

American Legion Marina Public Safety Appreciation and Awards Dinner

ROD ARNALDO MEMORIAL OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

This special recognition is awarded each year to a community member for outstanding service to the public safety community in memory of Rod Arnaldo. Rod was a beloved and respected local businessman known for his philanthropy, generous nature and service to the community. In a random act of violence, Rod's life was cut short when he was murdered on January 28th, 1998 while working in his jewelry store in the Marina Village Shopping Center. This year we have the honor and privilege of presenting this prestigious and coveted award to...Mike Mast

Mike is being recognized for his years of dedicated service to the youth of the City of Marina and his community involvement. Mike's involvement with youth began in 1978 when he started coaching baseball. His commitment to coaching local youth sports has continued throughout the years.

To his credit and to the betterment of youth, Mike has coached 6 years of Pony Baseball, Notre Dame JV softball, and North County High School baseball. He is now coaching the Marina High School women's softball team.

In addition to coaching, Mike is a charter member and past president twice of the Marina Rotary Club. He is also a past president of the Marina Chamber of Commerce.

Mike has been active as a Parks and Recreation commissioner. He has been an ardent supporter and contributor to the Seniors luncheon and Christmas party. He volunteers at the Monterey County Food Bank and is an organizer of the Ma-

rina Air Faire. Mike was also a member of the selection committee to choose the Athletic Director at California State University at Monterey Bay.

A question could be asked as to how coaching and public service contributes to public safety and the general public. Via coaching, Mike has guided youth onto positive life paths that lead to eventual success and away from negative lifestyles, such as involvement in drugs and gangs.

Whether he realizes it or not, Mike is a role model, mentor and crime fighter, as his efforts have and continue to directly reduce youth-related crime in our City. Mike has done all of this quietly and without fanfare, making his actions even more admirable.

Mike is owner of Mike Mast State Farm Insurance Agency in Marina. Anyone who has ever owned a business can tell you it is time consuming; spare time is always at a minimum. It is a testament to Mike's dedication to his community and it's youth that he is able to share his valuable time. its youth.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR
D E T E C T I V E
CLARENCE "JAY"
THORSON

Detective Jay Thorson was selected as Marina's Officer of the Year by his peers who recognize his dedication to duty, impressive body of work, willingness to support his fellow officers and non-sworn staff, and his investigative tenacity. It is important to reflect on the fact that his peers chose him. It is a true testament to ones performance when those you work with, depend on and trust honor you in this fashion.

To illustrate Jay's effectiveness as an officer, we can point to 2004 when he was assigned to the Investigations Bureau for six months. During that short time he took the lead in several investigations that led to convictions, and prison sentences in excess of 180 years.

He was again assigned to the Detective Division in August of 2006. During this time he has written, briefed, delegated, tasked and supervised groups of officers in the service of search warrants, surveillance operations, controlled narcotic purchases and arrests. He has also briefed and assisted Patrol Officer in the performance of their duties, keeping them updated with information. He has also assisted outside agencies in like matters just mentioned.

Jay has received several service commendations over the past year as well as many others over the nine years since he was hired in 1998.

Jay is still assigned to the Investigations Bureau as a detective and he is also assigned to the newly formed Monterey Peninsula Special Response Unit. Additionally, he is a tactical firearms instructor, a Field Training Officer, a recognized drug recognition expert and a Colt and Glock Armor.

A Marina Corp veteran, Jay saw service in both the 1990 Gulf War in Kuwait and in 2004 served in Iraq. While in Kuwait, as an active duty Marine, Jay trained and supervised Marines in tactical operations both while in garrison and combat situations.

In 2004, now Staff Sergeant Thorson was deployed to the City of Ramadi and Indar Provence assigned to Civil Affairs, where he led 200 missions as a

Team Leader. These missions included tracking down and capturing insurgents, interacting with citizens to determine there concerns and needs from the United States and overseeing and making contracts for the building of schools, hospitals and police stations.

The Department is extremely proud of Jay. He is a person you go to when you need a difficult task completed and Jay eagerly takes these tasks on.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION
MADD RECOGNITION
FOR DUI ENFORCEMENT
Officer Andy Rosas

Every year Mothers Against Drunk Driving recognizes and honors officers from law enforcement agencies who have excelled in the area of DUI enforcement. This year Officer Andy Rosas was recognized for his outstanding efforts, which resulted in his arrest of 20 DUI drivers in 2009. Officer Rosas was honored by MADD in Sacramento along with officers from all over the State of California and again on May 12.

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE
Officers Bryan Whittaker and Richard Cox

On the 26th of November, 2009 Officers Whittaker and Cox during a joint law enforcement action, and at great risk to themselves, took into custody a suspect wanted by the Salinas Police Department for armed robbery. Information had been forwarded to Marina police that the suspect resided within the City and officers had been actively seeking him. Information

was gathered that made it clear the suspect was at his residence. Due to the dangerous nature of the wanted person, law enforcement personnel from the Marina Police Department, Salinas Police Department and the Monterey County Sheriff's Office converged on the suspect's residence. This very dynamic and hazardous situation was made all the more dangerous as other persons were known to be inside the residence. There was a real possibility the persons inside were either innocent bystanders who could find themselves at risk by their mere presence; or potential suspects who would be a threat to officers. Acting as perimeter officers, covering the front of the residence, Officers Whittaker and Cox observed the suspect exit the front of the home, in an apparently attempt to reach his vehicle to escape. Acting quickly, Officers Whittaker and Cox broke cover and took the suspect safely into custody, as they feared the police action would observed by the suspect. The option to not take the suspect into custody could have lead to a gun battle or resulted in a hostage situation if he entered the residence. Officers Whittaker and Cox are hereby recognized for their bravery, professionalism and dedication to duty in the highest tradition of law enforcement. They have brought credit upon themselves, the Marina Police Department and the law enforcement profession.

CERTIFICATES OF COMMENDATION
To be awarded to any police officer or support personnel who have per-

formed efficient and valuable service to the department, either in carrying out a specific task, or in the performance of general duties over an extended period of time. This may include outstanding contributions to law enforcement through the success of difficult police programs, projects or situations, such contributions being made at a high degree of professional excellence. Or, other outstanding actions of a nature that bring positive credit to the department and its members.

Will the following officers please step forward: Bryan Whittaker, Richard Cox, Robin Nowak, Eddie Bachtel, Jay Thorson, Andy Rosas, Pablo Andrade and Lieutenant Bruce Martin.

CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR 2009
THOMAS "TJ" MAUDLIN

The detailed information for the fire datapartment awards was not available at press time, but the follow in firefighters got awards:
FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR
Lieutenant Glenn Sales

RESERVE FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR
Firefighter Leo Graxiola

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION
Lieutenant John Lundgren, Engineer Steven De Vincenzi, Engineer Mark Sweeney, Reserve Firefighter Jason O'Neil, Lieutenant Kyle O'Connor, Engineer Ronald Dunlap, Reserve Firefighter Sergio Rodriguez
Firefighter Leo Graxiola
Lieutenant Glenn Sales
Engineer Anthony Prado
Firefighter John Woltman
Fire Chief Harald Kelley

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