



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

The American Legion, Department of Nebraska

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NEBRASKA AMERICAN LEGION HONORS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Lincoln (January 22, 2019) - The Nebraska American Legion honored Sargent Bradley D. Wangler of the Columbus Police Department as their “2018 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year” during the 86th Department Mid-Year Conference held on January 19th in Norfolk.

Sargent Wangler has been with the Columbus Police Department for the past 20 years. He has performed his demanding and, at times, dangerous duties with the utmost professionalism. Wangler’s heroism is without question as he placed himself in harm’s way when serving a warrant. After entering the residence, the suspect fired four rounds into Wangler; two into his chest, one in his upper left shoulder, and one into his neck. Wangler’s gun jammed which caused him to clear the malfunction with only his feet and one hand. After retreating back to the patrol car, Wangler continued to give orders to other officers who had arrived on scene. Wangler was air lifted to the University of Nebraska Medical Center for treatment of his injuries.

Wangler has also been awarded the Optimists Club Officer of the Year, the Nebraska Police Officers Association Officer of the Year, the Police Officer Hall of Fame Silver Star Award, the Police Officer Hall of Fame Purple Heart, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police Survivor’s Award.

Wangler and his wife, Nicole, lives in Columbus. He served in the Gulf War and retired as a Captain in the Nebraska Army National Guard.

Department Commander Lyle Bartels presented Sargent Wangler with a certificate and plaque and thanked him for his dedication to duty. Following selection as Nebraska’s Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Officer Wanglers’ name has been submitted for consideration as the National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Since its inception in 1919, The American Legion has been a key advocate for veterans’ benefits, patriotic American values, instilling values in young people through numerous programs, and a strong nation defense with focus on quality-of-life issues for those serving in today’s armed forces.

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