

2015 Award of Distinction Leadership

I would like to nominate Sergeant Jason H. Glendenning for consideration for the 2015 Missouri State Employee Award of Distinction in the category of Leadership.

Sergeant Glendenning is designated as the supervisor of the marine operations zone within Troop I. This zone was created within Troop I as a result of the merger between the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Missouri State Water Patrol. This unique combination of officers from the Highway Patrol and the former Water Patrol has required Sergeant Glendenning to develop and utilize leadership skills, not normally required of a typical zone supervisor. He is tasked with supervising all duties involving marine operations within Troop I, as well as being responsible for responding to disasters and critical incidents throughout the state of Missouri.

The law enforcement community, along with the rest of Missouri, faced one such critical incident as the nation focused on events unfolding in the community of Ferguson during 2014. The widespread civil unrest and protests, combined with criminal acts perpetrated by some individuals, proved challenging for law enforcement.

Sergeant Glendenning was designated as the squad leader of the arrest team within a field platoon assigned to the front lines of the protests. As a result, Sergeant Glendenning was tasked with leading, guiding, and directing actions of officers as they stood on skirmish lines in an attempt to protect the lives and property of the community. The skirmish lines proved especially challenging for officers, as they often were subjected to verbal barrages as well as having numerous items thrown at them as they stood just a matter of inches from protesters. Sergeant Glendenning was instrumental in maintaining a calm and professional demeanor among the officers on the line. Sergeant Glendenning continually monitored every person on the line, including the officers and protesters; ensuring safety was maintained while simultaneously allowing the voices of the protesters to be heard. Sergeant Glendenning stayed vigilant of the potential for criminal activity in the crowd. When escalating behavior was observed, he would reposition his squad in preparation for the possibility of a high risk arrest. Through the professional appearance exhibited by Sergeant Glendenning's leadership, most incidents were defused without a physical altercation. At the conclusion of each rotation his squad was assigned on the skirmish line, Sergeant Glendenning would contact his squad members to ensure each of them was both physically and mentally okay and then prepare them for their next assignment.

Sergeant Glendenning is an outstanding leader, which is exhibited in his daily duties and during critical incidents. Sergeant Glendenning was able to effectively lead his squad during a tense, stressful situation in Ferguson. For these reasons, I respectfully request he be considered for the 2015 Missouri State Employee Award of Distinction in the category of Leadership.