

WHATCOM COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

BILL ELFO
SHERIFF

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
311 Grand Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225-4078
(360) 676-6650



JEFF PARKS
UNDERSHERIFF

ART EDGE
CHIEF DEPUTY

DOUG CHADWICK
CHIEF DEPUTY

STEVE COOLEY
CHIEF INSPECTOR

WENDY JONES
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September 21, 2017

Mr. Kevin Coyne
Sons of the American Revolution
Via email

Dear Mr. Coyne:

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Sons' of the American Revolution "Law Enforcement Commendation Medal" and the criteria for this distinguished award.

I respectfully submit the suggestion that Whatcom County Prosecuting Attorney David McEachran be considered for this award.

Mr. McEachran exceeds the criteria of providing "*exceptional service or accomplishment to the field of law enforcement.*" He began his prosecutorial career in 1972 as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and was elected to the Office of Whatcom County Prosecuting Attorney in 1974. Since that time has honorably, tirelessly and humbly served our community in ensuring justice and public safety. As Sheriff and a former police chief, it has been my honor to work closely with him for over twenty years.

Mr. McEachran is the longest serving public official in the State of Washington and likely is the longest serving elected prosecutor in our nation. He has consistently been a friend of law enforcement and worked closely with agencies at the local, state and federal level. Throughout his career, he has personally carried a case load of high-level felonies that included some of the most heinous crimes that have occurred in our community. He makes himself available to officers twenty-four hours a day/seven days a week to assist in obtaining search warrants and regularly visits major crime scenes. He also maintains very close liaison with the victims of crime.

Mr. McEachran is consistently on the cutting edge of innovation and programming. He worked to establish one of our nation's first Drug and Mental Health Courts. His innovative approach has helped many change their lives and achieve rehabilitation. Mr. McEachran also pioneered contemporary strategies and approaches to the prosecution of domestic violence cases that have drastically improved offender accountability and helped keep victims safe.

Mr. McEachran helped lead efforts to change sentencing schemes and ensure that the limited space in our state's jails and prisons are reserved for the most serious of offenders. As a result, less than 7% of prison space is occupied with persons serving drug offenses (in other states this may be as high as 68-70%).

It would be impossible to chronicle all of Mr. McEachran's contributions over a 45 year career but to name a few highlights:

Rodney Crenshaw – this was a case where Rodney married a woman and on their honeymoon murdered her, severed her head and hid her body separately. Two police officers who were searching for her body were killed in an airplane crash. Following his conviction, Crenshaw was sentenced to life in prison. However, in recent years, was released from prison and committed another violent crime resulting in a nine year sentence.

Kenneth Bianchi-Bianchi was one of the most prolific and notorious serial murders. He came here from California where he was known as the "Hillside Strangler." Bianchi viciously murdered two women near Western Washington University. He was convicted of the murders in Washington.

No Body Homicides Mr. McEachran successfully prosecuted Washington's first no-body homicide case and subsequently prosecuted a second no body homicide.

Mr. McEachran's successes and accomplishments go on and on and include the successful prosecution of murderers, rapists, child molesters, large-scale frauds, drug-trafficking organizations and those who have attempted to kill our law enforcement officers.

Mr. McEachran regularly testifies before the Legislature on justice related issues and has served in leadership positions on various state boards and committees relating to corrections, forensics and prosecutions. He has been an advisor to the nation's drug czar.

Mr. McEachran readily serves as a mentor to newly elected prosecutors in other counties and is highly regarded in the law enforcement community for his integrity and leadership.

Aside from his professional accomplishments, Mr. McEachran served for near four decades on the board of directors for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Whatcom County and continues to provide service to that organization.

Sincerely,


Bill Elfo, Sheriff