

2012

Captain Ronald Walters

Lake County Sheriff's Department

When examining the work of a great author, it is important to look beyond the word and examine the sentence. Beyond the sentence and study the paragraph. Go further than the paragraph, and read the chapter. Take the chapter and learn the book. But, to really know the author, and the worth of his literary genius, study the entire literary output. Only then will you begin to know the true value of the author.

So it is with the winner of the 2012 Jorge Medina award, Captain Ronald Walters. Walters was nominated by Sheriff Daniel Dunlap, who examined much of the body of Walters' work over the past years. In his letter of nomination, Dunlap summarized many of the cases that Walters was involved in as a Deputy, a Sergeant, and a Detective Lieutenant. Some of those cases included:

- The 1993 murder of the Lundgren family in Kirtland, Ohio.
- A 2001 investigation into the Aggravated Arson of an apartment building.
- A homicide of a 9 year old boy in 2002.
- The death of a young boy who was electrocuted at the 2003 Lake County Fair due to negligence.
- A 2004 homicide committed by a man against his wife, and the stabbing of his sister and brother in law. The suspect committed suicide when confronted.
- In 2006, a depressed woman killed her disabled son by setting him on fire, and was successfully prosecuted.
- A 2007 homicide which occurred in a local hotel.

Sheriff Dunlap cited the toll that these investigations could take on many people due to the grizzly crime scenes and terrible chain of events, He wrote of Walters' continuing work including ongoing investigations into the rape of a 12 year old girl, and a shooting at a local tavern. During all of these events, Walters continued to handle a multitude of burglary, theft, and fraud investigations.

Dunlap also cited the sacrifices that Captain Walters has made in his personal life while attending to his duties. Time with his family, and challenges to his emotions, often caused him to dig deep and find his inner strength.

In closing his nomination letter, Sheriff Dunlap stated that "frequently one case does deserve special recognition. I believe that sometimes a career of excellence and dedication should be considered. Obviously, the Blue Coats committee agreed with this assessment, and awarded the 2012 Jorge Medina Award to Captain Ronald Walters.