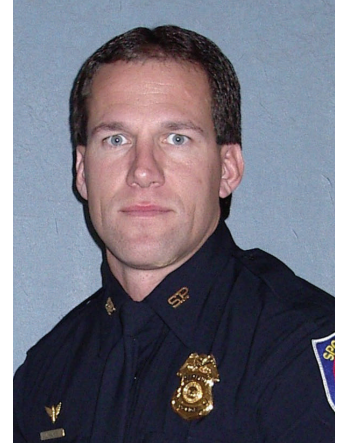


2002 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

SERGEANT JOE WALKER

Sergeant Walker was nominated for the Employee of the Quarter in 2002 and was later selected as Employee of the Year.

The Traffic Unit was faced with many challenges and projects when Sergeant Joe Walker accepted the position and he accepted the challenge energetically. Due to his efforts, the Traffic Unit received many grants for equipment and special traffic enforcement projects. The largest one was a two-year \$250,000 grant that we received along with Spokane Regional Health from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The grant's focus is on teen/youth driving issues (speed, seatbelts, etc.). Sergeant Walker organized, arranged, and implemented a program for youth to go to Spokane Raceway Park every Friday night during the summer to race and show their cars, instead of cruising on North Division.



Other Traffic Unit grants include DUI special emphasis enforcement patrols titled "Drive Hammered, Get Nailed"; seat belt use emphasis for the "Click It or Ticket" campaign; pedestrian enforcement specials; special enforcement operations designed to address underage parties and driving problems as a result of these parties; and a grant program for speed enforcement in school and playground zones.

Sergeant Walker was instrumental in acquiring a 2002 Ford Mustang for special traffic emphasis work, at no cost to the department. He also obtained other specialized equipment including 5 standard radar speed measuring devices, 10 laser speed measuring devices, 7 window tint meters, and 6 portable breath test units, all valued at \$115,200. The department would not have been able to obtain this equipment without Sergeant Walker's hard work.

Sergeant Walker also worked on the "Dying to Drive" program (formerly "Every 15 Minutes") and the Mock Crash program in the local high schools. He was involved in working with the city's Street Department to determine requirements for proper signage around school and playground zones and then getting the signage installed at those locations. He was also involved in the planning and implementation of three Basic Motor Schools as well as the "Where's Chachi" program. Other ongoing programs Sergeant Walker was responsible for were the Traffic Hot Line, the Collision Reporting System, and DUI Cost Recovery program. Sergeant Walker played a key role in the personnel and equipment selection, development, and implementation of the Swing Shift Traffic Team.

Whether Sergeant Walker worked directly on a program or project or whether he was the supervisor—it was sure to be a success.

Sergeant Walker has a true dedication to the Spokane Police Department. His consistent outstanding performance is recognized by all who work with him on a daily basis inside and outside of the department and for this, he is deserving of recognition. Sergeant Walker was awarded the Employee of the Year plaque at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony in February of 2003.