



DON McDERMOTT, SHERIFF

SKAGIT COUNTY

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Chad Clark
Undersheriff

Chris Baldwin
Chief of Field Operations

Tobin Meyer
Chief Criminal Deputy

Don Marlow
Chief Corrections Deputy

Annette Lindquist
Chief Administrative Services

Mr. Kevin Coyne
Sons of the American Revolution

May 28th, 2021

Dear Mr. Coyne,

The purpose of this communication is to nominate Skagit County Records Technician Ron Vater for the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal.

Technically, Ron began working for the SCSO as a temporary employee assigned to the jail in the mid-1980s. Ron was officially hired to work as a corrections deputy in 1991. As a member of the SCSO, Ron has been involved with several projects and programs throughout the years and you can always count on Ron giving his all and with a positive can do attitude. My first real opportunity to work with Ron is when he became a reserve deputy. Ron was very committed to this role and I often had the honor of working with Ron over the life of this program.

For several years Ron served as a hostage negotiator on the Skagit County Negotiations Team. He has also mentored many coworkers over the years, providing guidance through his experience and dedication. In addition, Ron served as a volunteer in Search and Rescue as a first responder to waterborne incidents and he was able to interweave his expertise as a first responder to the benefit of the Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Skagit County.

Here is a list of Ron's achievements in his 30 + years of dedicated service:

- Served as Temporary Employee with the Jail 1988
- Started at the office as a reserve.
- Worked as a mechanic on Sheriff's Office fleet
- Started in the Jail in 1991
- Corrections Field Training Officer
- Hostage Negotiator
- Search and Rescue with Ed Breckenridge Water Rescue (hover craft and wave runner)
- Search and Rescue with Skagit Dive Rescue as diver and swift water technician
- Jail Alternatives Deputy (A program to assist sentenced inmates employed)
- SCCJC Reception in May of 2017
- 2018 Deputy Anne Jackson Award Recipient

In 2016, Ron became very ill. While Ron was ill, he still rebuilt bicycles for impoverished children. Ron stated that his goal was to come back to the office full time. He accomplished just that, taking the lead as reception in the Skagit County Community Justice Center (Jail). His expertise in knowing the ins and outs of the office has allowed him to thrive in this position. In 2018 Ron was nominated by his peers, receiving the Deputy Anne Jackson Memorial Award for his many years of voluntary service, his compassion for others, his inspirational selflessness and his wonderful sense of humor.

Ron Vater has been a positive image of law enforcement within Skagit County and when he represents us within other jurisdictions. He has been a positive influence and a mentor for so many in law enforcement. He willingly gives of his time for the betterment of the citizens of which he proudly serves as the public servant he had committed his life to.

Thank you for considering this nomination and all that the Sons of the American Revolution do for our community and nation.

Sincerely, 
Don McDermott, Skagit County Sheriff