

HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

News Release



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One volunteer finds a missing child, another volunteer gives 35 years of service!

Volunteers at Sheriff's Office receive awards for outstanding achievements

September 29, 2010 (MINNEAPOLIS) – People who volunteer for the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office were honored for their exceptional dedication and their years of service.

So far, this year, from January to September, Sheriff's Office volunteers have worked 15,342 hours.

"These volunteers not only improve public safety in our neighborhoods and on our waterways, they are an essential part of emergency preparedness for the Sheriff's Office and the county," said Sheriff Rich Stanek, "I know that if the worst happens, they stand ready to be at their best to assist and serve."

On September 25, 2010, the Sheriff's Office held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet at the Northland Inn in Brooklyn Park. Hennepin County Sheriff Rich Stanek thanked all the volunteers and presented awards to recognize individual accomplishments.

The Sheriff's Office volunteers receive rigorous training and they are "sworn-in" by the Sheriff. These civilian volunteers earn the title, "Special Deputy" – which allows them to wear a uniform and perform essential public safety duties.

"The pride that each person takes in being a Special Deputy is impressive," said Sgt. Jennifer Johnson, Sheriff's Office Volunteer Coordinator, "Nights, weekends, holidays – they are willing and ready to answer the emergency pages and cover public safety events year-round."

There are four Special Deputy units within the Sheriff's Office:

- 1) **Sheriff's Office Water Patrol volunteers:** Patrol the lakes and rivers throughout Hennepin County. May serve on the dive team to search for drowning victims. Educate citizens on water safety.
- 2) **Sheriff's Office Mounted Patrol:** On horseback, perform search & rescue for missing persons, perform crowd control at community events and public safety incidents.
- 3) **Sheriff's Office Mobile Amateur Radio Corp (MARC):** Provide communications at emergencies and large public events. Operate the Mobile Communications Center. Duties include programming handheld radios for first responders – creating interoperability in communications.
- 4) **Sheriff's Office Emergency Squad:** Respond to emergencies in order to assist first responders, patrol the county's roadways to assist motorists and assist law enforcement, educates citizens about driving safety, provide training to first responders such as "jaws of life" extrication techniques.

The following Special Deputies received "Years of Service" awards:

35 Years

Special Deputy John Pink – Emergency Squad
4544 hours in the last 10 years alone

Special Deputy Pink has served since 1975. Among his many emergency responses over the decades, Special Deputy Pink assisted with patients that were transported to the Twin Cities during the flood of 1997.

30 Years

Special Deputy Craig Carlson – MARC
526 hours

Special Deputy Mark Kieffer – MARC
1004 hours

10 Years

Special Deputy Steen Erickson – Water Patrol
1850 hours

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5 Years

Special Deputy Dori Skoog – Emergency Squad

1242 hours

(Special Deputy Skoog and her partner was Special Deputy Sgt. Ron Thompson found a child who wandered from her home in Maple Grove in June.)

Special Deputy Kyp Stavrou – Emergency Squad

1030 hours

Special Deputy Kathie Thompson – Emergency Squad

1108 hours

Special Deputy Robert Stamm – Water Patrol

1377 hours

The following volunteers received the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Captains Award

The award recognizes exceptional volunteer service.

Special Deputy Lieutenant Michael Hubred, Emergency Squad – Lt. Hubred developed the training program for new volunteers with Emergency Squad. Over the last year, he has been instrumental in assisting the Volunteer Coordinator.

Special Deputy Lieutenant Stephen Hartman, MARC – Volunteered at Hurricane Katrina, the Cedar Rapids Iowa floods and the 1987 Twin cities Super Storm. Lt. Hartman volunteers at events such as the Twin Cities Marathon and Special Olympics.

Special Deputy Arthur Hart, Mounted Patrol – Special Deputy Hart has reorganized Mounted Patrol and helped to expand its duties to include public safety responsibilities such as search & rescue duties.

Special Deputy Rich Siakel, Water Patrol – Completed Water Patrol Emergency Response Driving School, he has shown exceptional leadership by organizing events for crews and assigning deputies to responsibilities.

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The following people were “sworn-in” as Special Deputies

Water Patrol

Special Deputy Robert Block
Special Deputy Steve Kalderon
Special Deputy Luke Olson

Emergency Squad

Special Deputy James Hohn

MARC

Special Deputy James Avery
Special Deputy David Cartwright
Special Deputy Forrest Deering
Special Deputy Joseph Sherohman
Special Deputy Brendan Williams

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