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2021 Lyle Wohlers Law Enforcement Luncheon

Sgt. Richard Sonnenberg 2021 Officer of the Year

Paul James 2021 Citizen of the Year

5.27.2022

The 2021 Lyle Wohlers Law Enforcement Luncheon was held on May 25, 2022, at the Blackstone River Ranch in Idaho Springs. Sergeant Richard Sonnenberg was awarded the 2021 Officer of the Year, and Paul James was awarded 2021 Citizen of the Year.



Richard Sonnenberg (left in photo), Sergeant of the Idaho Springs Police Department, was awarded the 2021 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Sgt. Sonnenberg received two nominations for his outstanding services in 2021. Sgt. Sonnenberg was nominated by the Clear Creek Coroner's Office for his compassion and empathy he demonstrated while dealing with family members of the deceased. Sgt. Sonnenberg was also nominated by a fellow officer for his exemplary actions he demonstrated when he responded to a young child who had been neglected by his mother.

Paul James (not pictured), of Dumont Colorado was awarded 2021 Citizen of the Year, for his willingness to assist The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (C.B.I.), The Federal Bureau of Investigation (F.B.I.) and local law enforcement by allowing authorities to occupy a house owned by him while they investigated a double homicide that occurred in 1982. His willingness to assist agencies with no information available to him led to the arrest of the suspect and shows his outstanding commitment to his community.



Sergeant Sonnenberg and Sergeant Frost were promoted from their positions as Corporals with the Idaho Springs Police Department to Patrol Sergeants during the event.



Cindy Teuling and Danielle Lewis were awarded with the Idaho Springs Police Department Chief's Award for their continued dedication and professionalism throughout 2021.



The Medal of Valor was awarded to Deputy Noah Kowalewski (left) and Deputy Dan Wilson (right) of the Clear Creek Sheriff's Office for their courageous ability to act and protect one another when two suspects brandished a weapon threatening the officer's lives.



Sergeant Kyle Gould (left) of the Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office was awarded the Sheriff's Meritorious Conduct Award for his exemplary ability to think quickly and request additional services to respond to the county for a woman in crisis, which most likely saved her life.



Deputy Dominic Rodriguez-Gonzales (left) of the Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office was awarded the Sheriff's Meritorious Conduct Award for displaying courage and professionalism on an encounter where substantial possible injury was present while off duty, that the Sheriff's Office recognizes this act as above and beyond.



Deputy Travis Derington, Deputy Theresa Dawes, and Deputy Andrew Buen were all awarded Meritorious Service Awards. Each of them displayed exemplary conduct during a very difficult and hazardous duty situation involving a semi-truck crash along Interstate 70.



Clear Creek Sheriff's Office Detentions Division was awarded the Sheriff's Meritorious Service Award in recognition of the exceptional professionalism and selfless dedication to duty they displayed during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The 2021 Lyle Wohlers Law Enforcement Nominations for Officer of the Year:

Deputy Theresa Dawes was nominated for demonstrating great resolve and dedication after enduring a great family loss in 2021. Deputy Dawes regardless of how much stress she was under, handled every call and situation with a calm and clear head.

Sergeant Richard Sonnenberg received two nominations for his work in 2021. Sgt. Sonnenberg was nominated for his compassion and empathy while dealing with families. Sgt. Sonnenberg was nominated for his exemplary actions he demonstrated while dealing with a difficult situation involving a neglected child.

Chief John Stein was nominated for his ability to provide valuable insight and his outstanding capabilities to problem solve. Chief Stein has shown he is fearless in the field and has selfless dedication to the people he serves.

Deputy Mike Sawyer was nominated for demonstrating continued excellence in his ability to de-escalate situations and his ability to interact with the most challenging individuals.

Clear Creek County Detention Division was nominated for working through the pandemic and providing a safe environment for staff members and inmates.

The 2021 Lyle Wohlers Law Enforcement Nominations for Citizen of the Year:

Joni Albers was nominated for her outstanding work in a complex sexual assault case. Joni's efforts resulted in the successful prosecution of the suspect who received 6 years in prison for his crimes.

Troy Erickson was nominated for his outstanding work within the Clear Creek Combined Courts and Probation Office and his willingness and ability to connect Veterans with vital services.

Paul James was nominated for his cooperation and willingness to assist law enforcement with no information provided to him. Paul's cooperation led to a suspect being arrested for a double homicide that occurred in 1982.

Congratulations to all of the outstanding nominees and to the winners of the 2021 Lyle Wohlers Law Enforcement Awards.