

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Members

FROM: Executive Director Donna A. Moore
Human Resources Division

DATE: July 28, 2008

SUBJECT: Selection of Officer/Member of the Second Quarter for 2008

Recently, the Sheriff's Staff met and took into consideration those nominations for Officer/Member of the Quarter that were submitted for the Second Quarter of 2008.

As a result of this consideration the following members were selected:

SWORN:

Deputy Francisco Gaete began his career with the MCSO in June 2005. On March 28, 2008 Deputy Gaete responded to an address in Key Largo to take a supplemental report on a burglary/grand theft case initially reported on the previous shift. Upon arrival, Deputy Gaete met with the victim and began collecting information. The victim told Deputy Gaete that a neighbor witnessed two Hispanic males riding a blue scooter in the neighborhood the day before his house was burglarized. Deputy Gaete saw a scooter matching the witness' description while patrolling the Taylor Creek Sub-Division in Key Largo. Deputy Gaete took the initiative to conduct a consensual "knock and talk" at the residence. Deputy Gaete was able to establish a rapport with the tenant at the residence and gained consent to search his property. Deputy Gaete located one of the stolen boat motors from the aforementioned burglary in the tenant's backyard. Several other items that matched items stolen in recent marine related thefts were also recovered as well as documents that provided valuable information on a marine theft ring. The tenant provided information that lead to a search warrant in Miami-Dade County resulting in the recovery of several stolen boat motors and arrests. He was eventually charged with burglary/grand theft and several other persons of interest were identified.

If it wasn't for Deputy Gaete's knowledge of his patrol zone and quick thinking, this case would likely go unsolved and the stolen property would not have been recovered. Following this case Sector 7 experienced a reduction in marine related burglaries and thefts.

CORRECTIONS:

Detention Deputy Burney Stafford began his career with the MCSO in May 1995. On June 30 an inmate tried to stab another inmate with a "shank". The attempt fell short when Officer Stafford unselfishly placed himself in harm's way and grabbed the attacker before the shank connected with the other inmate.

Officer Stafford bravely faced an inmate armed with a toothbrush sharpened on one end. The inmate was determined to make another inmate "pay" for a disagreement over a game of ping pong. Officer Stafford noticed that inmates were gathering around the ping pong table. He watched the attacker (Guitierrez) rush toward the victim (Cabrera). He called for back-up and intervened as the inmates started throwing punches at each other.

Officer Stafford separated the two inmates when he noticed that Guitierrez had a shank in his hand and was lunging at Cabrera. Officer Stafford grabbed Guitierrez's arm and pushed him into an open cell to get him away from the victim. When Guitierrez got into the cell, he threw the shank into the toilet and tried flushing it down the toilet. Officer Stafford ran into the cell and stuck his hand into the toilet and was able to grab the shank before it went down the toilet.

Other officers arrived to help Officer Stafford and placed the unit in lockdown. The incident was thoroughly investigated and Officer Stafford prepared a thorough, well written report.

SUPPORT:

Brenda Winegarden has been with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office since March 1987 where she started working in the Finance Department. In 2004, Brenda left the Finance Division in order to take a position as the Administrative Assistant in Sector One. For the past four years Sector I has had the extreme pleasure of working with Brenda and found her to be one of the most reliable, knowledgeable, dedicated and positive people we have had the pleasure of working with. Brenda is an employers' dream employee. She comes to work every day with a smile on her face and a positive attitude. She knows what her job duties and responsibilities are. She completes these in a timely manner without fail. Brenda's work product is at such a high standard, if she says she did it, asked to do it, or she sees that it need to be done, you can count on the fact that it is done and done to an exemplary level. You never have to check on any work she does. If you know that Brenda took care of it, you can rest assured it was done, done on time and is of the highest quality.

While Brenda's work product alone distinguishes her, her positive attitude and friendly demeanor set her far ahead of the rest. Brenda is one of those people who always has a smile on her face, greets you with a cheer and is willing to do what ever she can to help. You can't say enough about her positive friendly attitude as it becomes contagious and spreads from one person to another throughout the station creating a happier, more positive place for everyone to work.

An example of Brenda's work ethics and attitude is when she transferred from the Finance Division to Sector One it left a vacancy in the finance function. There were several occasions when the Finance Director would call upon Brenda and ask her to assist them so certain finance functions could be completed on time. Whenever asked, Brenda would always answer with a smile, "I would be glad to." During these times Brenda would take on the workload of two people always maintaining a positive attitude and producing the highest quality work.

Another example is as our agency was transitioning from paper time sheets to the new computerized time sheets. During this time, Brenda spent several months duplicating her work by completing and processing the paper time sheets for the entire station, only to then enter this data into the computer time system so finance could run duplicate payroll processes in order to iron the system out. This process took a lot of Brenda's time as well as communication and coordination with the Finance Division. As is the Brenda way, when she was done she would share a smile with you and say, "Glad I could help. If you need anything else, just let me know."

These are just a few examples of the positive attitude, superior work product and desire to help that Brenda brings with her to work everyday.

RESERVE:

Reserve Deputy Emil La Vache has been with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office as a Reserve Deputy since December 2007. Reserve Deputy Emil La Vache has been dedicating many volunteer hours toward the community as a reserve. He has put in countless hours with the crime watch program, children's safety programs and doing an outstanding job of representing the Monroe County Sheriff's Office.

In the past quarter he has spent over 270 hours in which time he has held 10 crime watch meetings, 4 residential security surveys, attended 9 civic/community events, and organized a new crime watch on Sombrero Blvd.

Deputy La Vache has also conducted Children's Safety Presentations to over 320 children in the county. He has been a guest speaker at the Marathon Rotary

Club and the Key West Power Squadron, and has dedicated time to the Key West Convalescent Center.

EXPLORER:

During this past quarter "Bud" has been observed on several training sessions along with the D.A.R.E Graduation and his efforts should be recognized.

On May 14, 2008 The Key Largo School D.A.R.E Graduation Ceremony was held. Bud provided substantial assistance with the set up of the decorations, gift bags and T-shirts. Afterwards he assisted with the cleanup.

Throughout the month of June 2008 Bud participated in three weapons training sessions. These training sessions were in preparation for the State Delegates competition to be held the week of July 7, 2008. During these sessions Bud demonstrated outstanding attention to detail, safety and discipline. He listened intently to the safety instruction and swept up brass without ever being asked to do so. When it came time to clean weapons once again Bud's attention to detail was outstanding. The weapons are inspection ready.

DAM: mev

xc: Sheriff Richard D. Roth

Colonel Richard Ramsey

Major Tommy Taylor

Chief Michael Rice

Director Becky Herrin, P.I.O.
Community Relations Office