



APRIL 2007

# Central New York Association of Chiefs of Police

## AWARDS MEETING HONORS 13

Thirteen police officers from seven agencies were honored for their exemplary conduct at the April 2, 2007 Association meeting. Almost 90 people were in attendance at The Sherwood Inn in Skaneateles for the evening meeting. Governor Eliot Spitzer's Regional Representative, Kristen Heath, read a letter from the Governor and also provided two proclamations to the families of Officer Joseph Corr (New Hartford PD) and Trooper Craig J. Todeschini (New York State Police).



Syracuse PD Deputy Chiefs Frank Fowler, David Barrette, 1st Deputy Chief Michael Heenan and Chief Gary Miguel look on as Pres. Mark Spawn announces Officer Don Schultz' award.

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Guests attending from the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police were Executive Director John Grebert, Executive Director Richard Carey, and GTSC Liaison Dominick Macherone.

Most of the regular business items were adjourned to the May meeting, however, one Old Business item was addressed. Members voted unanimously to accept the nomination of

Chief Raymond Philo (New Hartford PD) and Sheriff Christopher Farber (Herkimer County SD).

After some introductions, opening remarks and dinner, President Mark Spawn began the awards presentations.

*(Details in following pages)*

## THANK YOU

On behalf of the Central New York Association of Chiefs of Police, I would like to personally thank Rev. Dennis Hayes for providing the invocation and benediction at the awards meeting. As always, his special words and reflection are meaningful and supportive to all of us. I would also like to thank my daughter, Alyssa Spawn, and

her friend, Shelley Cartino, for assisting at the registration table. They logged about 90 guests in the course of about an hour and did a fantastic job. Finally, thanks to all of our members who were able to attend in support of our special guests.

Mark A. Spawn



## LIVERPOOL OFFICER RESCUES HANDICAPPED MAN FROM BURNING HOME

On February 28, 2006 just after 4:00 in the morning, Liverpool Police Officer John M. Praskey was dispatched to a structure fire. He arrived on the scene in about three minutes observing fire breaking through the roof of the house. The officer was told there was a handicapped man inside the burning home. Without hesitation, the officer entered the residence and found the man lying on the floor, injured and suffering from burns. The officer dragged the man from the bedroom and down a hallway. When they reached the front of the house, the officer was assisted by the man's wife. The officer helped the man to his feet and removed him from the residence. Chief Don Morris praised this officer's actions, saying, "...his quick response and decisive actions prevented further injury to the resident." For his courageous actions in the face of danger, which resulted in saving the life of a handicapped

man from a burning home, the Central New York Association of Chiefs of Police presented to Officer John M. Praskey, the Heroic Action Award.

Liverpool Police Chief Donald Morris joined President Mark Spawn and Vice President Joe Snell in presenting the award.



**Officer John M. Praskey**

**REMINDER:**  
*Next Association  
Meeting  
Monday, May 14  
12:00 PM  
Tony's Diner  
East Syracuse, NY*

## He's in Florida!

Recently-retired Chief Doug Robertson has made the move—he has officially relocated to Florida. Doug can be reached at his new mailing address: 3100 NE 49th Street, #905, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308 or via e-mail at droberts9852@gmail.com

Doug passes along his appreciation and thanks for all who attended his re-

tirement party. About the CNYACOP plaque presented to Doug at his retirement celebration, Doug said, "I have been active in the association since 1995 when I made Lieutenant at North Syracuse. It is one of the organizations I have always been proud to have been a member of. That plaque will hang proudly in my office in Fort Lauderdale."

# DEWITT OFFICER GRABS DRUGS, CASH AND GUNS

Officer Regan (pictured in uniform with Chief Eugene Conway) received the Law Enforcement Commendation for his recoveries of illegally possessed guns, drugs and drug proceeds in a number of cases during 2006. Last July he made a traffic stop which led to the recovery of marihuana, an illegally possessed handgun and more than \$5000 in drug proceeds. In another case last year, Officer Regan made a traffic stop and was alerted to the presence of drugs. He searched the vehicle which led to the recovery of two loaded handguns. During that same incident, Officer Regan managed to stop a second vehicle and, as a result of that stop, recovered a third loaded handgun. And a few months before that, he stopped a car and recovered a large quantity of marihuana and more than \$9000 in drug proceeds. The vehicle was also seized. In yet another traffic stop, he recovered crack cocaine and \$1300 in drug proceeds. In August, Officer Regan recovered drug paraphernalia and was responsible for the eventual seizure of more than \$16,000 in drug proceeds. That same month, Officer Regan responded to a call of an unconscious person at a health club. Together with another officer, he revived the subject using an AED and the subject has since fully recovered.

DeWitt Police Chief Eugene Conway said that "Officer Regan has taken more guns and drugs off the street than the rest of the department combined."

Officer Thomas B. Regan, a seven year veteran of the DeWitt Police Department was presented with the Law Enforcement Commendation. Chief Conway joined President Mark Spawn and Vice President Joe Snell in presenting the award.



**Officer Regan (left) with DeWitt PD Chief Eugene Conway.**

# ONONDAGA SHERIFF'S DEPUTY UNRAVELS FATAL HIT AND RUN

On the morning of September 17, 2006, a fatal hit and run accident occurred on Route 11A on the Onondaga Nation. A man in his early twenties was struck and killed by a passing vehicle. The driver did not stop. An extensive search of the area for the vehicle, described as a light colored mini van, was unsuccessful. The following day at about 1:00 AM, Deputy Lauren Seburn was called to investigate a property damage crash on I-481 in the Town of Dewitt. When he arrived he found a Dodge Caravan on the side of the road. The female driver reported that two deer ran into the roadway causing her to swerve and hit the guardrail. The driver's son was with her at the time, and vouched for his mother's story. The son also said that his mother had just picked him up from work. Deputy Seburn inspected the vehicle and noted that the driver's description of the crash was not consistent with the damage he was seeing - a broken headlight and missing side view mirror. As he completed some paperwork for the accident report, he noted that the driver of this vehicle lived on the Onondaga Nation and not too far from where the fatal hit and run occurred. After completing the paperwork and releasing the driver, Deputy Seburn went back to the guardrail where the crash reportedly occurred. He could not find any debris from the Caravan - no mirror,

and no glass from the headlight. His suspicions were elevated so he contacted the employer to check out the son's story about just getting picked up from work that morning. The Deputy learned that the son had not worked the night before, and had not worked since September 14th - 3 days before the



**Deputy Lauren Seburn**

fatal hit and run. Deputy Seburn reported his findings and detectives were preparing for a search warrant when the Sheriff's Office received a call saying that the son had confessed about being the driver in the fatal collision and was going to turn himself in. Deputy Lauren Seburn was presented with the Law Enforcement Commendation with Onondaga County Sheriff Kevin Walsh, Undersheriff Warren Darby, Chief of Police Operations Thomas Tubbert joined President Mark Spawn and Vice President Joe Snell in presenting the award.

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## STATE CONFERENCE PLANNING MOVING AHEAD

Plans for the State Chiefs Conference in Alexandria Bay are moving forward. More details should be available by the time of our May 14 meeting. Plans include top-notch training with golf, shopping, a casino trip and dinner cruise. Be sure to save the dates: July 15-19, 2007.

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## TROOPERS SAVE MAN FROM INTERSTATE OVERPASS

On July 21, 2006 at about 2:00 in the morning, two Troopers were on routine patrol in the city of Syracuse. While on Spencer Street, they saw a man step over the guard rail on the overpass at Route 81. Realizing the subject was attempting to commit suicide, the Troopers quickly began a dialogue with the man. As the subject climbed down onto the bridge supports and began hanging over the center lane of I-81, Trooper Mark Bender attempted to slow and divert traffic along the interstate. When it appeared the subject could no longer hold on, Trooper Andrew Halinski grabbed hold of the man, and with the assistance of Syracuse Police officer, pulled the man to safety. These Troopers put their own lives at risk while preventing the death of a despondent man, and most likely prevented further tragedy to passing motorists below. For their prompt and alert actions, putting themselves in danger, and preventing the death of one man and other possible casualties, the Heroic Action Award was presented to Troopers Andrew Halinski (unable to attend due to family emergency) and Mark A. Bender. New York State Police Captain Jeffrey Raub and Major Frank DeGennarro joined President Mark Spawn and Vice President Joe Snell in presenting the award.



**Trooper Mark A. Bender**

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## WELCOME—NEW MEMBERS

At the April meeting, New Hartford Police Chief Raymond Philo and Herkimer County Sheriff Christopher Farber were accepted as the newest members of the Central New York Association of Chiefs of Police. Welcome to both Chief Philo and Sheriff Farber!

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# TROOPER KILLED IN PURSUIT RECEIVES POSTHUMOUS HONOR

On Sunday, April 23, 2006, shortly before 6:00 PM, Trooper Craig Todeschini observed a motorcyclist traveling in excess of 100 MPH on State Route 91 in the Town of Pompey. Trooper Todeschini went after the motorcyclist. Unfortunately, a tragedy occurred. A young public servant who had dedicated his life to protecting the public was killed when his police vehicle crashed. President Mark Spawn said, "In the aftermath of Craig's death, I can tell you that he continues to serve the public. Last year, the state legislature passed a law that was long overdue - motorists who flee from police will finally be held to account for their actions. Those who cause injury or death will now answer to a felony. This is part of Craig's legacy to all of us." Captain Jeff Raub said, "Craig will always be remembered as a hero within the law enforcement community." Trooper Todeschini's wife, Kristi, received the Posthumous Heroic Action award on behalf of her husband. New York State Police Captain Jeffrey Raub and Major Frank DeGen-



**Kristi Todeschini, center, received the Heroic Action Award in memory of her husband, Tpr. Craig Todeschini.**

narro joined President Mark Spawn and Vice President Joe Snell in presenting the award.

Thanks to all who joined us at the annual awards meeting. It was an honor to be in the presence of so many of Central New York's finest. For our Association, it was a distinguished celebration which allowed us to recognize exceptional acts by exceptional police officers.

*Mark A. Spawn—President  
Central New York Assn. Chiefs of Police*

# NEW HARTFORD HEROES HONORED

On the evening of February 27, 2006, New Hartford Police were dispatched to a 911 hang-up call at a jewelry store in the Town of New Hartford. Just before police units arrived, they received a radio update confirming that the jewelry store had just been robbed by 3-4 masked gunmen. Officer Joseph Corr was pulling into the parking lot just as a description of the suspect vehicle was broadcast. Officer Shane Yoxall tried to cut off the robber's vehicle, but they squeezed past him. At that time, Officer Yoxall was just a few feet away from the driver who had the gun. Officers Corr and Ronald Fontaine, Jr., in separate cars, chased the suspects for about five miles when the suspects crashed into the gas pumps at a convenience store. Two suspects ran from the car, and Officers Corr and Fontaine continued the chase on foot. One suspect was captured by Officer Fontaine. The other suspect ran into the woods with Officer Corr in close pursuit. While Officer Fontaine was handcuffing one robber, he heard a shot and saw Officer Corr go down. The suspect that Joe Corr was chasing had turned and shot him. Disregarding the circumstances and his own safety, Officer Fontaine went to Officer Corr's aid and gave him CPR until EMS arrived.

The suspect who shot and killed Officer Corr fled the scene, carjacked a vehicle and holed up at a location in Pennsylvania. A contingent of local police, Pennsylvania State Police and U.S. Marshals surrounded the suspect's house - the suspect opened fire and

was killed in the firefight. New Hartford Police Chief Raymond Philo said, "Joe Corr gave his life in the performance of his duties to protect the community that he proudly served. Without hesitation he charged into the night to capture a violent felon. His courage and dedication to duty set a standard of excellence for all of us." President Mark A. Spawn said, "These fine officers distinguished themselves with great courage that night." Officers Ronald Fontaine, Jr., and Shane Yoxall were presented with Heroic Action Awards. Tracie Corr was presented with the Posthumous Heroic Action Award on behalf and in memory of her husband. Chief Raymond Philo joined President Mark Spawn and Vice President Joe Snell in presenting the award. Members of the New Hartford Police Department, including Officers Yoxall and Fontaine, are pictured here with the family of Officer Corr.



## TROOPER QUICKLY SOLVES ARMED ROBBERY

On April 16, 2006 just before 6:00 in the morning, an armed robbery was reported at the Best Western Hotel in Tully. A robber armed with a box cutter demanded access to the cash drawer. The man stole cash and fled out the front door. While Troopers responded to the hotel, Trooper Patrick J. Kinane took up a position on Interstate 81 to observe for any subjects matching the description of the robber. Just ten minutes after the radio call, he observed a man matching the suspect's description. Trooper Kinane stopped the car noticed the driver was making suspicious movements as he approached. The Trooper questioned the man about his travels. The suspect offered that his girlfriend in Binghamton could vouch for him. But the man provided a telephone number which Trooper Kinane recognized the prefix

was not from Binghamton but from Tully. Trooper Kinane called for backup and when the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department arrived, the Trooper re-approached the car only to find the man trying to hide a wad of cash under his shirt. The man had also tossed the box cutter from the car, and the Trooper quickly recovered that piece of evidence as well. For his outstanding police work and keen observations, Central New York Association of Chiefs of Police presented to Trooper Patrick J. Kinane, the Law Enforcement Commendation. New York State Police Captain Jeffrey Raub and Major Frank DeGennarro joined President Mark Spawn and Vice President Joe Snell in presenting the award.



**Tpr. Patrick J. Kinane**

## FULTON OFFICERS TAKE ARMED, SUICIDAL MAN

On July 26, 2006 at about 8:30 at night, Fulton Police were dispatched to a residence where a man was reported to have 'ransacked the house and was bleeding to death'. When Officers Ralph McCann and Charles Burlingham arrived, they observed a man on the porch who was visibly agitated. They would later learn that this was the residence of the man's girlfriend who had just ended their relationship that day. The man approached the officers with a large hunting knife in

hand. The officers backed up as the man came outside, approaching the officers in a threatening manner, and insisting that the officers shoot him. Officers McCann and Burlingham drew their guns on the man who was then shouting, "shoot me! suicide by cop!" The man continued pacing and demanding that officers shoot him. By this time, the neighborhood had filled with spectators and the officers were now

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## SYRACUSE OFFICER STOPS PIT BULLS ATTACK ON CIVILIANS

On August 14, 2006, a Syracuse PD officer was dispatched to call where a man and his child were reportedly cornered by several trained attack dogs. When Officer Don Schultz arrived on the scene at Salisbury Park Drive, he saw a man hop onto the roof of a car to escape one of the attacking dogs. Officer Schultz parked his cruiser, and as he got out, one of the dogs came at him, giving him no choice but to shoot the dog. Officer Schultz' attention was then directed to a man on a nearby sidewalk with a three year old child in a stroller. Officer Schultz positioned himself between the two remaining dogs and the stroller. Both of those dogs charged at the officer, and again he was forced to put them down. Chief Gary Miguel said that in the investigation that followed, it was learned that

the owner had more pit bulls in his back yard and had a record of training and fighting dogs. On behalf of the Central New York Association of Chiefs of Police, for his courage, dedication and professionalism in preserving the safety of citizens who were in obvious imminent threat of danger, and for taking quick and responsive actions to stop those multiple threats, the Heroic Action Award was presented to Officer Don Schultz. Syracuse Police Chief Gary Miguel, First Deputy Chief Michael Heenan, and Deputy Chiefs David Barrette and Frank Fowler joined President Mark Spawn and Vice President Joe Snell in presenting the award.



**SPD Officer Don Schultz**

## FULTON OFFICERS...

-continued  
concerned with the safety of even more people. At one point the man retreated into the house and was out of the officer's sight. While Officer McCann was covering one side of the house, the man emerged from a door still armed with the knife, and bleeding from a number of self-inflicted wounds on his arm and stomach. Officer McCann shouted several commands to the man who eventually complied and laid on the ground. Officer McCann covered the man at gun point while Officer Burlingham handcuffed him. The man's frenzy became even more evident to the officers when they checked

the inside of the house. He had several knives laid out on table in the living room. Every single wall painting, picture, curtain, and a sofa had been slashed throughout the home. For their actions, in the face of an armed adversary, and for safely taking the suicidal man into custody without any further injury to himself, themselves or others, the Heroic Action Award was presented to Officers Ralph McCann and Charles Burlingham. Fulton Police Department Deputy Chief Orlo Green joined President Mark Spawn (Chief, Fulton PD) in presenting the awards.



**Officer Charles Burlingham (left)  
and Officer Ralph McCann.**



CENTRAL NEW YORK ASSN. OF  
CHIEFS OF POLICE  
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**Details and more photos from the awards  
meeting can be found on our website at  
[www.cnyacop.org](http://www.cnyacop.org)**

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