his efforts, he was instrumental in establishing the second Russian Citizens' Police Academy in the nation.

SERGEANT DARRYLE E. BROWN (Media Relations/County Jail) Sgt. Brown is responsible for establishing and coordinating the public information program. His proactive approach to media relations has been instrumental in enhancing morale, the public's trust and bringing positive news coverage to the agency. His tireless efforts have been credited in transforming the Department's public image. Sgt. Brown is also credited with volunteering his own time to meet with editors and reporting staff to the help enhance rapport, which has been instrumental in bridging the gap between both agencies. Sgt. Brown co-produced the department's recruitment video, which is the winner of six prestigious awards, including three national awards and an international award for creative excellence. He also developed the department's ride-along procedure, enabling the public to observe the duties of deputy sheriffs.