



# THE ILLINOIS Sheriff

HONOR • SAFETY • SERVICE Summer 2024

PUBLISHED BY THE ILLINOIS SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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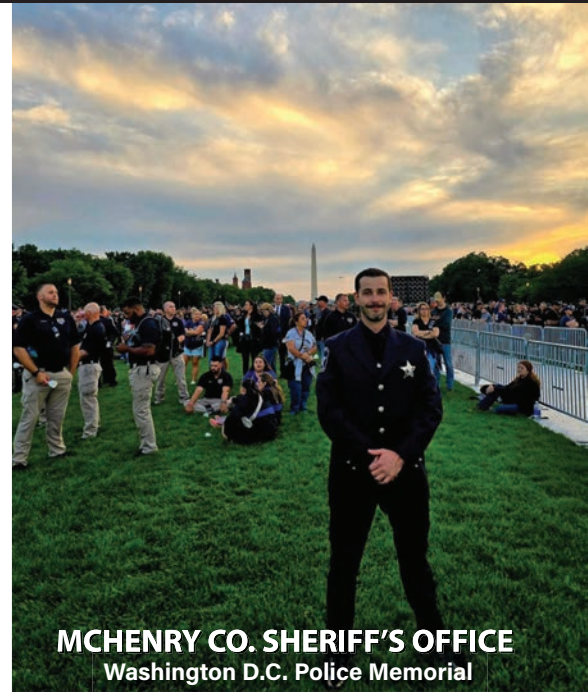
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K-9 Kyro Receives Bullet Proof Vest Donation

# ILLINOIS SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

*Protecting Our Communities*  
**HONOR • SAFETY • SERVICE**



**Illinois Sheriffs' Association**  
3050 Montvale Dr, Suite D  
Springfield, Illinois 62704  
*Thank You! Your Membership Matters*  
[www.ilsheriff.org](http://www.ilsheriff.org)

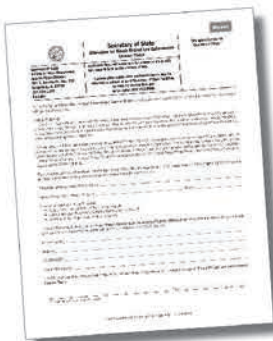
## WE'RE STRONGER TOGETHER!



### DID YOU KNOW?

The Illinois Sheriffs' Association oversees the application approval process for the Illinois Retired Law Enforcement License Plates.

By purchasing a set of these plates, you will help support the Illinois Sheriffs' Association Scholarship and Training Fund - in the issuance of grants to the Illinois Sheriff's Association for scholarships obtained in a competitive process to attend the Illinois Teen Institute or an accredited college or university, for programs designed to benefit the elderly and teens, and for law enforcement training.



Just go to the Office of the Illinois Secretary of State Website at the URL listed below. You will download the "Affirmation" form from the link. **If you qualify... Download the form, fill it out, but please don't sign on the bottom line - that is for ISA's authorization signature.**

ISA Address: 3050 Montvale Dr, Suite D, Springfield IL 62704 Ph: 217-753-2372 Fax: 217-753-2405

[ilsos.gov](http://ilsos.gov)



The Office of the Illinois  
Secretary of State

**APPLY FOR  
YOUR PLATE  
TODAY!**

[ilsos.gov/departments/vehicles/license\\_plate\\_guide/retiredlawenforce.html](http://ilsos.gov/departments/vehicles/license_plate_guide/retiredlawenforce.html)



## EXECUTIVE BOARD



**President:**  
Sheriff Dwight Baird,  
Kendall County



**1st Vice President:**  
Sheriff Nicholas Petitgout,  
McDonough County



**2nd Vice President:**  
Sheriff Derek Morgan,  
Wabash County



**Secretary/Treasurer:**  
Sheriff Brian VanVickle,  
Ogle County (Past President)



**Immediate Past President**  
Sheriff Andy Hires  
Richland County

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Sheriff Pat Hartshorn, Vermillion County  
(Past President)

Sheriff Andy Myers, Clay County

Sheriff Andy Sullivan, DeKalb County

Sheriff Darby Boewe, Edwards County

Sheriff Kevin Turner, Jo Daviess County

Sheriff Mike Downey, Kankakee County

Sheriff Mark Landers, Logan County

Sheriff Shawn Kahl, Macoupin County

Sheriff Jack Campbell, Sangamon County

Sheriff Jeff Lower, Tazewell County

## ILLINOIS SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

Jim Kaitschuk  
Executive Director



## LEGISLATIVE & ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Jim Kaitschuk, ISA Executive Director

We are nearing the end of the spring session as less than 2 weeks remain before the **scheduled adjournment on May 24, 2024**. As usual, we started out the year with a number of bills that were very problematic, including the proposal, HB 4603, that would have eliminated law enforcement's ability to make "pretextual" stops, including not stopping vehicles unless they were speeding over 26 miles/hour over the posted speed limit. Thankfully, that proposal and others negatively impacting the criminal justice system have not made their way to the finish line.

With that said, we are still keeping a watchful eye for something to pop up and keeping a close eye on the following bills:

**SB 2633/HB 676** - This bill would allow for those that petition for an order of protection to also seek a search warrant for guns of the respondent. The bill creates due process concerns as well as safety concerns for both citizens and law enforcement. **ISA Opposes**

**HB 5271** - would no longer allow defendants to use voluntary intoxication as a defense. **ISA Supports**

**HB 4460** - insurance shall provide coverage for joint mental health therapy services for the officer or firefighter and a spouse or partner of the officer or firefighter who resides with officer or firefighter. **ISA Supports**



**GO TO: [ilga.gov](http://ilga.gov) to read full bills.**



## ISA Sold "Fallen HEROES" Shirts for 2024 Police Memorial Week

This was a donation item, with portions of the proceeds to benefit ILCOPS - Illinois Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc.



**OVER 266 SHIRTS SOLD!!**



# MAY 2024 PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL WEEK

Illinois Sheriffs' Association honors our fallen heroes & their surviving family members for their sacrifices & for placing the lives of others ahead of themselves.



## ISA Gathered on May 2, 2024, at the Illinois Police Memorial, in Springfield

In the month of May we honor, remember, and support our fellow law enforcement officers, those we have lost and their surviving families. Statewide government and law enforcement officials, including the Illinois Sheriffs' Association, gathered at the State Capitol at the Illinois Police Memorial, in Springfield to pay tribute to those officers lost in the line of duty in 2023.



Present at the event, left to right: ISA 1st Vice President, McDonough Co. Sheriff Nicholas Petitgout, ISA President, Kendall County Sheriff Dwight Baird, ISA Executive Director & part time Menard County Deputy, Jim Kaitschuk, IL Rep 89th Dist, Tony M. McCombie, IL Rep 105th Dist & Woodford Co Sheriff Chief Deputy, Dennis Tipsword, Jr, and ISA Secretary/Treasurer, Ogle Co. Sheriff Brian VanVickle.



### NATIONAL POLICE PRAYER -

Almighty God, Father of all Mercies, we ask Thy Blessing and guidance upon all Law Enforcement Officers engaged in the protection of our citizens. Be with them in their lonely tours of duty while patrolling the busy streets of our cities and the remote area of the country. Give them the Blessing of Your Wisdom, to know and do what is right. Temper their actions with mercy and justice. When their tours are completed and the day is over, guide them safely home to their loved ones.

We also ask Thy Blessing and eternal rest to all our Brothers and Sisters who have sacrificed their very lives in the performance of their duties. Give to their loved ones the peace and strength to bear the anguish of their loss. Remove all resentment from their hearts, knowing that eternal peace and rest will abide over their departed loved one forever. Amen.

-Author Unknown

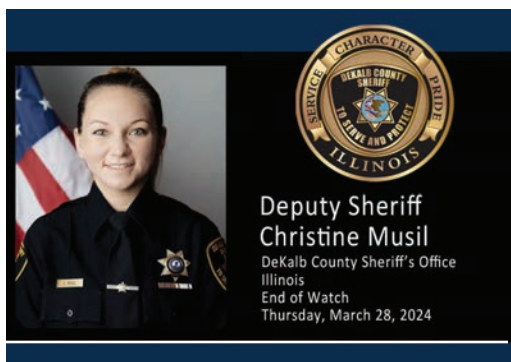
# Mendoza's Impactful Message at 2024 Illinois Police Memorial

*Illinois Comptroller, Susana Mendoza earned a standing ovation at this year's Illinois Police Memorial Ceremony.*

Mendoza's speech starts with a compassionate, heartfelt message to the families of the Honorees. She says *"that each year it pains her to see even more families join the club that no one ever willingly signs up for."*

This year's ceremony honored Chicago Police Officers **Andres Mauricio Vasquez Lasso** and **Areanah Preston**, who lost their lives in the line of duty in 2023. The Memorial also came just days after the Chicago Police Department (CPD) laid **Officer Luis Huesca** to rest following his murder, and only weeks after DeKalb County Sheriff's Office laid **Deputy Sheriff**

**Christine Musil** to rest. Musil was killed on March 28, 2024 while she was conducting traffic surveillance by a man who was under the influence of opiates, cocaine & fentanyl.



During her speech, Mendoza stated that *"she wanted to focus her remarks on the officers who are thankfully still standing, and that she is disgusted by the vilification of our police force. This vilification of the very people who are serving and protecting us putting each and every one of their own lives in danger."*

She went on to say, *"it is wrong to show more concern for the cop killer than for the cop."* Mendoza shared the untold stories of how officers are cursed at, spit on, they get punched, stabbed, and she asks *"who is standing up for them!?"*

**"Officers know in this day and age that it is the exception when they are respected, much less supported, by us, their elected officials," Mendoza said.** Click the QR code to hear her full speech on Youtube and her message to fellow elected officials to **'Let Them Do Their Jobs!'**



## ISA PRESIDENT - THANKS MENDOZA FOR HER SUPPORT

Dear Comptroller Mendoza,

I am writing on behalf of the Illinois Sheriffs' Association, who represents all 102 Sheriffs in Illinois, to express our sincere appreciation for your powerful comments in support of our profession at the ceremony this year. We know that you have always been a tremendous supporter of law enforcement as an elected official, dating back to your time in the Illinois General Assembly. **It is truly our honor and privilege to have your passionate support and we thank you.**

You eloquently identified and addressed a number of the challenges that are facing our profession and what that profession will look like in the future. The sacrifices made by the fallen and their families are certainly not things that anyone signs up for, but it is one of the many risks of the profession. However, it is a risk that has increased significantly over the last several years by the policy and rhetoric that you cited.

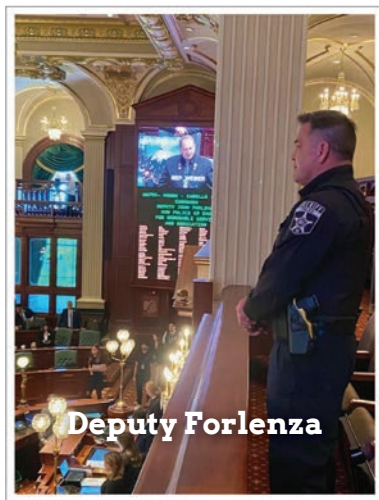
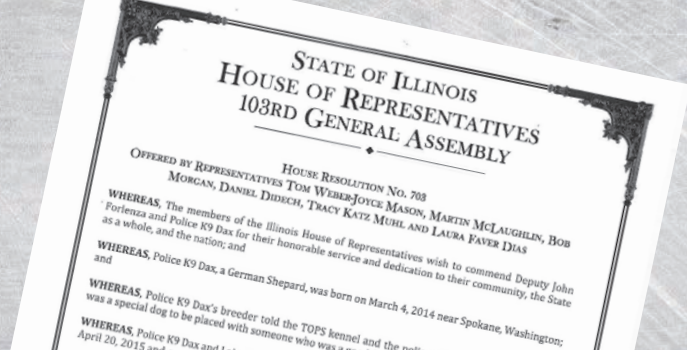
We are working to do everything in our power to keep our communities safe and we will continue to do so and knowing that we have outspoken support from leaders like you better equip us to meet that objective is much appreciated.

We would love the opportunity to talk further about ways that we address and meet these challenges, so that others begin to see and understand, as you do.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Dwight Baird, Kendall County | ISA President

# Lawmakers Honor Lake County K-9 Dax, after canine's retirement and sudden death in April.



Deputy Forlenza



Dep. Forlenza & K-9 Dax

State Representative Tom Weber (R-Lake Villa) and the Illinois House of Representatives honored K-9 Dax and his handler, Lake County Sheriff's Deputy John Forlenza on May 2nd. Dax and Forlenza were honored with the adoption of **House Resolution 703 commending the duo for their "honorable service and dedication to their community, the State as a whole, and the nation."** The men and women of the Lake County Sheriff's Office are mourning this loss.

Dax is one of the most decorated police K-9s in the history of our state. K-9 Dax's partner, Deputy John Forlenza previously said, *"There is no way to quantify or properly express what Dax's service has meant to the Lake County Sheriff's Office, the Lake County community, his supporters across the nation, and especially me. But I cannot refrain from stating that his service has been exemplary, and most importantly, he has saved countless lives, including my own. I am proud to have been his handler and best friend for the last nine years. Dax is a true hero and well deserving of the rest and love that waits for him in his retirement. I'd like to especially thank Dax's supporters, team of veterinarians, trainers, the Lake County Sheriff's Office, and my family and friends for all their support throughout his career."*

On March 3, 2024, K-9 Dax was injured while apprehending a person who had committed several felonies and was fleeing. K-9 Dax injured his neck and spine, which resulted in temporary paralysis to his hindquarters. Following nearly 10 years of service, Dax's retirement was announced on April 4 and a public retirement ceremony was held on April 10, but then sadly he succumbed to his injuries.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, *"K-9 Dax will always hold a special place in our hearts, and we are incredibly saddened by his passing. K-9 Dax will be remembered for the lives he saved, violent offenders he apprehended, and drugs he kept from being distributed in our community. Please keep the Forlenza family in your thoughts and prayers."*

Dax – a German Shepherd born in March 2014 in the Czech Republic – joined the sheriff's office in the spring of 2015. He was 13 months old when he joined the team.



For more information and video footage on K-9 Dax go to the Lake County Sheriff's Facebook Page at - [facebook.com/LakeCoILSheriff](https://facebook.com/LakeCoILSheriff)

# GET TO KNOW YOUR SHERIFFS



## Matthew Link - Henderson Co. Sheriff



### What is your favorite part about being Henderson County Sheriff?

Interacting with the community and being a leader in the community's safety. Also, being a role model to the younger generation to hopefully influence them as well to enter into law enforcement.



Elected as Sheriff 2022  
19 Years in Law Enforcement



Population Henderson County  
6,387



## Mark Oller - Menard Co. Sheriff



### Tell us about someone or something that has influenced you?

The Athens Police Chief, when I was a young teen, let me ride along with him while he was on patrol. I was living on cloud nine during this time.



Elected as Sheriff 2018  
25 Years in Law Enforcement



Population Menard County  
12,164



## Jordan Weiss - White Co. Sheriff



### What's the best thing to happen to you because of your community or career in peace keeping service?

The best thing that has happened was being elected at 31 years old to be a voice for my County & the citizens. **The trust that has been placed with me is something indescribable. I could not be more thankful to the citizens of White County.**



Elected as Sheriff 2022  
12 Years in Law Enforcement



Population White County  
13,614



## 2024-2025 Sheriffs' Annual Scholarship Awards:

As part of our continuing commitment to public service, and the support of young people and education, the County Sheriffs of Illinois announced the 2024 scholarship winners.

This year, 117 awards and \$59,000 in financial aid were distributed to deserving students to financially assist their 2024-2025 education costs at any accredited college, university, or trade school in the state of Illinois.

The Illinois Sheriffs' Association (ISA) established our scholarship program in 1979, and for 45 years, the ISA has awarded scholarships to students who demonstrate outstanding scholastic, extra-curricular and character qualifications. Since that time, this program has continued as a meaningful expression of the Sheriffs' confidence in and respect for education, training, and the importance of investing in our youth.

*A special thanks goes out to each of our committed Members for their continued donations which help make this and other ISA programs possible!*

At right are highlights of just a few of the 2024 winners. Go to [www.ilsheriff.org](http://www.ilsheriff.org) and click on Youth Outreach to view a complete list.



GRUNDY CO. SHERIFF'S OFFICE



JO DAVIESS CO. SHERIFF'S OFFICE



LIVINGSTON CO. SHERIFF'S OFFICE



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*Thank You! Your Membership Matters*



## Two Great Ways to Recycle This Newsletter!

When you are done reading...

- Pass Along to a Friend!
- Recycle in Your Community!

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



**NOT A MEMBER?**

*Join Today!*

Your ISA membership supports public safety across the state of Illinois. Individuals and businesses may join ISA. Your tax deductible dues support Illinois's 102 elected sheriffs and their staff as they strive to improve citizen and community safety.

[ilsheriff.org/membership](http://ilsheriff.org/membership)

SHOP ONLINE: [ilsheriff.org](http://ilsheriff.org)



Donation Item: \$20 (ea.)  
**ISA Plush K-9 Hero**  
**YOUR PURCHASE MAKES A DIFFERENCE!**

Every time you shop or become a member, you help ISA continue to provide support and training to Sheriff's Offices throughout Illinois.

Law enforcement officers risk their own well-being daily to protect and serve our communities. Let's continue to support them!

## IL K-9 SPOTLIGHT!



*K9 Hero Maverick!*

### TAZEWELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFC.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Rescued Heart Animal Hospital for their thoughtful gesture toward our K9 Hero, Maverick. They surprised him with a delightful Goody Basket in honor of Police Week!



*K9 Hero Ares!*

### BOONE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFC.

Deputy Rosenkranz and his partner K9 Ares visited with the 3rd graders at Poplar Grove Elementary. K9 Ares always puts on a good show and enjoys interacting with the kids.



*K9 Hero Lizzie!*

### WILL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFC.

Deputy Stortz and K9 Lizzie, had the pleasure of attending a book signing event hosted by Girl Scout Troop 75493 at the Joliet Promise Center. Will County Sheriff's Office K9 Unit, has been tirelessly serving both in law enforcement duties and participating in community initiatives!



*Display Your Support!*



SCAN ME



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