



Nomination Contact Information

Name of Person or Group Being Nominated

Name / Agency / Business Name: Bill Spears

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Nominated By Sgt. Karen Lovelace

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FCPA Crime Prevention Volunteer of the Year

The Lake County Sheriff's Office nominee for Crime Prevention Volunteer of the Year is Bill Spears. Bill has been a member of the Lake County Sheriff's Office Citizens on Patrol (COP) Program since February of 2009.

Citizens On Patrol are citizen volunteers that serve and assist our Patrol Division. Citizens On Patrol began in Lake County in 2007. Our volunteer COPs are assigned areas of Lake County and act as liaisons in our community. While on patrol in marked LCSO COP vehicles they look for situations such as: crimes in progress; suspicious persons or activity; abandoned/disabled vehicles; and traffic obstructions/hazards. They also assist the road patrol deputies and other agencies with directing traffic at traffic crash scenes; assist in searches for lost or missing persons/children; help with loose livestock; conduct property checks, check our tower sites throughout the county; and assist with special events, educational programs, and other community service tasks to include but not limited to SafetyNet and well-being checks for Senior Watch Clients.

Bill is assigned 5 Safety Net clients, which he visits each month. The Safety Net program is a program that places a tracking bracelet on those who might wander, such as someone with Alzheimer's, dementia, and Autism. Bill assists by changing batteries and other maintenance of the equipment as well maintaining a personal connection with each client and their family.

Bill demonstrates by his words and actions that he is a positive, self-motivated individual, with great people, organizational, leadership and multitasking skills. The level of commitment, dedication, effort, energy and service that Bill puts forth on a daily basis goes far beyond anyone's expectations for any employee let alone a volunteer.

Bill's easy going personality, coupled with his selfless attitude and team spirit make him a natural leader. In an era where exceptional work habits and customer service has virtually disappeared, the work that Bill does should be held up as an example for others to emulate. Let's not forget the fact that Bill is a volunteer and he is not financially compensated. During the past twelve (12) months, Bill has averaged one hundred (100) hours of service and logs one thousand (1,000) miles of patrol each month.

It appears that Bill is simply internally driven, discrete, adaptable and always willing to go the extra mile regardless of the task at hand. Bill has never turned down an assignment and always seems to rise to the challenge to make it come to fruition, no matter what it takes. Even if Bill bites off a little more than he can chew, he presses on with dedication to do what he promised to do.

Bill is well respected by everyone that he comes into contact with and he is an extraordinary ambassador and an integral part of the Lake County Sheriff's Office Citizens on Patrol (COP) Program. Bill is committed to making our community a better place with the sacrifice of his time and efforts through local volunteerism. Put simply, Bill is just a person who cares. When the coordinator of the COP program retired about two years ago, Bill stepped up to volunteer to help keep the program running smoothly and assisting me with contacting other members as well as any other task I found I needed assistance with. He truly became my right hand in running the COP program.

In closing, without reservation, I would whole heartedly recommend Bill Spears for the Crime Prevention Volunteer of the Year award.