



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ORGANIZATION RECOGNIZES ACTS OF KINDNESS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

(Baton Rouge, LA) – When law enforcement officers violate their oaths and the public trust, it ends up in the news. But what about the much more common scenario – when officers perform acts of kindness that go way beyond what they are professionally required to do?

To recognize those kindnesses by so many law enforcement officers in Louisiana, Baton Rouge resident Linda Hull created a non-profit organization, Beyond the Badge, Louisiana.

On March 17 Beyond the Badge presented thirteen law enforcement officers from across the state with a Heart of Law Enforcement Award at a ceremony and luncheon held in Baton Rouge, LA. One recipient, Corporal Rushing Juneau, was presented with the Beyond the Badge Service Before Self award. The Service Before Self award is given to the officer whose act of kindness stands out in the field of nominees.

“At a time when there is so much negative attention directed toward law enforcement in general, I thought someone needed to honor all the officers who go beyond the call of duty. We need to let the public know about their acts of kindness and generosity,” Hull said.

The annual ceremony was attended by more than 200 guests, including state elected officials and area police chiefs and sheriffs. The Honorable Kurt Wall, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, was the keynote speaker for the event.

The officers were given an award packet that included a gift of \$100 and a framed Louisiana state flag that had been flown over the Louisiana State Capitol for a day in his or her honor. The Service Before Self honoree received a gift of \$500 in addition to the flag, and all officers received a tactical gear bag containing various prizes, including a Beyond the Badge challenge coin, t-shirt, and cap. In addition, each officer was invited to join the Dudley DeBosier law firm in their suite for a Saints game during the 2026 season.

Officers receiving a Beyond the Badge Heart of Law Enforcement Award were:

Deputy Nicholas Bean
Lieutenant Quitin Doyle
Officer Travis Guilbeau
Deputy Jennifer Hoffpauir
Sergeant Elizabeth Ivey
Chief Kip Judice

Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office
Eunice Police Department
Duson Police Department
Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office
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Trooper First Class Jared Taylor	Louisiana State Police
Deputy Daniel Tsilis	Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office

Beyond the Badge was incorporated in April of 2016 and is operated entirely by citizen volunteers and funded by corporate and private donations. "We have no paid staff and no office space, so every penny donated to Beyond the Badge goes directly into the project," Hull said.

Nominations of officers for Beyond the Badge's Heart of Law Enforcement award can be made throughout the year. Members of the general public or law enforcement agencies can submit nominations online at www.beyondthebadgelouisiana.org. Nominations are accepted until Jan. 31 for acts performed during the previous calendar year. Each year, Beyond the Badge will select law enforcement officers who have been nominated for acts of kindness during the prior year to receive a Heart of Law Enforcement Award during a special ceremony and luncheon honoring the recipients.

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Beyond the Badge
17415 West Lakeway Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70810
www.beyondthebadgelouisiana.org

2026 BEYOND THE BADGE AWARDS

Heart of Law Enforcement Award Recipients

DEPUTY NICHOLAS BEAN
&
DEPUTY DANIEL TSILIS
LIVINGSTON PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On December 24, 2025, at approximately 4:45 a.m., Deputy Daniel Tsilis and Deputy Nicholas Bean, with the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office, responded to a call involving a vehicle that had gone into a ditch. After arriving on scene, the deputies assisted the stranded individuals and contacted a wrecker at their request. While ensuring the situation was handled safely, Deputies Tsilis and Bean learned that the individuals did not have enough money to pay for the towing service. Recognizing that the individuals were experiencing financial hardship — and understanding the significance of the situation occurring on Christmas Eve — both deputies made the extraordinary decision to pay the wrecker bill out of their own pockets. This act of kindness was not required of them, nor was it part of their assigned duties. It was a genuine display of compassion, empathy, and selflessness that reflects the true spirit of public service. Their willingness to personally help someone in need during the holiday season demonstrates the values and the extraordinary kindness Beyond the Badge seeks to recognize each year.

LIEUTENANT QUITIN DOYLE
EUNICE POLICE DEPARTMENT

During the Thanksgiving season, Lt. Doyle became aware of a local family who would have gone without a holiday meal. Without hesitation or expectation of recognition, he personally provided a full Thanksgiving meal so they could experience the warmth and dignity of the holiday. His actions reminded that family, and those who know the story, that someone genuinely cares.

Beyond this individual act, Lieutenant Doyle demonstrates an ongoing commitment to the community through his role as President of Dads and Kids of Acadiana. In this capacity, he dedicates his time and energy to creating programs and providing assistance that help children build better, more stable lives. His work supports kids who may lack resources, guidance, or

positive role models, and it does so with consistency and heart. He does not simply talk about making a difference. He shows up and does the work as seen through numerous events such as Shop with a Cop, Dad and Daughter Dance, Easter Egg Hunts, Boo Under the Pavillion, Toy Drives and Back to School Drives. Lieutenant Doyle embodies the true spirit of service. According to Chief LeBouef, Lt. Doyle's "...kindness is quiet, his leadership is steady, and his impact is real. He represents the very best of public service and sets an example for others to follow, both within law enforcement and throughout the community."

OFFICER TRAVIS GUILBEAU
DUSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Officer Travis Guilbeau has been with the Duson Police Department for just over a year. In the course of his first year, Officer Guilbeau has used his own funds to purchase coats for 2 teenage boys who were spotted at bus stop during a cold morning wearing no coats, diapers for a 17 year old convenience store clerk who is pregnant and a remote controlled police car for a young boy who told the officer all he wanted for Christmas was a police car. Officer Guilbeau has donated candy for the annual Trunk or Treat Event, Christmas Parade, and randomly hands out candy when encountering youth in our area. Officer Guilbeau has spent in excess of \$500.00 of his own money to give warmth to the cold, diapers for an expectant mother, a gift for a child with love for law enforcement and candy for our youth. These acts of kindness cannot be found in a training manual or academy. Officer Guilbeau clearly has the heart of a caring law enforcement agent. Officer Guilbeau was hired by Duson Police Department on December 23, 2024 and graduated the POST Academy in April 2025. He has had quite the rookie year, wouldn't you say?

DEPUTY JENNIFER HOFFPAUIR
CALCASIEU PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On August 3, 2024, Mr. Roderick August walked into the Calcasieu Parish sheriff's office seeking help for his 87-year-old mother who suffers from Alzheimer's disease. Mr. August had put his life on hold to care for his mother but lacked legal authority, financial access, and resources to properly support her. Another family member held power of attorney, but Mr. August was being denied money, food, and necessary medications to take care of his mother. Deputy Jennifer Hoffpauir took immediate action. She personally met with family members to verify the situation, provided Mr. August with legal resources to obtain power of attorney, and connected him with medical and food assistance programs as well as personally delivering food boxes to the home. Seven months later, Mr. August returned to the sheriff's office to personally thank Deputy Hoffpauir, sharing that he had successfully obtained power of attorney, secured benefits, and was now able to fully meet his mother's financial, medical, and daily needs. He described being "in a much better place" because someone truly cared enough to help him through the process.

In another instance in early 2025, 86-year-old Beverly Boudreaux approached Deputy Hoffpauir after a local senior meeting. Mrs. Boudreaux's adult grandsons, both struggling with

drug addiction, were living in her home and the situation was becoming dangerous for her and her elderly sister. Deputy Hoffpauir did not hesitate. She personally visited the residence and maintained ongoing contact as the harassment escalated. When Mrs. Boudreaux expressed fear for her life after one grandson threatened her and repeatedly returned to her property screaming, Deputy Hoffpauir was able to access immediate help. Recognizing the financial barrier Mrs. Boudreaux faced in pursuing evictions, Deputy Hoffpauir worked with other deputies and the Sulphur City Court to reduce court costs, allowing evictions for both grandsons to be filed together at the cost of one. She also accompanied Mrs. Boudreaux to the courthouse, assisted in filing the paperwork, attended court proceedings with her and contacted family members to encourage emotional and practical support during the process.

Deputy Jennifer Hoffpauir went above and beyond her required duties to assist two senior citizens who had previously reached out for help numerous times without resolution. Rather than passing these matters along, Deputy Hoffpauir recognized that gaps existed and took it upon herself to fill them.

SERGEANT ELIZABETH IVEY
CALCASIEU PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sgt. Elizabeth Ivey is a member of the Special Victim's Unit of the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office. Sgt. Ivey was dispatched to a residence, due to Patrol units on scene suspecting possible Human Trafficking. Once on scene, Sgt. Ivey was able to speak with all parties involved, conduct in depth interviews, and coordinate with multiple divisions to ensure a thorough and complete investigation. Although most would have been satisfied having handled the job they were called to do, Sgt. Ivey is not like most. Upon completion of her required duties, Sgt. Ivey purchased food and clothing for the victims. She even took it a step further and assisted in getting the victims to upcoming appointments. All of this was done by Sgt. Ivey not with the hope of being recognized or praised for her actions. She did all of this with the hope of somehow returning these victims to a sense of normalcy.

One of the mottos at the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office is to "Treat everyone like family." CPSO teaches Deputies to treat members of the public the same way you would like someone to treat a member of your family. Her nominator said, "I can't think of a better representative for the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office, nor a more deserving recipient for the Heart of Law Enforcement Award."

CHIEF KIP JUDICE
DUSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

A few moments ago, we met "the Rookie" from the Duson Police Department. Now it's time to meet the Chief.

Chief Kip Judice has a genuine concern for people, especially juveniles who find themselves at a crossroads. He firmly believes that one mistake should not define a young person's future. Because of that, not only has he made it a priority to ensure that juveniles

are given alternatives to immediately entering the system whenever possible—options that allow them to learn, grow, and change direction rather than carry lifelong consequences - he also goes out of his way to be present in the community he serves. Whether it's attending local events, interacting with kids, or simply taking time to talk with families, he makes himself approachable and shows people that law enforcement can be built on trust and respect. His involvement isn't for recognition—it's because he truly cares about the people behind the calls. One moment that especially captures who he is occurred during a Christmas parade, when he personally gave bicycles to children in need. It wasn't about the bikes themselves, but what they represented—kindness, generosity, and a reminder to those children that they are seen and valued. Seeing the joy on their faces made it clear that his impact reaches far beyond his official duties.

His nominator said, "...I've seen firsthand that Chief Justice's commitment to service doesn't end when the uniform comes off. He lives his values every day, leading with compassion, integrity, and a sincere desire to make a positive difference in the lives of others."

LIEUTENANT JARVIS MAYFIELD
LAFAYETTE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Lt. Jarvis Mayfield came into contact with a woman who needed assistance with her 7 year old grandson. The woman had physical custody of the child due to his parents being in the grips of narcotic dependency. The woman has health issues and was unsuccessfully attempting to enroll her grandson in school. She was unable to do so as the school Board did not recognize her as the legal guardian of the child. Lt. Mayfield was able to connect her with resources going so far as to transport her to an attorney and walk her through the custody process. Lt Mayfield convinced the attorney to handle the case Pro-Bono and custody was awarded. The child was successfully enrolled with the school system. Amazingly, it was the first time in this child's young life that he actually set foot on a school campus. No less amazing is that, after testing, the child was only one school year behind due to the efforts of his grandmother to educate him at home. Lt. Mayfield went well beyond what is required of him in the furtherance of what he felt morally obligated to do. Because of him, a grandmother has gotten much needed assistance and 7-year-old Ryan will now know his worth and be given a chance to realize his potential.

DEPUTY KATHARINE ORDOYNE
WASHINGTON PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On Friday May 23, 2025 the Washington Parish Sheriff's Office with assistance from the Franklinton Police Department conducted a seat belt checkpoint near Bogalusa for the Click It Or Ticket National Campaign. Unfortunately, no CPS Tech was available for the checkpoint. During the course of the event, a vehicle was asked to pull to the emergency lane because there were two unrestrained children in the vehicle. After discussion with the driver, Deputy Katharine Ordoyne asked the lieutenant if it would be possible for her to go to Walmart and

acquire two seats so that the children would be protected. Deputy Ordoyne returned with the two seats and after going through the instructions, installed the seats so the driver could leave the area with both children properly protected. After the vehicle left, it was learned that Deputy Ordoyne had paid for both seats with personal funds. Deputy Ordoyne definitely went above and beyond the normal course of her duties in acquiring and installing the two child safety seats. Again, where many may have stopped, Deputy Ordoyne saw a much greater need and kept moving forward.

DEPUTY WENDY PLAISANCE
&
SERGEANT TODD PREVOST
LAFOURCHE PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On April 13, 2025, Deputy Wendy Plaisance was at the right place and the right time when she observed an older man, wearing no shoes, pushing a bicycle with bags piled on the handlebars. She watched as the man, obviously tired from his travels, sat down beside a large oak tree. She approached him and asked his name and how he got to this point. He said his name was Charlie and he was trying to make it back to his home state of Florida and had been on his travels for the past month. The bicycle he was riding had a flat tire leaving him to ride on just the metal rim. Deputy Plaisance knew she had to help him and could not allow him to continue his journey without shoes so she asked him to accompany her to a nearby shoe store where she went in and purchased a new pair of tennis shoes and a bundle of socks.

The kindness runs deep in Lafourche Parish folks, because later – without knowledge of Deputy Plaisance's actions earlier in the day, Deputy Todd Prevost also encountered Charlie. After talking with him and hearing about Charlie's hope to return to Florida on bicycle, Deputy Prevost assessed the practicality of an elderly man traveling across three states via a bicycle. When many would have wished Charlie luck and let him go on his way, Deputy Prevost took matters in hand and purchased Charlie a Greyhound Bus Ticket so that his journey would be safe and comfortable.

TROOPER FIRST CLASS JARED TAYLOR
LOUISIANA STATE POLICE

On January 1, 2025, Trooper First Class (TFC) Jared Taylor was assigned to Bourbon Street for the New Year's celebration in New Orleans. As we all now know, a motorist drove down Bourbon Street and struck approximately 50 pedestrians causing minor to severe injuries to several of them. As Trooper Taylor arrived on the scene, he began to assess the injuries and began helping the injured off of Bourbon to the temporary triage area. While helping others, he noticed two unknown ladies trying to carry a third lady, who was severely injured, to Emergency Medical Services (EMS). He immediately jumped in and carried the victim two blocks to the triage area where she was quickly treated and transported to a local hospital. A few days later, Trooper Taylor was notified that the lady he carried off of Bourbon Street New Year's Day, "Steele," was at UMC recovering from her injuries and she wanted to meet him.

A week later, Trooper Taylor was able to meet Steele and her mother for the first time since the incident. They were both able to share their stories with each other as well as shed some tears. He visited with them for over an hour and eventually exchanged numbers so he could continue to follow up on Steele's recovery process. Since Steele was from Florida and had younger siblings at home, she did not have very many visitors. Most of the time, it was just her and her mother trying to get through the pain of the incident, not only physically, but mentally. Her mother mentioned that being so far from home, they did not have many people that actually came to visit, it was only for investigative purposes, and his visit meant a lot.

After his first visit, Trooper Taylor collected some comfort items including an LSP blanket, LSTA insulated drinking cup, LSTA Sweatshirt, several Trooper teddy bears for her brothers and sisters at home, an original New Orleans King Cake from Manny Randazzo's, and even dinner for her at the hospital. Trooper Taylor returned for a second visit with the items and kept in regular contact with Steele and her mother throughout their stay.

Service Beyond Self Award Recipient

CORPORAL RUSHING JUNEAU **PORT ALLEN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Theodore Melancon is an 84 year old Korean War veteran living in Port Allen. Many of you may have seen his story in the media over the last few months. Mr. Melancon as many elderly people do, began dealing with significant medical issues and was on a fixed income. Over time his home fell into disrepair, and as often happens, things began to snowball. Mr. Melancon found himself in danger of having his home condemned by the city with no family or friends who could help resolve the issues the city was concerned about. Eventually, Mr. Melancon reached the point where he had missed the deadline given by the city to correct the deficiencies in his property and he was before the city council requesting more time due to lack of resources to comply.

According to the nomination BTB received for Corporal Juneau,

“The city and viewers were appalled because the council did not behave in a very humanitarian manner. One was seen to be laughing at him, offered him no resources nor aid to get this accomplished. Mr. Teddy Melancon stated, I have no family and I'm doing the best I can with what I have - the only option I've got left is just to die.”

At that time, Corporal Rushing Juneau stepped forward and stated he knew of a veteran motorcycle club that should be willing to offer Mr. Melancon some assistance. The council granted an additional 45-day period to Mr. Melancon.

Corporal Juneau's offer to help began a cascade of support from all over the community. Two days later, volunteers were at Mr. Melancon's home to assess conditions and begin

planning the necessary repairs. Over the next 45 days, Mr. Melancon experienced another snowball event. Volunteers raised over \$7,500 to help with repairs. An anonymous donor came forward to cover the \$5,000 materials cost associated with repairing his roof. Another company donated \$3,500 to cover new flooring for the home. Volunteers came out in huge numbers to help wherever they could. Community businesses also came forward to provide:

- a dumpster for the demo
- a port-a-potty
- lawn clean up and maintenance
- removal of old broken-down vehicles
- interior cleaning of the home
- roof repairs
- replacing the front porch and a building in the rear of the home
- paint the home

Recently, the city declared the case resolved. Local media have quoted Mr. Melancon as saying, "I know that God sent an army." Corporal Rushing Juneau didn't hesitate when the need arose. As with all of our honorees, he stepped up when he did not have to. What he likely didn't know at that time was that his willingness to intervene on behalf of an elderly veteran would rally a flood of support from his community as well.

For going out on that limb alone, but confident he could help, Corporal Rushing Juneau is the 2026 Heart of Law Enforcement Service Before Self award recipient.



**2026 Heart of Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony Keynote Speaker
Honorable Kurt Wall**

After being appointed by President Donald J. Trump, Kurt Wall was sworn in on October 14, 2025, to serve as the 12th United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana. Prior to serving as United States Attorney, Mr. Wall proudly served as a prosecutor on the state level for over 30 years. He began his career as an Assistant District Attorney in East Baton Rouge Parish where he remained for 13 years before being hired as the Director of the Criminal Division at the Louisiana Department of Justice. After serving in that position for just over 7 years, Mr. Wall returned to the courtroom as the Chief Felony Prosecutor in the 21st Judicial District which is comprised of Livingston, Tangipahoa and St. Helena Parishes. Throughout his career as a prosecutor, Mr. Wall has successfully handled a wide variety of cases which include numerous violent crimes such as capital murders, sex offenses and robberies. He has also successfully prosecuted hundreds of cases involving child pornography, white collar crimes and public corruption. Originally from Texas, Mr. Wall attended Texas Christian University where he was a letterman on two conference championship basketball teams while earning his B.S. in Education. After working in Washington, D.C. on Capitol Hill, Mr. Wall moved to Louisiana and obtained his Juris Doctor from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University. Mr. Wall is a career public servant and dedicated prosecutor who is committed to carrying out the mission of the United States Department of Justice. He is committed to the public safety of all Americans and is specifically focused on making the Middle District of Louisiana a safer place to live.



2026 Heart of Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony Event Sponsors

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Beyond the Badge
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www.beyondthebadgelouisiana.org

WHAT IS BEYOND THE BADGE?

Beyond the Badge is a non-profit organization begun in 2016 by Baton Rouge resident Linda Hull to recognize law enforcement officers in her community who perform acts of kindness beyond that required by their oaths of service. *Beyond the Badge* is operated entirely by citizen volunteers and funded by corporate and private donations.

The mission of *Beyond the Badge* is to educate the public about ordinary law enforcement officers performing extraordinary acts of kindness in their communities. Each year, *Beyond the Badge* will select law enforcement officers, who have been nominated by their agencies or the public, to receive a Heart of Law Enforcement award in recognition of acts of kindness they performed during the previous calendar year. The nominee whose act of kindness stands out among the field of nominees will receive the Service Before Self award. Awards will be given during a special luncheon honoring the recipients.

Criteria for nomination:

- Nominations may be made by anyone – supervisors, fellow officers, citizens, family members, friends.
- Nominees must be employed in the state of Louisiana as police officers, sheriff's deputies or state troopers.
- Nominees must have performed acts of kindness that were not required of them in their regular duties as law enforcement officers.
- Nominees will be considered for acts performed while on duty or off, and whether or not they were in uniform at the time.

Nominations will be accepted until January 31 for acts performed during the previous calendar year.

To submit a nomination online, or to make a donation to *Beyond the Badge*, please visit our web site at www.beyondthebadgelouisiana.org, or find us on Facebook.