



# Department of Justice



## Office of Justice Programs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2015

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS  
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### **JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HONORS LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WITH SAFETY AND WELLNESS AWARDS DURING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK**

WASHINGTON, DC – In honor of National Police Week, the Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and its VALOR Office Safety Program joined forces today with the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) to honor four law enforcement agencies with awards for outstanding efforts in maintaining safety and wellness.

The awards are a part of the newly established Destination Zero Project, which acknowledges police agencies’ effective safety and wellness initiatives designed to curtail risk factors associated with officer injuries and deaths.

“During National Police Week, it is important to take a moment to reflect on the emotional and physical challenges officers face during their daily lives,” said BJA’s Director Denise O’Donnell. “These awards show our appreciation to law enforcement agencies that are committed to taking care of their officers, so that officers can, in return, be at their best while protecting and serving our communities.”

Held in Washington, D.C., the ceremony honored the following four police agencies with National Officer Safety and Wellness Awards:

- Dallas Police Department officials accepted the General Officer Safety Award for instituting programs that directly affected and improved officers’ physical safety during patrols.
- The Yolo County (California) Sheriff’s Office was honored for the Officer Traffic Safety Initiative, which reduced automobile crashes and limited risks to officers while directing traffic and operating motor vehicles.
- The Metropolitan Police Department of Indianapolis received an award for Officer Wellness programs, such as fitness, mental health, peer support, and nutrition classes. This improved the overall health and fitness of officers.
- The Orange County (Florida) Sheriff’s Office accepted the award for the Most Comprehensive Program Strategically Implemented, highlighting the agency’s outstanding employee participation in innovative approaches to safety and wellness efforts.

Established by Congress in 1962, National Police Week recognizes law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, there were 126 law enforcement fatalities nationwide in 2014.

For more information about BJA, visit [www.bja.gov](http://www.bja.gov) or to learn more about VALOR, go to [www.valorforblue.org](http://www.valorforblue.org).

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The Office of Justice Programs (OJP), headed by Assistant Attorney General Karol V. Mason, provides federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice, and assist victims. OJP has six bureaus and offices: the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the National Institute of Justice; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; the Office for Victims of Crime; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking. To learn more about OJP and its components, visit <http://www.ojp.gov>.