

Hills officer of year 'pioneer' in education

By Sue Buck
STAFF WRITER

Executive Lt. Norman Kilmer is Farmington Hills Police Officer of the Year. He will retire March 1 after completing 25 years of service to the department.

"Norman Kilmer has been a pioneer in formal education in this agency," said Lt. Martin Bledsoe, who nominated Kilmer. "He was among the very few first officers to receive a bachelor's degree in this organization."

"He also pursued technical training that was rare for his time in early Farmington Township and the city of Farmington Hills, more specifically advanced fingerprint and forensic science studies, including polygraph examination."

Courses taken were often at Kilmer's own expense, Bledsoe noted.

"I learned in the Army that the way to be your best was through education," Kilmer said. Kilmer served in the Army military police from 1958-63.

In January of 1964, he joined the Pontiac police department and served there until he came to the Farmington Hills police in February of 1968.

"As a supervisor/manager, Kilmer was a pioneer in Northwestern University Traffic Institute First-line Supervisor School as well as their School of Police Staff and Command," Bledsoe said.

"Other management training included the premier management school, the FBI National Academy."

Kilmer's professional organization memberships include: the International Association of Identification, the Michigan Ontario Identification Association, the FBI National Academy Associates, the School of Police Staff and Command Alumni Association and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Bledsoe lauded Kilmer's "common sense" way of dealing with important issues. "His military

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Lt. Martin Bledsoe

background and yet personable nature allows for internal investigations and discipline to result in a win/win situation for the organization and individual members," Bledsoe said. "Having witnessed this talent many times, it is impressive to note that Kilmer is able to hold persons (and the agency) appropriately responsible without political sacrifice of the persons involved or ethical compromise of the department."

Kilmer also helped to create and engineer the details for a police mini-lab.

He was appointed to his present position in 1985 as executive lieutenant in the patrol division.

Kilmer holds a bachelor of science degree of Madonna University and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va. He is also an alumnus of the Northwestern University Traffic Institute supervisory school as well as their school of police staff and command.

Kilmer is a certified polygraph operator, hostage negotiator and

also an advanced fingerprint specialist. Because of his outstanding education and training, Kilmer is known as a pioneer in setting the standard for the department's educational programs, Bledsoe said.

"Lt. Kilmer has been and continues to be a true architect in laying the groundwork which has resulted in the fine reputation of the Farmington Hills police department," Bledsoe said.

Kilmer is married to Cynthia, a homemaker. The couple have three children, all in law enforcement. Marlene Kilmer Murphy is a chemical engineer, does environmental monitoring and recommends appropriate enforcement to the federal government. Son John is a Madison Heights police officer. Youngest daughter Melissa is a specialist in a forensic laboratory for a Gainesville, Fla., police agency.

During his retirement Kilmer plans to "fish, work in my back yard and travel," he said.



SHARON LEMIRUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Behind the desk: Executive Lt. Norm Kilmer (left) stands behind the desk at the Farmington Hills Police Station with Lt. Dennis Rochford.

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