



THE LOUISIANA SHERIFF

The Official Publication of Louisiana's Chief Law Enforcement Officers

WINTER ISSUE

DECEMBER 2020

Louisiana Sheriffs' Association Emergency Task Force Responds to Strongest Storm on Record, Hurricane Laura

By Lauren Labbé Meher, Communications Director, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association



An aerial view of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Emergency Task Force's "Base Camp Laura" at Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Pictured here are command posts and trailers from the East Baton Rouge and Lafayette Parish Sheriff's offices.

Photo courtesy of East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office.

The year 2020 has surely been one for the history books. Mother Nature was no exception in leaving her mark. On August 27, 2020, when Hurricane Laura made landfall in Cameron Parish, it arrived as a Category 4 hurricane with 150 mph winds, just seven miles less than a Category 5 storm. Hurricane Laura is tied as the strongest storm on record to hit Louisiana. The other storm was over 150 years ago in 1856, it was known as the "Last Island" hurricane. Even before she made landfall, Hurricane Laura had already made history as we

watched two systems in the Gulf of Mexico, both with Louisiana as their targets, for the first time since 1933.

Pre-landfall the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association Task Force was bracing for not one but two storms, with an additional prediction of a storm surge, which forecasters deemed "unsurvivable." Thankfully, Louisiana did not see the predicted storm surge levels, but still the devastating effects of Hurricane Laura were felt throughout the state. Sixteen parishes received Federal disaster assistance from the Federal Emergency

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*Chris Conaway, West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office (left) meets with Chuck Cassard, Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office (right) and Clifton Brown, West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office (back facing) to assist the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association Task Force with logistics and communications at Base Camp Laura in Lake Charles, Louisiana.
Photo courtesy of East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office.*

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*The Publication of Louisiana's
Chief Law Enforcement Officers*

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Louisiana Sheriffs' Educational Foundation

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LOUISIANA SHERIFF is the official publication of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Honorary Membership Program and Louisiana Sheriffs' Educational Foundation and is made possible by contributing members. It is distributed to members, statewide sheriffs, criminal justice professionals and policy makers.

POSTMASTER: send address changes to:
LOUISIANA SHERIFF
1175 Nicholson Drive, Suite 101
Baton Rouge, LA 70802



*LSA President, Sheriff Jason Ard (Livingston Parish), and LSA Executive Director, Michael A. Ranatza (not pictured), meet with Allen Parish Sheriff Doug Hebert to discuss Hurricane Laura damages in Allen Parish.
Photo courtesy of Michael Ranatza, Executive Director, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.*



***Hurricane Laura Base Camp "South," which was home to the kitchen/dining facilities (Ascension and East Baton Rouge tents).
Photo courtesy of East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office.***

Management Agency (FEMA). Five parishes were severely impacted and sought the assistance of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Emergency Task Force.

Executive Director, Michael Ranatza, and LSA President, Sheriff Jason Ard (Livingston Parish) traveled to each of the impacted parishes via helicopter to assess damages and offer assistance. Within hours of the Task Force being activated, LSA Task Force Coordinator Chuck Hurst and Assistant Executive Director Sh. Gary Bennett, Ret. established a base camp at Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Charles, Louisiana. From this base camp, approximately 220 deputies from 22 neighboring parishes were available on hand to supplement patrol in the five most badly damaged parishes (Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, and Grant). Under Hurst's leadership, (along with Northern District Task Force Commander, Sheriff Steve Prator; and Southern District Task Force Commander, Sheriff Mike Cazes;) approximately 200 people were fed three meals a day during the next 18 days of disaster recovery. This daunting task could not be accomplished without the crews from Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, and St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Offices there lending a hand. These teams each set up their own command posts and cooking trailers and tirelessly worked from pre-dawn to sun-down.

Providing emergency assistance during a disaster like Hurricane Laura poses a unique set of problems, because while multiple parishes needed manpower and help patrolling their cities, they also needed the incoming support teams to be relatively "self-contained." This means that since the impacted parishes were without power, water, and sewer, the volunteers had to come with everything they needed to function on their own for up to three days including housing, food, water, and fuel. Some parishes brought their own mechanic trailers, water trailers, and sleep trailers, and the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office actually built a water tank within the first two days. All of the volunteer parishes could then combine resources to get things running smoothly so that they could focus on assistance.

Special thanks to the Louisiana Sheriffs' Emergency Task Force who worked tirelessly for the next 22 days to meet the various needs of the impacted parishes. The articles that follow will provide a more in-depth look at how many parishes assisted. As this issue goes to print, 2020 continues to make history, as the fifth named storm makes landfall in Louisiana this year. The LSA Task Force stands ready to serve for this or any other emergency throughout our state, and Louisiana remains stronger for their efforts.



*This was the first time since 1933 that Louisiana was in the path of two Tropical Storms: Marco and Laura.
Photo courtesy of Chuck Hurst, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.*



*Pictured behind the LSA Task Force Mobile Interoperable Communications System is the Public Safety Blimp provided by our partners, ATT FirstNet. This was the first time that the FirstNet One LTE tethered blimp was used to provide LTE coverage to more than 100 square miles for weeks at a time.
Photo courtesy of Chuck Hurst, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.*



*LSA Mobile Interoperable Communications System Communications Tower in Cameron Parish provided communications to hundreds of first responders during the aftermath of Hurricane Laura.
Photo courtesy of Chuck Hurst, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.*



A lifeboat was tossed into the Cameron Parish Sheriff's Office's new Law Enforcement Complex during the aftermath of Hurricane Laura. Photo courtesy of Chuck Hurst, Louisiana Sheriff's Association.



Beauregard Parish was one of several parishes decimated by Hurricane Laura. Many houses were severely damaged like the two pictured here, while others were completely destroyed. Photo courtesy of Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office.



*A statue of Jesus was uprighted amid the destruction of Hurricane Laura in Holly Beach, LA.
Photo courtesy of Chuck Hurst, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.*



*Sun setting in Allen Parish after Hurricane Laura. Photo taken by Karlye Hurst.
Photo courtesy of Chuck Hurst, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.*



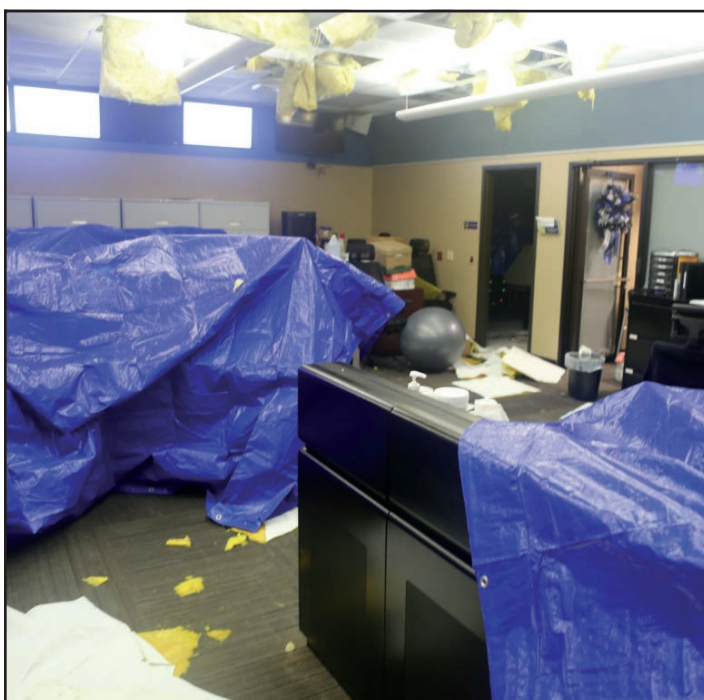
*Hurricane Laura's 150 mph winds blew out the windows of the Capital One Tower in Lake Charles, Louisiana.
Photo courtesy of East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office.*



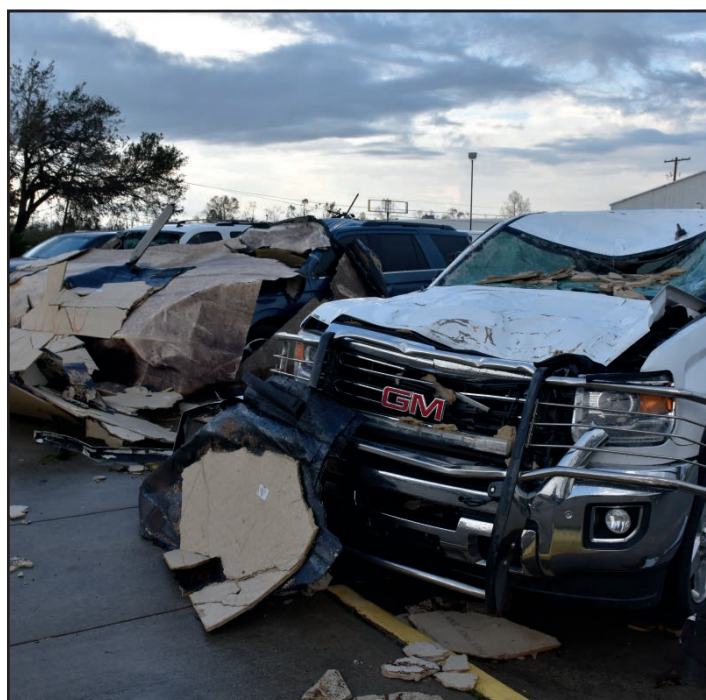
*Cowboy Stadium at McNeese State University is flooded after Hurricane Laura.
Photo courtesy of East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office.*



*Calcasieu Sheriff Tony Mancuso meets with Chad Wolf, the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security, and representative from FEMA to discuss the needs of their community after Hurricane Laura.
Photo courtesy of Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office.*



*A look inside the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center after the roof was blown off and water flooded in.
Photo courtesy of Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office.*



*Impact to the vehicles in the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office Parking Lot where part of the roof had blown off.
Photo courtesy of Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office.*

Hurricane Laura Rips Through Calcasieu Parish

By Kayla Vincent, Public Information Officer, Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office

In the early morning hours of Thursday, August 27 Calcasieu Parish was devastated by Hurricane Laura. Laura, on record tied as the strongest hurricane to make landfall in Louisiana, was a category 4 hurricane when it came onshore in the parish to our south, Cameron Parish. In the Lake Charles area, Laura's wind gusts were recorded at over 130 mph at the Lake Charles Regional Airport, prior to equipment failure.

"No one was mentally prepared for the destruction we would face after Laura hit. Even those that stayed for Hurricane Rita in 2005 could not fathom the damages being any worse," stated Calcasieu Parish Sheriff Tony Mancuso. "After my first year in office as Sheriff, we dealt with Rita. I felt like our department handled that incident well and we made some adjustments and changes for future critical incidents, so I was confident in our department's ability to respond after Hurricane Laura."

In true 2020 fashion, there would undoubtedly be a few kinks thrown in the plan. During Laura's landfall, while Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office (CPSO) dispatchers were answering calls from those who chose not to evacuate, the roof over the CPSO Dispatch Center and Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) was blown off and water started pouring through the ceilings and walls. The dispatchers were forced to abandon their calls and evacuate the center; taking all the equipment they could salvage from the radio room and the RTCC. It was a short time later when the roof blew off the area where the detectives division is located, also raining inside. The Calcasieu Correctional Center and Calcasieu Sheriff's Prison also suffered a lot of damage due to Laura. All of this happening while the eyewall was going over Lake Charles. Within the immediate days following the hurricane, CPSO dealt with a fire and chemical leak at a local plant, which caused a shelter in place, three homicides (one was the same incident but a double homicide), a fire inside the CPSO Dispatch Center, and an overturned vehicle on the interstate, just to name a few. To top things off Sheriff Mancuso, Chief Deputy Stitch Guillory, and many of the Incident Command Staff tested positive for COVID-19 during the following weeks after Laura hit.

The morning after Laura made her way through, Calcasieu Parish was unrecognizable. After daylight, when deputies were able to get on the roads it was apparent the parish suffered a devastating blow. Much of the critical infrastructure in the parish was damaged or destroyed. The two main concerns and priorities were to clear the roads for emergency vehicles and crime prevention due to the loss of electricity. It was clear due to the severity of damage in Calcasieu Parish the resources within the sheriff's office would be stretched thin. Chuck Hurst and the Louisiana Sheriff's Association Task Force were invaluable when it came to the assistance and resources they were able to provide to aid in law enforcement and recovery efforts. "The outpouring of support we received from other

agencies and entities has been heartwarming," stated Sheriff Mancuso. "Also, I am so proud of our deputies here at CPSO. They were working around the clock for weeks, not being able to see their families. Many of them lost their own homes but yet they still showed up for duty. They displayed true dedication to our department and our community."

It has been several months since Laura hit and although there is still a lot of devastation around Calcasieu Parish, there is also evidence of community coming together and taking care of one another. "I am amazed," says Sheriff Mancuso. "Many of our community members are suffering major losses but they are reaching out to us to see if we need anything. It is great to see in a time of need people come together and support each other."

A Special thank you to the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association Hurricane Laura In-State Response Teams:

*Acadia Parish Sheriff's Office
Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office
Assumption Parish Sheriff's Office
Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office
Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office
DeSoto Parish Sheriff's Office
East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office
Franklin Parish Sheriff's Office
Grant Parish Sheriff's Office
Iberville Parish Sheriff's Office
Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office
Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office
Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office
Lincoln Parish Sheriff's Office
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Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office
Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office
Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office
Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office
Richland Parish Sheriff's Office
St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office
St. James Parish Sheriff's Office
St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office
St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office
St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office
St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office
Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office
Vermilion Parish Sheriff's Office
Webster Parish Sheriff's Office
West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office
West Feliciana Parish Sheriff's Office*

The Louisiana Sheriffs' Association extends its gratitude to these parishes and to all who have helped. At press time, donations were still coming in from throughout the state, providing assistance to deputies in impacted areas. Our sincerest thank you to EVERYONE!

Marshall County to Marshall Street: Kentucky lends a hand to Cameron Parish during Hurricane Laura

By: Sheriff Ron Johnson, Cameron Parish Sheriff's Office

Help comes from all kinds of places when disaster strikes. During Hurricane Laura, Cameron Parish received help from Marshall County, Kentucky.

Their “Marshall to Marshall” Supply Drive was named after Cameron Parish’s Marshall Street. Sheriff Eddie McGuire and Deputy Keith Travis, both of Marshall County, Kentucky came up with a disaster relief plan to deliver supplies to the deputies of Cameron Parish. Knowing 40 deputies had lost their homes, Sheriff McGuire partnered with Detective Tammy Gaspard of the Cameron Parish Sheriff’s Office, (who was serving as Resource Officer at the time) to bring much needed relief. The volunteers never hesitated, even when it required two separate trips from Marshall, Kentucky to deliver goods to Cameron Parish. Through sponsors they procured generators, chain saws, fuel tanks, money, and just about everything that was needed for the battered Louisiana parish. These were essential and expensive items that were needed by deputies since they were all in state-owned camper trailers with no electricity and trees down everywhere. “These folks

used to be complete strangers. Now they are close friends,” said Sheriff Johnson. “These guys really went way out of their way for another Sheriff’s Office from another state.”



Sheriffs from Marshall County Kentucky join Sheriff Ron Johnson on Marshall Street in Cameron Parish after Hurricane Laura. From Left to Right: Deputy John Brinkley, Cameron Parish Sheriff Ron Johnson, Sheriff Eddie McGuire, Deputy Keith Travis.

Grant Parish Recovers from Hurricane Laura with the help of neighboring sheriffs

By Sheriff Steven McCain, Grant Parish Sheriff's Office

On August 27, 2020, Grant Parish, along with most of western Louisiana, experienced the worst natural disaster in our lifetime: Hurricane Laura. 100% of Grant Parish was without electricity, every water system failed, every road in the parish was blocked with trees and/or power lines, over 1,000 homes were destroyed or damaged, over \$100,000,000 in timber was destroyed, and \$5,000,000 worth of public buildings were damaged.

“Many of our deputies’ homes were destroyed or damaged. They would work in terrible conditions and then try to find a place to rest with no air conditioning, only to return the next day to begin working again for



Grant Parish Sheriff Steven McCain

the people of our parish,” Sheriff McCain said. “During the worst of times, we saw the best of people. Neighbors helping neighbors, items being donated to those who lost everything, citizens helping clear debris from roads, and agencies of all types working together with one goal, to help others. Thanks to the Sheriffs in Acadia Parish, Franklin Parish and Natchitoches Parish, we received much needed help in the form of Sheriff’s deputies sent to help in Grant Parish. The efforts of everyone involved will never be forgotten by the people of Grant Parish. On behalf of our entire parish—Thank You.”

Beauregard Parish Sheriff Mark Herford Fosters Community Partnerships During Hurricane Laura

By Lauren Labbé Meher, Communications Director, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association

Beauregard Sheriff Mark Herford and his team were well-prepared for Hurricane Laura, especially with lessons learned from Hurricane Rita, but upon first light, the gravity of the emergency situation in his parish quickly became evident. Over 28,000 structures were damaged, and the sheriff faced a dire situation finding his parish 100% out of power and water.

For the first time in history, the Beauregard parish jail had to be evacuated after over forty-eight hours with no water. Sheriff Herford was able to safely resolve this daunting task with the help of the Louisiana Department of Corrections. Sheriff Herford said, "They really helped lighten the load for us as they sent in a team to help us evacuate our inmates and send them on buses safely to a temporary location in Concordia Parish."

Simultaneously, Sheriff Herford was addressing all of the other emergency and recovery issues in Beauregard Parish in addition to his historic prison evacuation. Thankfully, no sheriff ever faces a storm alone and volunteers came to assist from neighboring parishes and states. For example, St. James Parish Sheriff's Office brought in crews who remained and assisted for several weeks, Terrebonne and Franklin Parishes brought in cooking teams to help feed the masses, and Livingston and West Baton Rouge Parishes sent deputies to augment patrol. This is just a few of the many sheriff's offices from across the state who came to help. Additionally, sheriffs from Arkansas donated goods, and sheriffs from Georgia assisted by staying for a week providing manpower and by bringing truckloads of goods to the donation center.

One problem that people may not consider during the early days of storm recovery is how to efficiently manage the tremendous influx of donations and distribute them to those in need in a timely manner. Sheriff Herford worked with local businesses, the National Guard, along with churches and volunteer groups from his community to implement his plan. Early on, he realized his parish wasn't immediately prepared to house the enormous influx of donations from food and clothing to cleaning supplies. Herford promptly reached out to partner with a local corporation who had a large office space available to resolve this problem. The agreement they formed allowed them to use the space to receive truckloads of donations, unload, inventory, and price the materials (for FEMA records), then

sort and distribute them; most times on the same day as they were received. This was only possible with the additional support from the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) and the National Guard, along with the volunteer fire departments, local churches and community centers.

Through GOHSEP, the National Guard set up three sites throughout the parish to distribute water, ice, and Meals Ready to Eat (MRE's). They quickly realized these three sites were not enough for the parish's large geographical footprint, so they set up two more "pod sites" where supplies were provided by the Guard, and manned by the Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office and local fire departments. With the help of local churches and community centers, they were able to set up twelve sites for distributing goods throughout the parish. Ultimately, over \$400,000 of goods were donated and distributed throughout the parish in the days immediately following the storm.

Sheriff Herford extends his gratitude to the entire Beauregard community, his staff, and particularly to his Chief Deputy, Jared Morton and his Tax Administrator, Sarah Martinez for their leadership in these efforts. Sheriff Herford says, "I'm really proud of how our entire community came together, it was never just one person, or one group, who made this a successful storm recovery operation, it was a total group effort, and I am forever thankful."



*Sheriff Mark Herford of Beauregard Parish meets a volunteer at one of their distribution points during recovery from Hurricane Laura.
Photo courtesy of Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office.*

Allen Parish Responds to double whammy with Hurricanes Laura and Delta

By Warden Michael Manuel, Allen Parish Sheriff's Office



An Allen Parish resident had to evacuate his vehicle when it became submerged and swept away during the aftermath of Hurricane Delta. The victim was pulled underwater through the 150 feet of culvert, emerging on the other side of the highway. Lt. Robert Turner spotted the resident clinging to a pine tree and Allen Parish Sheriff's Office deputies were able to safely rescue him.

Photos courtesy of Allen Parish Sheriff's Office



2020 has brought many unusual events to Louisiana and the hurricane season was not to be outdone. Hurricanes Laura and Delta's trek would hit Allen Parish with a vengeance. Laura was the first to roll through with winds at Category 4 strength, leaving a trail of twisted and downed trees and a power grid that was unrecognizable. Allen Parish Sheriff's Office (APSO) staff hunkered down in the administration building and other areas of the parish ready to deploy. When daylight broke, assessments started coming in and it was to say the least, disheartening; however, what we did see was an army of what can only be described as "chainsaw warriors" cutting trees out of roadways in order to check on their neighbors and ensure emergency personnel could access areas of their communities.

"Our deputies and administrative staff were also on the business end of these chainsaws throughout the parish from sun up to sun down. The people of Allen Parish would not allow this storm to keep them down and I could not have been more proud to be serving as their Sheriff," said Sheriff Doug Hebert. "We were able to focus our attention on these problems because of the help received from our brothers and sisters in law enforcement from the Livingston Parish Sheriffs Office. An army of blue and white Sheriffs vehicles rolled into Allen Parish to help patrol our communities until we could manage to get back on line and for this, I am forever thankful to Sheriff Jason Ard for providing help for our community."

Six weeks later Hurricane Delta rolled through on a very similar path except she brought hurricane force winds from the exact opposite direction of Laura and upwards of 14 inches of rain. Again, the APSO staff was prepositioned throughout the parish in order to make as quick of assessments and responses as possible. The people of Allen Parish once again rose to the occasion opening roadways and helping trapped neighbors as soon as the storm passed. There was major flooding as well as swift water rescues that took place at 1:00 a.m. in the darkest and most dangerous areas of the storm. As with Laura, help started rolling in from all over, with swift water rescue teams from Ohio and Florida working through the Louisiana Fire Marshalls Office, and the Cajun Navy was also on site to assist. Sheriff Hebert says, "These people left their families and homes to help us, sleeping in empty jails and in some cases, their vehicles. I can say without hesitation I am thankful for the residents of Allen Parish, its employees, our law enforcement family throughout the state and the folks who left the safety and comfort of their homes to lend a helping hand. I will never forget their generosity and forever be in their debt."



Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office purchased a generator out of their own pockets for a needy family impacted by Hurricane Laura in Allen Parish. Pictured left to right: Josh Manuel and Larry Amos of the Allen Parish Sheriff's Office; Alex Pethol, Ronnie Sharp, Frank Rizzuto, Kevin Smith, and Daniel Beadle of the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office. Also pictured is the Pickering family of Allen Parish. Photo courtesy of Allen Parish Sheriff's Office.

Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office deploys to Lake Charles in the aftermath of Hurricane Laura

By Allison B. Hudson, Public Information Officer, Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Bobby Webre, along with 18 other deputies, left Gonzales and headed for Lake Charles on August 28, to assist in several capacities, one day after Hurricane Laura ravished Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes on August 27, 2020.

The Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office (APSO) logistics team, comprised of eight people, prepared, and served meals for 2,600 law enforcement professionals for the first five days. After what deputies thought would be for a week, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association asked our deputies to assist with logistics for setting up a command post in Lake Charles. APSO helped with logistics for over ten agencies and assisted in helping set up the command post in Trinity Baptist Church parking lot in Lake Charles.

Quickly, deputies, along with Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office, set up a dining area under several tents with tables and chairs for first responders to eat. Deputies also started securing assistance from other agencies, such as the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office, St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office, and the Assumption Parish Sheriff's Office to help assist in various capacities, logistically.

APSO's mobile command became the logistics command post for 17 days and helped coordinate garbage service, sewer, diesel, gas, propane, fresh water, and a mobile communication tower.

With the assistance of the Trinity Baptist Church, deputies were able to secure a location inside the church for lodging and lavatory services.

APSO and East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office both provided logistical support for food and water deliveries on a consistent basis.

APSO also helped secure portable restrooms, shower trailers, washer and dryer trailer, and an 18-wheeler full of snacks and water for the citizens of Lake Charles.

ASPO deputies departed Lake Charles on September 13 after preparing and serving

9,800 meals and providing logistical services to over 27 agencies and over 2,600 law enforcement officials.

"The team work exhibited by all the sheriff's offices that responded to assist their counterparts in Southwest Louisiana was absolutely astonishing," added Chuck Hurst, Director of Louisiana Sheriffs' Emergency Task Force and Homeland Security.



Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office Lt. Joey Meyers, Special Deputy Karl Broussard, Lt. Jeff LeGrange, Ascension Businessman Scott Duplechin, and Special Deputy Paul Flurry take a short break from preparing meals in Lake Charles following the devastation of Hurricane Laura.

Photo courtesy of Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office.



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SHERIFF

East Baton Rouge Parish Assists Calcasieu Parish in Hurricane Laura Aftermath as Part of LSA Task Force

By Casey Rayborn Hicks, Public Information Director, East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office

Deputies with the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office (EBRSO) made multiple deployments throughout an 18-day period to assist their storm-damaged neighbors in Calcasieu Parish in the aftermath of Hurricane Laura as part of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association Task Force.

More than 270 EBRSO deputies from Uniform Patrol, Detectives and Specialized Divisions responded to Lake Charles throughout six different deployments to supplement patrols and protect residents and property. The Air Support division utilized the helicopter to assist with patrols and assist with damage assessments. The agency brought sleep trailers, shower trailers, a command post and other equipment to take care of the relief team. The EBRSO Cook Team was also on hand with their equipment to cook for those assisting in the area..

"We were humbled and honored to be able to assist our neighbors during such a difficult time," East Baton Rouge Sheriff Sid Gautreaux said. "Our agency and community

also received much needed assistance from the LSA Task Force agencies following the 2016 Flood. It's so important that we look out for one another as we face challenges. Many of our first responders continue to protect and serve their communities as they themselves are experiencing loss and damage."

After working in the area and seeing the devastation first hand, EBRSO Deputies collected and made donations to purchase nearly \$2,000 worth of gift cards to assist Calcasieu Sheriff's Office Deputies that were affected by the storm. Deputies also started a t-shirt fundraiser to raise money for those hit hardest by the storm.

"Every little bit makes a difference to put food, water, necessities and supplies in the hands of people who need them," EBRSO Warrant's Cpl. Holly Sanchez said. "We are committed to doing whatever we can to help our neighbors during difficult times through assistance, fundraising and prayer."



East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office Community Policing Unit unloads supplies to assist deputies affected by Hurricane Laura. Photo courtesy of East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office.

Bossier Deputies Support Hurricane Laura Relief in South Louisiana

By Lt. Bill Davis, Public Information Officer, Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office

"Folks down here have it real bad, ya'll. This ain't no joke."



Bossier Parish Deputy Dylan Dison clears traffic, while Deputy Cody Smith helps a stranded motorist 'gas up' his truck on Highway 90 near Iowa, LA.

Photo courtesy of Deputy Blake Garland, Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office.

That's what one deputy with the Bossier Sheriff's Office described about Lake Charles when he first arrived in Calcasieu Parish in September to help in the aftermath of Hurricane Laura.

Bossier Sheriff Julian Whittington sent a total of (5) five-person teams of deputies during separate deployments from the Bossier Sheriff's Office starting in late August and into September to provide law enforcement support to the heavily-damaged area, as part of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association Task Force.

After the hurricane came through Louisiana August 27, there were downed trees and power lines in Bossier Parish, but nothing compared to the devastation for Louisianans down south. That's when Sheriff Whittington decided to send aid, especially realizing that fellow first responders were also affected by the storm, and local law enforcement response would be strained.

"Lake Charles put out a call requesting for any help they could get, and the Bossier Sheriff's Office is answering that call," said Sheriff Whittington. Deputies quickly loaded their equipment, gassed their vehicles and hit the road.

Sheriff Whittington also established four donation centers in Bossier Parish where residents could drop off supplies, such as personal hygiene items and snack foods. Bossier businesses also donated other much-needed supplies, from tarps, bottled water, to cleaning supplies. Deputies also towed a Bobcat



Bossier Parish Deputy Austin Mueller passes out food to residents of Calcasieu Parish affected by Hurricane Laura.

Photo courtesy of Lt. Robert Chavis, Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office.

Skid Steer with a front-end loader to help clear debris.

Deputies distributed the donated supplies to families they met while out and about on the streets of Calcasieu Parish. There was no power, some with no water. And deputies were met with many smiles and "thank-you's" as they handed out tarps to homeowners and candy to children.

"They asked for our help, and we were glad to respond," said Sheriff Whittington. "And we'll do it again when needed."

Jefferson Davis Parish Sheriff's Office emergency aid efforts go above and beyond

By Deputy Aubrey Broussard, Public Relations Officer, Jefferson Davis Parish Sheriff's Office

When Category 4 Hurricane Laura hit the Louisiana coastline, Jefferson Davis Parish was among the many parishes greatly impacted, therefore all hands were on deck at the Jefferson Davis Parish Sheriff's Office (JDPSO). As Laura approached and strengthened, Sheriff Ivy Woods regularly updated the agency's social media page, providing citizens with valuable information. During the early phases of the storm's fury, members of the Patrol Division worked to clear fallen trees from roadways as crucial evacuation times narrowed. Members of the agency waited out the storm in the parish jail, as winds upwards of 70 mph pummeled the west side of Jefferson Davis Parish, destroying property and countless homes.

After hurricane winds subsided, Sheriff Woods, who is also the Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP) Parish Director,

immediately began coordinating emergency services for parish citizens. An Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was set up in the Police Jury 911 building, which they also allow JDPSO

to use for emergency and training purposes. There, employees answered calls from citizens and ensured supplies, such as tarps, MREs, bottled water and ice, were distributed to Points of Distribution (PODs), which were manned by the Louisiana National Guard. Employees also connected citizens to the appropriate resources such as FEMA and The Blue Tarp Program, as well as various volunteer groups in the area.



Jefferson Davis Parish Sheriff's Office Shift Supervisor Deputy Brant Duplechain worked throughout his parish assisting in clearing fallen trees and debris from the roadways, ditches and properties.

Photo courtesy of Jefferson Davis Parish Sheriff's Office.

When safely able, members of the agency went out with chainsaws and heavy equipment to assist the community, along with other parish and municipal agencies and volunteers, clearing trees and debris from roadways.

Evangeline Parish Sheriff's Office Supply Drive a Success

By Sheriff Charles Guillory, Evangeline Parish Sheriff's Office

On September 11, 2020 the Evangeline Parish Sheriff's Office and Cabot Corporation traveled to Lake Charles to deliver donations collected to help in the relief effort. They met with the Calcasieu Sheriff's Office and were escorted to the Saint Henry Catholic Church Distribution Center where they were in need of the donations. A representative from the Saint Anthony Catholic Church stated, "Many thanks to the Evangeline Parish Sheriff's Office and trustees for collecting and delivering a U-Haul full of supplies to St. Henry's distribution site today."

The Evangeline Parish Sheriff's Office and Cabot would like to thank the public and the businesses for the donations that made our supply drive a success. We appreciate your generosity and support.



Deputies from Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Charles Guillory and Major Scott Fontenot from the Evangeline Parish Sheriff's Office, and others help unload the truck of donated goods to the St. Henry Catholic Church Distribution Center.

Photo courtesy of Evangeline Parish Sheriff's Office.

Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office Dispatches Mobile Command Center

By Glenn Springfield, Public Information Officer, Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office



*Two of the teams from the Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office assisting in Calcasieu Parish after Hurricane Laura.
Photo courtesy of Glenn Springfield, Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office.*

Ouachita Parish was not immune to damages from Hurricane Laura. Their impact was primarily in the form of downed trees, causing downed power lines and structural damage. Approximately 60,000 lost power, but most was restored within ten days of the storm hitting our parish. Luckily, there were no reported injuries.

Additionally, the Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office dispatched our Mobile Command Center and three different teams of deputies, ten members each, over a three week period to work under the direction of the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office and the LSA with patrol duties, protection against looting and traffic control.

St James Parish Sheriff's Office assists in Beauregard Parish after Hurricane Laura

by Colonel Sid Berthelot, Chief Criminal Deputy, St. James Parish Sheriff's Office



*Deputies from Beauregard and St. James Parishes work together to clean up Beauregard Parish after Hurricane Laura.
Photo courtesy of St. James Parish Sheriff's Office.*

In the wake of Hurricane Laura, deputies from St. James Parish were deployed to assist with recovery efforts in Beauregard Parish. St. James deputies assisted with several tasks outside the normal duties of law enforcement. They completed tasks such as helping to clear highways, removing debris and trees from homes, and placing tarps on damaged

roof tops. The St. James deputies arrived in Beauregard Parish the day after landfall and stayed approximately three weeks assisting the local sheriff's office. During that time, a strong bond between the deputies from both parishes developed. Although born out of destruction, that new bond will hopefully continue to grow in the years to come.

SHERIFFS' HONORARY MEMBERS CONTRIBUTE

The Louisiana Sheriffs' Honorary Membership Program brings educational and enrichment opportunities to the lives of its Honorary Members. Here is how membership dues are working for you.



Acadia Parish
Sheriff K.P. Gibson
Community Services



Allen Parish
Sheriff Douglas Hebert
D.A.R.E. Program



Ascension Parish
Sheriff Bobby Webre
Scholarship Program



Assumption Parish
Sheriff Leland Falcon
Summer Camp



Avoyelles Parish
Sheriff David Dauzat
Community Services



Beauregard Parish
Sheriff Mark Herford
D.A.R.E. Program



Catahoula Parish
Sheriff Toney Edwards
D.A.R.E. Program



Claiborne Parish
Sheriff Sam Dowies
Youth Programs



Concordia Parish
Sheriff David Hedrick
D.A.R.E. Program



DeSoto Parish
Sheriff Jayson Richardson
Scholarship Program



East Baton Rouge Parish
Sheriff Sid Gautreaux
Nights of Remembrance



East Carroll Parish
Sheriff Wydetta Williams
Crime Prevention



Jackson Parish
Sheriff Andy Brown
Senior Citizens' Program



Jefferson Parish
Sheriff Joseph P. Lopinto
Band of Excellence



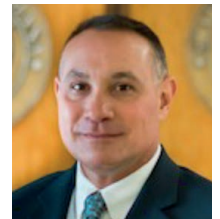
Jefferson Davis Parish
Sheriff Ivy Woods
D.A.R.E. Program



Lafayette Parish
Sheriff Mark Garber
232 Help Program



Lafourche Parish
Sheriff Craig Webre
Youth Development Programs



LaSalle Parish
Sheriff Scott Franklin
Scholarship Program



Ouachita Parish
Sheriff Jay Russell
Youth Programs



Plaquemines Parish
Sheriff Gerald "Jerry"
Tutlich Jr.
D.A.R.E. Program



Pointe Coupee Parish
Sheriff René Thibodeaux
D.A.R.E. Program



Rapides Parish
Sheriff Mark Wood
Community Services



Red River Parish
Sheriff Glen Edwards
Scholarship Program



Richland Parish
Sheriff Gary Gilley
Community Services



Sabine Parish
Sheriff Aaron Mitchell
D.A.R.E. Program



St. Mary Parish
Sheriff Blaise Smith
Scholarship and Senior Citizens' Programs



St. Tammany Parish
Sheriff Randy Smith
Senior Citizens' and Reserve Deputies' Programs



Tangipahoa Parish
Sheriff Daniel Edwards
D.A.R.E. Program



Tensas Parish
Sheriff Rickey Jones
D.A.R.E. Program



Terrebonne Parish
Sheriff Timothy Soignet
D.A.R.E. Program



Union Parish
Sheriff Dusty Gates
D.A.R.E. and Triad Programs



Vermilion Parish
Sheriff Mike Couvillon
D.A.R.E. Program

UTE TO PUBLIC SERVICES AT LOCAL LEVEL

and charitable public services to local communities through the generosity
king throughout Louisiana. Thank you for your continued support.

-Sheriff Greg Champagne, Chairman-Louisiana Sheriffs' Honorary Membership Program



Bienville Parish
Sheriff John Ballance
D.A.R.E. Program



Bossier Parish
Sheriff Julian Whittington
Crime Prevention



Caddo Parish
Sheriff Stephen Prator
Crime Prevention



Calcasieu Parish
Sheriff Tony Mancuso
Youth Services



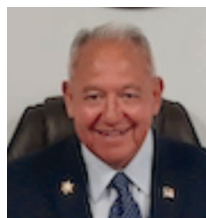
Caldwell Parish
Sheriff Clay Bennett
Explorer Scouts



Cameron Parish
Sheriff Ronald Johnson
D.A.R.E. Program



East Feliciana Parish
Sheriff "Jeff" Travis
D.A.R.E. Program



Evangeline Parish
Sheriff Charles Guillory
D.A.R.E. Awareness



Franklin Parish
Sheriff Kevin Cobb
Youth Programs



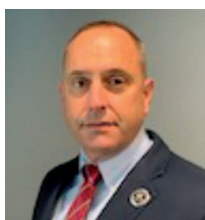
Grant Parish
Sheriff Steven McCain
Youth Camp



Iberia Parish
Sheriff "Tommy" Romero
Community Services



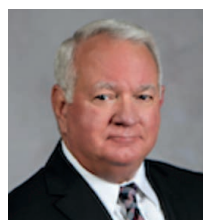
Iberville Parish
Sheriff Brett Stassi
Youth Services



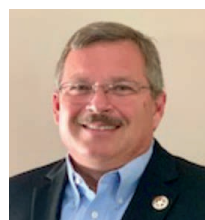
Lincoln Parish
Sheriff Stephen Williams
Triad and D.A.R.E. Programs



Livingston Parish
Sheriff Jason Ard
Drug Awareness and
D.A.R.E. Programs



Madison Parish
Sheriff Sammie Byrd
D.A.R.E. Program



Morehouse Parish
Sheriff Mike Tubbs
Summer Youth Camp



Natchitoches Parish
Sheriff Stuart Wright
Youth Ball and
D.A.R.E. Program



Orleans Parish
Sheriff Martin Gusman
D.A.R.E. Program



St. Bernard Parish
Sheriff James Pohlmann
D.A.R.E. Program



St. Charles Parish
Sheriff Greg Champagne
D.A.R.E. Program



St. Helena Parish
Sheriff Nathaniel "Nat"
Williams
Crime Prevention



St. James Parish
Sheriff Willy Martin, Jr.
Youth Summer Camp



St. John the Baptist Parish
Sheriff Michael Tregre
Drug Education



St. Landry Parish
Sheriff Bobby Guidroz
D.A.R.E. Program



St. Martin Parish
Sheriff Becket Breaux
Community Service Projects



Vernon Parish
Sheriff Sam Craft
D.A.R.E. Program



Washington Parish
Sheriff Randy Seal
D.A.R.E. Program



Webster Parish
Sheriff Jason Parker
Scholarship Program



West Baton Rouge Parish
Sheriff Mike Cazes
D.A.R.E. and Scholarship
Programs



West Carroll Parish
Sheriff Scott Mathews
Youth Drug Program



West Feliciana Parish
Sheriff Brian L. Spillman
Senior Citizens



Winn Parish
Sheriff Cranford Jordan
D.A.R.E. Program

Sheriff Jason Ard Livingston Parish

By Lauren Labbé Meher, Communications Director, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association

Livingston Parish Sheriff Jason Ard says he “Had a vision of being in law enforcement way before he even knew what a vision was.” From pretending he was a sheriff when playing with his brothers as a child, to his first “real life” law enforcement experience as a fifteen year-old cadet with the Denham Springs Police Department, Sheriff Ard knew in some way, he would one day protect and serve.

His career in law enforcement officially began 27 years ago, when he was hired to work as a prison guard at the new prison, for the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office (LPSO). After three years, he transitioned to Uniform Patrol, then was promoted to Supervisor. Moving quickly up the ranks, Sheriff Ard worked in almost every capacity for the LPSO from investigations to Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Commander/Training Officer, then Chief Deputy, and eventually ascended to Sheriff in 2012.

Ard says, his on the job experience readied him for his role as Sheriff and he learned so many lessons in his various roles including the challenges of coming up as a young supervisor and finding balance between earning the confidence of his peers and leaning on them when decision-making. But like most Louisiana sheriffs, the ultimate learning experiences would often come in the form of Louisiana's storms.

Louisa May Alcott said, “I’m not afraid of storms, for I am learning to sail my ship.” Sheriff Ard said he was never afraid of a storm, as he recalled when he travelled as a deputy to Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office to assist Sheriff Tony Mancuso in recovery from Hurricane Rita. Sheriff Ard was eager to help out, and attributes the work done there as part of what helped him in the future to receive a promotion. He remembers watching as Sheriff Mancuso gave his first speech as sheriff during the storm. Little did he know, years later, he would be the sheriff on the receiving end of assistance from his fellow sheriffs after the Great Flood of 2016.

Sheriff Ard was at the helm as Livingston Parish Sheriff when the waters rose more than 20 feet during the fated flood. It is estimated that 75% of the homes in Livingston Parish were a total loss. Livingston was considered one of the hardest hit parishes and Ard and his team had to evacuate thousands of stranded residents from their homes amid the rapidly rising waters. Ard recalls how humbling it was when he was in the midst of it and they were 400 calls deep, needing help. “To have the deputies and sheriffs that showed up from all over the state to support us, rescuing and working as hard as us, if not harder, I’m forever indebted,” Ard says.

During the flood, 85 Livingston Parish deputies faced the challenge of trying to serve the public while they had lost everything—their families displaced. Ard faced tough decisions knowing that his deputies needed safe housing to be able to continue to help their communities. Sheriff Ard was working closely with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in an effort to set up a mobile home trailer park for deputies, but he kept hitting roadblocks, which were

preventing this from happening in the timely manner needed. Ultimately, Ard made the decision for the sheriff's office to do this on their own and hopefully get reimbursed by FEMA at a later date. They built 35 trailers from the

ground up, allowing his displaced deputies to have a safe place to come home to while they continued working in their parish.

After the flood, Sheriff Ard continued to partner with Congressman Garret Graves and eventually H.R. 302 was passed. Section 1211 of this legislative package allows state and local governments to provide post-disaster, temporary housing at a cost-savings compared to FEMA housing. The previous law prohibited FEMA from reimbursing local governments for the cost of providing a housing solution for those who are displaced after a disaster. Ultimately, Sheriff Ard was able to cut through the red tape during a crisis and safely house his deputies at a fraction of the cost that FEMA would have. The LPSO was recently reimbursed more than two million dollars from FEMA, and more importantly, this paved the way for more timely facilitation of this process for future sheriffs in crisis.

Sheriff Ard says now more than ever, in the days following the flood he felt compelled to “give back” and serve as President of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association. Fast-forward to 2020, after serving for four years on the executive board, he is now serving as the Association's seventy-fifth president. Sheriff Ard is the first sheriff from Livingston Parish to take on this role.

Now in another serendipitous “full-circle” moment, Ard finds himself on the other side of a storm, able to give back in ways he never dreamt of. “I’m a firm believer that God will place you where He wants you and where He needs you,” Ard says. When Hurricane Laura hit, Ard traveled back to Calcasieu Parish, where he once stood in service as a deputy, now stronger from his own storms. He was able to help Sheriff Mancuso with his own temporary housing issue. Ard traveled to impacted areas with LSA's executive director, Michael Ranatza. He and his team also worked with the sheriffs of Allen, Beauregard, Cameron and Grant Parishes. Ard says his deputies knew the deep pain and feelings of loss of hope felt by all those who were in Laura's path. They were ecstatic to be able to give back to those who had helped them.

Currently, the LPSO is busy readying for one of their many community projects, their annual *Christmas Crusade*. Ard helps carry on the tradition established by the LPSO more than thirty years ago of bringing Christmas to the underprivileged children in Livingston Parish. “The deputies are really the heart of this project, they really ‘own it,’” Ard says. The program begins with citizens in need applying or deputies turning in “leads” for families in need, and after a



Sheriff Jason Ard

Sheriffs Elect 2020-2021 Board at Annual Meeting

By Lauren Labbé Meher, Communications Director, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association

On October 21, 2020 the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association held the swearing in for their 2020-2021 Executive Board and Committee, during their annual conference. During the meeting, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Honorary Membership Program also recognized three sheriffs for their performances in the 2020 Acquisition and Renewal Campaign. Jefferson Parish Sheriff Joe Lopinto, Tensas Parish Sheriff Rickey Jones, and East Carroll Parish Sheriff Wydette Williams all were honored. Sheriff Lopinto had the highest parish revenue, and Sheriffs Williams and Jones were tied for the highest percentage response in their Acquisition Campaigns. Congratulations to our sheriffs, and best of luck to all of our sheriffs in their 2021 direct mail campaigns. The Louisiana Sheriffs' Association's newly elected officers and board members will serve until July 2021, and they include:

President	Jason Ard	Livingston Parish
First Vice President	Sheriff Brett Stassi	Iberville Parish
Second Vice President	Sheriff Kevin Cobb	Franklin Parish
Secretary-Treasurer	Sheriff Doug Hebert	Allen Parish
Sergeant at Arms	Sheriff K.P. Gibson	Acadia Parish
1st District	Sheriff Randy Smith	St. Tammany Parish
Alternate	Sheriff Joe Lopinto	Jefferson Parish
2nd District	Sheriff Marlin Gusman	Orleans Parish
3rd District	Sheriff Leland Falcon	Assumption Parish
Alternate	Sheriff Timonthy Soignet	Terrebonne Parish
4th District	Sheriff Glen Edwards	Red River Parish
Alternate	Sheriff Jason Parker	Webster Parish
5th District	Sheriff Jay Russell	Ouachita Parish
Alternate	Sheriff Wydette Williams	East Carroll Parish
6th District	Sheriff David Hedrick	Concordia Parish
Alternate	Sheriff Mark Wood	Rapides Parish
7th District	Sheriff Daniel Edwards	Tangipahoa Parish
Alternate	Sheriff Randy Seal	Washington Parish
8th District	Sheriff Mark Garber	Lafayette Parish
Alternate	Sheriff Ron Johnson	Cameron Parish
9th District	Sheriff Bobby Webre	Ascension Parish
Alternate	Sheriff David Dauzat	Avoyelles Parish

Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office Receives First *Leaders in Law Enforcement* Award from Community Foundation of Acadiana

By Lauren Labbé Meher, Communications Director, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association

The Community Foundation of Acadiana (CFA) held its first "Leaders in Law Enforcement" event on September 10, 2020. This new event stemmed from the Foundation's efforts to annually honor one sheriff's office and one district attorney's office for their exceptional work in the field.

The Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office was selected as the inaugural winner for their Deputies Making a Change program (DMAC). DMAC provides mentoring to address the incarceration and school dropout rate among vulnerable male youth in Ouachita Parish. DMAC was implemented by Deputy Kenneth Tramble with the support of Sheriff Jay Russell and a staff of experienced deputies.

In 1998, while working as a deputy in the patrol division, Tramble had a desire to make a change in young men's lives. His personal story has been the driving



Representatives from the Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office receive a check at the inaugural Leadership in Law Enforcement Award ceremony sponsored by Community Foundation of Acadiana. Top row: Sheriff Jay Russell and Captain Buddy Aulds. Bottom: Corporal Marvin McFarland, Deputy Kenneth Tramble, and Lieutenant Eric McElroy.

force to reach young men who are at risk to succeed personally, academically and socially, and his passion for helping young men overcome their challenges and grow into honorable men of character led him to establish this successful program. Deputy Tramble, along with Lt. Eric McElroy and Cpl. Marvin McFarland Continue to remind the mentees "You cannot let where you come from dictate where you will go in life."

DMAC services male students ages 9-18 by offering support in academics, future planning, hygiene, money management, healthy lifestyle regimens, life skills, college and career readiness, and problem solving.

Over the past 12 years, DMAC has directly impacted more than 5,000 students and indirectly addresses the needs of youth at local schools that are serviced by the deputies. The primary purpose of this program is to decrease

continued on page 23

St. Tammany Parish Operations Division Lends a Hand

By Sgt. Suzanne Carboni, Assistant Public Information Officer, St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office

The deputies with the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office (STPSO) know all too well what it means to experience a devastating storm and its aftermath. Radar images of Hurricane Laura barreling down, headed for Southwest Louisiana, brought back memories for many deputies, and they knew they could not just sit back and watch. Even before Hurricane Laura made landfall, deputies with the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Operations Division were en route to Lake Charles with boats and supplies in tow, ready to help with the initial search and rescue operations.

When the activities in Southwest Louisiana switch from search and rescue to recovery, the STPSO Operations Division once again responded - sending deputies back to Southwest Louisiana. This time they went to work alongside the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office, helping to patrol the streets of Calcasieu Parish. This provided some relief to Calcasieu deputies who had been working continuous shifts. This time instead of hauling boats and equipment, they arrived pulling a trailer full of supplies collected by local businesses and members of the community.

While these deputies were working on the streets in Southwest Louisiana, back home in St. Tammany, members of the Corrections Division were collecting loads of supplies which were delivered to the Sulphur Police Department. Corrections deputies made two trips bringing needed items such as bottled water, canned food, cleaning supplies, and children's toys.



As Hurricane Laura approached in Southwest Louisiana, deputies with the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office Operations Division headed out to be on hand to assist with the immediate search and rescue efforts.

Photo courtesy of St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office.

"Our brothers and sisters to our west experienced a devastating storm," Sheriff Randy Smith said. "We in St. Tammany know all too well what that is like. Going there to help was simply the right thing to do."

St. John the Baptist Parish Assists in Lake Charles

The St. John the Baptist Sheriff's Office recently deployed two teams of deputies to Lake Charles to assist the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office with

security and patrol as residents recover from Hurricane Laura, a Category 4 storm that devastated the community August 26, 2020.



Here, St. John the Baptist Sgt. Kendel Harris and Deputies Bryce McClendon, Orlando Nicholas, Kristina Liscano, and Shellymyra Clark prepare to head out to Lake Charles neighborhoods to protect residents and property. A second team of officers (not pictured) including Sgt. Michael Pugh, Justin Green, Jared Seruntine, Ira Marsalis and Charles Gant – also assisted with the recovery effort.

Photo courtesy of St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office.



St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Deputies patrol a Lake Charles neighborhood that was devastated by Hurricane Laura.

Photo Courtesy of St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office.

West Feliciana Parish Assists Calcasieu with Patrols



West Feliciana Sheriff's Office deputies traveled to Lake Charles to assist the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office with patrols as many of their deputies work to recover from Hurricane Laura. Sheriff Brian Spillman said, "As a fellow Sheriff, and fellow citizen, I'm proud to assist the people of Calcasieu Parish in their hour of need. Our small part will hopefully relieve some of their burden by providing law enforcement support so their deputies can focus on rebuilding their lives." Pictured from left to right: Lt. Marc Daigle,

Mike Dreher, Cpl. Gerald Smith, Sgt. Jon Gentry, and Cpl. Zachary Beasley.

Photo courtesy of West Feliciana Parish Sheriff's Office.

SHERIFF JASON ARD, LIVINGSTON PARISH, continued from page 20

lengthy vetting process about 600 families are chosen each year. On "Delivery Day" the sheriff and his deputies deliver toys to the families spreading the true spirit of Christmas throughout Livingston Parish. This is one of the many annual community service projects provided by the LPSO.

Sheriff Ard is also currently working on building a new 35,000 square foot training facility for the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office. Ard says, "I'm thankful to be able to build a training facility that we can be proud of." After years in a double-wide mobile home, his growing office can benefit by having their own facilities and "in-house" training academy. "After being here for so long and coming up as a training

officer, I'm looking forward to helping our office grow in these much needed areas," Ard says.

When asked what other goals he has for the remainder of his term as LSA president, Ard tearfully says, "It's crazy because you think of all of the things you want to accomplish, whether it's criminal justice reform, issues related to Covid-19, or assisting my fellow sheriffs and association in whatever task they may need; now I'm here in this moment, and honestly-- I've reached it." As we say in Louisiana, anything else going forward is lagniappe! Sheriff Ard will continue to serve as LSA president until July of 2021, and looks forward to continuing his service as Sheriff of Livingston Parish.

LEADERS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT, continued from page 21

the amount of school suspension and expulsion, increase school attendance, and maintain or increase grade point averages among at-risk youth in Ouachita Parish.

"Identifying a student as high-risk for dropping out or vulnerable to be incarcerated can be difficult," says Tramble. "The DMAC mentoring program has a selection process to effectively serve students attending six schools within Ouachita Parish."

The Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office joins the 40th Judicial District Attorney's Office of St. John the Baptist Parish in receiving this award. Both organizations were recognized at the inaugural invite-only luncheon at the City Club in Lafayette on September 10, 2020. They were also each awarded a \$25,000 award to be used at their discretion to

improve operations and continue to encourage extraordinary performance.

All Louisiana sheriff's offices and district attorney's offices are invited to apply and highlight initiatives and programs that have been implemented for the betterment of their communities. A panel of retired law enforcement professionals reviews all applications and chooses the awardees. The first year of this award has been underwritten by the Joe W. and Dorothy Dorsett Brown Foundation. CFA plans to continue this awards process annually in order to recognize more law enforcement agencies doing exceptional work in the state of Louisiana. For more information on how your office can apply, please visit <https://www.cfacadiana.org/leadersinlaw>

Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office Focuses on Wellness Amid Pandemic

By Philip Stelly, Public Information Officer, Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office

If there is one lesson to be learned protect your health. Orleans Parish and civilian employees are doing as well as the health of family, friends

In October, deputies on both the day 15 minutes of yoga at two roll calls supplemented by a weekly recorded instructor. During open enrollment, schedule a wellness visit with their an online health survey to receive a on their health insurance premium. to spouses or domestic partners of

"I can't stress enough the we are in the forefront of the battle Gusman. "Being healthy becomes even cold and flu season." In the run-up several occasions offered flu shots personnel. In the latest mandatory dramatically. Three employees out COVID-19, down from 21 employees



Orleans Parish Sheriff's deputy Deputy Daleesa Keppard and Capt. Patricia Gaines are in "Standing Bow" pose with yoga instructor Adrienne "Ajax" Jackson, owner of Magnolia Yoga Studio in New Orleans during one of the OPSO's mini-yoga sessions for wellness.

Photo courtesy of Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office.

from the coronavirus pandemic, it is to Sheriff's Office deputies, supervisors exactly that, refocusing on their health and the community.

and evening shifts began incorporating a week. The mini-yoga classes are meditation message from the yoga employees were encouraged to primary care physician and to complete "compliance credit," or a reduction The compliance credit also applies insured employees.

importance of staying healthy because against COVID-19," said Sheriff Marlin more important as we look ahead to to flu season, the Sheriff's Office on administered by Walgreens medical coronavirus testing, results improved of 708 employees tested positive for in the previous round.

Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office Fighting to Control the Spread of COVID-19

By Philip Stelly, Public Information Officer, Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office

Although New Orleans was recognized early on as hot spot, the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office (OPSO) was determined to stem the spread of COVID-19. "We are committed to having a COVID-19-free environment through mass testing of staff, contractors, and inmates; combined with daily temperature checks; use of PPE (personal protective equipment); sanitization of facilities; medical isolation or quarantine for all suspected and positive results; and education," Sheriff Marlin Gusman said.

Before there were confirmed cases in Louisiana, OPSO modified its Pandemic Flu Plan, then quickly upgraded it to a pandemic response protocol that included instructional videos for staff and inmates on hygiene practices, social distancing, and proper use of PPE. OPSO stopped inmate transports to court, launched video hearings, and worked with the court to release non-violent and low-bond inmates. We also suspended the

Transitional Work Program; and canceled volunteer activities. Visitation via video conference has resumed on a limited basis.

COVID-19 testing began on March 26, but the numbers were small and test results were delayed. Then Sheriff Gusman collaborated with Ochsner Health System to conduct mass testing of all OPSO staff, inmates, and contractors on a monthly basis.



Sheriff Marlin Gusman poses with a COVID-19 testing team before they begin testing a group of inmates and staff for the day.

Photo Courtesy of Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office.

Initially, the number of COVID-19 cases was relatively high and OPSO lost four staffers to the virus. By mid-November, the Sheriff's Office reported only seven positive cases among inmates; only three OPSO staff members and only one medical worker were positive for COVID-19. These are OPSO's lowest numbers since the pandemic began. Sheriff Gusman said, "I hope we can continue on this path during our next phase of testing and report zero cases for employees, contractor and inmates."

Bossier Sheriff's Office Donates \$15K in Gift Cards to Nurses, Paramedics, & Doctors

By Lt. Bill Davis, Public Information Officer, Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office



Lt. Chad Madden with WK Medical Personnel. Photo courtesy of Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office.

When an anonymous donor came to Bossier Sheriff Julian Whittington to donate \$15,000 to the Bossier Sheriff's Office, he was honored. But the Sheriff had an idea to turn that donation into a blessing for the hard-working medical teams fighting COVID-19.

"The donor wanted to do something special for law enforcement," Sheriff Whittington said. While donations like this are quite welcome and appreciative for the men and women on the "Thin Blue Line," the Sheriff and the donor got to thinking and came up with another plan.

"Most of the time, we're the ones taking it on the chin," Sheriff said. "But this time during the COVID-19 pandemic, I felt like paramedics, ambulance teams, nurses and doctors are the ones on the front lines," and he wanted to do something special for them.

They purchased \$50 gift cards from Silver Star Smokehouse and Texas Roadhouse with the donated funds, and Bossier deputies delivered the gift cards April 9 – 10 to medical personnel throughout Bossier Parish at Willis-Knighton Bossier Health Center, Christus Bossier Emergency Hospital, Bossier City Fire Department, Bossier Parish Fire Districts, and Bossier Parish EMS.

"It was so amazing," exclaimed Lou Trosclair, Nurse Manager for Willis-Knighton Bossier's Emergency Department. "We are so appreciative! The outpouring of support has just been amazing, and we can't tell you how appreciative we are."

Deputies delivered additional gift cards to the ER staff at Willis-Knighton Bossier April 15. Additionally, both restaurants also donated 10 'dinners for two' for the medical staffs.

Assumption Parish



On March 11, 2020 Governor John Bel Edwards issued the first COVID-19 Emergency Proclamation, within days, Assumption Parish Sheriff Leland Falcon delivered much needed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to Assumption Parish's lone but cherished hospital, Assumption Community Hospital. Photo courtesy of Assumption Parish Sheriff's Office.

Lincoln Parish Deputies Deliver Groceries to At-Risk Citizens

By Sheriff Stephen Williams, Lincoln Parish Sheriff's Office

Lincoln Parish deputies have been making grocery deliveries for at-risk citizens throughout Lincoln Parish. Citizens were able to notify the sheriff's office of where their order had been placed and when it needed to be picked up and deputies then delivered the groceries to the homeowners' doors. Manpower for the program has been supplemented by School Resource and Civil Deputies. All deputies who participated in the grocery deliveries had to first complete a health screening questionnaire including a temperature check. They were also required to use safety gloves and masks while making their deliveries as well as maintain a minimum 6-foot distance from the customer.



Pictured are Lincoln Parish Sheriff's Office deputies Mark Denton and Tommy Gallagher, completing the first of many scheduled deliveries to our at-risk citizens during Covid-19. Photo courtesy of Lincoln Parish Sheriff's Office



Catahoula Parish Detective Brad Bradley, Detective Ben Adams, and Deputy Trace Taylor fill bottles with disinfectant to be issued to patrol deputies during Covid-19. Photo courtesy of Catahoula Parish Sheriff's Office.



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online at:
[https://give.
lsa.org/renew-
membership.html](https://give.lsa.org/renew-membership.html)**

Caddo deputy, recovered from COVID-19, donates plasma to other virus patients

By: Cindy Chadwick, Public Information Officer, Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office



Caddo Sheriff's Cpl. Kevin Calhoun donates the first COVID-19 convalescent plasma in Louisiana to help critically ill Coronavirus patients.

Photo courtesy of Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office.

A Caddo deputy who recovered from COVID-19 is helping other critically ill coronavirus patients by donating his plasma.

Cpl. Kevin Calhoun donated one of the first COVID-19 convalescent plasmas in Louisiana, according to LifeShare Blood Center. Calhoun was joined in his effort by his friend, David Langston, who was the first person to test positive for the virus in Caddo Parish. Both Calhoun and Langston were recently retested and their results were negative.

According to LifeShare's Wendell Jones, because Calhoun and Langston are recovered, their blood contains antibodies that can help others with advanced stages of infection fight the virus. Calhoun's plasma was transfused to a critical patient at Ochsner LSU Hospital the day after he donated. This will be the first transfusion of its kind in Louisiana and among the first in the United States, according to Jones, Executive Director of Quality and Regulatory Services at LifeShare.

Calhoun, a Caddo deputy for more than 12 years, learned of plasma transfusions for COVID-19 patients from a co-worker. When someone he knew became ill, he called and offered to donate. "I knew something good would come out of this," he

said. "If it works, a lot of people should be encouraged to do it."

Calhoun said the process went smoothly and he was in and out of the blood center in less than two hours. He said he plans to donate again.

Langston also plans to donate again. He said he had heard of plasma transfusions for COVID-19 patients and was approached about donating plasma by the family of someone recently hospitalized with the virus. His response was "Tell me when and where." Today, he and Calhoun donated together.

"If there is a silver lining to this cloud of coronavirus it's that I got over it relatively easily, and if I got it to help someone else who wouldn't have had such an easy time, then I'm there," he said. "I plan to do it as many times as they call me, keeping my own health in mind."

Plasma donations can go to one or multiple patients. Jones added that the current FDA research with convalescent plasma may lead to new therapies and vaccines to fight current and future cases of COVID-19.

For more information about donating plasma if you have recovered from COVID-19, contact LifeShare Blood Centers.

Washington Parish Sheriff's Office honors Deputy of the Quarter



Washington Parish Sheriff Randy Seal recently honored Corrections Deputy Chance Johnson, a resident of Franklinton, as the Corrections Deputy of the Quarter. Sheriff Seal commented, "Chance does an excellent job as a corrections deputy. His abundant energy and enthusiasm for the job are an example for all. I appreciate everything he does for the Sheriff's Office and all of Washington Parish."

West Feliciana Parish Sheriff's Office Captain recognized by Child Advocacy Center

By Erin Foster, Public Information Officer, West Feliciana Parish Sheriff's Office

West Feliciana Parish Sheriff's Office Captain Michaela McNeal has been recognized by the Child Advocacy Services Children's Advocacy Center for over 18 years of "giving voice, healing, and security to the children of West Feliciana Parish".

The Children's Advocacy Center Program (CAC) provides a safe child-friendly environment for children who may have experienced abuse or witnessed a crime. A multidisciplinary team of professionals works together to reduce trauma and ensure the safety of children and families throughout the investigative process.

During her 25 years of service in Law Enforcement, Captain McNeal has been a huge part of educating her community and helping the Child Advocacy Center serve children and families. Her career began as the juvenile officer for the St. Francisville Police Department. From there, she transitioned into a role as the D.A.R.E. Officer for the West Feliciana Sheriff's Office. For the past 17 years, she has been working in investigations and was recently promoted to Captain of Criminal Investigations and Narcotics.

Ashleigh Fuller, MA, with CAC said, "When I learned Michaela would be moving into a new supervisory role, I felt she deserved recognition for all of the hard work she has done and continues to do for the children of West Feliciana Parish. Michaela has been working closely with our Child Advocacy Center since 2002, and in those 18 years, she has helped develop a strong Multidisciplinary Team in the Feliciana Parishes. Though I have only worked with Michaela for the past six years, she has taught me so much about the investigative process. I have greatly appreciated all the knowledge and experience she has to share."

One fun fact, Fuller says, is that the first forensic interview Michaela participated in was recorded on VHS tape back in 2002!

"The part I enjoy the most about being a part of the Multidisciplinary Team is being able to talk with others involved in the child's case. By working as a team, we can come to a conclusion together and truly understand the child's background," says Captain McNeal.

When children visit the Children's Advocacy Center, they select a button to put in a "Buttons of Bravery" jar. The buttons are all different shapes, sizes, and colors, just like the children, so the button represents them and their story. The jar of buttons



*West Feliciana Parish Sheriff's Office Captain Michaela McNeal with the Child Advocacy Services' Children's Advocacy Center Representative Ashleigh Fuller. McNeal was recognized for 18 years of "Giving voice, healing, and security to the children of West Feliciana Parish."
Photo courtesy of West Feliciana Parish Sheriff's Office.*

provides comfort to children that they are not alone, that there have been many others who have put buttons in the jar.

"This recognition is a testament to the work that Captain McNeal does every day for the children of our parish. She uses her compassion, knowledge and experience to bring closure and healing to children involved in these very traumatic cases," said Brian L. Spillman, West Feliciana Sheriff.

Thank you, Michaela, for your dedicated career in protecting the children of your community!

For more information on the Children's Advocacy Center and services available in the community, please visit www.childadv.net.

Ascension Parish Deputy Chief graduates FBI Academy

By Allison Hudson Public Information Officer, Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office

Lt. Colonel Cody Melancon of the Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office (APSO), along with two hundred and fifty-four other law enforcement officers recently graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia in March. The 279th session of the National Academy consisted of men and women from 49 states and the District of Columbia. The class included members of law enforcement agencies from 32 countries, five military organizations, and eight federal civilian organizations.

Internationally known for its academic excellence, the National Academy offers 10 weeks of advanced communication, leadership, and fitness training. Participants must have proven records as professionals within their agencies to attend. On average, these officers have 21 years of law enforcement experience and usually return to their agencies to serve in executive-level positions.



Lt. Colonel Cody Melancon of the Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office, graduates from the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia this past March. Photo courtesy of Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office.

Lt. Col. Melancon began his career with the APSO in 1995 as a reserve deputy in the communications division. He then joined the sheriff's office full-time in 1996 assigned to the patrol division. Throughout his law enforcement career, he has served in the warrants division, dispatch/communications, administrative services division, and currently oversees special operations for the sheriff's office which includes the communications division, programs unit, and information technology. Lt. Col. Melancon also serves as the commander of the hazardous materials team and a team leader for the Mobile Field Force Unit.

A total of 52,795 graduates have completed the FBI National Academy since its began in 1935. The National Academy is held at the FBI Training Academy in Quantico, the same facility where the FBI trains its new special agents and intelligence analysts.

Grant Parish Deputy Recipient of American Police Hall of Fame Life Saving Award

By Sheriff Steven McCain, Grant Parish Sheriff's Office

The American Police Hall of Fame has chosen Grant Parish Sheriff's Deputy, Brennan Flory, as the recipient of a Life Saving Award. On April 19, 2020, Deputy Flory was stopped by a passing motorist and told of a possible building that was on fire north of Pollock, Louisiana.

Deputy Flory responded and found a home to be fully engulfed in flames. Deputy Flory ran around the house and could hear the moaning of someone. He discovered a woman lying in the threshold of a door and partially on a porch. With no regard for his own safety, Deputy Flory pulled the woman away from the burning house. Another passing motorist stopped and helped Deputy Flory to continue to pull the woman away from the flames, to safety.

The lady received 3rd degree burns to 80% of her body, but doctors believe that she will survive. The Grant Parish Sheriff's Office is proud of Deputy Flory and recognizes him for his courageous efforts.



Grant Parish Sheriff Steven McCain and Deputy Brennan Flory, recipient of the American Police Hall of Fame Life Saving Award. Photo courtesy of Grant Parish Sheriff's Office.

Sabine Parish Sheriff Aaron Mitchell Donates \$1,000.00 in Memory of Margie Remedies

by Lauren Smith, Civil Deputy, Sabine Parish Sheriff's Office

Sabine Parish Sheriff Aaron Mitchell proudly personally donated \$1,000 to the Louisiana Sheriffs' Honorary Membership Program's Scholarship fund in honor of long-time employee, Margie Remedies. Margie passed away on July 3, 2020. She was a pillar of not only the Sheriff's Office but of her community. When 911 came to the parish Margie played an instrumental role in helping to map the parish. She spent many hours out in the parish drawing maps and naming roads. Sharp as a tack right up to her death, she often told stories of her time working for 911.

One such story told of a disgruntled gentleman who was the sole resident of a particular road Margie was trying to name. When she asked him what he would like his road to be named he told her he couldn't care less so she named his road Rose Lane because he was such a "rosy" individual.



Sabine Sheriff Aaron Mitchell personally donated to the Louisiana Sheriffs' Honorary Membership Program Scholarship fund in honor of long-time employee, Margie Remedies. Photo courtesy of Sabine Parish Sheriff's Office.

After the mapping was completed Margie served as a dispatcher for the Sheriff's Office and loved and treated all of the deputies as her own. Many a deputy enjoyed her home cooking which she gladly prepared and brought to the office. Young dispatchers learned the ropes under her wing and working with her brought a sense of security to the office because there wasn't a location in the parish that she wasn't familiar with.

Margie loved traveling and had traveled to almost every state in the country as well as several provinces in Canada with her twin sister and brother-in-law. She also loved a cup of hot tea, her coffee black, reading, and her family - both blood and blue. Margie's absence

stings but we take comfort in knowing that she is with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and reunited with her husband whom she missed for many years.

St. James Parish Focuses on Leadership Development with Command and Staff College

By Col. Sid Berthelot, St. James Parish Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Willy Martin, Jr. has been investing in the future of the St. James Parish Sheriff's Office. Not only is his investment in the traditional economics of everyday business, but also in leadership development of both current and future leaders of the organization. Sheriff Martin is a strong advocate of the National Command and Staff College. The rigorous and extensive training involves 14 weeks of combined online and residency instruction. Participants are tasked with providing constant feedback in the form of essays and discussion questions. They must also collaborate with small groups to complete a research paper using the APA format (Capstone Project), which is presented to the class on the final day.

To date, the St. James Parish Sheriff's Office has 10 deputies who have completed the training, including two who were participants in the groundbreaking Session 1 class. "We are only as good as our leadership abilities. This rigorous program promotes excellence and ensures our graduates will lead the way by setting high standards for others to replicate within the department. We will continue to send participants



Pictured with St. James Sheriff Willy Martin are the first two graduates of the National Command and Staff College from St. James Parish Sheriff's Office – Captain Julie Scioneaux and Colonel Sid Berthelot.

Photo courtesy of St. James Parish Sheriff's Office.

to constantly challenge our current and future leaders," said Sheriff Martin. For more information about the National Command and Staff College visit: <https://commandcollege.org/>.

Rougarou the Rescue Dog Joins Caddo Sheriff's K-9 Unit

By: Cindy Chadwick, Public Information Officer, Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office



Caddo Sheriff Steve Prator and Sr. Deputy Maggie Boykin introduce new sheriff's K-9 Rougie, a rescue dog from the Northwest Louisiana Humane Society. Photo courtesy of Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office.

The Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office (CPSO) is giving a rescue dog from the Humane Society of Northwest Louisiana a new "leash" on life after officially making him a member of the department's K-9 Unit, said Sheriff Steve Prator.

Rougarou is a "ball crazy" 1-year-old black Labrador retriever who has been training with the Sheriff's Office since October. After officially passing the test to become a sheriff's K-9, he was recently assigned to a handler, Senior Deputy Maggie Boykin, in the Patrol Division.

"This is a real feel-good day in law enforcement for me," Sheriff Prator said. "Anyone who knows me knows that I love animals, and to be able to bring two things together that I love – animals and the Caddo Sheriff's Office – it's a good day."

Rougarou is the first shelter dog to join the CPSO K-9 Unit. His new assignment is narcotics detection. CPSO K-9 trainer Deputy Leroy Azlin worked with Rougie for seven weeks teaching him all about detecting narcotics odors and conducting building and vehicle searches.

Turning to the local rescue organizations was an idea developed within the CPSO Patrol Division. The goal was to grow the CPSO K-9 Unit without spending money.

Rougie came to CPSO from the Humane Society of Northwest Louisiana. Rescue Director Courtney Wingate knew the Sheriff's Office was looking for a rescue dog and thought Rougie would be the perfect fit. The Humane Society had received

the dog from Cara's House animal shelter in Ascension Parish in September. Rougie, then known as Brew, was surrendered by his owner, after Cara's House employees had regularly seen the spirited animal running loose in the neighborhood.

But the road to becoming a CPSO K-9 wasn't always easy for Rougie. "When I first got him, I was worried he couldn't pass the test to get into the program," Azlin said. "We knew he had the drive, but he had issues like he wouldn't stick his head in a box to get his toy or get up on a box." Azlin said he enlisted the help of Troy Phillips, a dog trainer at Shreveport's All Dogs Unleashed, and "I got a different dog back," he said. "He scored very high (on the test), and he hasn't looked back yet. He's one of the hottest dogs I've had in the last 15 years."

The Caddo Sheriff's Office currently has four other K-9s. All are dual-purpose dogs trained in narcotics and patrol work, and all are European imports purchased from U.S. K-9 vendors. They range in price from \$11,000 for a single purpose dog to \$15,500 for a dual-purpose dog. The cost of Rougarou? \$0.

Azlin has trained shelter dogs to be police K-9s for other departments, and he says some just don't have the genetic instinct needed for the job. "To find a dog like Rougie that was the first dog we took, I was amazed," he said.

Sheriff Prator said he's anxious to see Rougie at work and hopes to have more shelter dogs join the ranks of the Caddo Sheriff's Office in the future.

Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office Addresses Truancy Problem in Effort to Reduce Incarceration

By Public Information Officer Glenn Springfield, and Senior Patrol Deputy Leha Odom, Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office

Since 2007, the Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office has been striving to address the problem of truancy in Ouachita Parish. Over time, the program has expanded to three full-time deputies assigned to the unit. Each deputy works in connection with the 37 Ouachita Parish schools to identify and correct attendance issues with the over 19,000 school age children in the parish.

Deputies begin by educating both students and their parents on their responsibilities as it relates to school attendance. Using multiple school, government, and private resources, a plan is tailor-made for each child nearing or exceeding their maximum absences. If absences continue to occur, deputies may issue citations or summons to students and parents.



Truancy Deputies pictured Left to Right: Sr. Patrol Deputy Sonya Coates, Sr. Patrol Deputy Leha Odom, and Sgt. Earl Henry.

Photo courtesy of Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office.

Until the introduction of the Ouachita Parish School Board's current WebPams system, deputies were unable to accurately gauge the parish-wide truancy problem. During the first measurable school year of 2013-2014, following the new system implementation, truancy averaged at 29% across all parish schools. In the last full school year of 2018-19, that percentage was down to 11%.

Sheriff Jay Russell believes in the program and says "Truancy deputies realize that it is statistically improbable to reach every single child, but on average high school dropouts are 3.5 times more likely to end up incarcerated as adults. Taking early measures to ensure the success of our children is a step in the right direction to reducing the incarceration rate of young adults."

Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office Implements Red Dot Sights

By Valerie Ponseti Brinkley, Public Information Officer, Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office

The Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office, under the direction of Sheriff Mark Garber, is implementing the use of red dot sights on duty weapons at the agency. The new training and policy are currently being instituted on an individual, volunteer basis with the ultimate goal of exposing all qualified post-certified deputies to this technology and its benefits.

Sheriff Garber recently authorized red dot sight training, at instructor level, for a handful of current instructors at his office. This provides them with the capability to administer the course to deputies as well as cadets at the Acadiana Law Enforcement Training Academy, the regional academy run by the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office. The Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office, along with one other local agency, are the only agencies in the region with qualified instructors on staff to teach this course.

Approving the use of red dot sights on duty weapons was a priority for Sheriff Garber, as agencies both locally and nationwide have seen success with this equipment. "The value of this instrument is something I personally believe in. It's a

resource that will help us progress as an agency and it is my hope this tool will enhance the efficiency and safety of our daily operations," said Sheriff Garber.

The Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office is proud to join numerous law enforcement agencies across the country in advancing the performance and service of its deputies by embracing the use of red dot sights.



LPSO Range Master SSgt. Michael Porche conducting red dot sight training with deputies in Lafayette, LA.

Photo Courtesy of Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office.

Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office Conducts Art Contest for Inmates

By Lt. Brennan Matherne, Public Information Officer, Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office

Lafourche Parish Sheriff Craig Webre recently announced the results of an art contest conducted at the Lafourche Parish Correctional Complex for inmates. The contest was part of programming efforts being conducted at the facility.

"Art contests in correctional settings serve several useful purposes," said Sheriff Craig Webre. "A contest such as this improves inmate behavior, provides a way for inmates to use talents in a positive manner, and helps inmates connect with their families as some of them send the artwork home. The inmates, especially the contest winners, have amazing talent, and we are happy to give them this outlet to use it in a positive way."

The Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office recently recognized the winners of the contest, which was judged by employees at the Correctional Complex. The winners received a small selection of food items and will be encouraged to hone their art skills during their stay at the facility. The inmate who took first place with his artwork of a wooden ship said, "Thank you for providing me the opportunity to do something meaningful with my talents while I am here."

Assistant Warden Captain Karla Beck, who also serves as Director of Programming and Reentry for the Southeast Central Regional Reentry Program, said the Sheriff's Office plans to utilize these artistic talents in visitation rooms at the facility.

"We want to provide a comfortable, family-friendly area, especially when children are visiting an incarcerated parent," said Captain Beck. "We are fostering a constructive culture at the Correctional Complex through programs such as this. By providing positivity within our correctional walls, we hope to reduce recidivism and increase the security of our community by returning productive citizens."

Sheriff Webre also thanks Assumption Parish Art Guild, Lefevre's Art Supply and Framing, and Winner's Circle of Lafourche for donations to the contest. Sheriff Webre plans to continue projects such as this at the Correctional Complex which focuses on the arts.



St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office Creates Children And Parents Educational Relief System

By Marshall Moreau, Administrative Officer, St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office



*Sheriff
Bobby J. Guidroz*

Sheriff Bobby J. Guidroz announced a new program in July of this year which is designed to assist parents employed by the St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office who have school age children now participating in "virtual classroom" activities mandated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program, commonly referred to by the acronym C.A.P.E.R.S., has been well received by employees of the St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office as well as by the general public.

C.A.P.E.R.S. allows for children of Sheriff's Office employees from grades K-9 to accompany their parents to the workplace from 8:00 AM to 4:40 PM where they are allowed to participate in virtual classroom activities conducted by the St. Landry Parish School System. Employees are permitted to monitor their children to ensure that they are performing their school activities properly with the understanding that their

duties as Sheriff's Office employees must not be compromised in any fashion. All CDC guidelines and social distancing requirements are met and children are allowed to have recess time. Internet services required for connectivity with the school system are provided at no cost to the parents and are designed to prevent any threat to the security of the Sheriff's Office computer network.

Sheriff Guidroz stated that he felt a need to provide an alternative to employees who were faced with the difficult choice of staying home with their children or having to pay for childcare during the pandemic. The C.A.P.E.R.S. program was the ideal solution. According to Sheriff Guidroz, it allows children to receive the vital educational opportunity offered by the school system in a safe environment without requiring parents to miss work or to incur the financial burden of paying for in-home care to supervise the children at home. All stakeholders appear to be benefitting from this innovative program which will continue to be offered until schools return to normal operations.

St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office improves 911 communications with new radio tower

By Angel Thompson, Public Information Officer, St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office

St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff Mike Tregre announced in February 2020 the completion of a radio communications tower, greatly enhancing 911 communications radio coverage in the community.

On February 19, a ribbon cutting for the 460-foot structure was held at the tower constructed on St. John the Baptist Sheriff's Office (SJSO) property behind Patrol Headquarters in LaPlace. During Hurricane Isaac, radio communication between first responders was difficult, Sheriff Tregre said. "This partnership between the sheriff's office and the parish to erect a new tower greatly improves communication and safety especially during emergencies," he said.

Tower construction, costing \$990,000, began in October 2019 when the SJSO received a \$562,000 Port of Louisiana grant from FEMA. The remaining balance of \$428,000 is covered through 911 Communications funds.

The tower, built by Daley Tower of Lafayette, allows



U.S. Rep. Garret Graves, center, instrumental in assisting the parish in obtaining the grant for the project, State Sen. Gary Smith, left, and Parish President Jaclyn Hotard and Parish Councilwoman Tammy Houston and State Rep. Greg Miller, joined St. John Sheriff Mike Tregre for the ribbon-cutting of a new communications tower. Photo Courtesy of St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office.

for clear, concise radio communications with three different backup systems for first responders including the sheriff's office, local fire departments, and parish government. It also provides auxiliary capability for emergency operations centers throughout south Louisiana to communicate directly with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness in Baton Rouge during emergencies, such as hurricanes, when cellular and fiber communications may be lost. The costs of cellular and cable connections for the crime camera network also are eliminated since the new tower does not require these connections.

U.S. Representative Garret Graves, instrumental in assisting the parish in obtaining the grant for the project, State Representative Greg Miller, State Senator Gary Smith, and Parish President Jaclyn Hotard joined Sheriff Tregre for the ribbon-cutting.

Sheriffs' Educational Scholarship Recipients Announced

Louisiana Sheriffs' Honorary Membership Program Chairman Greg Champagne, St. Charles Parish Sheriff, announced that seventy graduating high school seniors have been awarded scholarships provided by the Sheriffs' Scholarship Program for the 2019-2020 academic school year.

Sheriffs' scholarships, worth \$500 each, are made possible by the citizen members of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Honorary Membership Program. They are awarded to students from each parish where the sheriff is affiliated with the Program. While some sheriffs divide the \$500 scholarship into two, \$250 scholarships, other sheriffs enhance scholarship benefits to larger denominations with funds they provide themselves.

To obtain information about the Louisiana Sheriffs' Scholarship Program, contact your local Sheriff's Office.

ACADIA PARISH

Sheriff K.P. Gibson

Recipient: *Alaina Clare Cormier*

ALLEN PARISH

Sheriff Douglas L. Hebert, III

Recipient: *Trinity Amelia Ritchie*

ASCENSION PARISH

Sheriff Robert "Bobby" Webre

Recipient: *Barbara Fernandes*

ASSUMPTION PARISH

Sheriff Leland Falcon

Recipient: *Grant Dupaty*

AVOUELLES PARISH

Sheriff David Dauzat

Recipient: *Anthony Oby Jr.*

BEAUREGARD PARISH

Sheriff Mark Herford

Recipient: *Kate Elizabeth Cooper*

BIENVILLE PARISH

Sheriff John Ballance

Recipients: *Michaela C. F. Waits*
Antavian Moore

BOSSIER PARISH

Sheriff Julian C. Whittington

Recipient: *Cameron Thomas*

CADDO PARISH

Sheriff Steve Prator

Recipient: *Ty'Asia Mahoney*

CALCASIEU PARISH

Sheriff Tony Mancuso

Recipient: *Haylen Simon*

CALDWELL PARISH

Sheriff Clay Bennett

Recipient: *Anna Clae Bennett*

CAMERON PARISH

Sheriff Ronald Johnson

Recipient: *Gracie Young*

CATAHOULA PARISH

Sheriff Toney Edwards

Recipients: *Rikki Lea Otwell*
Erica Denise French

CLAIBORNE PARISH

Sheriff Sam Dowies

Recipient: *Evangeline Brasher*

CONCORDIA PARISH

Sheriff David Hedrick

Recipient: *Unavailable at press time.*

DESOTO PARISH

Sheriff Jayson Richardson

Recipient: *Schmiah Turner*

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH

Sheriff Sid Gautreaux

Recipient: *Faith A. Bergeron*

EAST CARROLL PARISH

Sheriff Wydette Williams

Recipient: *Katlyn Jordan*

EAST FELICIANA PARISH

Sheriff Jeff Travis

Recipient: *Joseph Cart*

EVANGELINE PARISH

Sheriff Charles Guillory

Recipient: *Selena Gauthier*

FRANKLIN PARISH

Sheriff Kevin Cobb

Recipient: *Tristan Cuenca*

GRANT PARISH

Sheriff Steven McCain

Recipient: *Tristen Roussell*

IBERIA PARISH

Sheriff Tommy Romero

Recipient: *Mathlyn Kay McFarland*

IBERVILLE PARISH

Sheriff Brett Stassi

Recipients: *Angelle Claire Theriot*
Madison Young

JACKSON PARISH

Sheriff Andy Brown

Recipient: *Makayla Stewart*

JEFFERSON PARISH

Sheriff Joe Lopinto

Recipient: *Gabrielle Ann Matthews*

JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH

Sheriff Ivy Woods

Recipient: *Faith Gary*

LAFAYETTE PARISH

Sheriff Mark Garber

Recipient: *Jordan A. Mata*

LAFOURCHE PARISH

Sheriff Craig Webre

Recipient: *Adler Verdin*

LASALLE PARISH

Sheriff Scott Franklin

Recipients: *DeVante` D. Jack*
Colton D. Herrington

LINCOLN PARISH

Sheriff Stephen Williams

Recipient: *Unavailable at press time.*

LIVINGSTON PARISH

Sheriff Jason Ard

Recipient: *Emma Claire Gautreau*

MADISON PARISH

Sheriff Sammie Byrd

Recipients: *Robert Hager Fortenberry*

David Shane Peterson, Jr.

MOREHOUSE PARISH

Sheriff Mike Tubbs

Recipient: *Jesci Clare Lord*

NATCHITOCHE PARISH

Sheriff Stuart Wright

Recipient: *Chancellor Davis*

ORLEANS PARISH

Sheriff Marlin Gusman

Recipient: *Lance Goods, Jr.*

OUACHITA PARISH

Sheriff Jay Russell

Recipient: *Casey Stutson*

PLAQUEMINES PARISH

Sheriff Gerald Turlich

Recipient: *Emilee Joelle Galmiche*

POINTE COUPEE PARISH

Sheriff René Thibodeaux

Recipient: *Luke Edward Major*

RAPIDES PARISH

Sheriff Mark Wood

Recipient: *Richard Austin*

RED RIVER PARISH

Sheriff Glen Edwards

Recipients: *Adam Tyler Bryant*
Taylor Williams

RICHLAND PARISH

Sheriff Gary Gilley

Recipient: *Jordan Sanders*

SABINE PARISH

Sheriff Aaron Mitchell

Recipient: *Jay Joseph LaTour*

ST. BERNARD PARISH

Sheriff James Pohlmann

Recipient: *Grace Margaret*
Bartholomae

ST. CHARLES PARISH

Sheriff Greg Champagne

Recipient: *JaCaleb R. Smith*

ST. HELENA PARISH

Sheriff Nathaniel "Nat" Williams

Recipient: *Anastasia Bryan*

ST. JAMES PARISH

Sheriff Willy Martin

Recipient: *Kami Dufresne*

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Sheriff Michael Tregre

Recipient: *Madison Layne Duhe*

ST. LANDRY PARISH

Sheriff Bobby Guidroz

Recipient: *Holden Broussard*

ST. MARTIN PARISH

Sheriff Becket Breaux

Recipient: *Aaliyah Nicole Ledet*

ST. MARY PARISH

Sheriff Blaise Smith

Recipient: *Kaeden King*

ST. TAMMANY PARISH

Sheriff Randy Smith

Recipient: *Macey Frosch*

TANGIPAHOA PARISH

Sheriff Daniel Edwards

Recipient: *Austin Stafford*

TENSAS PARISH

Sheriff Rickey Jones

Recipient: *Ainsley Barfield*

TERREBONNE PARISH

Sheriff Tim Soignet

Recipient: *Brandon L. Bergeron*

UNION PARISH

Sheriff Dusty Gates

Recipient: *Aubrey Rebecca Maxey*

VERMILION PARISH

Sheriff Mike Couvillon

Recipient: *Nikki LeBlanc*

VERNON PARISH

Sheriff Sam Craft

Recipient: *Hunter David Rabalais*

WASHINGTON PARISH

Sheriff Randy Seal

Recipient: *Trentyn Michael Barber*

WEBSTER PARISH

Sheriff Jason Parker

Recipient: *Kayelee Cruse*

WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH

Sheriff Mike Cazes

Recipients: *Aiya Robinson*
Thomas Shepherd, Jr.

WEST CARROLL PARISH

Sheriff Scott Mathews

Recipients: *Caroline Elisabeth Kelly*
Jackson Lane Ross

WEST FELICIANA PARISH

Sheriff Brian Spillman

Recipient: *Brendan O'Brien*

WINN PARISH

Sheriff Cranford Jordan

Recipient: *Hunter Fitzgerald*

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LOUISIANA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM (For Non-Members Only)

It is your privilege as an Honorary member of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Honorary membership Program (LSHMP) to select individuals interested in promoting good law enforcement and crime prevention to also become members. Take this opportunity to pass this form along to a friend. Once completed, the form and dues should be returned to the address listed below. IF YOU HAVE ALREADY APPLIED FOR MEMBERSHIP WITH THE ASSOCIATION, PLEASE DO NOT RETURN THIS FORM. YOU WILL RECEIVE AN ANNUAL RENEWAL NOTICE IN THE MAIL. Members in good standing receive a membership card, a window decal, and a subscription to our newsletter The Louisiana Sheriff.

Honorary Membership Dues: (\$25.00 Individual; \$35.00 Family
and \$35.00 Business) \$ _____

Additional Donation \$ _____

License Plates @ \$7.00 each \$ _____

Additional Window Decals @ \$2.00 each \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Name of Applicant _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Parish _____ Email address: _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO LOUISIANA SHERIFFS' HONORARY MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM OR "LSHMP" AND FORWARD TO: **LOUISIANA SHERIFFS' HONORARY MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM, 1175 NICHOLSON DRIVE, SUITE 101, BATON ROUGE, LA 70802.** Family memberships are for two people living at the same address. You will receive two I.D. cards in each person's name and two window decals. Please write the information on the back of this form. Questions? Please call 225.383.2871.