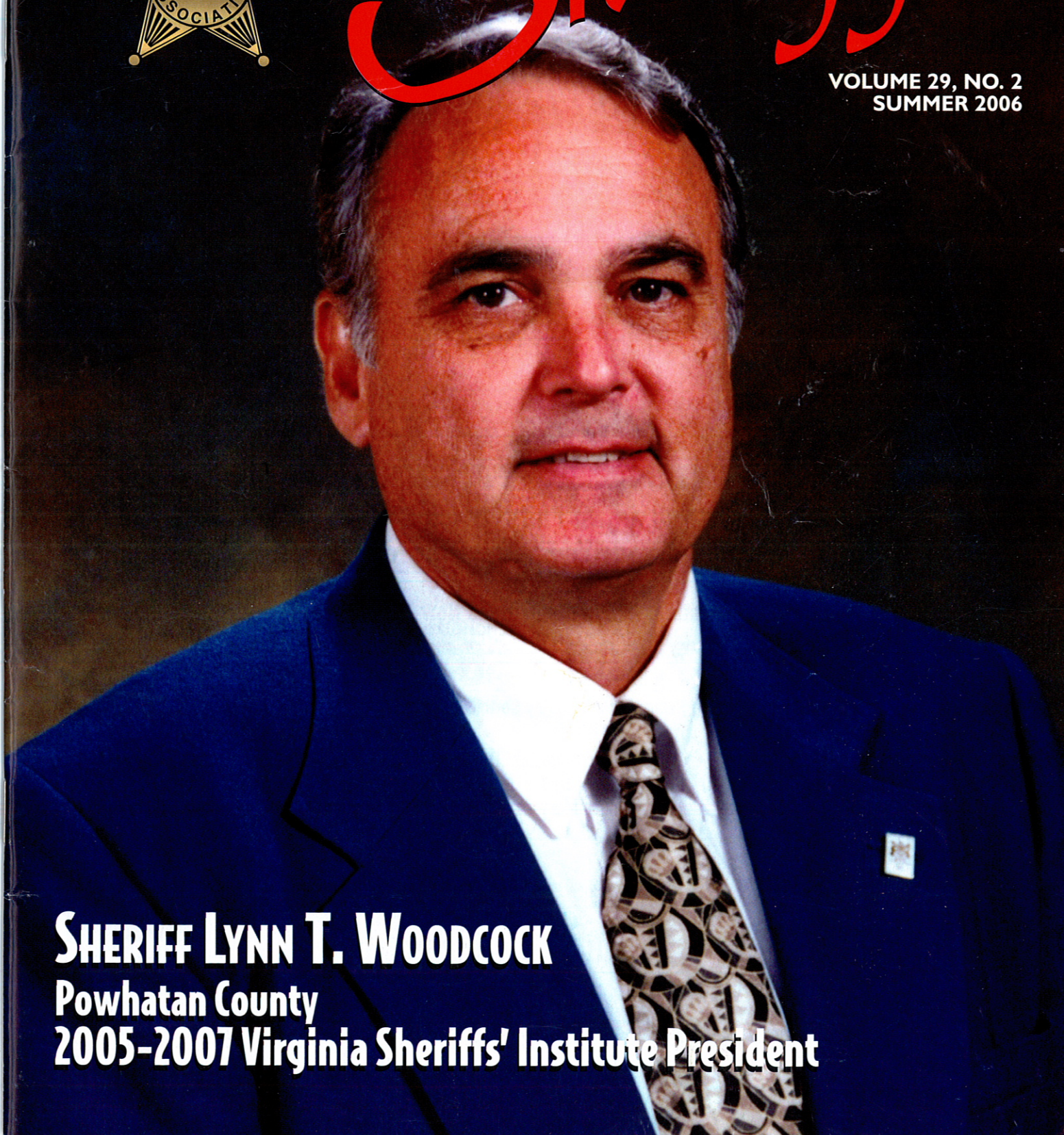


VIRGINIA



Sheriff

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SHERIFF LYNN T. WOODCOCK
Powhatan County
2005-2007 Virginia Sheriffs' Institute President

Attorney General Celebrates With The Newport News Sheriff's Office

KATHLEEN CAREY, PIO



Commonwealth Attorney General Bob McDonnell

“It is a great honor for me to be with you today,” said Commonwealth Attorney General Bob McDonnell. In truth, the honor was mutual. The Attorney General accepted an invitation to speak at our promotion ceremony.

Friday, February 24, 2006, was a special day for the Newport News Sheriff's Office. It is believed to have been the first time that our office had held a public ceremony. We celebrated the promotion of eleven Deputies and the naming of the 2005 “Deputy of the Year.” They were recognized for their superb job performance and their demonstrated ability to work at the next level of leadership.

“For far too long, the dedicated men and women



Sheriff Gabe Morgan, newly promoted Captain Janie Vergakis and her husband, Lieutenant Jeffrey Vergakis; in front, her grandchildren Seth and Kaitlyn Sproles

of the Sheriff's Office have performed their sworn duties without, what I would consider, appropriate recognition and appreciation,” said Sheriff Gabe Morgan.

Attorney General McDonnell spoke of the sacrifices made by people in uniform. He said, “It's exciting to see these promotions. A little more rank. A little more pay. But a little more responsibility. Scriptures say, ‘To whom much is given, much will be required.’ So as you are elevated today, with that distinction also comes more accountability.”

The newly promoted Deputies are Captain Terrence Moore, Captain Janie Vergakis, Lieutenant Keith Langford, Sergeant Betty Thomas, Sergeant Maria Moore, Sergeant Laura Saunders, Sergeant Robert Daniels, Sergeant Chanelle Zanders, Sergeant Valare Barfield-Allen, Sergeant Ruben Elias and Sergeant Frank Broadwater.

In addition to the promotions, Corporal Daniel Clinard was selected as the 2005 “Deputy of the Year.” He is active in several community affairs programs offered through the Sheriff's Office. In fact, he starts every weekday morning by visiting Achievable Dreams students at Dunbar Elementary School, serving as a role model.

Mayor Joe Frank was also a guest speaker at the ceremony. He offered words of encouragement specific to the promotion recipients, "You're taking on the challenge of leading other people, which means you're the ones they look up to. You're the ones who set the example." But Frank also took the opportunity to talk to the department as a whole when he addressed the subject of pay and its direct impact on retention of Deputies. "Sheriff Morgan's done a good job in understanding the issues and then finding the way to bring them forward so that those of us who may be able to help can do so."

McDonnell expressed similar sentiments from a state level. He said he wants to have "the best and the brightest stay in Newport News." He continued, "To those who serve and to the family who allow them to serve—thank you very much."

The ceremony was held in City Council Chambers and played to a packed house. An estimated 150 people attended. They ranged from council members and judges to family, friends and colleagues. The Sheriff's Office plans to build upon the ceremony's great success with future celebrations.



Sergeant Maria Moore being pinned by her father, Sandy Moore, and Sheriff Gabe Morgan



Commonwealth Attorney General Bob McDonnell and Sheriff Gabe Morgan congratulating Lieutenant Keith Langford



Commonwealth Attorney General Bob McDonnell and Sheriff Gabe Morgan congratulating Deputy of the Year, Corporal Daniel Clinard



Sheriff Gabe Morgan, Mayor Joe Frank, Attorney General Bob McDonnell and the one dozen honorees