

**The  
American  
Legion**



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*For God and Country*

26 January 2021

TO: Vermont Law Enforcement Agencies

As a former law enforcement executive it gives me great pleasure to Chair the Law & Order Committee that solicits and selects the **Annual Law Officer of the Year** for the Vermont American Legion. We are now in the hunt for that worthy individual for the 2021 Award.

Previous winners of the prestigious award have been: 2020 - Chief Anthony Facos (Montpelier), 2019 - PO Brianne Williamson (S. Burlington), 2018 - Game Warden Thomas Scott (St. Johnsbury), 2017 - Det. (Dr.) Jennifer Frank (Windsor), 2016 - PO Joshua Otey (Bristol), 2015 - Sgt. Mike Carigan (Brattleboro), 2014 - Chief Chris Brickell (Brandon), 2013 - Chief Brad LaRose (Essex Jct.), 2012 - Chief Paul Doucette (Bennington), 2011 - Sr. Game Warden Greg Eckhardt (Poultney), 2010 - Sgt. Thomas Mozzer (VSP Rutland), 2009 - Tpr. Hugh O'Donnell (VSP), 2008 - PO George Merkle (Middlebury), 2007 - PO Matt Wilson (Chester), 2006 - Sgt. Tracy Simon (Orange Cnty Sheriff Dept.), 2005 - Game Warden Gordon Marcelle (Waitsfield). It should be noted that Chief Doucette, based on his 2012 selection in Vermont moved on to become the National American Legion Law Officer of the Year in 2013. Dr. Jennifer Frank who became the Chief in Northfield shortly after her award, was recognized by the National American Legion in 2018 as the Northeast (nine states) Law Officer of the Year based upon her Vermont award.

The applicants are scored based on the following: *Community Service*, which includes both on and off duty activities as noted in the supporting application narrative and recommendation, *Professional Career*, which includes education and courses attended as well as those instructed, with certifications considered as well. How the candidate contributed to his agency and its mission is important. Professional awards and achievements are included in this category. *Heroism*, Must be noted in the recommendation with a degree of specificity. *Other*, which could include local, non-professional awards and recognition. This is discretionary based on the award narrative and recommendation. There are points associated with each category and a total is given to each applicant by all committee members. The key to selection is a complete and thorough application with accompanying narrative detailing the individual's actions, conduct, achievements, education etc. that would support this person's award.

Enclosed is a copy of the referenced application. We at the Vermont American Legion look forward to hearing from your agency. Please ensure that you recognize the important good work of all your organization's members.

On behalf of the Vermont American Legion, I want to thank your agency for all that it does for Vermont.

*For God, Country & Community*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Scanlon".

Tom Scanlon, Chair - Law & Order Committee

ENCL: Law Officer of the Year Application



**American Legion Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award  
Applicant**

**Vergennes Police Department Detective Sergeant Jason Ouellette**

Applicant / Jason Scott Ouellette

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Education / Three Associates Degrees / Fire Science, Fire Protection and Fire Investigation / currently working on his bachelor's degree through Norwich University

Marital Status / Married with two children Military Status / N/A

Branch of Law Enforcement / Municipal Police Department

Length of Time Employed in the Field of Endeavor / Fourteen years / Detective Sergeant / Narcotics Investigator/ 2<sup>nd</sup> in Command for the department

Community Participation in Specialty Areas / Jiu-Jitsu Instructor / Black Belt and Self-Defense Instructor / Participant and Guest Speaker in Governor's Highway Safety Program Mock Crash Program at Vergennes Union High School / ANWSD and VPD Juvenile Officer

Law Enforcement Resume / Full-time certified police officer through the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council / DEA Narcotics Enforcement Officer Course / former member of the Vermont Drug Task Force Northwest Team / former Task Force Officer appointment U.S. Department of Homeland Security / ARIDE certified / Use of Force Instructor and Taser Instructor / Gracie Ground Fighting Instructor / Field Training Officer certified / Verbal Judo Instructor / Member of the Addison Northwest Supervisory District Safety Committee/ National Tactical Officer Association Instructor / New England Narcotics Enforcement Officer Association Award Winner in 2016 as a member of the Vermont Drug Task Force / Vergennes Police Department Narcotics Enforcement Award (X3) / Vergennes Police Department Meritorious Unit Citation / Vergennes Police Department Hostage Negotiation Award (X2)

Supporting Narrative / Detective Sergeant Jason S. Ouellette is a fourteen-year veteran of the Vergennes Police Department. He received his full-time law enforcement certification through the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council and was assigned to the position of patrolman. He is currently assigned as the Vergennes Police Department's Detective Sergeant/2<sup>nd</sup> in Command and has been in that position since 2014. SGT Ouellette has also served with distinction as a member of the Vermont State Drug Task Force and as the Vergennes Police Department's Detective Sergeant / Narcotics Enforcement Officer.

SGT Ouellette is a truly one-of-a kind officer. In my twenty-eight years plus experience in law enforcement, I have never met an officer as broadly talented and capable as he is. Likewise, in my twenty-three years of military experience as both a non-commissioned officer and a commissioned officer, he ranks at the top of individuals I have had the privilege of knowing in regards to unwavering integrity, leadership, professionalism, and dedication to duty.

SGT Ouellette epitomizes the old military adage of "Be-Know-Do" and sets the standard for integrity, job proficiency and knowledge and dedication to the concept of community policing. He is one of the best criminal investigation interviewers that I have ever worked with. He consistently obtains critical information and confessions from suspects and witnesses alike, while treating people with dignity and respect. He has been instrumental in solving hundreds of both county and state-wide cases involving narcotics cases, burglaries and thefts, armed robberies and other types of criminal cases. He has earned the respect of peers and community members and is an excellent example of an officer who has become part of the community her serves. He maintains himself in remarkable physical condition and has superior law enforcement skill sets. His proficiency in self-defense techniques is second to none. He holds a third degree in Brazilian Ju-Jitsu, and he is an instructor to various age groups and backgrounds. Young and old respect his dedication to the art and he works with kids, adults, law enforcement, current and retired military personnel.

SGT Ouellette has mastered the ability to handle and defuse extremely hostile and agitated persons, as well as those who are suffering from a mental health crisis. His unique style of interaction has won praise from both employees and patrons of a local restaurant while he was dealing with a person with a severe traumatic brain injury. He handled the situation smoothly and with compassion, enabling the person to leave without incident. During another incident, he disarmed a male subject who was under the influence of drugs and possessing a knife, without incident. The subject's mother later contacted us and thanked SGT Ouellette and the other officers with him, because of the manner they handled her son. Lastly, SGT Ouellette recently saved a woman's life when he responded to a request for assistance by the Vermont State Police for a combative woman who was having a severe mental health crisis. He was able to grab and control the woman, despite her actively resisting, and safely remove her from the center line of US Route 7, as traffic was passing on either side of them. The woman was had been fighting with her care giver and family prior to SGT Ouellette arriving. She was subdued without injury until she was transported for treatment.

Narcotics investigations are dangerous, extremely difficult and require an infinite amount of patience, control, and supervision. As a member of the Vermont Drug Task Force and as the Vergennes Police Department's Narcotics Investigation Supervisor, SGT Ouellette has, successfully and safely, investigated and made numerous arrests for narcotics violations throughout Addison County and the State of Vermont. He is constantly being sought after by local, state and federal agencies for assistance in criminal and narcotics investigations. Even though he has left the state narcotics unit's membership, he still provides information and

assistance to that unit. His investigations have been accepted for federal prosecution due to their completeness and professional process, and he is well respected throughout Vermont law enforcement.

In addition to his tremendous criminal investigation work, SGT Ouellette handles a multitude of departmental tasks in a professional manner. He is instrumental in the planning and conduct of departmental training and he oversees departmental policy review and modification. He also is the focal point for any of our internet/telecommunication coordination and contracts and routinely conducts departmental needs assessments for equipment and upgrades. He routinely works with our IT systems, our body camera program, case review and on a multitude of other areas.

The real core of what SGT Ouellette's priorities really are and what he stands for is his dedication to his family as outstanding husband and loving father. He is a true role model, not only to his fellow officers, but to the community he lives in and serves. SGT Ouellette is a patriot. He is a proud American, and he is intimately familiar with his country's history and his nation's constitution. His core values are rock-solid, and he is well respected for his honesty and integrity. He is fiercely loyal to his family, his profession and fellow officers and his country. He has the unique capability of seeing the sides of all arguments and viewpoints, and he has an automatic internal reset switch for self-analysis and critique.

I highly recommend Sergeant Ouellette for the American Legion Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. SGT Ouellette is the epitome of a professional and dedicated law enforcement officer and leader. If any officer should be acknowledged for his dedication to family, his profession, his community, and his department, it is SGT Ouellette. Please give him the consideration he is due.

For further information, please call me at 802-343-5010 (cell) or 802-877-1152 (office).

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Signature

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Date