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Virginia Forensic Science Academy Alumni Association
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Dear Awards Committee

I am writing to nominate a former colleague of mine Robert Zinn (graduate of the 25th session) to be considered for the Dr. Paul Ferrara Crime Scene Officer of the Year Award, 2015. This nomination I hope will call into light the generous contributions he has made over a career spanning 40 years of combined law enforcement and civilian service.

I don't think he would admit it but his police career started during the late 70s in his home state of Pennsylvania. The state of Virginia was very happy to have him arrive to start his Police career in Prince William County in 1979. He started working crime scenes in 1981 and continued to do so sworn until 2005 finishing as the head of their unit. Some of his accomplishments at Prince William consist of working over 200 homicide cases resulting in 12 capital murder cases, supervising the construction of a 11,000 sq. ft Forensic facility, which laid the foundation for the only Police Department ASCLAD LAB accreditation in the State, and has been qualified as an expert in Crime Scene Reconstruction and Bloodstain Pattern Analysis numerous times. They could not get rid of him that easy so he stayed on as a civilian manager of their unit until we started working together at the Virginia Department of Forensic Science from 2006-2009.

My nomination stems from his time at the Virginia Department of Forensic Science. In the brief time he was here he utilized the over 30 years of police experience and training he possesses in revamping academy curriculum within our team here at DFS. His instrumental input has carried forward with the remaining staff, myself included, and all the graduates during his time here and since. That type of contribution cannot be measured with statistics. During that time he also was a peer reviewer for the Bloodstain Section and continued as the auditor of the Treasurer of the VFSAAA and has done so if I am not mistaken for well over 20 years.

If you would think he would retire you would be mistaken. During his time at Oak Ridge Associated Universities he has received and inventoried bomb evidence from war zones, managed their fingerprint unit, received his Masters degree in Criminal Justice to be able to teach, and he himself has been certified as an ASCLAD-LAB inspector in Crime Scene.



I hope his contribution to the board as the auditor does not restrict his ability to receive this well deserved award. I can think of no one more deserving of it. It was Dr. Paul and Dan Grinnan who hired him on at DFS to bring that experience into the Academy and reestablish it as a premier program in the Country.

Respectfully submitted,

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