

# The Pueblo Chieftain

Your print and online news source for Southern Colorado

Thursday, May 29, 2008

## Law enforcement association honors 6



Dave Lucero

By KASIE PIGG  
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

No good deed in 2007 went unnoticed by the Southeastern Colorado Law Enforcement Association.

The association on Wednesday recognized six people for exemplary efforts in their fields during the past year.

Pueblo County Sheriff's Office inspector Dave Lucero received the Bob Curtis Memorial Spirit Award, which is presented in memory of late sheriff's Sgt. Robert Curtis Jr. Curtis died in 1997 of cancer.

Curtis' sister Jan Curtis lauded Lucero's professionalism, ethics and dedication, which she observed while working a case with him.

"This award is very important to me because Bobby Curtis was my brother," Jan Curtis wrote in her nomination. "Dave (Lucero) mirrors who my brother was as an officer and has met the standards for which this award, created in my brother's memory stands."

Officer Ray Alvarez of the Pueblo Police Department was named Uniformed Officer of the Year. Detective Patsy Smith nominated Alvarez after he dealt with a 7-year-old boy who told school officials his father had hit him and was selling drugs, according to presenter Pat Heine.

"He (Alvarez) recognized the information given to him by a small child as something this child should not have knowledge of," Heine said, "And he acted honorably."

Non-Uniformed Officer of the Year awards were presented to detectives Kevin Buck and Jim Martin of the Pueblo

Police Department. Heine nominated both recipients for their work on a case that resulted in the dismantling of a "major criminal enterprise."

"Their tireless efforts resulted in our community being safer," Heine said.

Mary Macklem, secretary for Police Chief Jim Billings, received the Non-Commissioned Law Enforcement Personnel Award.

"Mary has been a tireless advocate and supporter for law enforcement for over 20 years," nominator Lee Smith wrote. "She has always given herself unstintingly for the support and advancement of law enforcement."

After a tornado struck the town of Holly, Todd Dreilling of Verizon Wireless responded with equipment that provided cellular coverage for responders. That effort earned Dreilling the citizen's award.

"He has shown his dedication to provide outstanding service and his genuine concern for emergency personnel," Heine said.

Other individuals who were nominated in each category also received a certificate of achievement for being recognized by peers. Many certificate winners were unable to attend the luncheon because they were assisting with the security of President Bush during his visit to Colorado Springs, where he addressed the Air Force Academy graduation Wednesday morning.