



Department of Justice



Office of Justice Programs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2017

WWW.OVC.GOV

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

CONTACT: TANNYR DENBY WATKINS

202-616-5179

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HONORS TENNESSEE POLICE VETERAN FOR SERVICE TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

WASHINGTON – The Department of Justice today recognized Jackson, Tennessee, police veteran Captain Michael Holt with the Allied Professional Award for his work assisting victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The award goes to individuals outside the victim assistance profession for their service to victims and contributions to the field of victim services. He was honored during the annual National Crime Victims’ Service Awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Holt, a 34-year veteran of the Jackson Police Department (JPD), has dedicated most of his career to ensuring patrol officers and investigators conduct their jobs in a trauma-informed, client-centered way. He was responsible for establishing a Domestic Violence Unit within JPD and helped create the Jackson-Madison County Mayor’s Advisory Council on Domestic and Sexual Violence.

“In his empathy and concern for the victims of his community, and in his generous understanding of the meaning of justice, Captain Holt is proof that one person can make a profound difference,” said Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs Alan R. Hanson. “The Department of Justice is proud to honor him for his outstanding service and for his unflinching pursuit of justice on behalf of the injured and aggrieved.”

During the ceremony, the Justice Department also recognized 11 other individuals and organizations for their outstanding efforts on behalf of crime victims. Awardees were selected from public nominations in nine categories, including federal service, special courage, public policy and victim services.

The Department’s Office for Victims of Crime leads communities across the country in observing National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the first Victims’ Rights Week in 1981, calling for greater sensitivity to the rights and needs of victims. This year’s observance takes place April 2-8, with the theme *Strength. Resilience. Justice.*

The Office of Justice Programs, headed by Acting Assistant Attorney General Alan R. Hanson, provides federal leadership in developing the nation’s capacity to prevent and control

-MORE-

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. More information about OJP and its components can be found at www.ojp.gov.

###