Sheriff Honors Retiring Staff

The Sheriff’s Office is saying farewell and happy retirement to three long-time members of the department whose years on the force add up to nearly a century of service.

The Sheriff presented resolutions to those officers, the first ones made last month so filled the Board of Supervisors chambers that Chair John Phillips joked it was the best security in chambers in some time.

**Commander Archie Warren**
The first honoree was Commander Archie Warren, a fixture in the department who came to Monterey during his military service, met and married his wife Laura and made the area his home.

He studied Administration of Justice while working for Budweiser as a salesman/driver and was sworn into service as a deputy on August 21, 1989.

Warren is so well-known because during his 30-year career he has worked in every division of the Sheriff’s Office and racked up some ‘firsts:’ the first Classification Deputy for the Monterey County Jail and the first school resource officer for North Monterey County High School.

As he was being honored before the Board of Supervisors, Warren spoke emotionally of his wife Laura, his life partner, who passed away last year.

“I sure wish my wife was here to be a part of this” he shared with the full house of colleagues, friends and supporters. “I miss her so much. She was such a big part of me being a deputy.”

Chief Deputy Jerry Teeter

In presenting Chief Deputy Jerry Teeter with a resolution, Sheriff Bernal told the story of how he first met him 35 years earlier in King City on a ride along.

During Teeter’s long tenure with the department he served under six Sheriffs, but it was this last sheriff who thanked him for being part of his team and someone he could trust.
Teeter worked up through the ranks during his 35 years in the Sheriff’s Office. During the presentation, Sheriff Bernal highlighted the changes Teeter made while overseeing the Enforcement Operations Bureau for the last four years.

Teeter returned the compliment, thanking the Sheriff as well as his wife and his many colleagues both in the Sheriff’s Office and around the County.

**Detective Sergeant Daniel Karamitis**

Earlier this month, Sheriff Bernal was again paying tribute to a retiring officer, this time, Detective Sergeant Daniel Karamitis.

Karamitis is a Navy veteran who joined the Sheriff’s Office in 1994.

While Karamitis served in a variety of divisions, he made his mark in Investigations working crimes such as homicide, narcotics, gangs, burglaries and stolen vehicles.

Karamitis thanked the many colleagues he has known over the years.

“They are a very dedicated group of individuals. I trust each and every one of them with my life, which I have on several occasions,” he said.

His parting words to the crowd show he is truly ready for the next phase of life.

“The weirdest thing about retirement is that between my time in the military and Sheriff’s Office it will be the first time in my adult life that I can get up in the morning and wear what I want.”

Happy trails to all!

---

**Giving Campaign Comes to an End**

_Auctions are ending, events are wrapping up on the 2019 Employee Giving Campaign._

It has been a fun ride though, six weeks of activities, comradery, a little team building here and there, but most importantly, a chance to consider payroll donations to charities of your choice.
Here are some of the last events of the campaign that had folks guessing, eating and shopping.

**Treasurer-Tax Collector: Baby Guessing Game**

Giving Campaign organizers put their colleagues to the test with this one: match the 22 baby photos with department staff. They increased the challenge by making all the photos in black and white and only giving occasional clues! Those with the most correct guesses earned a prize and there were two winners: Erica Gortarez with 16 correct guesses and Monica Martinez with 15 correct guesses.

**Human Resources: Teriyaki Chicken Bowls.**

Human Resources cooked up the idea of a Teriyaki Chicken Bowl lunch fundraiser.

Besides the bowls, there were baked goods for purchase.

This event really hit the spot in more ways than one - raising more than $1,000 for charities.

**Assessor, Clerk-Recorder, Treasurer-tax Collector: Arts and Crafts Fair**

These departments combined for an Arts and Crafts fair that also boasted luxury items such as manicure certificates and baked goods. Crafted items included cozy knitted blankets and booties, lamps, and tote bags. There was a table dedicated to pets with toys, gourmet treats and raffle items filled with cat and dog goodies.
Also for sale were cookbooks created by the Monterey County Employee Scholarship Fund - which are still available for purchase.

This event raised more than $1,200. Proceeds benefit the Monterey County Employees Scholarship Fund, Friends of Community Animal Services (FoCAS) and the Monterey County Free Libraries.

Celebrating Latest Employee Scholarship Program Recipient

The Monterey County Employee Scholarship Program has been supporting the educational needs of employee children for many years.

And there was another happy presentation from the program this month.

Monterey County Assessor Steve Vagnini, the Secretary/Treasurer of the Scholarship Committee, presented Sergeant Alejandro Aguayo with a $500 scholarship check to support college costs for his daughter Nyah. Nyah is currently studying Kinesiology at San Diego State University.

It’s always a great feeling to make these presentations says Vagnini, and he is grateful for the support from staff which make it possible.

“I’d like to thank everyone that makes contributions through payroll deductions to the Scholarship Fund,” he says. “Those donations support deserving students of employees who are our friends and colleagues.”
Since 2002, the Monterey County Scholarship and Awards Program has provided thousands of dollars in assistance to dependents of county employees to offset the rising costs of higher education.

This program is supported entirely through donations and fundraising including donations from the County Employee Giving Campaign.

To find out if your son or daughter may benefit from the Scholarship Program, you can visit their website to find an application and criteria as well as photos of lots of happy recipients:
http://www2.co.monterey.ca.us/Scholarship/

Sergeant Alejandro Aguayo gets to hold one of those really big checks as he receives a scholarship for his daughter from Assessor Steve Vagnini.