

Sheriff Ogden receives lifetime achievement award

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"It was unbelievable the way they were able to sneak up on me and give me this (award). To have those different agencies get together and agree on it, I think, was wonderful."

At the 31st Law Enforcement Pow Wow July 19-22 in Flagstaff, heads of federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies discussed issues and events in the criminal justice system as well as received training and professional development.

"The way this (award) came down was I was a chairman of a meeting and had just called adjournment on it, but the executive director (of the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission John A. Blackburn Jr.) just kept on talking. Next thing, there it was. It was very much (a surprise) since it's only been given twice in 31 years."

The first recipient was former police officer and attorney John Blackburn Sr., who was also a dear friend of Ogden's.

"I knew him for 25 years. He did a lot for the criminal justice system and had been a highly respected man. And to have his son present the award to me made it even more special."

Ogden, who does not plan on seeking re-election in 2012, said one of his greatest accomplishments has been giving his deputies and employees the resources so they could develop the department's reputation as second to none.

"I am very proud of them. I am glad I could provide the basic leadership so they could take off and build the department the way it needed to be."

Even more than the award, Ogden considers his continuing relationships with state and federal agencies on issues ranging from terrorism to border security and his strong community bonds to be evidence of a successful career.

And although Ogden said the award is not important in terms of ego, it is still nice to be recognized.

"You don't get into this job to make people happy or to gain fame. But it's wonderful to have your peers think you have done a good job over the years."

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