

# VFW OUTSTANDING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR 2001



Detective Sergeant Kyle Cressione was nominated and elected as this year's VFW Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award.

Sergeant Cressione began his career with the police department on February 21, 1996 as a patrolman. He is a second generation Cressione to serve as a Thibodaux Police Officer, with his father Jesse Cressione serving for many years in the same capacity. His brother, Kris, is also currently employed in the department's Maintenance Division.

During Kyle's years on the street he served the citizens of the community both day and night, rotating twelve-hour shifts and giving up numerous holidays from his family, maintaining an exemplary attendance record. He has consistently managed to balance his personal and professional life with the highest degree of integrity, earning a reputation amongst his peers as being someone you can count on and of solid intellectual character.

Kyle and his wife recently initiated adoption rights for two of his teenage nieces who lost both of their parents to tragedy. One of those parents was Kyle's brother. Kyle has selflessly placed the welfare of his two young nieces before himself and has demonstrated his complete respect for family and commitment, representing the core values of what a police officer should be. When learning of this I must tell you that I was not surprised. Many times Kyle has volunteered his own time to others. He has repaired broken down equipment here at P.D. and he has spent countless hours building new equipment needed to move the department forward. He also volunteers his time to help others with repairs around their home on his off time, willing to lend a helping hand whenever he can. He trains hard and desires to be the finest officer one can be. He is simply a caring and giving man, who has little to say, but possesses a big heart and who never tires helping others.

Kyle has worked his way into the department's detective bureau where he has become one of the best in the department. He volunteers for tough jobs when no one else will even consider the task at hand. He has helped the department grow in ways he himself is not even aware of. I, as do all of his co-workers, see him as a man of compassion with a strong work ethic-a real team player.

Kyle has served the City of Thibodaux as a Patrolman, Field Training Officer, Special Emergency Response Team member, Detective, and mentor to younger employees. And his best years are yet to come.

It is with these few descriptive comments about a good employee and a good man, that I respectfully submitted Detective Sergeant Kyle Cressione as my choice for this year's prestigious VFW Award as Outstanding Law Enforcement of the Year.

Submitted by: Chief Craig Melancon