



Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

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Date: 10/4/2016
Time: 3:00 p.m.

News Release

Santa Barbara County Sheriff Brown Named Sherman Block Law Enforcement Professional of the Year

Sacramento – Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown was honored yesterday, October 3, 2016, as the recipient of the Sherman Block Law Enforcement Professional of the Year Award. The honor is from the California Peace Officers' Association (CPOA) and is the organization's most prestigious award for which a law enforcement professional can be nominated. There is only one recipient each year. The Sheriff accepted the award at a luncheon held this afternoon during the COPSWEST Training and Expo at the Sacramento Convention Center.

The Sheriff was recognized for his more than 39 years of service to the public safety profession and for exemplifying CPOA's values and mission. During his acceptance speech, Sheriff Brown expressed his appreciation to the CPOA Board for selecting him. He said, "I am pleased, honored and humbled to accept this award and to join past recipients who I have admired and respected for so long. The greatest professional honor I have had is to serve as a peace officer in California and that's what makes receiving this award so special. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with so many quality people to protect and serve the people of California."

Sheriff Brown began his law enforcement career with the Pacifica Police Department in 1977 and transferred to the Inglewood Police Department in 1980. In 1992 he was selected as Chief of Police for the City of Moscow in Idaho. In 1995, he was selected as the Chief of Police for the City of Lompoc where he served for eleven years. In 2006, he was elected as the Sheriff of Santa Barbara County and is currently serving his third term.

Sheriff Brown is the 1st Vice President of the California State Sheriffs' Association and is a Commissioner on the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) for the State of California. He was appointed to the MHSOAC position by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and reappointed twice by Governor Jerry Brown. In 2017, he will assume the presidency of the California State Sheriffs' Association and will be the first person to have been president of both the State Police Chiefs Association and the State Sheriffs' Association.

Sheriff Brown was applauded for his active role in the community. He serves as an honorary board member for both the North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center and Domestic Violence Solutions for Santa Barbara County. He is an advisory board member for the Anti-Defamation League, the United Boys and Girls Club of Santa Barbara County and is a Red Cross Ambassador for the Santa Barbara Chapter of the American Red Cross. He is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Pierre Claeysens Veterans Foundation.

Sheriff Brown recognizes that incarceration is an opportunity to change lives and rehabilitate inmates. He established a Blue Ribbon Commission on Jail Overcrowding and introduced several cutting edge programs into the custodial system including “Thinking for a Change” which is a nationally recognized behavior modification program. He also helped establish Day Reporting Centers in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria which have helped reduce recidivism among Santa Barbara County parolees.

The Sheriff was also acknowledged for his effort to make the Northern Branch Jail a soon-to-be reality. The modern, state of the art facility which is scheduled to open in spring of 2018, will help reduce overcrowding and enable staff to provide meaningful rehabilitative programs to inmates.



Pictured from left to right: Newport Beach Deputy Chief David McGill, Kern County Sheriff Donny Youngblood, Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown and Ventura Police Department Chief and California Police Chiefs Association President Ken Corney

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