

Bob Gualtieri Named Sheriff of the Year

Sheriff received Ferris E. Lucas Award from NSA

Alexandria, VA - Sheriff Bob Gualtieri from Pinellas County, FL is the recipient of the 2019 Ferris E. Lucas Sheriff of the Year award from the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA). The sheriff received the award for his contribution to the law enforcement committee this summer in Louisville, KY at the association's annual conference.

The award, given annually by the NSA, recognizes a sheriff who has made outstanding contributions to law enforcement and the criminal justice profession, demonstrates exceptional service to his or her community, and has contributed to the betterment of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA). The prestigious national award is awarded to any active sheriff who has performed the duties of his or her office in the highest professional manner as well as enhance the Office of Sheriff. The award is given in memory and honor of Ferris E. Lucas, who served as President of the National Sheriffs' Association (1944-1946) and Executive Director of the National Sheriffs' Association (1964-1982).

"Sheriff Gualtieri embodies what this award was created to recognize," said NSA Executive Director Jonathan Thompson. "Not only are there no limits or obstacles for him in keeping his community safe but he has continually answered the call as a national leader on the biggest issues facing law enforcement across the country."

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri began his law enforcement and public service career as a detention deputy working in the Pinellas County jail in 1982. After attending the police academy, he joined the Dunedin Police Department as a patrol officer and later rejoined the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office as a law enforcement deputy. Over the next 15 years, Sheriff Gualtieri served in many different components of the agency, including several years conducting domestic and



international drug trafficking investigations as part of a DEA task force.

Sheriff Gualtieri earned his bachelor's degree from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg and his law degree from Stetson University College of Law. After graduating from Stetson and being admitted to the Florida Bar, Sheriff Gualtieri entered private practice in Tampa, specializing in labor and employment defense. Sheriff Gualtieri is admitted to practice law in all Florida courts, before the United States Supreme Court, as well as the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and the United States District Courts in the Northern, Middle, and Southern Districts of Florida.

Sheriff Gualtieri returned to the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office in 2006 as its general counsel and was appointed chief deputy (second in command) in 2008. Sheriff Gualtieri served in the dual role of general counsel and chief deputy until he was appointed sheriff in 2011. He was elected and re-elected sheriff in 2012 and 2016, respectively.

Sheriff Gualtieri serves on the board of directors for the Florida Sheriffs Association (FSA) and the Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA). He is the chair of the FSA Legislative Committee and the MCSA Legal Affairs Committee. He is also an Executive Fellow for the Police Foundation, member of the National Sheriff's Association, International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Police Executive Research Forum.



On a national level, Sheriff Gualtieri represented NSA and MCSA while working with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to develop a Basic Ordering Agreement (BOA) with various Florida sheriffs that aimed to prevent the release of criminal aliens back into the community. The BOA clarifies that aliens held by these jurisdictions are held under the color of federal authority, thereby affording local law enforcement liability protection from potential litigation as a result of faithfully executing their public safety duties.

Following the school shooting at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School (MSDHS) in February of 2018, Governor Scott appointed Sheriff Gualtieri to serve as the chair of the MSDHS Public Safety Commission. The commission is tasked with analyzing information from the shooting and other mass violence incidents around the state to provide recommendations and system improvements.

During Sheriff Gualtieri's years as sheriff, he established multiple new initiatives in Pinellas County, many of which are being replicated by other jurisdictions: Pinellas Safe Harbor, an emergency homeless shelter and jail-diversion program, Adult Pre-Arrest Diversion program, Intelligent Led Policing Division, Mental Health Unit, Risk Protection Unit, Operation H.O.M.E. (Habitual Offender Monitoring Enforcement) a countywide effort to reduce teen crime, and School Guardian Unit.

Sheriff Gualtieri is active in many community organizations and serves on the Pinellas County Homeless Leadership Board, and the boards of directors for the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Suncoast and the Pinellas Sheriff's Police Athletic League. Sheriff Gualtieri has also received many awards and recognitions for his effort to improve public safety, including being named 2014 Sheriff of the Year by Crisis Intervention Team International for his work on mental health issues.

Ferris E. Lucas Sheriff of the Year award from the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) is sponsored by TurnKey Corrections (TKC). TKC is a jail service and supply company with 20 years of experience working closely with jail staff. TKC leads the industry in creating technology solutions for jails.

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