

Recipients of the 2009 Governor's Awards for Outstanding Citizen Crime Prevention

Sharon Autry - McKnightstown

Autry has been a member of the Park Watch Patrol at Gettysburg National Military Park/Eisenhower National Historic Site since 1997. She has logged more than 2,500 hours of surveillance and patrol time. This is particularly noteworthy because Autry, due to her employment, has lived in Tennessee for the past four years. She has alerted Park Rangers to a number of incidents, including alerts regarding trespassers onto the Battlefield after hours. On one occasion, she alerted authorities after seeing three individuals illegally hunting artifacts. Her commitment and dedication to the crime prevention program at Gettysburg National Military Park/Eisenhower National Historic Site are exemplary and admired by the law enforcement staff.

(Nominated by Ranger Ricky Pearce, Gettysburg National Park Service)

Charles J. Balogh Jr. – Wilkes-Barre

Detective Charles Balogh began crime prevention efforts 16 years ago, which included the creation of the Rolling Mill Hill Neighborhood Watch program. In 1997, he began a Crime Prevention Unit within the Luzerne County Sheriff's Office. Balogh assisted local communities in starting neighborhood watch programs and currently leads over 35 neighborhood watch groups in the county and created the Luzerne County Neighborhood Watch Coalition. He developed the Junior Deputy Sheriff's program for fourth grade students and became certified as a crime prevention specialist and as a basic and advanced school resource officer. He has been an instructor for PCCD's Crime Prevention Practitioners' Course for more than a decade and volunteers his time to educate his law enforcement colleagues about crime prevention efforts. Balogh is also a senior master trainer of "Protecting Kids Online," a course that educates law enforcement about Internet safety. He has received the Key to the City of Wilkes-Barre for his crime prevention efforts and the Governor's Highway Safety Award for Safety Education.

(Nominated by Deputy Erin Joyce, Luzerne County Sheriff's Office)

Mary Ann Casey - Willow Grove

Casey has been a very active figure in the success of the Crime Prevention and Youth Oriented Programs in Abington Township for the past nine years, volunteering more than 350 hours in the last year alone. Casey has served as a chaperone at the Police Athletic League site and at the Annual Abington Junior High School Rock-a-thon. She has also volunteered as a civilian report writer at the Montgomery County D.U.I Task Force checkpoints and as a panel member of the Abington Youth Aid Panel. Casey received national recognition for her hours of volunteerism and community service and was awarded the President of the United States Volunteer Service Award.

(Nominated by Officer Joe Conover, Abington Township Police Department)

Ann Marie DiMaio, Elsie Stevens, Harry Sonntag - Philadelphia

After observing an increase in underage drinking and a subsequent rise in vandalism, litter, and drug activity in their area, DiMaio, Stevens and Sonntag formed an alliance to curtail such activities, partnering with local police and designated municipal court judges. The trio monitored each teen's process through the court system and supervised each teen's community service hours. In addition, the three became mentors to the teens and also emphasized the consequences of underage drinking. Currently, the group has had a 100 percent success rate in guiding approximately 85 teens to meet their court-appointed deadlines.

(Nominated by Captain Deborah Kelly, Philadelphia Police Department's 8th District)

Jim Earley - Wilkes-Barre

Earley has been the secretary of the Wilkes-Barre Crime Watch Coalition for the past eight years and coordinator for the East End Crime Watch (Wilkes-Barre) for ten years. He has devoted himself to improving the quality of life in the East End community of Wilkes-Barre for nearly three decades and developed one of the biggest crime watch groups in the city. Earley, who uses two canes to walk due to a physical disability, hasn't let those challenges deter his efforts to make his community a safer place to live. He works closely with the Wilkes-Barre Police Department to assist in crime reduction. Earley's tips to police have led to a reduction in crime in his community and have led to several arrests. In addition, he has volunteered many hours by taking an active role at many community events throughout the City of Wilkes-Barre.

(Nominated by Charles J. Balogh Jr., Detective of the Luzerne County Sheriff's Office)

Dewana Hall - York

Hall has been an active volunteer for the York City Police Department for the past two years, contributing 100 hours toward crime prevention efforts in her community. As a graduate of the York Citizens Police Academy, she continues to volunteer her services to help the York City Police Department run their Kid ID program, cover the Police booth at the York Interstate Fair, and assists with future Citizens Police Academies and staffs the Bike Night Booth to promote Alcohol Awareness. She also takes part in the "Just One" campaign – Impaired Driving Initiative and volunteers for the Police Summer Bowling Program. Her dependability, initiative, and generosity are of great value to the York City Police Department.

(Nominated by the York City Police Department)

Michael Mason - Langhorne

Mason has been active with the Bensalem Township Police Department and his volunteerism in crime prevention and police-related community activities has significantly increased in the past year. He volunteers at charitable events, such as the Ride for Heroes, a motorcycle event benefitting the Bucks County Hero Scholarship Fund. In addition, Mason was involved in a fundraiser basketball game, benefitting the family of police officer Chris Jones, who was killed in the line of duty in Middletown Township. Mason also saves the police department a significant amount of money by creating artwork and designs for promotional items and displays. He also serves as photographer at community events, including police memorial services, park dedications and K-9 demonstrations.

(Nominated by Frederick Harran, Bensalem Township Police Department)