

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ROSEMOUNT PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL HONORED

Two Rosemount public safety personnel were honored this month for their service to the community. The Police and Fire employees of the year were announced at an event held by the Rosemount post of the American Legion.

POLICE

Officer Beth Richtsmeier's most significant accomplishment in 2015 involved her investigation of what is now being called the largest child pornography case in the history of Minnesota. Officer Richtsmeier devoted herself to a case that affected several metro agencies over the past five years and ultimately identified hundreds of victims. Resolving the case involved a large number of interviews, search warrants, and hundreds of hours analyzing data from cell phones and social media accounts. Officer Richtsmeier also traveled to several states during the investigation.

She has been in contact with victims through the duration of the case to be an advocate for each of them and ensure they are receiving the services they need. Thanks in large part to Officer Richtsmeier's thorough investigation, the suspect pled guilty.

Officer Richtsmeier also volunteered to represent the Rosemount Police Department at several community functions during the year, including standing guard at the Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial in St. Paul, "Shop with a Cop," and bell ringing for Salvation Army. She also fulfilled her duties at Rosemount High School as the School Resource Officer.

FIRE

The 2015 Firefighter of the Year is Firefighter Lieutenant Chris Besnett. He was chosen by his peers as a person who is very driven and motivated and holds the Fire Department to high standards. For the past few years he and his wife Jenna have been instrumental in planning the annual Rosemount Fire Department Relief Association Banquet. The two of them also recently brought mental health training to Rosemount fire personnel, the first department in the state to offer this type of training.

Lieutenant Besnett last year re-started the Rosemount Fire Explorer program, which had ceased operating. He also recruited other Firefighters to assist him to ensure that it would be successful. He brings a high level of professionalism to his Lieutenant position and will continue to be an asset to the Department moving forward.

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[NOTE TO REPORTERS/EDITORS: The Legion also typically honors a dispatcher of the year.]