The St. Petersburg Police Department Announces their Annual Ned March/Bud Purdy Award Recipients

The Ned March/Bud Purdy Award Luncheon will be held at the Orange Blossom Cafeteria, 220 4th Street North on Friday February 27th, 2015 at 11:30 AM.

The Rotary Club of St. Petersburg Club has sponsored this award every year since 1952.

The Ned March/Bud Purdy award is presented each year to a Police Officer or Police Sergeant who has demonstrated outstanding accomplishments during his or her career at the St. Petersburg Police Department.

The award was established by Mr. Ned March, who joined the Rotary Club of St. Petersburg in 1941. It is said he had two great loves in life - the St. Petersburg Police Department and the Rotary Club. He personally funded these awards for ten years.

The award was recently renamed the Ned March/Bud Purdy award in recognition of former St. Petersburg Chief of Police E. Wilson “Bud” Purdy, who was a friend of Ned March.

The 2014 recipients of the Ned March/Bud Purdy Award are Sergeant David Gerardo and Traffic Homicide Investigator Officer Michael Jockers.

Segments of the recipient’s nomination memorandums are copied below and their photos are attached.
Sergeant David J. Gerardo has been a St. Petersburg Police Officer since 2000.

As Sergeant of the 4th Relief Shift, he has regular interaction with merchants, patrons, and residents in the downtown area. He also assists in managing large scale events, such as the monthly First Friday Celebration and his work is a fine example of Community Oriented Policing in the Downtown District.

Sergeant Gerardo is the Department’s SWAT team Assistant Commander and is responsible for team training, as well as planning and executing high risk operations. He also instructs officers in firearms, driving skills, tactical training and various squad level training programs.

Sergeant Gerardo currently serves his fellow supervisors by accepting the position of PBA Representative for Sergeants/Lieutenants. He also serves the community by being a high school mentor, an active member of his church, and on the Development Council of All Children’s Hospital.

During his career, Sergeant Gerardo has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Medal of Valor in 2011.

Office Michael Jockers is a 24 year veteran of the St. Petersburg Police Department.

He is a dedicated officer with a strong personal commitment to his job, his peers and his community. Officer Jockers is a Master Patrol Officer and takes an active role in leading his squad of Traffic Homicide Investigators. He is a true leader and is well-respected among those in his unit. He helped develop procedures, processes and protocols for disseminating fatality accident reports electronically, and is often
heard directing, coaching, and teaching the new investigators.

Officer Jockers investigated 12 of the city’s 33 fatal crashes in 2014, many of which were high profile cases. In one, where 3 young women were killed by a hit and run driver, Officer Jockers went on a mission to do the best he could to serve the grieving and surviving family members. He was able to bring an arrest warrant and closure to the case within 3 weeks.

Officer Jockers deserves to be recognized for his outstanding work. He is highly motivated, and makes a significant contribution to the Department and the City of St. Petersburg.