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2014 Corrections Officer of the Year Award

Officer Kevan A. Gifford

The 2014 Corrections Officer of the Year award is presented to Officer Kevan A. Gifford for consistently displaying the positive qualities required for this award. This is the inaugural year that this award has been given to a Corrections Officer of the Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office.

Corrections Officer Kevan Gifford has been a member of the Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office for over three years. During that short time he has quickly distinguished himself as a selfless and dedicated public servant. He sets the standard for everyone around him with his work ethic, appearance, resourcefulness, and leadership. He maintains an impeccable appearance, keeps himself in excellent physical condition, and takes meticulous care of his equipment. He is known as a thorough and effective Corrections Officer and a team player among his peers.

The Corrections Officer of the Year Award is selected from peer nominations. Here are some direct quotes about Officer Gifford from his peers who nominated him for this award:

"Officer Gifford is a very professional officer. Officer Gifford shows the core values of the Walla Walla Co. Sheriff Office everyday he is working. Officer Gifford maintains a very positive attitude and is always willing to help any Officer asking for help."

"Officer Gifford always has a positive attitude. He is always early to work and is ready to work before his scheduled start time. He has always picked up the phone or returned calls from the jail. His work ethic, knowledge and logical thinking make him an asset to the department. Gifford has done overtime on many occasions when no one else was able to, despite having other personal plans, or having worked his long week. Gifford is a true team player. He is dedicated to the department and has proved on many occasions his loyalty to not only the department, but his co-workers as well."

"Officer Gifford is always willing to help wherever needed. He is a great leader and works well under pressure. He knows the job very well and for the most part has an answer for questions anyone might have. He would be a great Sergeant."

“He is very knowledgeable about the jail routines. He is also a very reliable officer in that he always helps his fellow officers with whatever needs to be done. Never hear him complain about working or the job itself. I enjoy working with Officer Gifford a lot.”

“He shows lots of leadership and has a good work ethic. Officer Gifford would stop what he is doing to help you out with whatever is needed. If he has spare time on his hands he would always ask if anything needs to be done wherever you’re at. It could be on second floor, booking or control he’ll offer his help. When he walks in those doors to work, he knows it’s time to be professional and wears this uniform with pride. Gifford never calls in sick and is always here more the thirty minutes before work. Those are just some good work ethics about Officer Gifford. He deserves to be Officer of the Year.”

“Kevan works hard from the time he hits the door until it is time for him to leave. He offers help in all positions regardless of his assigned work position for the day. He is always one that not only answers his phone when shift coverage is needed, but more often than not he will help cover whether or not it was convenient with his schedule or plans that day. I have seen over the years of working here that drivers can tend to get lazy after being in that position for a period of time, but this has not at all been the case with Kevan. He is always looking for something to do or help out. Langley and Ammons are both also outstanding co-workers, but for me the choice is 100% clear that Kevan Gifford deserves this award.”

“Officer Gifford is very trustworthy and displays a very professional attitude while at work. He is always very polite to staff and inmates. No matter where Officer Gifford is assigned to work, he does it without griping and comes to work ready to do his job. He is a team player and is self-motivated. Officer Gifford is extremely punctual and often begins assisting my shift prior to his starting when it is busy. I trust Officer Gifford immensely and would love to work with him on a daily basis. He embodies all the values of the Sheriff’s Office and stands behind the mission of the department.”

As one can see, Officer Gifford is highly regarded by his peers. His demeanor in dealing with the public and offenders is very congenial and professional. Officer Gifford is a man of honor and integrity. His effort and work is consistently thorough, complete, and professional. He has developed a reputation for going the extra mile to ensure his work product is optimal. Kevan is well respected by his peers, supervisors, and administrators alike. In short, Officer Gifford is the kind of corrections officer that everyone wants on their team.

Officer Gifford’s dedication and commitment to duty is in keeping with the highest standards of devoted public service and the Vision, Mission, and Core Values of the Walla Walla County Sheriff’s Office.

Congratulations to Corrections Officer Kevan Gifford on a job very well done in 2014 and being selected as the 2014 Corrections Officer of the Year.

JOHN A. TURNER
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