

Alexandria Sheriff's Office Bulletin



AUGUST 2022

Sons of the American Revolution Honor Deputy Zygmunt

On August 3, the George Washington Chapter of the [Sons of the American Revolution](#) awarded Master Deputy Carmen Zygmunt the [Law Enforcement Commendation Medal](#) in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the Sheriff's Office and to public safety. Currently assigned to Judicial Services, Deputy Zygmunt's extensive knowledge and genuine concern for others makes her a key asset at the courthouse and her expertise and professionalism were critical to a successful accreditation audit this spring.



Larry Richardson Promoted to Captain

Sheriff Sean Casey is proud to announce the promotion of Larry Richardson to captain. After serving in the military, Captain Richardson began his ASO career in 1995, and he earned promotions to sergeant in 2012 and lieutenant in 2018. For the past three years, he served as the Judicial Services commander at the courthouse, and with this promotion, Captain Richardson is now the Second Division commander at the detention center.



ASO Building Community Connections

Sheriff Casey and ASO staff have been active in community engagement all summer, most recently attending the Friendship Firehouse Festival and First Thursday, and teaming up with Firefighters & Friends to the Rescue to distribute school supplies. Sheriff Casey and deputies greeted Samuel Tucker students when they returned to school and Sheriff Casey participated in the Youth Leadership Conference's networking event as well. Deputies also partnered with USDA employees on a food drive and delivered donations to ALIVE for local families in need.



ASO Celebrates National Night Out

Sheriff Casey and [ASO staff celebrated National Night Out](#) on August 2 by visiting with neighbors and attending cookouts, block parties, ice cream socials, and other events across Alexandria. This year civic associations and other groups organized more than 30 events throughout the city for the annual night out against crime. Thanks to all the community members who welcomed us, our public safety partners from the Police and Fire departments, and other Alexandria officials!



Sheriff Participates in Remembrance Ceremony for Lynching Victim

On August 8, the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project held a [ceremony honoring the memory of Benjamin Thomas](#), a Black teenager abducted from the jail and lynched 123 years earlier. The program included students from Alexandria City High School, Reverend Professor Quardricos B. Driskell, Reverend Dr. Taft Quincey Heatley, the Shiloh Baptist Choir, Poet Laureate Zeina Azzam and Sheriff Casey. In his remarks, Sheriff Casey apologized for law enforcement officials who not only failed to protect Benjamin Thomas but who took actions that allowed the lynching to occur and for the assailants to go free. After the program at Market Square, participants crossed the street to lay a wreath at the actual lynching site at the southwest corner of King and South Fairfax streets.



Records Team Achieves Top Marks in State Audit

The Virginia Compensation Board conducts Local Inmate Data System (LIDS) audits of jails by reviewing documents, interviewing staff, and testing LIDS reports for accuracy. This data is used to determine funding to localities and helps the state forecast space and staffing needs. ASO recently underwent an on-site LIDS audit covering a 30-month period, and auditors awarded the jail a rating of “exceptional” and a score of 95% with a built-in error rate +/-5%. Both Sheriff Casey and the auditor congratulated ASO’s Records staff on their outstanding work.



Deputy Cañas Named Employee of the Quarter

Congratulations to Deputy Carlos Cañas on being named our newest Employee of the Quarter! Deputy Cañas was recognized for his professional achievements including becoming a Field Training Deputy and a Civil Disobedience Unit member, his leadership as vice-president of the Alexandria Sheriff's Association, and his outstanding response in a [Project Lifesaver](#) case. Project Lifesaver assists in locating adults and children who wander due to Alzheimer's, autism, Down syndrome, and related conditions or disorders. In a recent case of a missing young adult, Deputy Cañas responded after hours to search and within 30 minutes, he and his team had located the individual and returned him to safety.

