



Saint Louis County

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NEWS RELEASE

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MN Sheriff's Association honors jail security captain as supervisor of the year

Demonstrating the philosophy that a supervisor should be a role model of behavior and attitude for all employees, and be a model for self-accountability, a longtime employee at the St. Louis County Jail has received state recognition for his work. The Minnesota Sheriff's Association (MSA) honored Erick Keppeler as Supervisor of the Year. Keppeler, the Captain of Security for the St. Louis County Jail, received the award during the annual MSA conference on September 17.

Jail Administrator Robyn Wojciechowski nominated Keppeler for the award, noting he is "apt at working with the criminal justice partners of the jail. He can collaborate with the courts, team up with law enforcement and ally with probation. He is a well-rounded professional within the criminal justice system ensuring the Sheriff's mission is addressed while enhancing the jail's professional image."

Keppeler has worked for the Sheriff's Office for 21 years. Beginning as a correctional officer, he repeatedly took on extra responsibilities, including Field Training Officer, Academy Trainer and Background Investigator. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2001, and to his current position as Captain of Security in 2012.

In addition to his work for the County, Keppeler also has an extensive military background, including as a Marine where, for a time, he provided protection to President Ronald Reagan at Camp David. He later served in the Army National Guard, rising to the highest enlisted rank of Command Sergeant Major.

"His goals have always been the same in both command environments," said Wojciechowski, "complete the mission, get everyone home in one piece, emphasize training, enforce policies and procedures, and hold accountable. Easy words to say, difficult at times to consistently apply. Captain

Keppeler can talk and walk this philosophy.”

Keppeler plans to retire later this fall, making this a fitting honor “as he ends his tour of duty” wrote Wojciechowski in the nomination. “He humbly expects no recognition for simply doing his job, but deserves great admiration and acknowledgement for his service to public safety and professional correctional leadership.”

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The Minnesota Sheriff's Association is honoring Erick Keppeler, Captain of Security at the St. Louis County Jail, as Supervisor of the Year. The award was presented September 17, during the annual MSA Conference. Keppeler has worked for the St. Louis County Jail for 21 years.