

SHERIFF ROBERT J. PICKELL NOMINATED FOR SHERIFF OF THE YEAR

Sheriff Robert J. Pickell was nominated by the Michigan Sheriffs' Association to represent Michigan for the 2009 Edward E. Lucas National Sheriff of the Year Award. The award recognizes a sheriff who has made outstanding contributions to law enforcement and the criminal justice profession, who has demonstrated exceptional service to their community, and who has contributed to the betterment of the National Sheriffs' Association. The winner is announced at the National Sheriff's Association's Annual Conference. This year the conference was held in Washington D.C.

Sheriff Pickell was selected out of 83 sheriffs to represent Michigan because of his outstanding commitment to improve the Office of Sheriff on local, state, and national levels. Sheriff Pickell has continued to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Genesee County and has created new and innovative programs that will affect lives across the country.

In addition to the support of the Michigan Sheriffs' Association, Sheriff Pickell received letters of support from Michigan's Lieutenant Governor John Cherry, FBI Special Agent in Charge John Cecil, and Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton. These men expressed their confidence in Sheriff Pickell, and their desire to see him be honored for his accomplishments.

A: Description of Meritorious Activities

Robert J. Pickell was sworn in as the Sheriff of Genesee County in 1999. Since becoming Sheriff, Pickell has been dedicated to improving the quality of life to the residents of Genesee County. In 2007, Sheriff Pickell partnered with the FBI to form the Genesee County Safe Streets Task Force. The Genesee County Safe Streets Task Force investigates violent gangs operating in Genesee County. In 2008-2009, the Genesee County Safe Streets Task Force investigated and arrested over 40 Pierson Hood gang members. The Pierson Hood Gang has been indicted on charges including 15 homicides, terrorism, armed robbery, dog fighting, fraud, and weapons charges. The Director of the FBI, Robert Mueller, awarded the Genesee County Safe Streets Task Force as one of the top 5 investigations in the country in 2008.

Sheriff Pickell's POSSE, which targets high level drug dealers, made the biggest drug/cash seizure in the history of Genesee County netting a street value of \$2.7 million including \$600,000 in cash. The Sheriff's POSSE has been praised as the most elite drug unit in Genesee County.

Sheriff Pickell was instrumental in providing interrogation techniques to the Detective Sergeants on the task force. Sheriff Pickell has traveled to four different continents while working in the CIA – Office of Security. During his time with the CIA, 1989-1994, Sheriff Pickell exposed a New York State Police corruption case leading to the prosecution of 12 State Police Officers. The case was profiled on "60 Minutes", "Inside Edition", and "Hard Copy" and was the subject of a book, Good Cop, Bad Cop by Cofer. Sheriff Pickell also interrogated suspects of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. Sheriff Pickell was mentioned by John F. Sullivan in a book, The Gatekeeper, as being the best interrogator that he has seen in his 30 years with the CIA. While in the CIA, Sheriff Pickell received 3 Exceptional Performance Awards.

Sheriff Pickell is an inspirational leader that is cherished by all those he comes in contact with. His knowledge and experience is passed on to future police officers through the Regional Training Academy where he teaches a class on "Interview and Interrogation". He is the past Chairman of the Law Enforcement Officers Regional Training Commission (LEORTC) and currently on the faculty staff. His leadership was honored in October by receiving the 2009 Community Leader of the Year award from the American Arab Heritage Council.

Sheriff Pickell was honored in 2009 by the Whaley Children Center for abused and neglected children by being appointed Honorary Chairperson for the fundraising committee. Sheriff Pickell raises money by offering a "Day Out with the Sheriff" to the highest bidder.

On November 5, 2009, the Genesee County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution to honor Sheriff Pickell's accomplishments and leadership throughout his law enforcement career.

B: Description of Major Accomplishments

Sheriff Robert J. Pickell's mission is to improve the quality of life in Genesee County by working together with all citizens to preserve life, maintain human rights, protect property, and promote public safety. After becoming sheriff in 1999, Sheriff Pickell has worked diligently to stop crimes that have fallen through the cracks of the justice system. Sheriff Pickell recognized that fraud, elder abuse, and gang activity had become a growing problem that was not being addressed appropriately and created task forces to investigate those crimes.

Sheriff Pickell created the Consumer Protection & Fraud Division and has returned over \$4,500,000 to the residents of Genesee County. The Consumer Protection & Fraud Division is made up of civilian volunteers that gather, process, and investigate consumer complaints. The volunteers educate citizens on the most recent scams to prevent citizens from becoming victims.

Sheriff Pickell was appointed by Governor Jennifer Granholm to the Governor's Elder Abuse Task Force, where he served as Vice-Chairperson. As the Vice-Chairperson, he listened to the testimony of trial Attorneys, Prosecutors, Social Workers, and health officials who expressed concern that very little was being done to protect our seniors from abuse and neglect. Sheriff Pickell took to heart what those individuals said and created the Elder Abuse & Financial Exploitation and Prevention Task Force in Genesee County. The Elder Abuse & Financial Exploitation Prevention Task Force is made up of a Geriatric Specialist, Nurses, Social Workers, and Detective Sergeants. This is the only program like this in the nation. In 2008-2009, the Task Force made over 100 felony arrests that include First Degree Vulnerable Adult Abuse and Felony Murder.

Genesee County and the City of Flint have been riddled with violent crime. Sheriff Pickell knew that he had to act fast to bring order to the 3rd most violent city in the country. Sheriff Pickell partnered with the FBI to create the Genesee County Safe Streets Task Force. Since its inception in 2007, the Task Force has identified 25 known gangs operating in Genesee County, and has dismantled the Pierson Hood Gang. The Pierson Hood Gang was the most violent gang in Genesee County accounting for 15 homicides. The Task Force, partnering with the Sheriff's POSSE, made the biggest drug bust in the history of Genesee County. These drugs were being used as income by the Pierson Hood Gang to further their criminal enterprise. Many of these gang members have been convicted and the trials are continuing for others.

In 2009, the Sheriff's POSSE initiated an unprecedented investigation involving pharmacists and physicians operating a prescription drug distribution ring. The distribution of these drugs had found their way into our schools, in some instances, the elementary grades. Nineteen search warrants were executed, millions of dollars were seized, and thousands of pages of paper evidence were collected. Some of those involved were operating on an international level with ties to Middle East countries.

C: Description of Involvement with State and National Sheriffs' Association

Sheriff Pickell has been a member of the National Sheriffs' Association, and the Michigan Sheriffs' Association, since 1999. Sheriff Pickell represents the Sheriffs' Association as a board member of the Michigan Commission of Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES). MCOLES executes its statutory responsibility to promote public safety in Michigan by setting standards for selection, employment, licensing, license revocation, and funding in law enforcement and criminal justice, in both the public and private sectors. Under its authority, MCOLES provides leadership and support to the criminal justice community throughout Michigan. Sheriff Pickell chaired a MCOLES sub-committee that undertook a study to determine the appropriate professional training and work levels for officers to maintain efficiency. Sheriff Pickell also represents the Sheriffs' Association as a board member of the Law Enforcement Officers Regional Training Commission (LEORTC).

In March 2009, when the State of Michigan was forced to close prisons, Sheriff Pickell was appointed as a Michigan Sheriff by Governor Granholm to the State of Michigan Community Corrections Board. The appointment is significant in that the State of Michigan, due to the 2 billion dollar deficit, is being forced to close many of its prisons and either transfer or release inmates to the street. Sheriff Pickell will bring 40 years of law-enforcement experience to the table which will result in sound policies being formulated.

(TERRY , THIS NEEDS TO BE ENHANCED, ESPECIALLY THE NSA INVOLVEMENT. THANK YOU.)

Federal Bureau of Investigation
220 West Second Street
Flint, Michigan 48502
(810)239-5775

Michigan Sheriff's Association

Dear Sir,

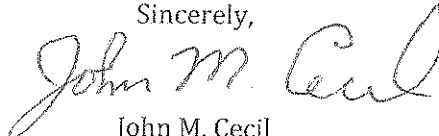
I consider it a privilege to support Genesee County Sheriff Robert Pickell for Sheriff of the Year. Since his election, Sheriff Pickell has always kept the best interest of Genesee County citizens in mind. Whether through jail operations, enforcement, public relations, or through his very capable drug team, "The Posse", Sheriff Pickell has shown his professionalism and humanitarianism through his deeds and actions.

Sheriff Pickell epitomizes the "caring Sheriff" through his work to end elder abuse and takes constant steps to curtail violent crime in one of the most violent counties in the State of Michigan. Sheriff Pickell has partnered with state, local and federal agencies to fulfill his vision of making a difference for the citizenry of Genesee County.

The Flint Office of the FBI works closely with Sheriff Pickell and his "Posse" to infiltrate and dismantle the neighborhood gangs in the Flint area responsible for much of the overt violence plaguing the region. Recent successes such as the dismantlement of the Pierson Hood Gang have proven that Sheriff Pickell is an architect for change in Genesee County, in that, he puts results first and notoriety second.

It has been a pleasure working with Sheriff Pickell throughout the previous year and I look forward to our collaboration against crime for many years to come. I highly recommend Sheriff Pickell for this great honor and would celebrate his victory as a Michigander and supporter of a truly outstanding public servant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John M. Cecil". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

John M. Cecil

FBI, Senior Supervisory Resident Agent



STATE OF MICHIGAN
JOHN D. CHERRY, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR

November 12, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to enthusiastically support the nomination of Sheriff Robert J. Pickell as the National Sheriff's Association's Sheriff of the Year. I have personally known Robert Pickell for over thirty years and I have always considered him to be a law enforcement professional of the highest caliber.

I had the pleasure of working with Sheriff Pickell on several projects when Governor Jennifer Granholm appointed him to the Governor's Elder Abuse Task Force. His detailed knowledge of elder abuse and his leadership skills helped the task force fulfill the Governor's charge. More importantly, he used this opportunity to provide the best community leadership by setting a positive example.

When Sheriff Pickell returned to his office in Genesee County he created an extraordinarily unique task force that is like no other in the nation. Sheriff Pickell's Elder Abuse & Financial Exploitation Prevention Task Force consists of Office of the Genesee County Sheriff Detectives, Prosecutors, Geriatric Specialists, Nurses and Case Workers. This outstanding program exemplifies why we chose Sheriff Pickell to be Chairman of the Governor's Elder Abuse Task Force.

Sheriff Pickell has proved to be a leader in a number of other ways. His research in violent crime trends within the City of Flint and Genesee County has helped identify gang activity as a major source of violent crime. Sheriff Pickell knew a special task force had to be put in place to combat these dangerous activities. He acted in a decisive way to partner with the FBI to form the Genesee County Safe Streets Task Force and, after a year long investigation, dismantled the most violent gang in the City of Flint and Genesee County. There were more than 40 gang members arrested on charges related to 15 homicides, counts of terrorism, armed robbery, fraud, and weapons.

I am proud to offer my full support for Sheriff Robert J. Pickell and his dedicated service, and I believe he should be recognized as the National Sheriff's Association's Sheriff of the Year.

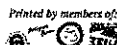
Sincerely,

John D. Cherry, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor
State of Michigan

JDC/pf/sw/mg

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WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV



ADMINISTRATION
(810) 257-3210

FELONY TRIALS
(810) 257-3232

DELINQUENCY/CHILD
ABUSE & NEGLECT
(810) 257-3245

CRIME VICTIM SERVICES
CIRCUIT COURT
(810) 257-3493



GENESEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
900 S. Saginaw Street
Flint, Michigan 48502

DISTRICT COURT/
WARRANTS
(810) 257-3165

SPECIAL CRIMES
(810) 257-3506

APPEALS
(810) 257-3248

CRIME VICTIM SERVICES
DISTRICT COURT
(810) 237-6136

National Sheriffs' Association

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to submit this letter to show my support for Sheriff Robert J. Pickell as the National Sheriffs' Association's Sheriff of the Year award. I have had the honor of working with Sheriff Pickell on several projects including the Genesee County Safe Streets Task Force and the Elder Abuse and Exploitation Prevention Task Force.

Sheriff Pickell has been a leading force in engineering innovative solutions to combat crime. After being appointed by Governor Jennifer Granholm to the Governor's Elder Abuse Task Force, Sheriff Pickell created his own Task Force to combat elder abuse. The Elder Abuse and Exploitation Prevention Task Force is the only Task Force in the nation that has Sheriff's Deputies, Prosecutors, Nurses, Social Workers, and Geriatric Specialists. This Task Force compiled 176 felony warrants in 2008-2009 and is setting precedent for future cases throughout the country.

Sheriff Pickell formed a partnership with the FBI to create the Genesee County Safe Streets Task Force to combat violent crime and gang activity. The FBI Director Robert Mueller awarded the Task Force with one of the top five investigations in the country for dismantling the Pierson Hood Gang. The Pierson Hood Gang was the most violent gang in the history of Genesee County. The investigation led to over 40 gang members being arrested on charges that include Homicide, terrorism, armed robbery, fraud, and weapons charges. Most of the gang members have been sent to prison, while the others are still awaiting trial.

It is an honor and a privilege to recommend Sheriff Robert J. Pickell as the National Sheriffs' Association's Sheriff of the Year.

Sincerely,

David S. Leyton
Genesee County Prosecutor