



CITY OF PUNTA GORDA

A Florida Accredited **EXCELSIOR AGENCY**

# POLICE

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**February 4, 2015**

### **Punta Gorda Police Announce Annual Award Winners for 2014**

The Punta Gorda Police Department honored its 2014 top performers during the agency's annual employee recognition family picnic at the Punta Gorda Elks Lodge #2606 on Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. Employees, volunteers, family and community partners turned out to recognize Punta Gorda's finest. The event was hosted again this year by the Elks, who purchased, cooked, and served the food for all attendees. The event also included a bounce house for the kids, games, the department's Interactive Center and some good old-fashioned family time.

Award recipients for 2014 included the following:

#### Officer of the Year

##### **Corporal Katie Heck**



Corporal Heck was honored by her peers for her outstanding performance during 2014. Corporal Heck demonstrated superior leadership skills during several high stress incidents to include a traffic stop in which a male fired a single gunshot. In addition, with a focus on improving officer health and teambuilding, Corporal Heck has been instrumental in leading her squad in several running events. Katie continues to go above and beyond for his agency, her squad and her community.

#### Civilian Employee of the Year

##### **Executive Assistant Beverly Marquis**



Beverly was honored by her peers for her outstanding performance as the department go-to person, despite her own personal workload. Not only does she take care of each and every employee and their individual needs, she makes baskets for many of our community fundraisers.

### The Roger W. Fenneman Volunteer of the Year Award

#### **Police Chaplain Bill Klossner**



Bill was recognized for his extraordinary dedication to the entire department. Bill starts his day in administrative staff meetings, later transitions to counselor and friend. By midday, Bill is working on Do The Right Thing or volunteering for a community initiative. When the majority of us would call it a day, Bill spends the remainder of his day on-call, where he frequently responds to counsel and care for victims of crime or a grieving loved one that just lost a family member. He does it all for free.

Bill has been a huge asset to the Punta Gorda Police Department and the City of Punta Gorda. The Punta Gorda Police Department was proud to present this award to Bill in memory of the department's former Volunteer Services Coordinator, Roger Fenneman.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Customer Service Award

#### **Police Officer Tiffany Viola**

The agency's prestigious seventh annual customer service award was presented to Officer Tiffany Viola for her leadership in enhancing and modeling the department's customer service philosophy. In the first 14 months of her career, Tiffany has been instrumental in quickly building relationships with members of the community and carrying the PGPD customer-centric brand. Tiffany has been very involved in community events and is dedicated to making her department and community a better place.



### 2014 Community Alliance Award

#### **Higher Power Outfitters**

Higher Power Outfitters was presented the Punta Gorda Police Department's Community Alliance Award for 2014. They were recognized for their strong support of the agency throughout the year.

### 2014 Exceptional Duty Award

#### **Accreditation Manager Gloria Seganik**

Gloria was the winner of the 2014 Exceptional Duty Award for her dedication to the community, to include; Special Olympics and the Punta Gorda Police Department's Jammers Youth basketball League. Gloria was instrumental in raising approximately \$9,000.00 for the Jammers program.



### Annual Innovation Award

#### **Lieutenant Jeff Woodard**

Lieutenant Woodard was the winner of the 2014 Innovation Award for his vision of a memorial to honor the two fallen police officers in Punta Gorda history, Marshal John Bowman in 1903 and Deputy Chief Richard



Beecher in 1978. Lieutenant Woodard organized a collection to fund memorial bricks, plaques, and two granite memorial benches that are proudly displayed in our community garden.

Additional 2014 Award Winners:

2014 Exceptional Team Performance – Charlie Squad (Lieutenant Chris Salsman, Corporal Katie Heck, Officer Mark Bala, and Officer Justin Kleiver)

2014 Family Member of the Year – Amanda Tipping

“2014 was a historic year for the Punta Gorda Police Department,” stated Chief Albert (Butch) Arenal. “Uniting our families, friends and community partners to celebrate our great successes of 2014 is always a special day. The officers, employees, and volunteers of the Punta Gorda Police Department are all award winners every day of the year in my book.”

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