

# Northwest Washington Sheriffs

May 10th, 2021

Mr. Kevin Coyne

Sons of the American Revolution

Dear Mr. Coyne,

The purpose of this communication is to nominate Whatcom County Sheriff Bill Elfo for the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal.

Sheriff Elfo began his career as a crime scene technician with the Pompano Beach Police Department in 1974 at the age of 19. He was hired shortly afterwards as a police officer where he would work patrol, tactical enforcement and vice. He attended college to advance his education while earning increasing levels of responsibility and rank. In 1980 he promoted to the rank of sergeant. In the nine years he served as a sergeant for the Pompano Beach Police Department, Sheriff Elfo served in many assignments to include road patrol, tactical enforcement, communications and records, marine and equestrian unit, inspections and he would also serve as an advisor to the Chief of Police. Sheriff Elfo would promote to the rank of Captain with the Pompano Beach Police Department.

In 1996 Sheriff Elfo became the Police Chief/Director of Public Safety for the Blaine Police Department. During the six plus years that Sheriff Elfo held this position he was responsible for law enforcement and fire/emergency medical services.

Sheriff Elfo was recognized for his work as the Blaine Police Chief and in 2003 was appointed interim sheriff for Whatcom County, a position he would keep and go on to serve the citizens of Whatcom County as Sheriff for over eighteen years, a position he continues to hold today. Sheriff Elfo is well respected by not only the community he serves, but his staff as well.

Whatcom County has a population of over 200,000 residents and covers 2150 square miles that encompasses one hundred miles of international border, forty three miles of marine border and five land international border crossings. Whatcom County has two major oil refineries and three hydro-electric facilities. Sheriff Elfo oversees a budget of over \$21 million, over 200 employees and 80 part time volunteer employees.

Thanks to his proactive policies and direction as Sheriff, in his tenure as the Whatcom County Sheriff, the crime rate has lowered by 44% and violent crime has been reduced by 24%. The population of Whatcom County has increased by 17%, while burglaries have plummeted by 63%. Sheriff Elfo has implemented a community oriented policing strategy that is tailored to the needs of Whatcom County.

Sheriff Elfo has actively volunteered as a board member with several non-profit organizations that benefit society, such as the Boys and Girls Clubs of Whatcom County, the Brigid Collins Family Service Center, the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Whatcom County, the Bellingham, Whatcom County Commission against Domestic Violence and the Families and Victims of Violent Crime. Sheriff Elfo also is a board member of the Whatcom Community College Law and Justice Advisory Committee.

Sheriff Bill Elfo served as the Vice-Chair for the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission where he has been on the leading edge of the evolution of policing for over forty-seven years. He has been a positive influence and a mentor for so many in law enforcement. When he speaks, people take notice and listen. He willingly gives of his time for the betterment of our profession as well as the citizens of which he proudly serves as the public servant he has 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,

*Rick Felici*

Rick Felici, Island County Sheriff

*Ron Krebs*

Ron Krebs, San Juan County Sheriff

*Don McDermott*

Don McDermott, Skagit County Sheriff