



Sheriff Troy J. Knudson
ROCK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Barbara J. Tillman, Chief Deputy



Erik D. Chellevoid
Commander, Law Enforcement Services

Craig L. Strouse
Commander, Correctional Services

MEDIA RELEASE

Sheriff Knudson Announces Annual Awards Ceremony

For Immediate Release

Thursday, April 18, 2019

Contact Person:

Captain Brent DeRemer
(608) 757-7910

Sheriff Knudson is pleased to announce that the twelfth annual Rock County Sheriff's Office Awards Ceremony will occur on Tuesday, April 23, 2019, at 6:00 PM in the Jury Assembly Room at the Rock County Courthouse, 51 South Main Street, Janesville. Sheriff Troy Knudson will present awards to several Rock County citizens as well as Rock County Sheriff's Office personnel. This ceremony is open to the public. Sheriff Knudson encourages all interested individuals to attend. Below is an overview of the 2018 Awards and their recipients. Congratulations to these outstanding community members and public safety personnel!



Deputy of the Year

Deputy Maria Amador

Maria Amador became a Rock County Sheriff's Office Deputy Sheriff in February 2013. She previously held positions as a Public Safety Utility Clerk (2007), Administrative Assistant (2007-2012), and Correctional Officer (2012-2013). Maria graduated from the Law Enforcement Academy at Blackhawk Technical College on May 10, 2013. She earned a Bachelor of Science

Degree from Upper Iowa University on June 28, 2015. Deputy Amador is regarded as a leader and a friend by all of her co-workers. She is a training officer for newly hired deputies. Last year, she won a Lifesaving Award for administering Narcan and performing CPR on an unresponsive female. Deputy Amador is a member of numerous teams and committees that show her dedication to the Sheriff's Office and the community. Deputy Amador is part of the Latino Provider Coalition. She is our agency's LEP Coordinator and has translated most of the Sheriff's Office forms from English to Spanish. Deputy Amador helps with Spanish translating for our Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies within Rock County. Deputy Amador is ambitious in her desire to serve, she developed a Spanish Language Line to provide assistance to Hispanic non-English speaking individuals seeking law enforcement services. She willingly carries a phone 24/7 for the Spanish Line. She is part of the Neighborhood Watch Program in Milton Township and is in the process of helping to establish a similar program in Newark Township. She is part of the Diversity Team of Rock County. She recently was instrumental in the development of a Peer Support Group for the Sheriff's Office and has been serving as an Officer Wellness Instructor at in-service training. She is a member of the Crime Prevention Team and has presented to numerous organizations while still maintaining her patrol duty responsibilities. As part of her community engagement efforts, Deputy Amador attends Blackhawk Technical College leadership meetings and has presented material at the YWCA summer programs regarding her efforts in Crime Prevention.

200 East U.S. Highway 14

Janesville, WI 53545

Phone: 608-757-8000 Fax: 608-757-7997



Correctional Officer of the Year

Correctional Officer Daniel Banks

Correctional Officer Daniel Banks started at the Rock County Sheriff's Office in December 2008. He graduated from the Jail Academy on April 13, 2009. Dan maintains a very positive attitude and is one of the first to volunteer for any project in the Jail. In fact, in 2015, when the Jail was preparing to transition to a new Jail records management software program called Spillman, Dan, along with several other employees, volunteered to rebook over 500 inmates into the new software program. This data conversion was a time sensitive project that needed to be done with both expediency and accuracy. Dan's attention to detail clearly contributed to the success of this project. Officer Banks continuously seeks out training opportunities and is always willing to teach others. Officer Banks is known for his ability to work any assignment in the Jail. Officer Banks is a Jail Training Officer responsible for training new officers. He is a member of the Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT) charged with responding to disputes in the jail. Officer Banks is also a member of the Hostage Negotiation Team and along with the SWAT Team, responds to situations requiring negotiator efforts. In 2018, Officer Banks received a Lifesaving Award for his quick response and diligence that saved a female inmate's life from an opiate overdose. Officer Banks is the Rock County Correctional Officers Association Union President. In October of 2018, as the Union President, Officer Banks collaborated with union members and attended numerous County Board meetings to help ensure that Correctional Officers were able to maintain their protective status. His leadership in this effort helped ensure that the County Board of Supervisors received accurate information to aid in their decision making. He has also volunteered for the Sheriff's Office National Night Out events. Officer Banks has held public service positions in the community, formerly serving as a member of the Town of Walworth Board.



Support Staff Person of the Year

Secretary I Nicole Barrington

Secretary I Nicole Barrington started at the Rock County Sheriff's Office in July of 2015. She is assigned to the Training Bureau providing support to the Training Coordinator. Nicole plays a significant role in the Sheriff's Office annual in-service training with the scheduling of staff and instructors. She assists with deputy sheriff and correctional officer recruitment, applicant testing and interviews. Nicole tracks and documents the training records for all Sheriff's Office personnel and other officers who attend Sheriff's Office sponsored trainings. Annually, she ensures that staff have attained required training to maintain Wisconsin Law Enforcement or Corrections State certification. Working with the Crime Prevention Team, she helps coordinate numerous Rock County Sheriff's Office community outreach efforts, such as Gutter Busters, Cops & Bobbers, and Special Olympics events, such as Cops on the Rooftop and the Torch Run. As part of our Recreational Safety training, Nicole processes all applicants for Hunter Safety, Boater Safety and Snowmobile Safety. For the past four years, she has been an integral part of planning the Rock County Sheriff's Office National Night Out events. She assists at our Firearms Range training. She is a member of SWAT, assisting at trainings and emergency callouts. Nicole maintains all records related to Range training, SWAT training and SWAT callouts. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics and Computer Science from Carthage College. Nicole has a positive can-do approach to everything she is involved in. She is always willing to help anyone who asks, and she gives her best effort in everything she accomplishes.



Retired Sheriffs Leadership Award

Sergeant Doug Coulter

Sergeant Coulter is recognized for his leadership and dedication to the Sheriff's Office. He started at the Sheriff's Office as a Correctional Officer in June 1990. He became a Deputy Sheriff in June 1994. He served nearly seventeen years as a Deputy Sheriff receiving numerous letters of accommodation to include work on a triple homicide investigation, attempted homicide, and a bank robbery. He also acted as a Range Instructor, Emergency Vehicle Operations Course Instructor, and a member of the SWAT Team. He currently is the Team Leader for our Motorcycle Unit. He was promoted to Sergeant on December 18, 2010. He served briefly in both the jail and on patrol as a shift sergeant before being placed in charge of the Training Bureau in 2011. He completed the Rock County Sheriff's Office Leadership Academy. Sergeant Coulter also completed a 40-hour First Line Supervision course in May of 2011. Sergeant Coulter earned a Bachelor's Degree from Upper Iowa University in 2013. He always displays ethical decision-making skills and is a constant leader amongst his peers. He was instrumental in the development of the National Night Out events hosted by the Rock County Sheriff's Office. He has been a valuable community partner by participating in activities with the Special Olympics and coaching local youth involved in sports programs. He has taught Police Recruits at Blackhawk Technical College and has been actively involved in in-service training. He has always been a positive example of the leadership process. He has set the direction or been involved in many of this organization's functions and motivates others to act by empowering them. Currently serving as a patrol Sergeant, he leads with passion and an overall military bearing that is a positive example to his peers. He continues to develop a lasting legacy with the Rock County Sheriff's Office.

Citizen Award

Korey L. Statton

On December 13, 2018, Korey Statton observed that there was smoke coming from a neighbor's home in Plymouth Township. The homeowner had called the 911 Center to report that her home was on fire. However, she was in a wheelchair and was unable to escape from her home. As the homeowner was yelling for help, Statton heard her from outside. Putting his own safety at risk, he entered her home and was able to get her outside to safety away from the now smoke filled and partially fire-engulfed residence. Upon deputies arrival, Statton already had the homeowner out of the home and in a safe place. Due to Statton's quick actions, placing his own safety aside and entering the home, he saved the homeowner's life. The Sheriff's Office is proud to present Statton with a Citizen's Award for his courage, bravery, and sacrifice of his own safety to help others.



Lifesaving Award

Deputy Zachary Anacker

On March 3, 2018, Rock County Deputies were dispatched to the area of Highway 51 and B-R Townline Road in Rock Township for a traffic crash. Upon arrival, Deputy Anacker located a male subject who had been ejected from the vehicle. Deputy Anacker found the male subject laying on his side with no apparent signs of life. Deputy Anacker immediately started CPR on the male subject. After a short period, the male subject started to breathe on his own. EMS arrived on scene and transported the male subject to the hospital. The male has since recovered. Deputy Anacker's immediate response and actions saved the male's life.



Lifesaving Award

Deputy Anthony Barr

On June 9, 2018, while off duty, Deputy Barr was attending a NASCAR Xfinity Series Race in Brooklyn, Michigan, when a fan in the stands began experiencing a medical emergency. Without hesitation, Deputy Barr rushed to the victim to see if he could assist. Deputy Barr observed that the male subject was turning pale, gray and appeared to not be breathing. Deputy Barr, along with an off-duty paramedic, started CPR procedures until they were relieved by a doctor who was also attending the event. Due to their efforts, the male subject started to breathe on his own. Deputy Barr then assisted the EMS in getting the male subject into the ambulance. It was later learned that the male subject fully recovered. Deputy Barr's immediate actions in this incident helped saved this man's life.

Lifesaving Award

Sgt. Kimberly Litsheim, Dep. Michael Schauer, Dep. Mark Johns, and Dep. Chris Lochner



On December 28, 2018, Sgt. Litsheim, Dep. Johns, Dep. Lochner, and Dep. Schauer all responded to assist in the apprehension of a subject who was wanted on multiple fresh charges, including a violent felony. When contact was made with this subject, the subject fled from the deputies. In doing so, striking a squad car, driving over a deputy's foot, then driving off in a reckless manner. The subject fled in the vehicle and then later abandoned the vehicle. Upon abandoning the vehicle, the subject the fled on foot through a difficult to traverse, muddy, plowed field. After the deputies converged on the subject, threats of self-harm with a knife were made by the subject. While ignoring efforts to drop the knife, the subject inflicted a wound and remained armed with the knife. The subject was then subdued by the use of a TASER device and successfully taken into custody. The significant wound was immediately treated by the deputies until EMS arrived and transported the subject to the hospital for treatment of the self-inflicted injury. Due to the rapid, choreographed and effective response by all of the deputies involved, they were able to apprehend, subdue, and successfully treat the subject, which in turn saved a life and kept the community safe.



Lifesaving Award

Deputy Lee Jackson

On September 16, 2018, Deputy Lee Jackson was tracking a cell phone of a subject who had cut their wrist and was threatening to ram officers with a vehicle. The vehicle was located and a moving roadblock technique was deployed. The subject made contact with Deputy Jackson’s squad car and eventually both vehicles went into the ditch. The subject was taken into custody and EMS transported the subject to a local hospital where treatment was received for the self-inflicted wounds. Due to Dep. Jackson’s quick thinking, driving skills, and verbal directions, he helped save this subject’s life and safeguard the community.



Community Service Award

Jason O'Connor

Jason O'Connor is the Rock County Education and Criminal Addiction Program (RECAP) Site Supervisor. In 2018, due to limited availability of garden volunteers, O'Connor handled the day-to-day operations and put in many extra hours preparing, maintaining and harvesting in the RECAP Garden alongside RECAP participants. The RECAP Garden is a 1 ½-acre plot of land that the RECAP Program uses to harvest produce that is donated to food pantries and outreach centers. O'Connor was able to oversee the garden operations while still maintaining his regular duties and responsibilities throughout the year. The RECAP Garden volunteers wrote a letter wishing to honor O'Connor for “his outstanding work with us in the garden this year.” O'Connor took on these extra obligations without direction and should be commended for his constant commitment to the RECAP Garden and the RECAP Program.



Community Service Award

Erika Bemrich

Erika Bemrich, an employee of Blackhawk Technical College, has been the lead educational instructor for the Rock County Education and Criminal Addiction Program (RECAP) since August of 2012. During that time, Erika has proven to be an invaluable part of the RECAP educational team through her dedication, professionalism, and passion for teaching. In 2018, the RECAP Program partnered with the Southwest Workforce Development Board and Blackhawk Technical College’s Advanced Manufacturing Training Center to bring the first of its kind Accelerated Machine Operator’s Course to Blackhawk’s Milton Campus. Erika was instrumental in ensuring the program happened through the many hours she spent on planning, organizing, securing participant transportation, and scheduling the machine operator program hours to coincide with the RECAP Program components. Through her efforts, the RECAP Program saw nine individuals successfully complete the Machine Operator’s Course. Erika should be commended for collaborating with the Southwest Workforce Development Board to help make this new initiative a success. Her willingness to extend her efforts beyond her daily educational instruction responsibilities and provide employability specialized workforce skills training to the RECAP inmates will aid in their re-entry into our community.

Troy J. Knudson
Sheriff

By: Capt. Brent DeRemer
Rock County Sheriff’s Office