Public Service

Lieutenant Tarrick McGuire, Arlington Police Department

Lieutenant McGuire started the Mentoring Arlington Youth (MAY) Program, which has become one of the Arlington Police Department’s most recognizable programs. His inspiration was an interaction with a young man he was arresting, during which he learned about the young man’s challenges and talked to him about his future and potential. Sometime later, the man approached Lieutenant McGuire and told him that he had made significant changes in his life, and was on a path to success. The MAY Program was developed in partnership with Arlington ISD to positively influence young men in seventh and eighth grade, and provide them mentors and positive role models. The program has increased police legitimacy, reduced recidivism and reduced discipline issues at school for its mentees. The program has had a positive impact on the community with many parents wanting to enroll their children and community members wanting to participate.

Patrol Officer John Ortis, Granite Shoals Police Department

Officer Ortis has made community policing a priority in his service to the City of Granite Shoals. He routinely stops for a few minutes to play sports with local youth, attends school assemblies, and gives kids a sticker or coloring book to thank them for wearing their seat belt during a traffic stop. He has organized National Night Out events and a Christmas Bar-B-Que fundraiser to provide for families in need. Officer Ortis also raised funds, food, and supplies for first responders following Hurricane Harvey, and organized a group to travel to the Texas coast to provide a hot meal to a group who had not had a hot meal in several days.

Constable George Morales, III, Travis County Constable’s Office Pct. 4
For over 20 years, Constable Morales has been deeply involved in many aspects of his community, through a wide variety of school and community events. The school events include elementary, middle school, and high school age programs, ranging from backpack giveaways, to attending field trips and track and field days, to holding college mentorship programs, showing the students along the way that law enforcement is there to help them when they need it. Constable Morales also holds an annual Thanksgiving meal for over 1,000 people through donations from local businesses, open to anyone who wants to attend. He is a mentor to potential law enforcement cadets, and in several instances has assisted financially with purchasing equipment needed for candidates to enter an academy.

Professional Achievement

Sergeant Antonio Gracia, Jr., Houston Police Department

Sergeant Antonio Gracia created a 40-hour Vice Investigator Course, which is provided internally to the Houston Police Department and to other agencies in Texas and around the U.S., providing officers with investigative skills and serves as a blueprint for conducting vice investigations. Additionally, Sergeant Gracia has created a training for hotel owners and managers, as well as for apartment complex owners and managers to help them identify signs of illicit behavior on their property, such as signs of human trafficking and prostitution.

Lieutenant Kyle Dishko, Arlington Police Department

While serving as the commander over the investigative section containing the Domestic Crimes Unit, Lieutenant Dishko initiated an innovative program that changed the way the Arlington Police Department responds to repeated incidents involving the same intimate partners. This program identifies repeat domestic violence situations, allowing the department to prioritize calls for service, arrest warrants, and protective orders. The department also began working with a multi-disciplinary team to provide victim services when needed, and now conducts regular home visits with these individuals to check in on them and provide any resources needed. This has resulted in a significant drop in future calls for service.

Sergeant Seth Geiser, Ovilla Police Department

Sergeant Geiser started as a patrol officer in 2016. He has since demonstrated his drive and passion, arresting 51 offenders in two years, including 13 felony arrests. This was more than the combined department-wide arrests for 2013 and 2014. Twenty of those arrests were for DWI, earning him recognition from Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Sergeant Geiser’s efforts, as put by his Chief, “have made the Ovilla Police Department a better agency and the City of Ovilla a safer community.”
Chief Brian Windham, *Ovilla Police Department*

Chief Windham was hired to his position in September 2015. Since then, he has transformed the department, as described by the Ovilla City Manager, into a “proactive, competent, and relevant law enforcement agency serving the citizens of Ovilla.” He has implemented new priorities and accountability measures, sought out quality officers, and instituted a culture of “Integrity, Service, Community, and Honor.” Chief Windham has made many efforts to connect with the community, including bi-monthly Coffee with Cops and a significant social media presence. The community has seen improved response times to calls for service, an increase in patrol activity, and an increased number of arrests under Chief Windham’s command.

Chief Investigator O.J. Hale, *Webb County District Attorney’s Office*

This year marks Chief Investigator Hale’s 50th year in the field of law enforcement. After returning from his service with the U.S. Army in Vietnam, he chose to pursue a career in law enforcement and has served as a police officer, detective, and investigator for the district attorney’s office. During his long and distinguished career, he has helped solve many murders and kidnappings for law enforcement at all levels, including assisting prosecutors in the murder case of singer Selena. In 2015, the Texas Department of Public Safety opened the Oscar “O.J.” Hale Crime Lab in Laredo.

*Valor*

Deputy Chief Bruce Ure, *Seguin Police Department*

On October 1, 2017, Deputy Chief Bruce Ure was in Las Vegas, Nevada, when shooting broke out from the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino. Deputy Chief Ure responded and began administering first aid to wounded individuals that he came across, placing a tourniquet on one individual who was shot in the leg, and providing first aid to two other victims who had been shot in the chest and back. Deputy Chief Ure flagged down a passerby and assisted in getting all three victims to the hospital for treatment.

Trooper III Danny Shaw, Jr., *Texas Department of Public Safety*

On November 25, 2016, Trooper Danny Shaw was patrolling the Texas-Mexico border with Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Wardens and United States Border Patrol Agents as part of Operation Secure Texas when they were made aware of a gun battle occurring across the Rio Grande River. It was later believed that the gun battle was an exchange between the Mexican Military and three individuals attempting to gain illegal entry into the United States. Trooper Shaw placed himself in position to intercept the individuals upon entry. While the officers were monitoring the situation, an unknown person from the Mexico side of the river fired into the United States. Trooper Shaw was struck in the right hip, causing significant injuries and a lengthy recovery.
Patrol Sergeant Jimmy Combs, *Everman Police Department*

On September 14, 2017, while on routine patrol, Sergeant Combs observed a large fire coming from a nearby neighborhood. Arriving first on scene, and the home fully engulfed in flames, Sergeant Combs heard shouts from family members that their daughter was still inside the home. Sergeant Combs made multiple attempts to gain entry into the house, but was forced out by heat and smoke, sustaining multiple burns to his hands and wrists along the way. Upon arrival of the fire department, one of the firefighters got through a window to the girl's bedroom and handed her, unconscious, to Sergeant Combs through the window. Sergeant Combs and the firefighter began giving the girl CPR, and after 2-3 minutes she began breathing on her own. She spent 10 days in the hospital burn unit before being released.

Police Officer Robyn Batchelor, *Irving Police Department*  
Sergeant Catherine Lasch, *Irving Police Department*  
Police Officer Lawrence Pacos, *Irving Police Department*

On May 2, 2017, Officer Lawrence Pacos was dispatched to a domestic disturbance call, with reports that the suspect was attempting to attack a female victim with knives. Upon arrival, Officer Pacos heard yelling and became seriously concerned for the female's safety, and escalated the call. Officer Robyn Batchelor arrived shortly after, and the two of them made entry into the house. Hearing continued yelling from upstairs, Officers Pacos and Batchelor, as well as Sergeant Catherine Lasch, who had arrived on scene, proceeded upstairs. Officer Pacos kicked in the door to the room where the suspect was holding the victim and using her as a shield from the officers. Sergeant Lasch deployed her Taser, which gave enough time for the victim to move out of the way, exposing the suspect. Officer Pacos fired at the suspect, killing him, and the victim was freed.

Police Officer Alphonso Olivo, *Caddo Mills Police Department*

On May 25, 2017, Officer Olivo and his partner noted a speeding RV in Hunt County when they received notice that dispatchers had received an emergency text message from a female inside the RV, saying she and her two children had been kidnapped by her partner. Olivo and his partner followed the RV through multiple counties before it came to a fiery crash in Arlington. Officer Olivo approached the RV and pulled the two children away to safety.

Officer Charles Crawford, *Arlington Police Department*  
Officer Cody Adams, *Arlington Police Department*  
Sergeant Richard Grimmett, *Arlington Police Department*
On September 25, 2015, Officers Charles Crawford and Cody Adams, as well as Sergeant Richard Grimmett, pursued an armed suspect who had just robbed three different people in three different locations, and was actively firing his handgun at officers and bystanders as the chase progressed. Officers were able to shoot and stop the suspect without injury to citizens or officers.

Police Officer Shane Brabham, Irving Police Department
Police Officer Dana Morris, Irving Police Department
Police Officer Jerrod Kennemur, Irving Police Department
Police Sergeant Jonathan Rowan, Irving Police Department
Police Officer Patrick Williams, Irving Police Department

On January 29, 2016, Officer Dana Morris was working in an undercover capacity when he heard a safe alarm call go out at a nearby business. He approached a window to the business where he could see inside and made eye contact with a female employee. Holding his badge up, he mouthed to ask if she was ok, and she shook her head no. Having confirmed that this was a robbery in progress, Officer Morris made contact with Officer Patrick Williams, a responding uniformed officer. Officer Williams kept visual contact on the suspect, and kept Morris informed of what was happening inside. At several points throughout this incident, Officer Morris intercepted citizens nearby or approaching to keep them clear of the scene. The suspect, having noticed the responding officers, placed his arm around the female employee’s neck and held a pistol to her head, and brought her out the front door of the building, saying he would kill her. Officers Rowan, Kennemur, and Brabham, having arrived, took positions surrounding the building. When he was able to get a clear shot, Officer Brabham fired at the suspect, killing him. The hostage was freed, and Officer Morris transitioned to caregiving mode to provide mental support to the victim.