

Sheriff



Ben F. Johnson

VOLUSIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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February 7, 2014

Lorraine Elder, Program Administrator
Office of the Attorney General
Division of Victim Services and Criminal Justice Programs
Bureau of Advocacy and Grants Management
PL-01, The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050

Dear Ms. Elder,

It is my great pleasure to introduce you to a truly remarkable and dedicated Deputy Sheriff and public servant -- a kind, compassionate and caring law enforcement officer who constantly goes the extra mile in all that he does. All of the superlatives in the world would simply be inadequate in explaining the special bond that Volusia County Deputy Morris Froscher forms with victims. But suffice it to say that for Deputy Froscher, going above and beyond is all in a day's work. There's much that I can tell you about Deputy Froscher, as I've had the honor of having him on my force now for the past 13 years. However, I firmly believe that you can best get to know Deputy Froscher through the eyes of the victims that he so compassionately tends to while performing his law enforcement duties. Here are but a few examples:

When an 8-year-old crime victim had his game system stolen and his piggy bank damaged by thieves, Deputy Froscher didn't just investigate the burglary with his typical thoroughness, professionalism and tenacity. The day after the burglary was reported, Deputy Froscher brought the boy a new piggy bank with a \$20 bill stuffed inside of it. "I don't think the Deputy realized that he had not only helped replace Vinny's things, but his opinion of the world and the people in it too," wrote the boy's appreciative father in a letter thanking Deputy Froscher for his generosity and kindness above and beyond the call of duty. When a 73-year-old woman suffered the loss of more than \$15,000 worth of jewelry and also became the victim of credit card fraud, Deputy Froscher's sense of duty and service went beyond investigating the crime and searching for the perpetrators. With the victim on an oxygen tank and suffering from age-related maladies, Deputy Froscher took it upon himself to periodically check up on the woman just to make sure she was alright. "I feel safer knowing there's a Deputy like him out there protecting me," the grateful senior citizen wrote in a letter praising Deputy Froscher. When Deputy Froscher was dispatched to a residential break-in, he discovered that the thieves had knocked a screen door off its track in order to gain entry into the home. Deputy Froscher didn't just process the crime scene: He took the time to help put the door back in its track. And when Deputy Froscher was dispatched to a call involving a child who was out of control, he took the time to listen to everyone's story and

then spoke to the boy about the potential negative consequences of his decisions. Then he followed up to mentor the boy and ensure that he stayed on the right path. The boy's parents couldn't have been more thankful for Deputy Froscher's caring and intervention. "Sometimes it's that one family that you touch or that one child that you try to put on the right path that makes the difference. That is the case with Deputy Froscher," the family wrote in a letter of commendation. "Deputy Froscher went above and beyond in his job duties then and continues to do so now. Periodically, he stops by and checks on Michael's progress. For me, it's a welcome interest in a son that I love so much. I have always believed that you never go wrong when you invest in the life of a child. Apparently, Deputy Froscher shares the same philosophy."

Even a Baker Act call is anything but routine. For Deputy Froscher, each call for service and every citizen contact is an opportunity to help someone in need, project a positive image and serve as a goodwill ambassador for our agency, the community and the entire law enforcement profession. So when he was called upon to Baker Act a depressed woman who had taken an overdose of prescription pills, Deputy Froscher returned to the residence several more times after the woman was discharged from the receiving facility to encourage her progress and recovery.

In yet another example, while on patrol one day, Deputy Froscher came across a slightly confused 88-year-old man who, as it turned out, was driving without a license. Instinctively, Deputy Froscher knew that getting the man to safety was more important than the criminal infraction. So he led the man to a nearby motel and helped him check in for the night. Then he advised the motel staff of the man's circumstances so they could keep a watchful eye on him and notified his family so they could come pick him up in the morning. According to the man's son, when he thanked Deputy Froscher for his actions, the Deputy replied that he was simply treating his father the way Deputy Froscher hoped someone would treat his own father in a similar situation. "I think that is pretty wonderful and something I will always remember," the man's son wrote in a letter of thanks.

Yet another of his many noteworthy qualities is the fact that the term "off-duty" simply doesn't apply to Deputy Froscher. His personnel file is full of numerous commendations from citizens to whom he has lent a helping hand while off the clock. From checking on crime victims and bringing widowers personalized, hand-written sympathy cards to changing tires for stranded motorists, Deputy Morris Froscher takes the serve and protect motto to a whole new level. And he doesn't just change their tires, either. Deputy Froscher then leads motorists to a repair shop and often waits with them until their car is fixed so he can then make sure they safely get back on the road to their destination. Wrote one grateful motorist who was helped by Deputy Froscher: "He was the kindest officer I have ever met. I will always be thankful he was there for us in our time of need." Wrote another stranded, but grateful motorist after an off-duty encounter with Deputy Froscher that included the Deputy stopping to change his tire: "It is acts of kindness and care for others that sets Deputy Froscher apart." And there are numerous additional letters from citizens just like this one in Deputy Froscher's personnel file.

These examples hopefully give you a sense of Deputy Morris Froscher's extraordinary character, work ethic and sense of duty and dedication to victims and why I'm so proud to nominate him for the Florida Attorney General's 2014 Distinguished Victim Service Award.

Not all of the examples cited above occurred during calendar year 2013. However, when viewed in their totality, they paint a picture of an incredibly dedicated law enforcement officer who has made it his life's ambition -- both while on-duty and off -- to serve the needs of victims, make a positive impact on the community and go above and beyond in the call of duty and service. In doing so, he has touched the hearts of many victims and made a positive impact in their lives. Naturally, Deputy Froscher has not only done this with his humanity, but as importantly, by solving cases and arresting perpetrators. In just the last three months of 2013, Deputy Froscher solved numerous property crimes, spearheaded an initiative involving local scrap yards to help identify people conducting illegal activity and made in excess of 60 arrests. In many of the cases that he brought to successful resolution, Deputy Froscher had to rely on his intuition and keen investigative skills as there were no identified suspects or witnesses and little or no physical evidence to go on. His initiative with the scrap yards has resulted in the arrest of criminal suspects accused of stealing everything from vehicles and railroad ties to street signs and farm equipment. And Deputy Froscher developed the initiative on his own, coming up with the concept and then implementing it and training other Deputies on the applicable statutes and investigative tools. In one case from 2013, Deputy Froscher solved a burglary of copper and other property from a company that was under contract to install new transmission lines. So thankful was the company that its vice president wrote a letter of praise regarding Deputy Froscher's efforts to make the arrest and recover some of the stolen property, noting that the investigation of other cases of a similar nature didn't always end successfully. "We have been robbed of cable several times at other job sites in recent years, but the crimes usually go unsolved," she wrote. "It brings us great pleasure knowing that at least one thief is off the streets today."

But perhaps the greatest testament to Deputy Froscher's humanity and positive impact on crime victims comes from the 8-year-old boy mentioned earlier in my letter. Here's what he wrote to Deputy Froscher, spelling errors and all:

Dear Deputy Froscher,

Thank you for the piggy bank. That was so nice of you.

Sincerely, Vinny

P.S. Thank you for the 20 bucks. That was also nice of you. All that you did for me ment a lot to me.

In closing, Deputy Morris Froscher is a model law enforcement officer and a tireless advocate for victims who lives, breathes and embodies the term "serve and protect" in every way possible. His dedication, work ethic and commitment to excellence not only help victims to heal from wounds both physical and emotional, but he also serves as an inspiration for co-workers and supervisors alike and shines a positive light on the entire law enforcement profession. Again, don't just take my word for it. Here's what one of Deputy Froscher's supervisors recently wrote while nominating him for an agency award: "Deputy Froscher went above and beyond the normal call of duty and worked tirelessly to protect the citizens he serves. He comes in on his days off to speak with victims and displays the character and strengths of a true leader. His actions and behavior throughout are both amazing and inspirational."

I could not have said it any better myself. I believe that victims, those involved in citizen contacts and his own co-workers have made the case for Deputy Froscher very eloquently and persuasively. He's one of the most professional, compassionate and dedicated law enforcement professionals I've ever had the pleasure to serve with, and for all of the reasons cited in this letter, I enthusiastically nominate him for the Florida Attorney General's 2014 Distinguished Victim Service Award.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben F. Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ben F. Johnson
Sheriff

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