

Carmine Marceno
Sheriff



State of Florida
County of Lee

"Proud to Serve"

TO: Captain Tim Lalor

THRU: Lieutenant Mark Bonora & Lieutenant Tim Galloway

FROM: Sergeant Rich Zeltman

DATE: September 20, 2021

RE: FMB Chamber Dep of the Month (September) Nomination **Deputy Ed Waite**

Deputy Ed Waite, who patrols Fort Myers Beach, is one of the Lee County Sheriff's Office Hostage Negotiators. This expertise in tactical communication was put to the test in the afternoon of September 19, 2021.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call in reference to a domestic disturbance at a local residence. A male caller stated his wife was having a mental breakdown and armed herself with a handgun threatening to take her own life. Before Deputies arrived, the wife had fled the residence in her car to an unknown destination. The husband and friends made phone contact with the wife, but she refused to provide her location or surrender.

Deputy Waite, utilizing his Hostage Negotiating skills, took the initiative and made a call to the wife. Deputy Waite was able to establish a rapport with the her and convince her to pull into a safe location, provide her location and surrender to responding deputies.

Deputies were able to place the wife into protective custody and secure the firearm into safekeeping without harm to herself or anyone else.

Without the quick action and expertise by Deputy Waite, the fate of this unstable situation could have ended tragically.

I, Sergeant Zeltman therefore, nominate Deputy Ed Waite for the Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce Deputy of the Month (September).

Respectfully Submitted,

Sgt. Rich Zeltman

Submitted by: Sergeant Richard Zeltman, 04-024



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