



NNSO

Newport News Sheriff's Office

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: **IMMEDIATE**

DATE: **December 1, 2011**

Highlights of Heroism and Accomplishments at Promotion and Awards Ceremony

On his way from work, a deputy intervened in a gunfight. His quick and decisive response prevented injury and loss of life. It also led to the apprehension of the gunman. He will be presented the **Medal of Valor** at the Newport News Sheriff's Office Annual Promotion and Awards Ceremony. The ceremony will take place Thursday, December 1, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center, 2410 Wickham Avenue, Newport News. The event gives the Sheriff's Office an opportunity to publically congratulate its deputies, civilian personnel and citizens for various accomplishments throughout the year. This year Alex Turner, FBI Special Agent in Charge Norfolk Division will be the Keynote Speaker.

Among other awards to be given will be the **Citizen Service Medal** to a 90-year old gentleman who has been volunteering at the Newport News City Jail for nearly two decades. Earlier in the year, he was selected as the Sheriff's Office 2011 Volunteer of the Year. Additionally, a **Sheriff's Medal** will go to a sheriff's office investigator who took the lead in tracking down and arresting a bomb threat suspect. The threat forced a 2010 evacuation of General District Court and ended in the 2011 prosecution and sentencing of the man found guilty of the crime.

A Group Achievement Award will go to the Project Lifesaver Team for their life saving efforts to rescue a woman with Alzheimer's who had wandered away from her residence. The Project Lifesaver client managed to remove her transmitter bracelet, effectively making the deputies' receivers obsolete. The team, however, did not get discouraged and worked with determination to find this disoriented woman and bring her home safely.

We will recognize citizens for their outstanding contribution to law enforcement. Their efforts run the gamut from protecting fellow citizens against identity theft to teaching young students life skills in the hopes they grow up to be healthy, successful adults. Also, employees of the Newport News Engineering Department will be recognized for their part in the life/safety improvements to the City Jail and Jail Annex. Their management kept the project on-schedule and on-budget.

In an effort to assist members of the media tell a visual story... outside of the video of the ceremony itself... photos will accompany this email. Supporting photos include pictures from the 2010 bomb threat; pictures of the Volunteer of the Year; and pictures of Stealth Shredding providing a free service to protect against identity theft.

WHO: Newport News Sheriff's Office
WHAT: Annual Promotion and Awards Ceremony
WHEN: Thursday, December 1, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
WHERE: Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center
Ella Fitzgerald Theater
2410 Wickham Avenue

attachments: photos of court evacuation due to bomb threat; photos of 90-year old volunteer receiving Volunteer of the Year; photos of free shred day, which helps protect against identity theft.

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