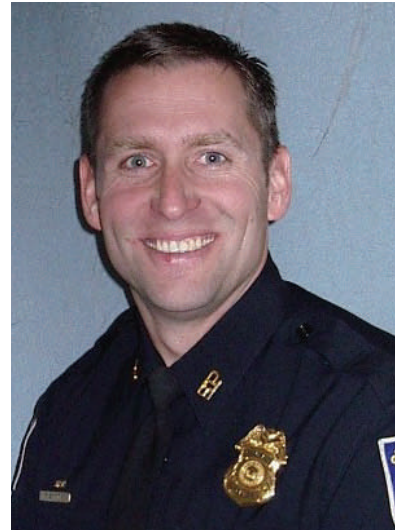


SERGEANT MARK GRIFFITHS



The Medal of Merit is awarded to employees who distinguish themselves by meritorious achievement or service. Meritorious actions are those which clearly surpass that which is normally required or expected.



Mark Griffiths joined the Spokane Police Department in 1992. He began supervising the K9 Unit in 2002. As the K9 supervisor, Sgt. Griffiths exemplified the leadership qualities this department promotes. Upon entering the K9 Unit, Sgt. Griffiths changed the training format of the unit; he established clear handler expectations and unit goals. He creatively added a “top dog” competition to promote his training agenda and to increase motivation. He also increased the number of volunteers used in K9 training. He sought the expertise and creativity of those officers assigned to his unit. The competence and reliability of the teams deployed on the streets steadily increased.

The proficiency and professionalism of the unit flourished under his command. The Spokane Police Department became a highly respected regional training site, hosting statewide conferences. The Spokane K9 Unit became a training site for initial handler certification and advanced handler classes. The unit was asked to help train drug dog teams from Brazil, an honor given only to a few select teams throughout the United States.

During Sergeant Griffiths’ time as the K-9 supervisor, he professionalized unit training, expanded area training and become the leader in regional and statewide training. Sgt. Griffiths has clearly developed his officers. He has improved the training facility and has expanded the kennel area and increased the equipment available. He built inroads and helped establish and expand community support.

Sergeant Griffiths truly performed a service to the Spokane Police Department and to the Spokane community. Due to his actions, Sergeant Griffiths was awarded the Medal of Merit.