



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **ORGANIZATION RECOGNIZES ACTS OF KINDNESS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**

(Baton Rouge, LA) – When law enforcement officers violate their oaths and the public trust, it ends up in the news. But what about the much more common scenario – when officers perform acts of kindness that go way beyond what they are professionally required to do?

To recognize those kindnesses by so many law enforcement officers in Louisiana, Baton Rouge resident Linda Hull created a non-profit organization, Beyond the Badge, Louisiana.

On March 19 Beyond the Badge presented seventeen law enforcement officers from across the state with a 2019 Heart of Law Enforcement Award at a ceremony and luncheon held in Baton Rouge, LA. Two of the recipients, Corporal Heather Martin of the Lafayette Police Department and Major Todd Morris of the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office, were presented with the 2019 Service Before Self award. The Service Before Self award is given to the officer(s) whose act of kindness stands out in the field of nominees.

“At a time when there is so much negative attention directed toward law enforcement in general, I thought someone needed to honor all the officers who go beyond the call of duty. We need to let the public know about their acts of kindness and generosity,” Hull said.

The annual ceremony was attended by more than 250 guests, including state elected officials and area police chiefs and sheriffs. Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser, who served as honorary chair of the event, and U.S. Congressman Garret Graves gave brief remarks. The keynote address was delivered by Director Jon Adler of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice.

The officers were given an award packet that included a \$100 Visa gift card and a framed Louisiana state flag that had been flown over the Louisiana State Capitol for a day in his or her honor. The Service Before Self honorees each received a \$500 Visa gift card, in addition to the flag, and all officers received a congratulatory letter from President Donald Trump and an official statement of recognition from Governor John Bel Edwards.

Officers receiving a 2019 Beyond the Badge Heart of Law Enforcement Award were:

Deputy Salvatore Angilletta  
Officer Jared Bennett  
Deputy Kasey Boudreaux  
Officer Julia Courville  
Deputy Issac Genova  
Deputy Jennifer Gonzalez  
Sergeant Paul Harris

Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office  
Pineville Police Department  
Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office  
Lake Charles Police Department  
St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office  
East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office  
Louisiana State Police

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## ORGANIZATION RECOGNIZES ACTS OF KINDNESS

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Sergeant Alton Horn	City of Alexandria Police Department
Deputy Fred Kimble	East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office
Corporal Chad Landreneau	Lafayette Police Department
Sergeant David LeBlanc	Lafayette Police Department
Corporal Heather Martin	Lafayette Police Department
Major Todd Morris	East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office
Officer Cody Richard	Lafayette Police Department
Corporal Ryan Shanahan	Lafayette Police Department
Investigator Chad Stokes	Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office
Lieutenant Donald Gail Waddle	Village of Dodson Police Department

Beyond the Badge was incorporated in April of 2016 and is operated entirely by citizen volunteers and funded by corporate and private donations. "We have no paid staff and no office space, so every penny donated to Beyond the Badge goes directly into the project," Hull said.

Nominations of officers for Beyond the Badge's Heart of Law Enforcement award can be made throughout the year. Members of the general public or law enforcement agencies can submit nominations online at [www.beyondthebadgelouisiana.org](http://www.beyondthebadgelouisiana.org). Nominations are accepted until Jan. 31 for acts performed during the previous calendar year. Every March, Beyond the Badge will select law enforcement officers who have been nominated for acts of kindnesses during the prior year to receive a Heart of Law Enforcement Award during a special ceremony and luncheon honoring the recipients.

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**Beyond the Badge**  
17415 West Lakeway Drive  
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[www.beyondthebadgelouisiana.org](http://www.beyondthebadgelouisiana.org)

**2019 BEYOND THE BADGE HEART OF LAW ENFORCEMENT  
AWARD RECIPIENTS**

DEPUTY SALVATORE ANGILLETTA  
DEPUTY KASEY BOUDREAUX  
LAFAYETTE PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On a Friday afternoon in August of 2018, while patrolling on Evangeline Thruway in Lafayette, Deputies Salvatore Angilletta and Kasey Boudreaux discovered a family with two young children living in the recently abandoned Cypress Tree Inn. The father was the former Cypress Tree Inn maintenance man, and he lost his job as a result of the inn closing. The father wanted to move his family to Lake Charles, but was unable to do so because he had no transportation, so he and his family continued to stay at the inn without electricity. Upon discovering the family, Deputies Angilletta and Boudreaux immediately provided them with food and water, then began working on the problem of shelter and transportation to Lake Charles. The family did not want to go to a shelter for fear of being separated from one another, so the deputies appealed to the management of Woodspring Suites and secured accommodations for the remainder of the weekend for the family. Deputies Angilletta and Boudreaux then made arrangements for the family to return to Lake Charles on Monday.

Since performing this wonderful act of kindness in August of last year, Salvatore Angilletta has left the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office and now works for the Lafayette Police Department.

OFFICER JARED BENNETT  
PINEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

On March 7, 2018, Officer Jared Bennett responded to the scene of an unresponsive female in Pineville. The shift lieutenant was first on scene and began CPR until relieved by Officer Bennett and Fire Department Emergency Medical Technicians. Eventually the victim was stabilized and transported to the hospital. Officer Bennett, who is assigned as an investigator with the Pineville Police Department Criminal Investigations Bureau, began an investigation. The victim had no form of identification on her person.

The next day, the victim was identified as Ms. Erin Susan Smith of Alexandria. Ms. Smith was an eighth grade science teacher at Brame Middle School in Alexandria, but had no local family. Officer Bennett made contact with her family through the Greenwood, South Carolina Police

Department and notified them of Erin's perilous health. Erin Smith's parents immediately traveled to Louisiana and were able to be with their daughter prior to her death. Ms. Smith's cause of death was determined to be a heart-related ailment.

Following Ms. Smith's death, her father, Eric Smith, expressed his gratitude for all the hard work Detective Bennett performed while trying to identify his daughter and staying in constant contact with her family during her hospital stay and death. Mr. Smith said that Officer Bennet "emptied" his wallet to Mr. Smith and his wife to help with their expenses in traveling to Louisiana to be with their daughter.

OFFICER JULIA COURVILLE  
LAKE CHARLES POLICE DEPARTMENT

One evening in January of last year, Officer Julia Courville answered a call, during which she encountered a couple who were homeless and had a 6 month-old child with them. Upon learning of the couple's circumstances, Officer Courville used her own money to pay for the young family to spend the night in a hotel room until other, more permanent arrangements could be made. Officer Courville offered to purchase a portable crib for the child to sleep in, but the couple assured her they had one in storage that they could use. Officer Courville left the couple to get settled into their hotel room, then returned later that night to ensure that they had everything they needed and that the baby had a proper bed to sleep in.

DEPUTY ISSAC GENOVA  
ST. CHARLES PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE

While on patrol last year, Deputy Issac Genova pulled over a vehicle after he witnessed it commit a traffic violation. When he approached the vehicle, Deputy Genova observed a female driver with several minor children in the vehicle who were not restrained in car seats. Although he would have been justified in issuing citations to the woman, Deputy Genova decided instead to ensure that the children would be safely restrained in the future. He had the driver follow him to a local Walmart, where he purchased several car seats with his own personal funds. Deputy Genova then installed the car seats in the woman's vehicle, before sending her on her way. Deputy Issac Genova took a negative situation and made it a positive one, showing compassion to a needy driver and ensuring the safety of her children.

DEPUTY JENNIFER GONZALEZ  
DEPUTY FRED KIMBLE  
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE

As members of the Community Policing Unit, Deputies Jennifer Gonzalez and Fred Kimble make it their business to help with the specific needs of the families on their beat. Deputy Gonzalez is often called upon to translate for Spanish-speaking residents, like when there was an emergency evacuation of the "Once Around" trailer park after a chemical leak last year. Deputy Kimble can often be found in the Gardere area, playing basketball with the children or watching

over them as they wait for the school bus. Last year, Deputies Gonzalez and Kimble became aware of a child in the Gardere area who needed a bicycle in order to get to school safely. The child confided in the deputies that he had to walk to and from his school every day, because the bus stop was farther away from his home than the school. Deputies Gonzalez and Kimble quickly sprang into action, purchasing a bicycle, helmet, and lock for the child. They surprised the child at his school with his new bicycle and equipment, which they purchased with their own personal funds.

SERGEANT PAUL HARRIS  
LOUISIANA STATE POLICE TROOP G

It was Christmas Day in Bienville Parish last year, when Sergeant Paul Harris happened upon a family of three whose car had broken down on the side of Interstate 20. The Gonzalez couple, who had a four year old little girl and family dog with them, had been stranded in their car since Christmas Eve. After determining that the car needed a new alternator, Sgt. Harris began calling nearby auto parts stores for help, but they were all closed for the holiday. He finally located an auto parts store manager who agreed to meet Sgt. Harris and Mr. Gonzalez in Bossier City, which was approximately 50 miles from the stranded vehicle. Once arriving at the auto parts store, Mr. Gonzalez learned that Sgt. Harris and other troopers had already purchased the new alternator for his vehicle.

A Bienville Parish deputy stayed with Mrs. Gonzales and her daughter while Sgt. Harris and her husband obtained the part. Once Sgt. Harris and Mr. Gonzalez arrived back to the stranded vehicle with the part, the deputy installed the new alternator in the family car. While the car was being fixed, Sgt. Harris and the other troopers arranged for Santa Claus to deliver a teddy bear to the Gonzalez's little girl. Sgt. Harris, with the help of other troopers and a deputy, delivered a Christmas miracle to the Gonzalez family that day.

SERGEANT ALTON HORN  
CITY OF ALEXANDRIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

As supervisor of his department's Juvenile Investigations Unit and board member of the Cenla Juvenile Officers Association, Sergeant Alton Horn spends much of his time on the job working with area youth. Turns out, Sergeant Horne spends much of his own personal time working with youth in his community, too. Each year Sergeant Horne, on his own time, organizes, plans, and hosts several events for children, such as Splash Day in City Park and Kids Day in Frank O. Hunter Park. He procures community partners for these events and persuades them to provide food, drinks, and other support to make the events special – including enough door prizes to ensure that every child leaves with a gift. Last December, Sergeant Horn learned of a needy family in his community for whom Christmas would be just another day spent struggling to get by. On his own time, Sergeant Horn gathered enough resources together to ensure that the family of eleven had a joyous Christmas, complete with toys and clothing for everyone.

CORPORAL CHAD LANDRENEAU  
SERGEANT DAVID LEBLANC  
LAFAYETTE POLICE DEPARTMENT

In September of last year, an elderly woman returned her apartment, only to find that all of her belongings had been placed in the yard by her landlord, who had locked the doors so that the woman no longer had access to the residence. She had been evicted. The woman refused to leave the premises and remained in the parking lot for hours. Lafayette police were called to the scene, and the woman was very belligerent. She was confused about the eviction and adamant that she needed to stay in the parking lot to protect her belongings. She appeared to have minor injuries from confrontations with people trying to take her belongings, but refused medical help when it arrived. She was hostile to the police officers and made statements about her distrust of them. Officers responded three times that day to assist her, but she continued to refuse their offers of help.

The night shift came on duty and was briefed about the situation. They too tried to help, bringing food and water to the woman. She refused their offers of assistance and would not eat the food they brought.

The next day, the elderly woman was still there, having remained outside overnight. The lieutenant on duty reached out to several organizations, such as the Office on Aging and Adult Services, but no immediate aid was available since it was the weekend.

Sergeant David LeBlanc learned of the situation and offered to speak to the elderly woman, even though he was assigned to a different precinct. He met with the woman and put a plan into place to resolve the situation that had been ongoing for 24 hours. He found a faith-based temporary shelter that agreed to take the woman, but she refused to leave her belongings in the parking lot. Not to be deterred, Sergeant LeBlanc rented a U-Haul truck and reserved a storage unit, using his own personal funds. His wife drove the U-Haul to the parking lot, then he, his wife, and Corporal Chad Landreneau loaded up all of the woman's property.

Despite having her belongings secured, the elderly woman still refused to leave the parking lot. She was agitated and feared she was being incarcerated. The officers recognized the signs of dehydration and heat illness, so they had her brought to the hospital. Sergeant LeBlanc and his wife then drove the U-Haul to the storage facility to unload the woman's belongings, while Corporal Landreneau remained at the hospital with the woman until she was treated and released.

Cpl. Landreneau drove the elderly woman to the shelter, where she finally understood that she was not in jeopardy and that her belongings were safe. She was very grateful to the officers for their assistance. When Corporal Landreneau learned that the woman had a cell phone, but no money to purchase minutes, he gave her money out of his wallet so that she could communicate with others. After cursing them constantly for 24 hours, the woman now hugged the officers and thanked them profusely.

Sgt. David LeBlanc and Cpl. Chad Landreneau showed tremendous compassion to a citizen in need, one who was initially combative and unappreciative of their efforts. Their willingness to endure the frustration and anger of the elderly woman, yet still persist in providing her care and shelter at their own expense, is truly inspiring!

OFFICER CODY RICHARD  
CORPORAL RYAN SHANAHAN  
LAFAYETTE POLICE DEPARTMENT

While working off duty security at a transportation center in October of last year, Officer Cody Richard was flagged down by a 27 year-old man who was mentally challenged. The man stated that he was lost, and he possessed a Greyhound Bus ticket to Missouri. Officer Richard established that the man was traveling from Mobile, Alabama to Joplin, Missouri, but mistakenly got off the bus in Lafayette and spent an entire night roaming the streets. Officer Richard purchased a ticket using his own money in order to get the man back on the bus to Missouri. Meanwhile, the department learned that the family of the man had reported him missing after he did not arrive in Missouri. Officer Richard contacted the family and advised them that their loved one was in Lafayette. The family requested that he remain in Lafayette overnight, while they travelled to Lafayette to pick him up. They sent money to a local Western Union to pay for a hotel room for the man. Enter Corporal Ryan Shanahan. Corporal Shanahan took the man to Western Union to pick up the money, then transported him to a local hotel. Corporal Shanahan assisted the man with the check-in process, then ensured that he was safely settled in a room where he remained until his family arrived the next morning to pick him up.

INVESTIGATOR CHAD STOKES  
ORLEANS PARISH DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

An investigator from the New Orleans District Attorney's office was so disturbed by a news story during the holidays last year, he took it upon himself to restore a family's holiday cheer.

On December 14, 2018, Investigator Chad Stokes saw a local TV news story that greatly disturbed him. A man with six children woke up that morning to find that his Christmas lights display had been stolen from his home in the upper Ninth Ward in New Orleans.

Investigator Chad Stokes and a colleague purchased a variety of replacement lights and decorations with their own money. They located the home that had been featured in the news report about the theft, and delivered the new Christmas lights and decorations to the homeowner and his children by 9 a.m. the next day. Needless to say, the family was overjoyed to discover that Investigator Stokes had once again decked the halls!

LIEUTENANT DONALD GAIL WADDLE  
VILLAGE OF DODSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Lt. Donald Gail Waddle demonstrates compassion and kindness for the community in many ways. On several occasions during winter last year, Lt. Waddle gave coats and toys to children whose parents were unable to provide them. Frequently, while off-duty, he provided rides to people in need of transportation. When responding to calls and even on routine stops, Officer Waddle takes the time to pray with people who are having problems. He routinely shows kindness to members of the community and strangers alike. Most recently, Lt. Waddle escorted a CPS worker on a home visit. After arrival at the home, the family's dog attacked. Rather than use

lethal force to stop the animal, Lt. Waddle placed himself between the dog and the CPS worker. His non-lethal response protected the CPS worker from harm, saved the family's pet, and bought himself a trip to the ER.

## **2019 HEART OF LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE BEFORE SELF HONOREES**

### **CORPORAL HEATHER MARTIN** **LAFAYETTE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

On March 14, 2018 Corporal Heather Martin responded to a call requesting a welfare check on an elderly man. When she arrived at the residence, Corporal Martin found a 91 year-old war veteran in very poor living conditions. The elderly man advised Corporal Martin that he lived alone and didn't have any family members to assist or take care of him. As Corporal Martin spent time with the man, she learned that he was not receiving any government assistance, because he was unable to complete the necessary paperwork and had no one to help him with it. As she spoke with the man further, Corporal Martin learned that his house had plumbing issues that he could not afford to have fixed. Also, he was not eating regular, nutritious meals. Corporal Martin knew she could not let this veteran continue living like this! She immediately contacted the Office for Veterans Affairs to begin the process of obtaining benefits for him. Next, she contacted the local "Meals on Wheels" program and arranged for meals to be delivered to the man. Corporal Martin then reached out to her social media followers and persuaded them to donate funds to assist the elderly man with his many financial needs – including having his plumbing fixed. On her next day off of work, Corporal Martin went back to the elderly man's residence to give it a thorough cleaning. She also restored a recliner for the man, so that he would have a comfortable place to sit while in his living room. Due to the kind efforts of Corporal Martin, the elderly man is now able to live out his remaining days in a clean and comfortable home, with nutritious meals regularly delivered to him, and with all of the government resources he is entitled to as a veteran of our great nation.

### **MAJOR TODD MORRIS** **EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Major Todd Morris was assigned as lead investigator on a missing person/homicide case in 2011. A young mother named Sylviane Finck was missing and presumed dead, and her husband, Oscar Lozada, was the lead suspect. Prior to the investigation, Lozada fled with his young daughter to Venezuela, a non-extradition country. The case remained opened. For seven years, Major Morris relentlessly sought justice for Sylviane, and the return of her young daughter to Sylviane's family. During that time, Major Morris tracked Lozada's every movement, waiting for the day that he would leave Venezuela and enter a country where he could be extradited. For all these years, and despite the language barrier, Major Morris kept in constant contact with Sylviane's sister, who lived in Belgium. Finally, in 2018, as a result of collaboration between Major Morris, the DEA and Mexican officials, Lozada and his daughter were taken into custody in the Mexican

city where they had moved. In September of last year, Sylviane's daughter was transferred to Major Morris' temporary custody, until she could be placed in a foster home. Prior to the daughter's arrival, Major Morris worked with the Department of Children and Family Services to locate a Spanish-speaking foster home for temporary placement of the child. Major Morris contacted Sylviane's family in Belgium, and even instructed Sylviane's sister on the necessary steps and paperwork to present in family court in order to obtain custody of the child. Upon their arrival in Baton Rouge, the Finck family was met by Major Morris, who had already made arrangements for their accommodations. During their three week stay in Baton Rouge, Major Morris opened his home to the Finck family, providing them with meals and a comfortable place for them to be reacquainted with Sylviane's daughter. Major Morris accompanied the Finck family to their meetings with the Department of Children and Family Services, the Sheriff's Office, family court, and to the foster home where the child was staying. When he learned that Sylviane's sister had to take off of work without pay to come to Baton Rouge, he obtained funding for her hotel stay, and later, for a plane ticket for the child to travel back to Belgium with the family. Even though the Finck family and Sylviane's daughter have returned to Belgium, Major Morris has remained in contact with them, even to this day.



## **2019 Heart of Law Enforcement Awards Sponsors & Donors**

### **Diamond Sponsors (\$3,000)**

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17415 West Lakeway Drive  
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[www.beyondthebadgelouisiana.org](http://www.beyondthebadgelouisiana.org)

## WHAT IS BEYOND THE BADGE?

*Beyond the Badge* is a non-profit organization begun in 2016 by Baton Rouge resident Linda Hull to recognize law enforcement officers in her community who perform acts of kindness beyond that required by their oaths of service. *Beyond the Badge* is operated entirely by citizen volunteers and funded by corporate and private donations.

The mission of *Beyond the Badge* is to educate the public about ordinary law enforcement officers performing extraordinary acts of kindness in their communities. Each year in March, *Beyond the Badge* will select law enforcement officers, who have been nominated by their agencies or the public, to receive a Heart of Law Enforcement award in recognition of acts of kindness they performed during the previous calendar year. The nominee whose act of kindness stands out among the field of nominees will receive the Service Before Self award. Awards will be given during a special luncheon honoring the recipients.

Criteria for nomination:

- Nominations may be made by anyone – supervisors, fellow officers, citizens, family members, friends.
- Nominees must be employed in the state of Louisiana as commissioned law enforcement officers.
- Nominees must have performed acts of kindness that were not required of them in their regular duties as law enforcement officers.
- Nominees will be considered for acts performed while on duty or off, and whether or not they were in uniform at the time.

Nominations will be accepted until January 31 for acts performed during the previous calendar year.

To submit a nomination online, or to make a donation to *Beyond the Badge*, please visit our web site at [www.beyondthebadgelouisiana.org](http://www.beyondthebadgelouisiana.org), or find us on Facebook.

## Biographical Sketch

Jon Adler  
Bureau of Justice Assistance  
Office of Justice Programs  
U.S. Department of Justice

As a volunteer law enforcement leader, Jon Adler served as the Vice Chair of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund and on its Board of Directors since 2008. Additionally, Mr. Adler served as the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association Foundation's National President. The Foundation is a charitable organization that supports federal law enforcement officers and their families, and serves on national campaigns such as the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's Take 25 program and the National Law Enforcement Museum.

Mr. Adler previously served on the Board of Directors of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association for 13 years, seven of which he served as National President. In this capacity, Mr. Adler directed the largest national, non-profit, non-partisan professional association that exclusively represents federal law enforcement officers. Mr. Adler also served as the first Chair of the Congressional Badge of Bravery Federal Review Board, chartered and served on the Department of Homeland Security Federal Law Enforcement Advisory Board, and served on the Executive Board of the International Council of Police Represented Associations.

Mr. Adler has been an active-duty federal law enforcement officer since 1991 and most recently worked for the United States Attorney's Office in the Southern District of New York. In his capacity as a Criminal Investigator and Chief Firearms Training Officer, Mr. Adler oversaw the district's Use of Force training program.

Mr. Adler is also a proud member of Beta Gamma Sigma (National Business Honor Society), Kappa Delta Pi (International Honor Society in Education), and a charter member of the International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association. In the course of his 25 years of service in law enforcement, Mr. Adler was proud to serve as a First Responder at Ground "Hero" on September 11th, 2001. He has his undergraduate degree in Business Administration (graduated Magna Cum Laude) and his Master's degree in Human Resource Administration and Training, with an emphasis in law enforcement (graduated Magna Cum Laude).

Director Jon Adler  
Bureau of Justice Assistance  
Office of Justice Programs  
U.S. Department of Justice

