



PRESS RELEASE

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Sgt. Templeton Follows Uncle's Legacy to Win Leadership Award

Adams County, Colo. –On February 15, Sergeant Douglas Templeton accepted the Sergeant Dale R. McLaughlin Memorial Award for Leadership. The Waymire Dome at the Adams County Fairgrounds was filled to capacity with 380 law enforcement officers, family and friends. When Sheriff Michael McIntosh called Sergeant Templeton to the stage, everyone rose for a standing ovation.

"You have to look beyond the trophy and the placard. You have to see all the hard work that went on behind the scenes. The Civil Unit works the streets I supervise, but there is a chain of command that manages my team. I was just the man on the stage that got the award," Templeton said.

In order to understand Sergeant Templeton's definition of service, it's worth telling a story that goes back one hundred years with an enduring legacy. In 1926 Sheriff Lee Templeton, the uncle of Sergeant Templeton, swore an oath to protect the residents of Adams County. Sheriff Templeton dealt with crimes such as gambling and murder, managed a jail and caught the bad guys during Prohibition. He also managed deputies to keep the peace and protect property—which is part of what the Civil Unit of the Sheriff's Office does today.

Sergeant Templeton manages a team of seven people—five deputies and two administrative technicians. They liaise between Court Services, the Jail, Patrol and people on the streets. In 2016 the Civil Unit served 893 temporary restraining orders, assisted Patrol 947 times to make 42 criminal arrests, and served 3,268 court orders. Due to their tireless work, the Civil Unit won the 2016 Section Citation for the Adams County Sheriff's Office.

Common issues the Civil Unit manages include property evictions, divorces and subpoenas. As they deal with people living in hazardous and unsafe living conditions, members of the Civil Unit become experts in criminal and civil law.

"Sergeant Templeton has a passion for the job, his training and his management style. He not only cares for the people he supervises but for all of the Sheriff's employees—making the Sheriff's Office an overall better place to work," said Sheriff Michael McIntosh.

Throughout his storied career, Sergeant Templeton has reached beyond the call of duty to assist his fellow officers.

“Sergeant Dale McLaughlin was a sergeant killed in the line of duty. Then to be honored by a fallen officer, along with everything else that’s happened in my career, was really good,” Templeton said.

Sergeant Templeton started his career in 1989—one year after Sergeant Dale McLaughlin was killed in the line of duty. In his 27 years of service, Sergeant Templeton has participated in organizations such as Concerns of Police Officers (COPS). This organization facilitates events in Washington D.C. for National Peace Officers Memorial Day on May 15. Serving those who have died in the line of duty is just one more duty Sergeant Templeton takes on without complaint.

“What draws me to my work is a sworn oath to the federal government, to the Sheriff and to Adams County—the same oath I gave when I got married,” said Templeton, who has been married to his wife, Teresa Templeton, for almost 40 years.

When asked what his wife does for a living, he replied: “She puts up with me.”

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Sheriff Lee Templeton, 1926



Sergeant Douglas Templeton, 2017