

# VIRGINIA

# Sheriff



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*Senator R. Creigh Deeds is a supporter of the Virginia Sheriffs' Association. During the 2008 session of the General Assembly, he introduced legislation to provide funding for the staffing of Sheriffs' Offices at a level of 1 Deputy per 1,500 population. Senator Deeds represents all or part of the counties of Albemarle County, Alleghany County, Bath County, Buckingham County, Buena Vista City, Charlottesville City, Covington City, Nelson County and Rockbridge County. He has been a member of the Senate since 2001.*

**SENATOR R. CREIGH DEEDS**

# Honored For Saving Man's Life

LIEUTENANT KATHLEEN CAREY, PIO

It is a scene that haunted Hope Hasan for days in her dreams. "I think it is going to be vivid the rest of my life. You don't really think you're going to walk up on something like that," she said of an inmate hanging from the top bars of his jail cell. "That's TV stuff, you know? It was terrible." The nightmares have since stopped, but what happened that January night is still troubling to someone who is trained to nurse people back to health, not watch them die.

The inmate did *not* die. He survived thanks to the quick action of Hasan, the Newport News Sheriff's Office Health Administrator, and three Deputy Sheriffs—Deputy Robert Clayton, Sergeant Carl Wilberg and Deputy Steve Sheridan. Each of the four was honored with a Virginia Lifesaving Medal at a ceremony held in November with

Delegate Phillip Hamilton as the keynote speaker.

The Sheriff's Office implements the following criteria for extending the honor—*The Lifesaving Medal is awarded to any employee for saving a human life or for endeavoring to save a human life. There is no greater act of heroism than to undertake lifesaving measures to rescue another person.*

The attempted suicide took place January 30, 2007. Hasan was handing out medications and was the first to come across the man. Deputy Clayton heard her cry for help. "His arm was shaking and a stream of blood (from his mouth) was going down to the floor," described Clayton. The gate opened and Clayton and Deputy Sheridan lifted up the man



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARCHIE WHITEHILL OF STEP-UP

**Best Medal Lifesaving**—The medal given by the NNSO to those who saved an inmate from attempting suicide

to take his body weight off his neck. Hasan stood on a milk crate and, using a letter opener, cut him down.

His body was quickly, but carefully, placed on the ground. As a team, Clayton and Sergeant Wilberg went to work performing CPR. Wilberg with the chest compression, Clayton delivering the breaths. The man, who at first had no pulse and was not breathing, began coughing and sucking in air on his own. About reviving the man, Clayton said smiling, "It felt pretty good. Felt pretty good."

"I didn't have time to think about being scared," Hasan recalled. "You don't want to see anyone die. So what he's an inmate. He's a person. We're not here to judge them. We're here to take care of

them while they're going through the legal process of being judged."



Four members of the Newport News Sheriff's Office received the Virginia Lifesaving Medal—Deputy Robert Clayton, Deputy Steve Sheridan, Health Administrator Hope Hasan and Sergeant Carl Wilberg