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Fuquay-Varina Police Officer Named 2018 National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

The Fuquay-Varina Police Department is proud to announce that Fuquay-Varina Police Department's Lieutenant Brett Walsh has been selected as The American Legion's 2018 National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Each year, The American Legion bestows its National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award to a well-rounded law enforcement officer who has performed heroic acts, exceeded the duty requirements expected of his or her position and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service along with professional achievement. The American Legion's National Law and Order Committee recently convened to select the National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year from the field of five regional winners and Lt. Brett Walsh was selected as the national winner. Lt. Walsh was an earlier recipient of The American Legion's Southern Region 2018 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, North Carolina American Legion 2018 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and local American Legion 2018 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year as nominated by Fuquay-Varina's American Legion Post 116 and by members of the Fuquay-Varina Police Department's Executive Staff. Lt. Walsh will be recognized at the American Legion's 100th National Convention this August in Minneapolis, Minnesota for the presentation of The American Legion National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award and the National Commander's Banquet.

George Wehrli, Chairman of the National Law and Order Committee of the American Legion stated, "To maintain law and order is one of the major objectives included in The American Legion's Preamble to its Constitution. As the national winner, Lt. Brett Walsh personifies the meaning of America's Finest".

Lt. Brett Walsh has been an employee of the Town of Fuquay-Varina, NC Police Department since May 14, 2008. He has worked varied assignments within the Patrol Service Division and the Special Operations Division. Walsh has served as a patrol officer, field training officer, investigator, sergeant and currently is assigned as a Lieutenant/Watch Commander within the Patrol Services Division and was promoted to lieutenant in February 2018. He is a specialized and general instructor serving as a specialized firearms instructor and defensive weapon/baton instructor. He is a member of the department's Special Response Team and has served as an assistant team leader.

Lt. Walsh possesses an associate's degree from Wake Technical Community College and a bachelor's of science degree in criminology from North Carolina State University. He is a 2016 graduate of the 75th Session of NC State's Administrative Officer's Management Program as well as a 2015 graduate of NC State's Law Enforcement Executive Program.

Lt. Walsh has received recognition to include the Fuquay-Varina Police Department's Employee of the Year for 2016 and Employee of the Month for November 2016 for demonstrating professionalism, vigilance, excellent tactical skills, alertness to threats, and officer safety, not only for himself but also for other officers, when responding to a homicide investigation in 2016.

Lt. Walsh is involved in many community projects and programs as an employee of the Fuquay-Varina Police Department. He is the volunteer coordinator for the N.C. Special Olympics Program for the police department and has hosted special events to raise funds for the Special Olympics. He participates in FVPD events such as Coffee with a Cop, Cops in the Park, Night Out Against Crime, Officer Friendly and Public Safety presentations and FVPD's Citizen's Police Academy.

Lt. Walsh served in the United States Marine Corp from September 2000 to December 2004 ending his career at the rank of Staff Sergeant. His primary duty station was Heavy Equipment Platoon, 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, N.C. He served in a combat deployment operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.

Chief Laura Fahnstock of the Fuquay-Varina Police Department stated, "Lieutenant Brett Walsh is a positive example to all within the law enforcement profession. This prestigious award recognizes outstanding achievement in law enforcement and honors heroes who work tirelessly every day to make communities throughout our nation safer. Lt. Brett Walsh is certainly deserving of this honor and I congratulate him for representing the Town of Fuquay-Varina in a manner that brings respect and honor to law enforcement officers throughout the country".