



TEMPLE TERRACE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

11250 North 56th Street
Temple Terrace, Florida 33617
813.506-6500
813.506-6499 FAX
www.templeterrace.com

June 9, 2011

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Michael Dunn, City of Temple Terrace PIO @ (813) 506-6406

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Photo attached)

CPL. JOHN SPALA NAMED 'OFFICER OF THE YEAR'

(TEMPLE TERRACE, FL – 6/9/11) – Cpl. John Spala has been honored as the Temple Terrace Police Department's 2010 *Officer of the Year*, Police Chief Kenneth Albano announced this week.

Spala, 40, is a veteran of the Temple Terrace Police Department with 20 years of service. During the past year, Cpl. Spala's performance has eclipsed that of his peers, officials said in presenting the award. He is an integral member of the police force and devotes much of his time to the success and improvement of the department.

Cpl. Spala is team leader of the department's Crisis Response Team, as well as supervisor of the agency's Traffic Fatality Unit. He has embraced these roles, while seeking out state-of-the-art equipment and training, to ensure his teams are of the highest caliber, said Temple Terrace Police Capt. Mike Pridemore, who honored Spala during Tuesday's city council meeting.

Pridemore lauded Spala's knowledge and professional demeanor during the department's recent accreditation assessment, as well as the skillful handling of his regular duties.

"Cpl. Spala has proven himself time and time again to be one of the Temple Terrace Police Department's most valuable employees," Pridemore said. "He is one of those 'go-to guys' who never lets you down. He is a credit to himself, his squad and the organization. Cpl. Spala is certainly deserving of distinction as the Temple Terrace Police Department's Officer of the Year."

Also honored was Officer William Wesley Cooper, recipient of the 2010 Jennifer Baker Memorial DUI Enforcement Award, which is presented annually to the officer who has demonstrated a high level of proactive enforcement in the area of DUI related offenses.

During 2010, Officer Cooper made 34 DUI arrests, the highest number in the department. Cooper has led the department in DUI arrests for the past four years. The award is named for Jennifer Baker, a city resident who was killed by a drunk driver on Oct. 15, 1995. Her parents, Susan and Terry Baker, are longtime Temple Terrace residents who have worked with law enforcement, M.A.D.D. and others to help teach the dangers of DUI and take efforts to stop motorists from driving while impaired.

###