



News Release No. 4

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### VIRGINIA STATE POLICE SERGEANTS HONORED FOR VALOR AND LEADERSHIP

RICHMOND – Two Virginia State Police sergeants are being recognized today in Philadelphia, Penn., by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Women in Law Enforcement (MAAWLE). Sgt. Michelle Anaya of the Chesapeake Division and Sgt. Becky G. Curl of the Salem Division are receiving the association's 2012 Leadership Award and 2012 Award of Valor, respectively, at an awards luncheon during the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual MAAWLE Conference.

Sgt. Anaya is being honored for her vital leadership and assistance with launching "The Got Sole Project" in Hampton Roads and the Eastern Shore. Since its inception in 2010, the non-profit program has helped provide more than 1,000 impoverished, migrant families with gently-worn shoes and socks. Sgt. Anaya got involved when she was approached by Ms. Laura Contreras-Rowe, who was looking for an opportunity to give back to the local community. Through their determination and compassion, "The Got Sole Project" became a reality and has made a significant difference in the lives of countless children.



A 14-year veteran of the Virginia State Police, Sgt. Anaya currently serves as the Chesapeake Division's Public Information Officer and also serves as the Virginia State Police Representative for the annual Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run® – which raises funds to support the Special Olympics and its athletes. Sgt. Anaya is a first-generation Mexican-American and a graduate of Christopher Newport University. During her career with state police, she has also served in the Recruitment Unit and in the Sex Offender Investigative Unit.

Sgt. Curl is the recipient of the MAAWLE Award of Valor for her courageous efforts put forth May 30, 2011, along Interstate 81. That day was a difficult and dangerous one for Virginia's law enforcement community, as Sgt. Curl and an assisting trooper found themselves in the position of



having to valiantly confront and, following an exchange of gunfire, apprehend a Franklin County deputy. The deputy had just been involved in a high-speed pursuit with state police, shot another state police sergeant, and was wanted by Roanoke Police for the murder of his ex-wife.

A native of California and decorated military veteran, the U.S. Army brought Sgt. Curl to Virginia in 1987. She served with the Hampton Police Department for several years before joining the Virginia State Police in 1994. Since then she has been assigned to the Department's Chesapeake, Culpeper and Salem divisions. She is currently assigned to the Salem Area Office and also oversees the division's Motorcycle Unit.

MAAWLE is a professional organization of law enforcement officers and individuals promoting women in law enforcement working or residing within the states of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, District of Columbia and Pennsylvania. For more information on MAAWLE: <http://www.maawle.org>.

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