

3 public-safety officials to be honored

By Lindsey Collom

THE REPUBLIC | AZCENTRAL.COM

Three public-safety officials will be honored for their on-duty achievements today during the second annual Jason Schechterle Scholarship Ball.

Recipients of the 2008 Jason Schechterle Public Safety Outstanding Performance Award include Officer Greg Taylor of the Eagar Police Department; K-9 Officer Keith Duckett, Arizona Department of Public Safety; and Suzy Dodt, a death investigator for the Maricopa County Medical Examiner's Office.

The scholarship ball is a fundraiser for the 100 Club of Arizona, a non-profit organization that gives financial assistance to families of public-safety personnel who are seriously injured or killed in the line of duty.

Schechterle, who retired from the Phoenix Police Department in 2006, was critically burned in March 2001 when his patrol car was rear-ended by a speeding taxicab and burst into flames.

Award winners were nominated by their respective agencies and selected for "a distinguished performance on the job or in the community," according to a 100 Club statement.

■ **Officer Greg Taylor, 34.**

Agency: Eagar Police Department.

Time on the job: Seven years.

Why he won: For an "act of heroism" in saving the life of an Eagar woman. In April, Taylor was the first officer to arrive at a house fire

with an elderly woman trapped inside. Taylor, also a volunteer firefighter for 15 years, said "instinct kicked in" when he dove into the home to retrieve the woman instead of waiting for backup.

■ **Officer Keith Duckett, 51.**

Agency: DPS.

Time on the job: 17 years.

Why he won: For being "a major barrier" to the illegal drug trade between the U.S. and Mexico. In 2007, Duckett and his K-9 partner seized 13,222 pounds of marijuana, 38 pounds of cocaine and about \$100,000 in drug money. Duckett is also

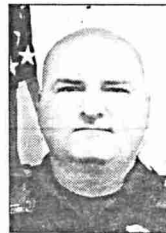
being honored for his contributions to the community. He's a youth soccer coach and started a drive for used body armor that he donates to Mexican law enforcement agencies.

■ **Suzi Dodt, 36,** death investigator.

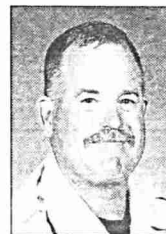
Agency: Maricopa County Medical Examiner's Office.

Time on the job: Eight years.

Why she won: Dodt maintains the Unidentified Persons Bureau, a Web program she created in 2006. The site contains nearly 200 profiles of people whose remains have not been identified in Arizona. Each entry contains information on when the person was found, the location, physical attributes and images. In two years, more than 30 people have been identified.



Greg Taylor



Keith Duckett



Suzi Dodt

