



For Immediate Release: March 25, 2016  
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## ***Sheriff Recognizes Citizens and Staff***

Sheriff Jamie Patton recognized four Union County citizens and eleven staff members during an awards ceremony at the Sheriff Office on Friday afternoon.

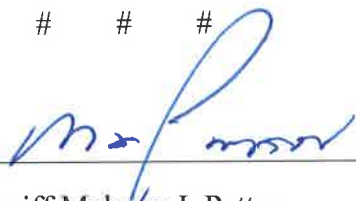
Patton recognized three members of the Falzarano family for their courage and willingness to share their story about the devastating effects that heroin can have on an individual and a family. Peter and Susan Falzarano have endured the heroin addiction of their daughter Gina and the lasting implications that come with this very difficult addiction. Rather than condone or turn a blind eye to the issue, Peter and Susan reached out to law enforcement for assistance. Due to the proactive steps taken by law enforcement and our court system, Gina is now clean and has been for some time. Peter, Susan, and Gina support the Sheriff's Office and other Union County law enforcement agencies by appearing, participating, and sharing their difficult journey through heroin addiction in educational settings. Their story is a very honest and realistic look at the affect that heroin can have on an individual and a family. The Falzarano family's willingness to educate the public, both young and old, is a testament of their desire to not see other families and individuals have to face this same incredibly difficult challenge. "I am honored to present them with a Civilian Commendation for their continued support of law enforcement and our community in the fight against heroin," said Sheriff Patton.

Patton also recognized Todd Brown for his assistance to the Sheriff's Office on November 12, 2015. On that date Brown witnessed and reported a burglary in progress at his neighbor's residence on Kandel Road. As a result of Todd's willingness to get involved and all the information that he provided dispatchers while on the phone, three suspects were arrested and stolen property from the residence was recovered. Mr. Brown's play-by-play descriptions of what he observed were crucial in identifying the suspect vehicle and getting it stopped. He recognized prior to calling 9-1-1 and reporting the burglary that something was not right when the suspects first approached his residence and knocked on the door. The suspects left Mr. Brown's residence and walked across the street to the neighbors. They then kicked in the neighbor's door. Mr. Brown stayed on the phone giving detailed information until deputies arrived on the scene and after a foot pursuit, were able to capture an adult and a juvenile that had broken into the Kandel Road home. "It is my great please to recognize Todd Brown with a Civilian Commendation and thank him for being a good neighbor and working with the Sheriff's Office to stop several felony crimes in progress," said Patton.

The Sheriff recognized eleven staff members for their outstanding performance in the line of duty on February 12, 2016. Dispatcher's Andrea Schalip, Brittany Rausch, and Rebecca Heath, as well as Deputy's Scott Anspach, Joel Thorpe, Jaymie Williams, Zach Schnarre, Shawn Dyer, Brad Phipps, Adam Haycox, and Captain Jeff Frisch were presented the Sheriff's Office Citation award.

These Sheriff's Office staff members were honored for working as a committed team and demonstrating outstanding performance in the line duty that involved personal risk to their safety. On February 12, 2016 at approximately 8:30 pm, dispatchers and deputies from the Union County Sheriff's Office assisted the Ohio State Highway Patrol, the Champaign County Sheriff's Office, and the Madison County Sheriff's Office in Irwin with a search for three Hispanic males that were involved in an armed robbery in Clark County. The suspects bailed out of their vehicle and ran on foot through open fields and wooded areas near the Union and Madison County Line. Union County Deputies persisted in their tracking and pursuit of the suspects on foot for several hours and over a distance of approximately 4 miles, even after other law enforcement agencies dropped out of the search. At approximately 11:55 pm, Union County Deputies captured two suspects near a barn in Madison County. The third suspect was arrested by deputies from the Madison County Sheriff's Office. The search took place in very difficult weather conditions with a 13-18 degree air temperature, light snow, and 12-23 mph winds which resulted in wind chills of 0 to -10 degrees. Through perseverance in difficult conditions and with the safety of both Madison and Union County residents in mind, the deputies and dispatchers demonstrated tremendous teamwork to ensure three felony suspects were captured and not left on the run to engage in additional mayhem.

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Sheriff Malcolm J. Patton

Attached:  
Award Ceremony Photo's