

HANOVER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

NEWS RELEASE

COLONEL DAVID R. HINES, SHERIFF

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Hanover Deputy Recognized as Virginia Deputy of the Year

Investigator David P. Klisz was recently recognized as the 2009 Virginia Deputy of the Year at the Virginia Sheriff's Association annual conference held in Newport News. Investigator Klisz was recognized for his perseverance in two missing person cases in addition to the manner he conducts all his investigations, the majority of which involved crimes against children.



Colonel David R. Hines, Monica Klisz, Investigator David Klisz, and presenter Sheriff Charles Jett, President of the Virginia Sheriff's Association

"Dave is a unique individual in that he always finds innovative ways to continue an investigation," said Colonel David R. Hines. "Dave's ability to advance challenging cases not only brings the cases to a close, but it allows families to have closure also. His compassion and concern for the victims and their families is unmatched."

In June 2009, Investigator Klisz was assigned to investigate the discovery of a human skull recovered by a relic hunter in a densely populated area of Hanover County. Seeking to recover additional remains, Investigator Klisz arranged two large scale searches of the area using multiple cadaver dog teams. He also sought innovative ways to link the remains to a missing person, 77 year old Howard Fentress, who was reported missing in 2000. Dental records of Mr. Fentress had been destroyed in an earlier fire, so Investigator Klisz continued to attempt to obtain a DNA sample from the victim's daughter; however, the sample was never delivered. Dave then proceeded to Norfolk to personally oversee gathering a second DNA sample and then delivered it to the lab himself.

(more)

"CONTINUING TO BE A PART OF, NOT APART FROM, THE COMMUNITY"

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Dave's commitment to the case resulted in a positive identification of the remains to be that of Howard Fentress.

Another example of Dave's commitment involved another missing person's case that started in 2005 with the disappearance of a 17 year old female. Dave kept this case alive with news releases, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children programs, and sharing the case with other agencies to ensure all investigative leads had been thoroughly exhausted. Through his efforts, he was able to locate and re-interview a former neighbor of the juvenile in South Carolina. This interview provided information that ultimately led to the location of the missing juvenile. Dave was able to reunite her with her family.

Dave also excels in his daily activities that primarily include investigating sex crimes, elder abuse, and crimes against children. Dave is a member of the FBI's Innocent Images Task Force and the Assistant Team Leader of the Crisis Negotiation Team.

Dave joined the Hanover County Sheriff's Office in 1998, after having previously served in Chesterfield County. Initially he was assigned to the Uniform Patrol Division and for the past seven years, he has served as an Investigator in the General Investigative Division.

Dave resides in Ashland with his wife and daughter.

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