
Officer of the year award goes to a woman
Evanina is first female officer to win honor

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For the first time in its 10-year history, a female officer has been named the Russ Sorrow Officer of the Year.

In an awards ceremony Wednesday, Greenville police Detective Tanya Evanina, an investigator with the state's Internet Crimes Against Children's Task Force, said she credited the women in law enforcement who paved the way for her.

"It's not long ago that people believed females didn't have a place in law enforcement," Evanina said.

Now that things have progressed, Evanina said she'd like to see more women in supervising roles.

Advertisement The highest ranking female officer in the Greenville Police Department is a lieutenant.

Evanina has been an officer with the Greenville Police Department for 12 years. In 1998, she became the first female member of the SWAT team.

Recently, Evanina has specialized in investigating missing children and sex crimes against adults and children.

"The cases have been hard to work, but the outcome is often rewarding," she said.

Greenville City Police Officer Russ Sorrow was 26 years old when he was shot to death while chasing a suspect on Greenville's Westside in September 1996.


The award is given by Crime Stoppers of Greenville each year to commemorate Sorrow and other law enforcement officials in Greenville County who have died in the line of duty.

The Crime Stoppers board chooses the award recipient from a list of nominees who demonstrate exemplary conduct and professionalism.

Police Chief Willie Johnson said officers like Evanina make work easy for their supervisors.

"She's the kind of person that looks under every rock when she's investigating a case," Johnson said.



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