



## NEWPORT NEWS POLICE DEPARTMENT

*An Internationally Accredited Agency*

Richard W. Myers, Chief of Police

July 12, 2016

Virginia Forensic Science Academy Alumni Association's Award Committee  
Mrs. Karyn Lawrence, Eastern Director  
Hampton Police Division  
[klawrence@hampton.gov](mailto:klawrence@hampton.gov)

Dear Director Lawrence:

I would respectfully nominate Newport News Police Department's Senior Forensic Technician Sandra Cleary for the 2016 Virginia Forensic Science Academy Alumni Association's (VFSAAA) Dr. Paul Ferrara Crime Scene Officer of the Year Award. Senior Forensic Technician Cleary has done outstanding work as a grandfathered member of the association holding a Life Membership status.

Senior Forensic Technician Cleary began her career as a Forensic Technician, 31 years ago, in 1985 with the Newport News Police Department. Not only was she one of the first females in the field of crime scene processing in the Hampton Roads area, she was also the first civilian in the Newport News Police Department's Crime Scene Unit. After her first year, she began her study in the science of fingerprints from other court qualified experts assigned to the unit, as well as from the Federal Bureau of Investigations' (FBI) related classes to eventually become a Latent Fingerprint Examiner and Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) qualified. She graduated from the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Virginia Forensic Science Academy in 1990. Senior Forensic Technician Cleary went on to further her technical training with additional classes, to include training with the Department of Forensic Science, the FBI and Virginia State Police. Some of these classes included additional fingerprint training, bloodstain pattern analysis, excavation of buried remains and crime scene reconstruction. Not only has Senior Forensic Technician Cleary diligently worked to stay up to date with the changes in Forensic Science, she also works hard to share her knowledge with other members of the Forensic Services Unit by mentoring and training new technicians, as well as further expanding the patrol officers' understanding of crime scene processing by teaching the crime scene portion of the Newport News Police Training Academy's Basic Law Enforcement classes. Senior Forensic Technician Cleary has been involved in countless major cases, to include the double homicide where two tow truck drivers were brutally stabbed to death. In her meticulous processing of the crime scene, she located a small amount of blood belonging to one of the suspects; therefore, providing critical evidence linking the suspect to the scene. This is just one of many examples of Senior

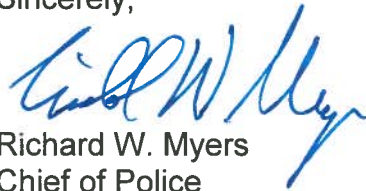
COMMITTED TO OUR COMMUNITY

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Forensic Technician Cleary's great contributions to our Department. Her dedicated years of service and experience, has made her an indispensable member of the Newport News Police Department.

Senior Forensic Technician Cleary continually excels in the field of crime scene technology. She shows professionalism and willingness to work together as a team which makes her a positive influence as a readily accepted leader and mentor. It is for these reasons I would offer my nomination for Senior Forensic Technician Cleary as the 2016 VFSAAA's Dr. Paul Ferrara Crime Scene Officer of the Year. Thank you in advance for your review and consideration.

Sincerely,



Richard W. Myers  
Chief of Police

pc: Assistant Chief J. A. Moore, Investigations Bureau  
Captain R. A. Franklin, Criminal Investigations Division Commander  
Lieutenant M. B. Bartley, Major Crimes Commander

RWM/mbb