



Date: 05/23/2017**NEWS RELEASE****NR# 17-39**

**Seminole County Sheriff's Office to hold Annual Awards Ceremony today
-Agency to honor top performers, lifesavers, community heroes-**

Seminole Co. (5/23/17) - The Seminole County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) invites the media to attend the Annual Awards Ceremony today, as the agency honors the outstanding accomplishments of employees, volunteers, and community members.

The ceremony will take place 6:00 p.m. today at the Seminole State College Fine Arts Building (Building G), located at 100 Weldon Blvd, in Sanford, Fla.

During the event, Sheriff Dennis Lemma will present 34 awards in 9 categories: Administrative Excellence Award, Distinguished Action Award, Luis Menendez Award, Hugh E. Thomas Award, Unit Citation, Community Service Award, Life Saving Award, the Sheriff's Commendation, and Award of Merit. Then more than 230 award recipients will be honored for demonstrating exceptional productivity, outstanding performance, or extraordinary bravery during the last year. Life Saving Awards will be presented to:

- Sgt. Christopher Ortiz and Inv. Christopher Maiorano who assisted a mother whose child had stopped breathing while experiencing a seizure
- Deputy Sheriff Fred Hilaire who utilized a defibrillator to revive an unresponsive female found lying on the side of a roadway and during an unrelated incident, administered Narcan spray to a female who overdosed on Heroin
- Deputy Sheriff Christopher Belanger, Deputy Sheriff Corey Bentley, Deputy Sheriff Patrick Rehder and Deputy Sheriff Timothy Smith who administered Narcan spray and utilized a defibrillator on a male who overdosed on Heroin
- Deputy Sheriff Kiel Bryant who administered Narcan on a male who overdosed
- Detention Deputy Michael Rivera whose quick action prevented an inmate from suffering severe injury or death as a result of a suicide attempt

Additionally, Sheriff Lemma will present one of agency's most prestigious awards, the Award of Merit, to:

- Detention Deputy Edward Balkcom, Detention Deputy Angel Ortiz and Detention Deputy Jonathan Sprague whose quick action prevented a combative inmate being booked into the jail from harming himself or others
- Deputy Sheriff Ron Wyche who pulled a burglary subject from a burning vehicle
- Deputy Sheriff Blayne Badura who returned fire on a fleeing homicide suspect

For more information contact:

Manager Kim Cannaday (kcannaday@seminolesheriff.org)

(407) 665-6978 - desk

(407) 402-3319 – cell

or

Director Twis Lizasuain (tlizasuain@seminolesheriff.org)

(407) 665-6748-desk

(407) 840-2166-cell

###