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Montco Sheriff's Office ends year with Commendation Ceremony

Norristown, Pa., (December 22, 2014) – The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office wrapped up the year with a Commendation Ceremony presided over by Sheriff Russell Bono and Chief Deputy Willie Richet to celebrate the exceptional work done by some of its officers and civilian staff.

The following officers and staff members received the **Commendation of Exceptional Service**, which is given for accomplishments that bring acclaim to the officer, the department, and the law enforcement profession as a result of devotion to duty or service to the public:

- Courts Division Cpl. Terrence Cullin of Pottstown, Pennsylvania received a Commendation of Exceptional Service for building an outstanding Honor Guard. Through his leadership and training, Cpl. Cullin has created an impressive squad that has been called upon for important official events and ceremonies, and is becoming recognized throughout the county for its sharp presentation skills.
- Courts Division Deputies Christopher Bailey of Hatboro, Robert Baldino of Phoenixville, Joseph Holman of Orelan, and Ian Stewart of Pipersville, Pennsylvania each received a Commendation of Exceptional Service for their uncommon commitment and enthusiasm for mentoring and supporting the kids at the two-week Greater Norristown Police Athletic League Summer Basketball Camp in August 2014. Their initiative, judgment and commitment to the community, serve as an excellent example for their fellow officers.
- Technology Manager James Saring of Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania received a Commendation of Exceptional Service for his dedication to creating the MCSO social media pages, and managing demanding social media activities mainly on his own personal time. Using social media has helped the MCSO to exceed its goals in finding and arresting hundreds of deadbeat parents.

Each of the following K9 Unit deputies received a **Unit Citation**, which is given for exceptional police service where the outstanding accomplishment is the result of teamwork rather than that of an individual's effort. The K9 Unit's partnership with the Norristown Borough Police Department has shown an exceptional commitment to the Borough of Norristown, and to the safety of its citizens. For 10 months starting in January 2014, the K9 Unit was requested 53 times to support the borough's crime reduction initiative.

- K9 Unit Dep. Sean Forsyth of Levittown and K9 Bikkel of Levittown, Pennsylvania
- K9 Unit Dep. Thomas Franklin and K9 Behr of North Wales, Pennsylvania
- K9 Unit Dep. Trevor Keller and K9 Artus of Zieglerville, Pennsylvania

Each of the following officers received **Commendatory Letter**, which is given for the arrest or any police service, which is exceptional and beyond the requirements of routine duty:

- K9 Unit Commander and Bomb Squad member Cpl. Richard Miles received a Commendatory Letter for his leadership abilities and resource management skills during a Courthouse bomb threat on November 13, 2014. Cpl. Miles, who was dispatched to the scene, was able to call on 19 K-9 teams from 14 different agencies through professional contacts to respond to the Courthouse threat within an hour. He coordinated the search assignments with each K9 team for each floor of the Courthouse and was able to clear the building in two hours, which is approximately half of the time it would have taken without the additional resources that had been called on by Cpl. Miles.
- Courts Division Dep. John Peters received a Commendatory Letter for his response to and investigation of an intruder alarm at Chick-Fil-A in Upper Merion on September 20, 2014 while off-duty. Dep. Peters identified himself as a deputy sheriff when he encountered three males attempting to enter the restaurant through an unlocked door, unaware that the restaurant was closed. Dep. Peters stayed on the scene to assist local police when they arrived.
- Special Services Division Dep. Michael Petruga of Norristown, Pennsylvania received a Commendatory Letter for organizing the memorial "Bocce for Baldo" K9 ballistic vest fundraising tournament on August 2, 2014. The tournament was held in honor of the late MCSO Cpl. James Baldovsky, who was a passionate supporter of K9 programs. Over \$2,000 was raised to help pay for K9 protective vests that cost approximately \$900 each.
- Two Warrants Division deputies each received Commendatory Letters for using their creative social media skills, to investigate Domestic Relations Office warrants for deadbeat parents on their own personal time. Their hard work and dedication has helped the MCSO surpass its goals of finding and arresting parents, who have avoided paying court issued child support.
 - Dep. Charles Hallman of Pottstown, Pennsylvania
 - Dep. Zachariah Miller of Hatfield, Pennsylvania

- Courts Division Dep. Carleen Burns of Oreland, Pennsylvania received a Commendatory Letter for her exceptional undercover work on May 7, 2014. Dep. Burns assisted the Montgomery County Detective Bureau in finding criminal material witness fugitive, Mark White. Her tenacity and tactics using text messaging and phone calls resulted in the fugitive's capture and arrest at a Pottstown hotel.
- Courts Division Dep. Kraig Klass of Pottstown, Pennsylvania received a Commendatory Letter for his assistance of an injured car accident victim on Route 422 following an ice and snowstorm on December 11, 2013. Dep. Klass was on his way to work a standby shift when he encountered a red Chevrolet van in Upper Providence Township, which had skid off of Route 422 and was about to roll over. He immediately called the Montgomery County Radio Room and remained on the scene for an hour assisting in the extraction of the victim, who was taken to a nearby hospital.
- The following deputies each received a Commendatory Letter for their professional and immediate response to a medical emergency in the Montgomery County Courthouse Detention Center on September 25, 2014. A male detainee had severely injured himself in a fall while suffering a seizure, and was at risk of aspirating his own blood. The deputies helped to administer first aid and keep the individual calm until Deps. Roncace and Lukens escorted him by ambulance to a local hospital.
 - Courts Division Dep. Kate Eschler of Collegeville, Pennsylvania
 - Courts Division Dep. Michael Omensetter of Leola, Pennsylvania
 - Transportation Division Dep. Gerald Benjamin of Ardmore, Pennsylvania
 - Transportation Division Dep. Eric Bridges of Pottstown, Pennsylvania
 - Courts Division Dep. Vincent Roncace of Norristown, Pennsylvania
 - Courts Division Dep. Bryan Lukens of Schwenksville, Pennsylvania
- Public Information Assistant Teresa Harris of Lansdale, Pennsylvania received a Commendatory Letter for her commitment and enthusiasm in keeping the citizens, media, employees, community organizations and law enforcement agencies informed of the important initiatives and events of the office.

Retired Dep. Frank Morgan of Conshohocken, Pennsylvania was also presented with a MCSO retirement badge for his 15 years of exceptional service.

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