



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Middlesex Sheriff's Office

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Middlesex Sheriff's Office Recognizes Correctional Officers

National Correctional Officers & Employees Week is May 3-9

BILLERICA - Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian recognized members of the Middlesex Sheriff's Office for sustained excellence and outstanding acts over the past year during the 2015 Employee Recognition and Award Ceremony held May 6.

The ceremony is held annually during the first week of May, recognized as National Correctional Officers and Employees Week.

"Every day the members of the Middlesex Sheriff's Office work to ensure the safety of the public and those in our custody," said Sheriff Koutoujian. "Whether uniformed officers, medical staff, educators or addiction counselors these professionals are playing a crucial role in keeping our neighborhoods safe and returning those in our custody back to the community better off than when they came through our doors."

For the third consecutive year, the Middlesex Sheriff's Office was honored to have Rene Rancourt perform the National Anthem to open the ceremony.

A number of awards were presented during the ceremony held at the Middlesex Sheriff's Office Training Academy in Billerica, including Administrator, Officer and Deputy of the Year.

This year's Administrator of the Year was presented to Captain Jeanne Martin. A 22-year veteran of the office, she was recognized for her management of the protective custody and disciplinary units. Capt. Martin previously served in a number of capacities including as a member of the MSO's training academy staff.

The Officer of the Year Award was presented to Sergeant Paul Saunders, Jr. for his work in the house of correction's high intensity drug and alcohol treatment pod. An 11-year veteran of the MSO, Sgt. Saunders is responsible for day-to-day movement and security operations inside the 126-bed pod, working closely with treatment staff.

The Deputy Sheriff of the Year Award was presented jointly to Warrant Apprehension Unit (W.A.U.) Deputies Todd Courtemanche and Matthew Doherty. Deputies Courtemanche and Doherty were recognized for their efforts last fall to assist Dracut police apprehend a male suspect wanted in connection to a then-pending

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Middlesex Superior Court case. While attempting to apprehend the individual at his apartment in Methuen, Deputy Courtemanche and members of the Dracut and Methuen Police Departments were allegedly charged by a pit bull from inside the residence. Acting in defense of himself and others, Deputy Courtemanche discharged his firearm, striking and fatally wounding the pit bull. Subsequently, both the suspect and a second male inside the apartment were taken into custody.

“Far too often the outstanding work of these dedicated professionals goes unnoticed by the public,” said Sheriff Koutoujian. “It’s my sincere hope as more citizens learn about the efforts of these men and women, they – and the corrections profession as a whole – will begin to receive the recognition they rightly deserve.”

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