



SMALL & RURAL LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVES' ASSOCIATION

Serving America's Small, Rural & Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, Alexandria, Virginia

Sheriff Jeffrey Richards Honored with the 2023 Sheriff of the Year Award for Remarkable Dedication and Commitment to Small and Rural Law Enforcement

Alexandria, Virginia, August 1, 2023 - Sheriff Jeffrey Richards of Franklin County (KS) has been recognized for his exceptional dedication to his community and significant contributions to the improvement of small, rural and tribal law enforcement across the nation. The Small and Rural Law Enforcement Executives Association (SRLEEA) proudly presented the prestigious 2023 Sheriff of the Year award to Sheriff Richards during their annual conference on August 1, 2023.

With over 30 years of distinguished service in law enforcement, Sheriff Richards has exemplified unwavering commitment to public safety and community welfare. His journey began as a Reserve/Part-time Deputy with the Neosho County (KS) Sheriff's Office, followed by honorable service as a Law Enforcement Supervisor in the United States Air Force, and later joining the Overland Park (KS) Police Department. Since April 2013, Sheriff Richards has served as the Sheriff of Franklin County, bringing his vast expertise and passion to his current role.

Throughout his illustrious career, Sheriff Richards has held numerous roles, including Corrections Officer, Patrol Officer, Traffic Officer, motorcycle officer, SWAT member and Team Leader, Field Training Officer, Shift Supervisor, Detective, and now County Sheriff. His diverse experiences have equipped him with an in-depth understanding of law enforcement, further strengthening his leadership in the field.

Sheriff Richards' commitment to professional development is evident in his extensive training, earning him certifications as a Certified Public Manager and a Certified Homeland Protection Professional. Among his notable achievements are completing the National Sheriff's Institute, Rural Executive Management Institute, Kansas Law Enforcement Leadership Academy Command School, and DHS Leadership Academy.

Beyond his exemplary service in Franklin County, Sheriff Richards has been actively involved in numerous organizations and committees dedicated to improving law enforcement practices. He has provided invaluable leadership as a member of the Kansas Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI), Kansas Sexual Assault Response Advisory Committee (KSARAC), Kansas Human Trafficking Advisory Board, and Kansas Law Enforcement Accreditation Council.



SMALL & RURAL LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVES' ASSOCIATION

Serving America's Small, Rural & Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies

Furthermore, Sheriff Richards has demonstrated his commitment to promoting excellence and innovation in small and rural law enforcement as a valued member of the Board of Governors for the Small and Rural Law Enforcement Executives Association (SRLEEA).

In addition to his professional achievements, Sheriff Richards has been an active member of his community, serving as a County Planning Commissioner and an elected City Commissioner. He is also deeply involved in various service organizations. As an Elder at Ottawa Community Church, Sheriff Richards continues to make a positive impact on the lives of those around him.

"Receiving the Sheriff of the Year award from the Small and Rural Law Enforcement Executives Association is a tremendous honor," said Sheriff Jeffrey Richards. "I am grateful for the opportunity to serve my community and work towards improving law enforcement practices nationwide. This recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the entire Franklin County Sheriff's Office."

Sheriff Richards and his wife, Michelle, take great pride in their family and are devoted parents to three sons and one daughter.

About Sheriff Jeffrey Richards:

Sheriff Jeffrey Richards is a highly esteemed law enforcement veteran with over 30 years of service. Throughout his career, he has held various roles and demonstrated exceptional leadership in different law enforcement sectors. As the Sheriff of Franklin County (KS) since 2013, Sheriff Richards continues to make a positive impact on his community and the field of law enforcement.

About SRLEEA: <https://smallrural.org>

The Small and Rural Law Enforcement Executives' Association (SRLEEA) is an organization dedicated to supporting law enforcement agencies in small, rural, and tribal communities across the nation. Our mission is to advocate for, strengthen, unite, and raise the capacity of small, rural & tribal law enforcement executives and the agencies they serve.

For further information, please contact SRLEEA at admin@smallrural.org | (571) 758-4170