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NEWS RELEASE

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Newport Police Chief Wins Prestigious Law Enforcement Award
Is first Chief in tri-state area to win lifetime achievement award

Newport – Newport Police Chief Michael Capriglione has been selected to receive the 2009 International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) J. Stannard Baker Award for Highway Safety. This prestigious national lifetime achievement award is aimed at recognizing outstanding achievement in the realm of highway safety over the length of an officer’s career. The Delaware Office of Highway Safety (OHS) nominated Chief Capriglione for the award based on his exceptional leadership of the New Castle County DUI Task Force which operates under OHS’s *Checkpoint Strikeforce* DUI prevention campaign.

“We were excited to nominate Chief Capriglione for this award and are thrilled that he won,” said Tricia Roberts, Director of the Office of Highway Safety. “Chief Capriglione is an extraordinarily dedicated law enforcement officer who is truly deserving of this recognition. We are incredibly pleased to work so closely with the Chief, who is such a strong advocate for traffic safety and believes in the importance of traffic enforcement as a tool to save lives on our roadways.”

“We are absolutely thrilled that Chief Capriglione was honored with this prestigious award,” said Town of Newport Mayor Michael Spencer. “It is a reflection of his tireless effort and dedication to the safety of the citizens of the State of Delaware. His involvement with Checkpoint Strikeforce is an important component in keeping the roadways safe. The Town of Newport is proud to be able to call him “Chief”.

The Chief is an active partner with the Delaware Office of Highway Safety on all of its enforcement campaigns, but is best known for his long-standing commitment to impaired driving enforcement. Throughout the years, in addition to his duties as Chief of Police he has continued

to patrol the streets, enforcing all traffic laws. He routinely averages more than 100 hours of overtime impaired driving enforcement, conducting roving DUI patrols within his jurisdiction.

In the nomination form OHS noted that when it launched *Checkpoint Strikeforce*, “Chief Capriglione didn’t hesitate for a moment in offering to take the lead of the New Castle County DUI Task Force. He coordinates officer participation in the Task Force from almost every police agency in NcCo along with officers from Delaware’s State Parks, the Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement, and the Delaware Capitol Police. He was also the first to recognize the importance of continuing the enforcement during the “off-season” and coordinates checkpoints for special events, like Super Bowl Sunday, St. Patrick’s Day, Cinco de Mayo, and other high-risk holiday periods.

In the early evening hours prior to each checkpoint, Chief Capriglione welcomes all the participating officers to his police department. He motivates the officers by reviewing statistics from the previous checkpoint, highlighting any exceptional efforts, and discussing any concerns. There are many officers who choose to work every checkpoint, and his leadership is the biggest reason. Chief Capriglione often invites State officials, members of the public, and even the media to observe the enforcement efforts.

His leadership has resulted in 2,623 Task Force DUI arrests since 2003. In 2007, he worked closely with former Senator, now Vice-President Joseph Biden to secure additional Federal funding for this campaign, to ensure its longevity. As a result, there is \$250,000 for this campaign in the Federal budget proposal.”

Chief Capriglione, the longest serving police chief in the State of Delaware, is currently also serving his fourth term as the head of the Delaware Police Chief’s Council. He is a two time winner of the Delaware Police Chief of the Year award (most recently in 2007), in 2006 received an award from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for his role in the *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign, and has received several awards from MADD Delaware including their Lifetime award for exemplary dedication to the enforcement of Delaware’s impaired driving laws.

Chief Capriglione will receive his award on October 6th at the IACP’s 116th Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado.

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Below are quotes from fellow law enforcement officers that OHS included in the nomination form. Feel free to reprint these in relation to this article.

From Sgt. Dominic Giofre, Newport Police Department:

“After working for Mike Capriglione, I never want to work for another boss in my lifetime. He expects me to do my job and do it well. But, he also expects me to have a personal life and he understands the “real world” implications of being a husband and father, while balancing a career in

law enforcement. And I'm proud to work for him knowing he is one of the leading advocates in this State for harsher penalties for DUI offenses."

"He will fight tirelessly for his officers' rights, whether with the town council, the prosecutors' office, or anyone else. This Department is part of his family and he's a father figure to most of us."

From S/Sgt. Joseph Fitzgerald, New Castle County Police Department:

"I am currently beginning my third year with the checkpoints. I have known the Chief for over 20 years. I began my career in 1987 and have always known him to be a working Chief, handling complaints and working side by side with other officers no matter what color the uniform. He is never at a loss for words and in fact, loves to tell stories from his long career in law enforcement. His devotion to law enforcement and the citizens of this State should be rewarded with this nomination."

From Chief Kevin McDerby, New Castle City Police Department:

"I have personally known Mike Capriglione for over 20 years. He is a hard working Police Chief who is dedicated to highway safety. In addition to his time consuming role as a chief, he is the officer-in-charge of a nationally recognized DUI Taskforce. Mike does more than enforce the law; he devotes many hours teaching defensive driving. You can never calculate how many lives he has saved or how many injuries he has prevented, but I am sure they are numerous. There is not a person more worthy of commendation than Chief Michael Capriglione."