

1974

Director John T. Frisina

Lake - Geauga Narcotics Unit

At the time that he was nominated for the Lake County Blue Coats Outstanding Achievement Award, John Frisina, 31, had been the Director of the Lake Geauga Narcotics Unit for less than 18 months. He was hired to run the unit on July 1st, 1973.

Frisina immersed himself into drug investigations, leading a unit of less than 20 agents. Because of his undercover work, he kept a low profile, never granting interviews or being photographed. He was credited with running the most successful undercover operation ever seen in Lake County, and, according to the Administration of Justice Division, the best record in the State of Ohio over that past year.

From the date he was hired until June 30, 1974, the Lake Geauga Narcotics Unit was responsible for recovering \$117,000 worth of marijuana, heroin, cocaine, LSD, and other narcotics. The unit conducted 309 investigations resulting in 144 felony indictments being issued.

In addition, the unit located the prime witness in a murder trial, recovered stolen third class mail valued at \$1000, and U. S. Savings Bonds valued at \$200, and turned over \$4000 recovered from drug dealers to the Internal Revenue Service. They recovered numerous weapons, and an array of stolen property including a police officer's badge.

The unit, under Frisina, also worked to educate by conducting classes within Lake and Geauga counties, using movies, textbooks, and drug education programs.

Frisina credited the success of the unit to the dedication of the agents working for it, none of whom could step forward for personal recognition due to their continuing assignments.

Frisina received his award in front of his colleagues and members of the Lake County Blue Coats, Inc at their meeting and banquet on November 14, 1974, at Madison Country Club.

John T. Frisina passed away on August 11, 2004 at the age of 61.