

## **March 6, 2016 John R Smith's Law and Order Award Speech**

Today's award means a great deal to me for which I am deeply honored! Please accept my apology for not being here in person as I am traveling to Cozumel, Mexico in celebration of my wife, Donna's birthday. Thankfully, ACCFCB's current President- ACCF Captain, John Wojcik has agreed to accept this award on my behalf.

I am deeply grateful to Sheriff, Craig Apple, Undersheriff, William Cox and ACCF Superintendent, Christian Clark for submitting my name for consideration of this honorarium.

I have always appreciated the courtesy shown to me throughout my 30 year ACSO career as a Correction Officer and as founder, former President and 15 year volunteer of ACCFCB. I have striven to uphold both positions with dignity and respect. Today's real honor is knowing that the respect I've always had for my department's dignified leaders is mutual.

### **Background-**

In 1994, 8 years into my career as a Correction Officer, my 3 year old grandson, Dylan was attacked by 2 dogs. His injuries were life threatening and he wasn't expected to survive the night. Dylan pulled through and awaited a double transplant surgery of Intestines & Liver to save his life. This surgery was considered experimental at the time and not covered by insurance at a cost of ~ \$250,000. He succumbed to his injuries after a gallant 1 year battle before receiving the transplant.

After "getting a grip" from our loss, ACCFCB was born in Dylan's memory to help families now walking a mile in our shoes. The foundation was named after the wonderful staff at ACCF who were exceedingly generous and helpful to my family! I am proud to say that their support continues to this day!

I will retire in June with plans to reside in South Carolina with my wife, Donna. I further wish to express my deep appreciation to John Wojcik who unselfishly assumed the mantle as President of ACCFCB to continue our great work supporting seriously ill children in the Capital Region!

Thank You for this wonderful honor which I will cherish!