

100 MOMENTS

THE 2013 AUGUST VOLLMER RECIPIENT

By Bruce Reeve (19995-current)

The August Vollmer award recognizes exceptional achievement by law enforcement agencies, crime laboratories, and individuals in forensic science. Awardees have developed and implemented innovative strategies for providing superior forensic science services to law enforcement. The IACP named the award in honor of Chief August Vollmer who was a

leading figure in the development of the field of criminal justice in the United States in the early 20th century. He is also widely known for being the most innovative police chief in American police history. Chief Vollmer was the first police chief of Berkeley, California, in 1909 and past president of the IACP in 1921. The International Association of Chiefs of Police is the world's oldest and largest association of law enforcement executives. Founded in 1893, the IACP has more than 21,000 members in over 100 countries.

In October of 2013, the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation proudly announced that Laboratory Criminalist Supervisor Bob Monserrate had received the prestigious International Association of Chiefs of Police August Vollmer Award for Excellence in



BOB AND THE AUGUST VOLLMER
AWARD MEDALLION

Forensic Science. Monserrate received the award during the IACP award luncheon held during the IACP Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Monserrate was selected as one of four recipients of this prestigious award. The other three recipients of the award were from Canada (2) and New Zealand, leaving Monserrate as the only US forensic scientist to receive the award.

Criminalist Supervisor Monserrate participated in the development, coordination, and execution of the critical incident stress management program, known as CISM, for decades. In 1990, Monserrate co-founded, along with Margie Conrad, the Central Iowa Critical Incident Stress Management Team. Motivated by positive experiences with his involvement in the CISM effort, Monserrate continued in this field of work in addition to his supervisory duties at the DCI Criminalistics Laboratory.

In 2009, Monserrate began working within the DCI Laboratory to provide a structured format for CISM intervention for crime scene personnel. Monserrate implemented CISM debriefings after critical incidents and observed their benefit to personnel

firsthand. As a direct result of the success of these debriefings, Monserrate was asked to develop and train a department-wide CISM team to respond to CISM debriefing requests not only from the Department of Public Safety but also from our law enforcement partners throughout the state. This was a DPS initiative that has continued to this day with many new volunteers throughout DPS stepping up to provide this essential function.

Over the years, Criminalist Supervisor Monserrate provided CISM assistance to emergency responders and victim family members following tragic events including the Korean Airline Flight 801 crash in Guam, the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York City, and during the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Andrew.



BOB AND HIS FELLOW 2013 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Left to right: Bob Monserrate (1979-2014), criminalist supervisor, Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation Criminalistics Laboratory; Shane Michael Coughlan, constable, Saanich Police Department; Kevin Lothridge, National Forensic Science Technology Center; and Bob Elder, detective constable (ret.), Victoria Police Department

The CISM work performed by Bob Monserrate, as well as the teams he has been instrumental in developing, fill a critical role in helping Iowa law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency response personnel to successfully cope with the traumatic experiences they encounter while serving the citizens of Iowa.

Bob retired in 2014 after 35 years as a Criminalist working in the Drug and Toxicology section, as a CSI team member, and Criminalist Supervisor of the Drug and Toxicology sections for the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) Crime Lab.