

## Franklin County Chamber 2009 Officer of the Year

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office is proud to nominate Deputy David John Kern as our officer of the year. Deputy Kern was hired on October 22, 2004 as a Deputy Sheriff/Corrections Officer. He worked in that capacity until July 1, 2007, when he was assigned to law enforcement duties as a road patrol deputy.

Prior to employment with our Office, Deputy Kern worked at Circuit City and Home Depot in his native New Jersey. He currently resides in the Doe Run section of Franklin County with his wife, Christina.

Since moving to Virginia, Deputy Kern has obtained an Associate in Applied Science degree with a major in Criminal Justice from Central Virginia Community College.

Deputy Kern exhibits true professionalism and demonstrates a hard working and dedicated nature to law enforcement and the citizens of Franklin County. He enjoys his job and is always available to work beyond his shift assignments and any other time whenever asked. Deputy Kern has a willingness to excel and always looks for areas to better himself in his profession.

Statistics are an important part of our job, but they are not always the only thing we would look at in whether someone is doing a good job. He excels in many key areas of law enforcement. Deputy Kern is especially successful in regards to number of arrests and DUI enforcement. He excels in traffic enforcement with the goal of making our highways safe by reducing fatalities and removing drunk drivers from the highways.

An example of Deputy Kern's dedication and diligence was in July of this year. He took a routine well being check call on two Franklin County residents. Some may have taken the initial information, made a couple of phone calls, provided some routine service, and waited for more information to come about. Deputy Kern took it to a high personal service level. He stayed on top of the case by staying in personal contact with reporting family members and continued to do some vital follow up investigation even though he was off duty and days off. Deputy Kern's diligence lead to the discovery of one of the missing individuals being found murdered and a nationwide manhunt for the other individual who eventually was charged with murder. Without his persistence, this case may have been an unsolved murder or greatly delayed in the discovery of the murder victim allowing the suspect to remain at large.

This is just one of many situations in which Deputy Kern exhibited his professionalism and goes beyond the call of duty as a dedicated law enforcement officer.