



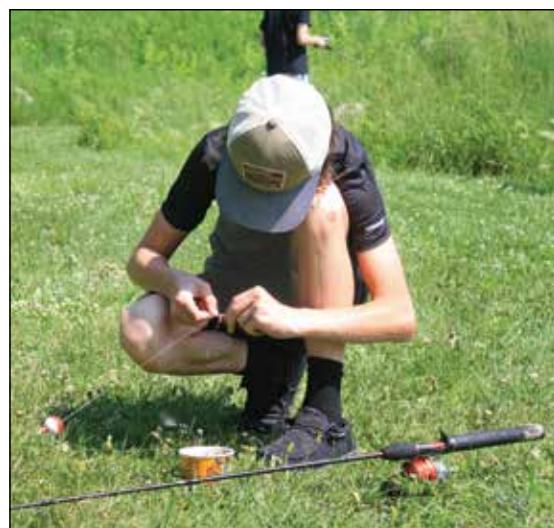
The Honorary Gold Star

Newsletter

December 2025

A publication of the Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association (ISSDA)

ISSDA Honorary Members Help Send Kids from Around Iowa to Sheriffs' and Deputies' YMCA Summer Camp in Boone, Iowa



ISSDA Supporting Special Olympics Iowa

ISSDA, with the help of valued Honorary Members, Supports Special Olympics Iowa through Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) fundraising activities including Polar Plunge®, Cop on Top®, Tip a Cop®, Truck Convoy, the LETR Final Leg, and sponsorship opportunities.



U.S. Violence Increase: Use of Force & Physical/ Mental Health

This year has been very busy as I balanced the duties between my office, the Wayne County Sheriff, the presidency, and my life at home where I also operate a farm. It has been a year of ups and downs, but I can say it was a pleasure to meet new friends and work with them – including many lawmakers, residents, and supporters.

Recently, at our Sheriff's Breakout Session that we have during each of our schools, Attorney General Brenna Bird attended and provided some concerning information. We see every day the increase in violence across the United States. Incidents that used to be handled peacefully are increasingly becoming violent not only between the parties involved but also against the law enforcement officer that responds.

Attorney General Bird said that as of September of this year, her office was investigating 14 officer-involved shootings resulting in deaths. According to her, this is more in the first nine months of 2025 than occurred in total over the previous five years combined. She went on to say that the investigation into 13 of the deaths had been determined to be justified and the 14th was still under investigation.

Attorney General Bird was not criticizing the officers for the shootings but making us all aware of the violent tendencies that are increasingly occurring during contact with law enforcement. Please be diligent in situational awareness as you encounter incidents that could turn hostile.

Each of these shootings left more than one victim. Each officer involved deals mentally with the events that occurred. As we begin each shift, the last thing we want to encounter is the use of deadly force. Hopefully each offi-



Sheriff Keith Davis
Wayne County Sheriff's Office

cer involved is receiving the support needed to heal from the event.

Recently I was fortunate to travel to Vail, Colorado to attend an NSA Conference for the Committee of State Sheriffs' Associations. The Conference began with a day of speakers that primarily focused on officer wellness. This included physical as well as mental well-being. Our first presenter was Dr. Theresa Larson, Marine Corps Engineer Officer and Combat Veteran. Dr. Larson is the founder of "Movement Rx," a company that specializes in physical and mental well-being. Her presentation left me with more awareness of the need for improvement in both areas to better serve my office and employees.

Our second presenter was Jeff Kingsfield, C.E.O. of the National Command & Staff College. Jeff presented on being a good leader through eight essential tenets: Vision, Drive, Elasticity, Empathy, Authenticity, Initiative, Optimism and Growth Mindset. He is author of the book, "Love To

Inspire." The book's forward is written by a well-known speaker and presenter to law enforcement, Dr. Mitch Javidi.

Our final presenter was Dr. Cherylynn Lee, Behavioral Services Manager for the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office in California. Dr. Lee presented the traumatic events that occur within the law enforcement community. She spoke about events that we sometimes don't pay much attention to that can leave an officer in need of mental release or therapy to help cope with the situation. Dr. Lee provided stories of officer situations that she has been involved in helping. She also talked about the resistance of officers to reach out for help fearing it could place them out of service.

I share my adventure to Colorado to follow up on what I began with in this article: officer-involved shootings. There are many resources available for law enforcement officers to receive help after experiencing an event that would have a temporary or lasting effect on them. The issue is awareness of the resources and getting the officer to take advantage of them. Dr. Lee spoke about the fear of the officer in losing their badge over talking to her. There are many tools available currently that provide wellness assistance through on-line sources. Lexipol is one company I am aware of that has the resource available. This works well for small agencies. Chase Watkins from TheSheriffApp.com said they are in the process of adding wellness to their app as another available resource.

In closing, I want to thank you for your support of the Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association, and all the ways you help us in serving our communities.

The Honorary Gold Star *newsletter*

of the Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association

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Honorary Members Helped ISSDA Send Almost 100 Kids to Y-Camp in 2025 with Role Models for new Opportunities and Friendships

By Alex Kretzinger
Executive Director
Des Moines Y-Camp

Young people are struggling and the statistics paint a bleak picture: 150% increase in depression and 139% increase in anxiety over the last decade; 1 in 5 children reporting being “consistently lonely;” around 19% of kids report being bullied at school.

These challenges are provided by a world that looks much different than it did ten or twenty years ago, and the tools to overcome them aren’t always within reach.

As I read more troubling stories of youth who want nothing more than to thrive, be happy and find purpose yet are caught in a society that doesn’t provide it, I am more committed than ever to Camp as a solution.

In June of 2025, the Iowa State Sheriffs’ and Deputies’ Association made an investment in the young people of this state, as it has for over 50 years, by sending children

to the Des Moines Y-Camp. Their week at camp gave them opportunities to build new friendships, play in nature, share community with hundreds of other kids and learn about their capacity to do good. And perhaps one of the most valuable aspects of camp is the fact they are disconnected from phones, social media and video games, which are often the culprit in their struggles. Needless to say, it’s an experience that kids need now more than ever.

Their week at camp includes opportunities to try new things like shooting archery, riding a horse, rowing a canoe or catching a fish. Through each new accomplishment or activity, they learn more about themselves and their capabilities. There are also opportunities to practice choice in the schedule, and recreation spaces that allow them to explore and play with others to build independence and confidence.

Their Y-Camp Leaders are selected and trained to be the best role models a child

could ask for, as research shows the incredible influence and value of an extra-familial adult in the lives of youth. At the center of it all are the connections they make, as building friendships, now seemingly a lost art, is central to finding belonging and finding value. Lastly, the evening programs teach the value of character and reinforce their power to create a better community by encouraging them to do all the good they can. All in all, their time at camp is transformative and necessary to lay the foundations of success.

This past summer almost 100 youth from across Iowa were able to have this experience thanks to the generous support of the ISSDA. If we are to prepare our kids for the future they deserve, it will take many hands and communities like those built at camp. Young people need our help, and through partnerships like this, we can provide it to the next generation of neighbors and leaders.



History Committee to Honor the Past, Locate and Preserve Artifacts, and Tell the Stories of Those Who Paved the Way for Us

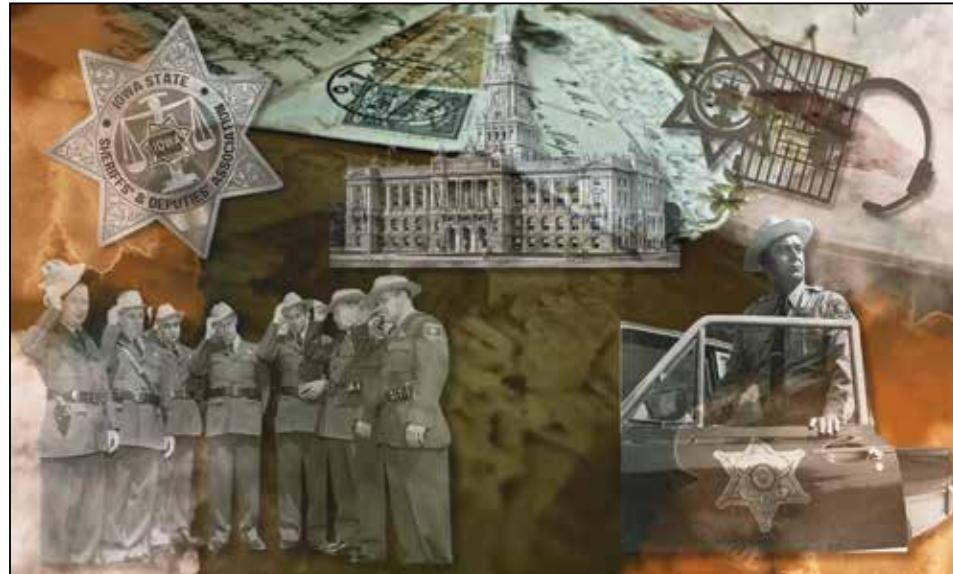
By JW LeMaster
Pottawattamie Co. Sheriff's Office

If we were to tell you that photographs of you, stories written about you, and even the mere thought of you were about to be lost and forgotten about, would you be upset? Almost as if you never existed.

Prior to the mid 1950's, when a newly elected Sheriff would take office, they would often 'clean house'. This would entail getting rid of any photographs, letterhead, and sometimes even actual documents that may contain the likeness or signature of their rival or any trace of their predecessor.

The Office of Sheriff has always been a political beast, and honestly, sadly, even today, there may still be instances where this may still be happening. Thankfully, since the 1950s the modern era evolved in such a way that the want and need for knowledge and the preservation of history has prevailed throughout the nation. The United States has realized that once things are lost and destroyed they cannot always be replaced.

How does this fit into the story of the Iowa State Sheriffs' & Deputies' Association? Some of our history is still being lost and we want to continue to not only find it, but also preserve it. We currently have

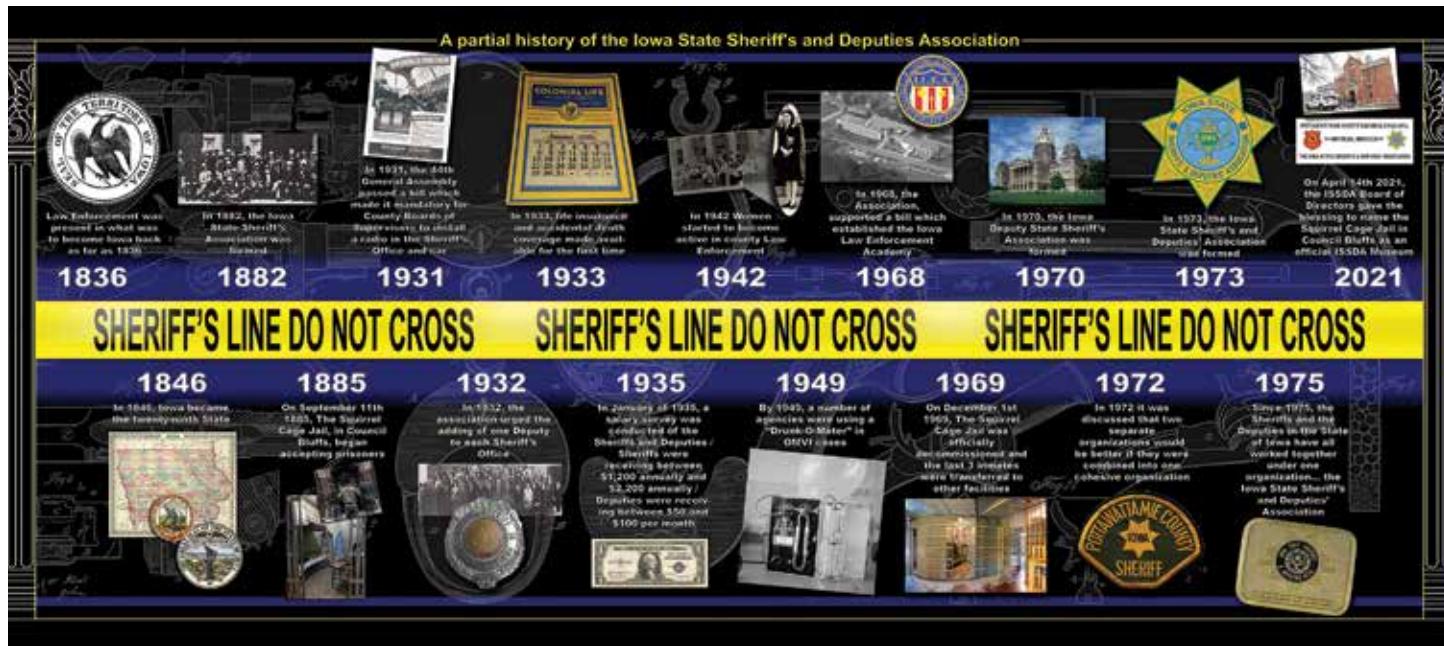


two official ISSDA Museums that proudly showcase artifacts pertaining to the Iowa Sheriff's Association, the Iowa Deputies Association, and the Iowa State Sheriffs' & Deputies' Association. Without donations, research and locating more artifacts, we can only tell part of the story. We want to continue to tell the whole story for many more years. We want to continue to honor those who have sacrificed so much to wear this badge, and those who still proudly serve their communities today.

We are looking into putting together a History Committee that will meet every

so often. Our goal would be to find some members from across the state that represent all aspects of the Office of Sheriff. Let's find members who would have a common goal of helping honor the past, locating and preserving the artifacts, and then continuing to tell the stories of those who bravely paved the way for all of us to continue their legacy.

If you, or anyone from your Office has interest in participating in the beginning stages of a History Committee, please reach out to me directly via email: jlemaster@sheriff.pottcounty-ia.gov.



Honorary Members Made Possible 18 Years of Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Assn. Support of Many Facets of Special Olympics

The Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association (ISSDA) continues to demonstrate its unwavering commitment to Special Olympics Iowa through years of dedicated service, advocacy, and community engagement.

For 18 years, ISSDA has proudly supported Special Olympics Iowa, reinforcing its mission to promote the positive role of law enforcement across the state while creating meaningful opportunities for athletes with intellectual disabilities.

Sheriffs' offices across Iowa – including Muscatine, Polk, Scott, Dallas, Dubuque, Black Hawk, Johnson, Linn, Marion, Clinton, Marshall, Jasper, and Story counties, to name a few—have played an active role in this longstanding partnership. Their involvement extends far beyond financial contributions, as they consistently promote, attend, and support the Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR) events and Special Olympics pro-

grams throughout the year. These efforts help strengthen relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve, while ensuring athletes receive the support and recognition they deserve.

The mission of Special Olympics Iowa is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Through these programs, athletes are given continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in a meaningful sharing of gifts, skills, and friendships with their families, fellow athletes, and the broader community.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics stands as the world's largest grassroots fundraising and public awareness initiative. Since its introduction in Iowa in 1987, LETR has grown into the largest grassroots fundraiser for Special Olympics Iowa.

Each year, law enforcement officers across the state carry the Flame of Hope, symbolizing inclusion, acceptance, and the power of community support. The Torch Run and its associated events focus on two critical goals: raising funds and increasing awareness for Special Olympics athletes.

The LETR initiative includes a wide range of fundraising events such as Polar Plunge®, Cop on Top®, Tip a Cop®, Truck Convoy, the LETR Final Leg, and sponsorship opportunities. Through these events, Iowa's law enforcement community continues to champion inclusion and empower athletes to achieve their fullest potential.

The ongoing partnership between the Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association and Special Olympics Iowa reflects the very best of public service—demonstrating that when law enforcement and communities work together, lives are changed, and champions are created both on and off the field.



SOI Softball Games



Dunkin' "Cop on a Rooftop" fundraiser.



Culver's "Butterburgers and Badges" fundraiser for SOI.



Linn County Sheriff's Office at Culver's SOI fundraiser.



Torch lighting



Dunkin' Donuts fundraiser for Special Olympics Iowa.

Continued: Honorary Members Help ISSDA Support Special Olympics



ISSDA Honor Guard Opens the Special Olympics Iowa Summer Games.



Officer runners carried the Torch from Des Moines to Ames.



Opening Ceremonies of the Special Olympics Iowa Summer Games.



High Fives for participants.



ISSDA members serve food at a Texas Roadhouse fundraiser.



ISSDA Presents a \$30,000 check to Special Olympics Iowa.

Iowa consistently ranks among the top states for jail management”

Boone County Among Nine Recognized for Top-Performing Jails at the Annual ISSDA Winter School Banquet on December 5

From the Boone County Sheriff's Office and the Iowa Dept. of Corrections

In December, Boone County Sheriff Andrew Godzicki and Jail Administrator Abbey Swank had the honor of receiving an acknowledgment from the Iowa Department of Corrections on behalf of the Boone County Jail for outstanding improvement in daily operations and professionalism (see photo at right).

This award belongs entirely to the unsung—and often unseen—heroes who work inside our jail every day. Our jailers play a critical role in keeping our community safe, maintaining secure operations, and upholding the highest standards of professionalism, even when their work goes unnoticed by the public.

We are incredibly proud of their dedication, their commitment to excellence, and the pride they take in serving Boone County.

To our jail staff: thank you for your tireless efforts, your professionalism, and the integrity you bring to this vital work. You truly make a difference.

The Iowa Department of Corrections (DOC) is proud to announce that eight counties have been recognized as having top-performing jails in the state. This rec-

ognition celebrates jails that demonstrate excellence in operations and management, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of both prisoners and staff.

The DOC evaluates jails across three categories based on capacity:

- Small Jails (up to 30 beds): Adair and Butler Counties were honored
- Medium Jails (31–100 beds): Hamilton and Marion Counties
- Large Jails (101 beds or more): Dallas and Story Counties

Per Iowa Code 356, all jails in Iowa undergo an annual inspection conducted by the DOC to ensure compliance with the Iowa Administrative Code's Jail Standards. These inspections include a comprehensive review of daily jail documentation, a facility tour, interaction with prisoners, and an operational review conducted by a DOC Inspector.

“Iowa is one of only 21 states where jail standards are overseen by the state’s Department of Corrections,” said DOC Director Dr. Beth Skinner. “Iowa consistently ranks among the top states for jail manage-



Boone County Sheriff Andrew Godzicki and Jail Administrator Abbey Swank hold the Award for “Outstanding efforts to improve jail operations” 2005 from Iowa DOC.

ment, and that is a testament to the hard work and dedication of jail staff across our state.”

In 2017, the Iowa DOC launched the “Best of the Best” award to formally recognize exceptional efforts in jail operations. The achievement underscores the diligence and professionalism demonstrated by all staff every day.

In 2025, Iowa DOC awarded two jails for outstanding improvement of the jail daily operations and professionalism. They are Boone and Muscatine County.

Congratulations to all the honorees for their outstanding contributions to public safety and corrections.



Johnson County Jail Accreditation Award.



Adair County Small Jail Division Award.

Butler County Small Jail Division Award.



Hamilton County Medium Jail Division Award.



Marion County Medium Jail Division Award.



Dallas County Large Jail Division



Muscatine County Improved Jail Operations Award



Story County Jail Division Award.



Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Assn. Honor Guard Update

The ISSDA Honor Guard is comprised of about 60 members from various Sheriff's Offices across the state. Many of its members attend events and functions on a volunteer basis and do so with tremendous pride and professionalism. I would like to give an update on the types of events that the ISSDA Honor Guard has participated in and provide on the direction the ISSDA Honor Guard is moving.

In 2024 the ISSDA Honor Guard attended 21 separate events including funerals for active duty and retired personnel in Iowa and South Dakota. Iowa did not have any line-of-duty deaths in 2024. The ISSDA Honor Guard functions also included assisting with the Iowa Peace Officer Memorial Day Ceremonies, Posting the Colors for multiple graduating Basic Classes at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy, along with all four ISSDA Schools, the Franklin County Republicans event, Iowa Coin and Patch Show, as well as Iowa Narcotics Officers Association Conference.

The ISSDA Honor Guard also participated in special events which included the Knoxville Nationals at Knoxville Raceway, and Racing

For A Cause at Hawkeye Downs Speedway in Cedar Rapids.

In October of 2024, Pottawattamie County Hosted a three-day ISSDA Honor Guard training that was attended by 23 ISSDA Honor Guard members from across the state. Members of the Omaha Nebraska Police Department Honor Guard as well as members of the Offutt Air Force Base Honor Guard assisted in training every aspect of what we do.

In May 2024, the ISSDA Honor Guard sent Honor Guard members to Police Week in Washington D.C. to assist the Iowa COPS (Concerns of Police Survivors) organization with survivor families and coworkers who were attending Police Week in honor of fallen loved ones and coworkers who were being honored at various ceremonies. Additionally, the ISSDA Honor Guard assisted Honor Guards from across the nation as they met Police Week attendees who got off their planes at Ronald Reagan International Airport and participated in many other Honor Guard related events throughout the week.

The continued success of the ISSDA Hon-

or Guard has been achieved by the dedication of our Sheriff's Office employees and Sheriffs that allow the Honor Guard members the time to attend the various functions. To ensure the continued success of the ISSDA Honor Guard, we need to keep attendance at the various functions a high priority so the majority of the work is not being done by a small number of Honor Guard Members.

If you need the ISSDA Honor Guard for any upcoming functions or if you wish to join the ISSDA Honor Guard, please contact Sheriff Andrew Brown, Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Office, or Sergeant Jon Poore, Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Office.

Andrew Brown
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ABrown@sheriff.pottcounty-ia.gov
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Clarke County Deputy Wayne Keeler Earns Life Saving Award

By Chief Deputy Brian Akers
Clarke County Sheriff's Office

On, Jan. 4, 2025, Clarke County Deputy Wayne Keeler was presented a Life Saving Award for actions taken after responding to a motorcycle accident in the fall of 2024.

Deputy Keeler began his law enforcement career with the Madison Co. Sheriff's Office in 2017 as a jailer then as a deputy. Deputy Keeler came to Clarke County in 2020 where he serves as a patrol deputy. Deputy Keeler served with the U.S. Air Force for several years and was honorably discharged from his military service in 2018.

On, October 12th 2024, Deputy Keeler had just begun his shift when he was notified of a single vehicle accident involving a motorcycle on U.S. Highway 69 North of Osceola. Deputy



Deputy Wayne Keeler
Presented Life Saving Award

Keeler rendered lifesaving efforts as well as provided his "Stop the Bleed Kit". Russ Jacobson was traveling on a motorcycle when he left the roadway and was thrown into a barbed wire

fence. Jacobson sustained several injuries including a major laceration to his arm. Deputy Keeler arrived on scene and was assisted by two other individuals. Deputy Keeler used his emergency medical kit to render life saving aid until EMS units arrived.

Deputy Keeler's actions resulted in Jacobson surviving his accident and has since made nearly a full recovery. Jacobson was in person at the Osceola Fire Department's Christmas Banquet, where he met Deputy Keeler and presented his Life Saving recognition medal.

The Clarke Co. SO is honored to also recognize Deputy Keeler for his actions. Deputy Keeler is an amazing deputy with a strong sense of duty and professionalism. Wayne has worn several patches on his shoulder, and we are proud that he wears ours now!

Thank you, Deputy Keeler!

Fifteen \$1,000 ISSDA Evelyn Covington Scholarships Awarded to Graduating Senior High School Children of ISSDA Members



Nattalee Sue Brinkman, the daughter of Grundy County Deputy Adam Brinkman and Megan Heise, plans to study molecular biology and biochemistry (pre-med) at the University of Iowa.



Kasey Davis, Son of Washington County Administrative Supervisor Karla and Mike Davis, plans to study agricultural science at Kirkwood Community College.



Carson Harriman, son of Ida County Sheriff Wade and Leah Harriman, plans to study criminal justice at Morningside University.



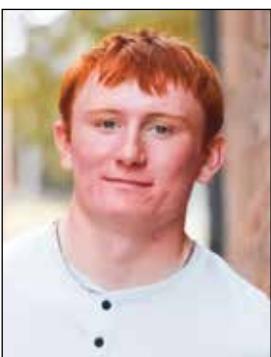
Jocelyn Hendricks, the daughter of Johnson County Patrol Captain Matthew and Kimberly Hendricks, plans to study biology/ pre-veterinary medicine.



Zachery Hogrefe, son of Wright County Chief Deputy/ Jail Administrator Jeremy and Jennifer Holgrefe, plans to study diesel technology at Iowa Central Community College.



Gavin Holst, son of former Clayton County Chief Deputy Steve and Amy Holst, plans to study agricultural business at Northeast Iowa Community College.



Brayden Komarek, son of Monona County Civil Clerk Angela and Danny Komarek, plans to study criminal justice at Morningside University.



Noah McCleary, son of Muscatine Co. Jail Admin. Mathew and Amanda McCleary, plans to study technology and engineering education at Muscatine C.C. & U. of Northern Iowa.



Lydia Nachazel, the daughter of Hardin County Deputy Kourtney and Nicole Nachazel, plans to study finance.



Breya Nickle, the daughter of Ringgold County Chief Deputy Nathan and Stasia Nickle, plans to study biology.



Aiden Pecks, son of **Kacie Riess**, daughter of Plymouth County Sheriff's Office 911 Dispatcher Quinn and Becky Riess, and Chad and Sarah Pecks, plans to study chemistry. plans to study accounting.



Brooklyn Schultz, the daughter of Mills County Sheriff Greg and Brandee Schultz, plans to study elementary education at the University of Iowa.

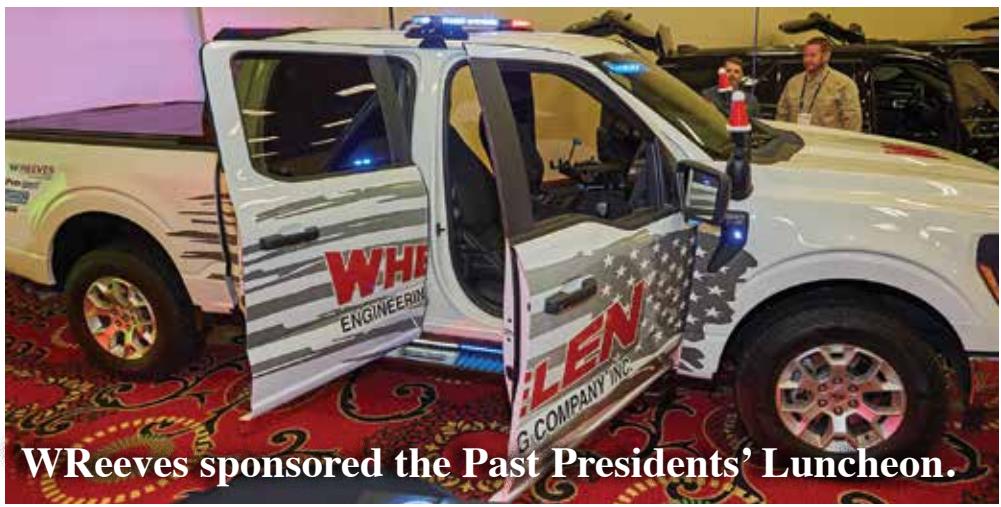
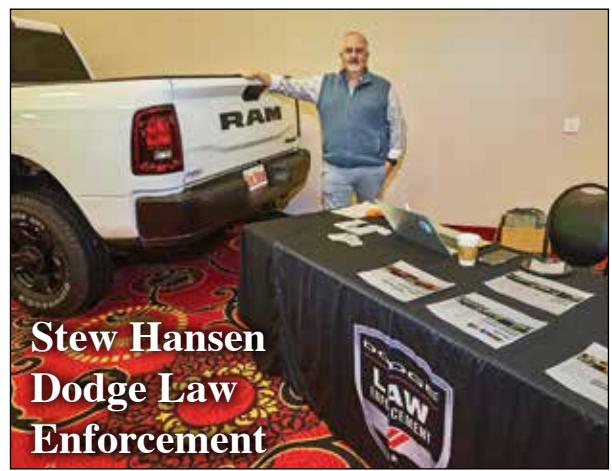


Natalie Shore, daughter of Madison County 911 Dispatcher Nicole Shore, plans to study livestock production at Southwest Community College.



Aubrey Walter, daughter of Webster Co. Deputy Tony Walter and Melissa Aldrich, plans to study business mgt. at Iowa Central Community College and Arizona State U.

Some of the ISSDA Winter School 2025 Event Sponsors



WReeves sponsored the Past Presidents' Luncheon.

ISSDA's Platinum Sponsors Hosted the 2025 Winter School President's Reception



On Veterans Day 2025: Iowa Sheriff's Offices Honored Their Staff Who Served in the U.S. Armed Forces



Henry County Sheriff's Office



Black Hawk County
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11/12 Updated video to include Robert Neiswonger of the Sheriff's Office, who is current serving overseas. ... See more

Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office



Sixty-two Iowa Sheriffs attended the Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' (ISSDA) Sheriff's Breakout Meeting.



Some serious business and camaraderie at the ISSDA Past-President's luncheon



ISSDA Sheriffs and Deputies Y-Camp was celebrated at Winter School.

Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office, Dispatchers and Families Placed Flags on Graves of Fallen Veterans for Memorial Day

By Deputy Caitlin Whitmore
Black Hawk Sheriff's Office

On May 22, the Black Hawk County Law Enforcement Association and their families had the opportunity to give back to veterans in another meaningful way. We teamed up with Black Hawk County Veteran Affairs to place flags on

the graves of fallen veterans for Memorial Day Weekend.

This was truly a humbling experience filled with mixed emotions—pride, sadness, and ultimately, gratitude. As we looked at the numerous graves receiving flags, we were reminded of how many local veterans dedicated their lives to serving this country and made

the ultimate sacrifice. We are genuinely overwhelmed with gratitude for their service.

Last year, for the Black Hawk County Law Enforcement Association's "7 Points to a Cause" campaign, one of our chosen causes to support war veterans, specifically those affected by Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).



Above photo by Lilly Dix; below photo by Nicole Spaulding



Above photo by Dillon Sampson; below photo by Natalie Evans.



Linn Co. Deputy Awarded his 5th Life Saving Commendation

On May 16 at approximately 7:35 AM, Deputy Sheriff/Paramedic Ben Brink and other first responders were dispatched to a medical emergency at a mobile home in rural Cedar Rapids. The caller initially reported a person was having difficulty breathing, and soon after became clammy and was changing color.

Deputy Brink arrived on scene within seven minutes and found the patient unresponsive and not breathing. Recognizing the critical nature of the situation, he initiated CPR within two minutes of arriving and with a volunteer fire fighter performed CPR for several minutes until additional medical personnel arrived.

When ambulance personnel arrived, Deputy Brink assisted in applying the Lucas Machine for automated chest com-



pressions. He then initiated an intraosseous (IO) infusion, allowing the direct administration of medications and fluids into the patient's bone marrow. Deputy

Brink continued to work closely with ambulance personnel as they administered an epinephrine injection and IV therapy.

When the patient was stabilized, Deputy Brink assisted placing the patient in the ambulance for transport to the hospital for advanced medical care.

Although multiple emergency responders contributed to these lifesaving efforts, it was Deputy Brink's rapid response, situational awareness, and decisive actions that played a crucial role in the successful outcome for this patient.

In recognition of his outstanding performance and commitment to preserving life, Sheriff Brian Gardner awarded Deputy Sheriff/Paramedic Ben Brink with a Life Saving commendation award for the act of saving a life on May 16, 2025.

Black Hawk County Law Enforcement Association Creates “7 Points to a Cause Campaign” to Highlight Community Issues

By Deputy Caitlin Whitmore

Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office/
Secretary of the BHC Law Enforc. Assn.

The Black Hawk County Law Enforcement Association is comprised of Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office employees and dispatchers from the Consolidated Dispatch Center. Last year, in honor of our 7-point badge, which we hold close to our hearts, we selected seven causes within our community to raise awareness.

Some of these causes included Down Syndrome Awareness, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in Veterans, Autism Awareness, Suicide Prevention, and Breast Cancer Awareness.

The causes we chose not only impact our community but also affect members within the Sheriff's Office. Our goal with this campaign was to raise awareness and strengthen our connection within Black Hawk County.

The success of this campaign was overwhelming; we not only achieved greater staff engagement than expected but also strengthened our bonds

with various community groups.

Staff members wore crazy socks in honor of World Down Syndrome Day to show their support. The Association provided puzzle piece stickers and magnets that staff wore on their uniforms and squad cars. Each month dedicated to a specific cause, we sold special shirts to continue raising awareness. Additionally, we shared local resources and informative content on our social media platforms to educate the public.

Beyond in-house involvement, Sheriff's Office staff volunteered for opportunities such as placing flags on veterans' graves, helping organize Autism Sensory-Friendly Open House events, and attending and speaking at suicide prevention seminars. We have

further volunteer events scheduled throughout the year, including distributing water and toys at an awareness 5K walk and providing companionship for individuals undergoing cancer treatment, among other activities.

This has truly been a heartwarming and humbling experience. The level of participation from my coworkers has made me extremely proud to work alongside them. Furthermore, the overwhelming support from the citizens of Black Hawk County has made it possible for our “7 Points to a Cause Campaign” to become an annual event. I am honored to be part of a community that is so supportive of all its members.



“You Matter” suicide prevention shirts.



Karla Altenbaumer and K-9 Mary joined the “7 Points To A Cause” awareness activities.



Wearing colorful socks and stickers to honor autism acceptance month.

On Veterans Day 2025, Sheriff's Offices Across Iowa Honored Staff Who Serve or Served in the United States Armed Forces



Sioux County Sheriff's Office

Deputy Alex Bakker, Deputy Agustin Martinez Jr, Jail Commander Davis De Jong, Detention Officer Benjamin Stange, part-time Detention Officer Jesse Van Wyk (not shown) and a 9-1-1 Communications Supervisor.



Fayette County Sheriff's Office

"On Nov 11, Deputy Josh Barker spoke at a Veteran's Day ceremony at the William's Center in Oelwein, speaking to the middle school / high school students and community about his experience as a Mental Health Specialist and a Special Forces Green Beret. Deputy Barker also highlighted what it takes to persevere through hardships and how to take on adversity."

Monroe County Sheriff's Office

Veterans: "We are proud to recognize Deputy Alexander Sirovy - U.S. Army Infantryman; Jailer/Dispatcher Devon Strickler - U.S. Army Patient Administrator; Jailer/Dispatcher Mark Seavey - U.S. Army Military Police; Retired Deputy Todd Stewart - USMC.

"Today, we pause to honor and thank all who have served our nation –especially the veterans within our own Office who continue their legacy of selfless service right here at home. Each of these individuals has shown what it means



to serve – with dedication, integrity, and pride. From all of us at the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, we thank our veterans for their courage, sacrifice, and continued

commitment to service. Happy Veterans Day, and again, thank you to all who have served."

Veterans Day 2025: Jackson County Sheriff's Office

"Thanks to all Veterans on Veterans Day 2025. One could argue this is our nation's most important holiday.

The photo is from Andrew school. They do a very nice job every year. All the other schools do as well, I just can't make it to all of them as some of their times overlap and conflict.

As a fellow veteran, we veterans appreciate all the support given to us, but we think mainly of those brothers and sisters who are no longer with us because they made the ultimate sacrifice. Our hope is that everyone continues to support all those who are less than the 1% of society who step forward to



serve in our military so that freedom can continue for our future generations, and that the prior generations' sacrifices weren't in vain." – Sheriff Brent Kilburg

Hamilton County Creates School Resource Officer Position in Collaboration with South Hamilton School District



From left to right: Hamilton County Supervisors April Ely and Mary Clause; the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office has South Hamilton Schools Superintendent Heather Holm; Hamilton County Supervisor Rick Young; and Hamilton County Sheriff Alex Pruismann.



Linn Deputy Chance Tiedtke Thwarts Inmate Suicide Attempt and is Honored with Life Saving Commendation Award

During the early evening hours on June 28, Linn County Sheriff's Deputy Chance Tiedtke was in the first floor control center of the Linn County Correctional Center after returning following the jail's evening meal tray passing. Deputy Tiedtke monitored the video system to confirm all inmates completed their meals so he could begin tray collection. He observed a female inmate displaying abnormal behavior in her cell near the toilet. Based on his observations and the inmate's previous suicide attempts, he left the control center to check on her. The female occupant was lying on the floor with her head and face concealed under a suicide blanket and next to the toilet fixture. Deputy Tiedtke, believing that the female was possibly having a medical event or was attempting suicide, entered the cell. He observed the woman had the jail suicide smock hooked over the toilet with her head extending through an arm-hole and tightly wrapped around her neck. She was intentionally attempting to restrict her ability to breathe.

Deputy Tiedtke called out an inmate



Deputy Chance Tiedtke Shows His Life Saving Commendation Award

suicide attempt over the radio, removed the smock from around the toilet and her neck, and pulled her away from where she had positioned herself. Deputy Tiedtke found she also had a cardboard suicide spoon in her mouth to further block her airway. Deputy Tiedtke removed the

spoon from her airway by positioning her head in a downward position, removed the spoon and cleared the inmate's airway. The woman remained unresponsive even after multiple sternum rubs were administered. Deputy Tiedtke found the woman did have a pulse and was breathing. Additional staff members assisted, including jail nursing staff. Working together, Deputy Tiedtke and staff members placed the woman into a rescue position to assist her in maintaining an open airway. A C-collar maintained her C-spine and the woman was stabilized until ambulance personnel transported her to a local hospital, where she was treated.

Although several staff members provided this woman with on-scene care, if it were not for the keen observations and quick response of Deputy Tiedtke, it is possible that this inmate's suicide attempt would have been successful. Because of his situational awareness and attentiveness, Linn County Sheriff Brian Gardner presented Deputy Chance Tiedtke with a Life Saving commendation award for the act of saving a life on June 28, 2025.

ISSDA Sheriffs & Deputies Talked Public Service & Public Safety at the Iowa State Fair “Hall of Law”



Decatur County Deputy Shaun Kloster (center) with Ken and Donna Stinson at the ISSDA booth in the 2025 Iowa State Fair “Hall of Law.”



The ISSDA was well represented in the Hall of Law and the public response was positive all day.



“We thank all of our military personnel currently serving, those who have served, and those who have given the ultimate sacrifice. We have you all to thank for our freedoms. May God bless each of you and your families.” – The Iowa State Sheriffs’ and Deputies’ Association



Your Iowa State Sheriffs’ & Deputies’ Association
Honorary Membership renewal application will be mailed to you in mid-January



2025 ISSDA Board front row 1 to r: Sheriff Brad Shutts (2nd V.P.), Sgt. Shawn Ireland (Past-President), Sheriff Keith Davis (President), Sgt. Elizabeth Quinn (Secretary), Sheriff Andy Brown (1st V.P.), Back: Sheriff Kevin Glendening, Sheriff Luke Fleener, Constance Toresdahl (Civilian Board Member), Sheriff Dave McDaniel, Sheriff Quinn Riess, Captain Matt Hendricks, Sergeant Steve Erceg.