



KRISTEN SENZ PHOTO

Sullivan County Sheriff Michael Prozzo speaks in Concord, Thursday, after receiving the Steven P. Demo Law Enforcement Award.

County sheriff honored for work with N.H. Drug Task Force

By KRISTEN SENZ
Senior Writer

CONCORD, N.H. — Sullivan County Sheriff Michael Prozzo received the Steven P. Demo Law Enforcement Award for his dedication to furthering the mission of the New Hampshire Attorney General's Drug Task Force.

During an awards ceremony at the New Hampshire Police Standards and Training facility in Concord on Thursday, Prozzo was surprised to learn that he'd been selected for the award as Assistant Attorney General Bud Fitch, who worked with Prozzo at the Claremont Police Department many years ago, made the announcement.

Fitch said Prozzo is one of the rare New Hampshire icons "who really personify what law enforcement is," and that he deserved the award, "because of his personal, extraordinary contribution to the Drug Task Force here in New

See **SHERIFF** - Page A2

Hampshire.”

The award memorializes Lt. Steven P. Demo, a member of the Portsmouth Police Department who died of cancer about 10 years ago and whose work with the Drug Task Force exemplified the values and hard work that have enabled the agency to effectively combat drug crime in the state.

Prozzo, who has worked in New Hampshire law enforcement for more than 40 years, including 16 years as the High Sheriff in Sullivan County, said he knew Demo and was “humbled and honored” to receive the award.

Prozzo has been a strong supporter of the drug task force over the years, helping to coordinate efforts and staff the regional task force team that covers Sullivan County, Cheshire County and lower Grafton County. But he credit-

ed the undercover agents who conduct street-level investigations into crimes involving illegal drugs with the task force’s successes of the past 20 years.

“This is because you do such a good job,” Prozzo told the audience of mostly law enforcement officers. “You leave your families, you work weekends, and you work holidays. It’s a tough job.”

Claremont Police Chief Alexander Scott was present for the awards ceremony Thursday, which preceded the annual Drug Task Force policy meeting in Concord. Prozzo, the former chief of the Claremont Police Department, hired Scott there as an intern in 1989.

“We’ve collaborated for many years,” Scott said. “Sheriff Prozzo’s efforts to maintain a strong team in the area, while sort of a quiet thing that happens behind the scenes, pro-

vides a great service to Sullivan County and the surrounding area.”

Lt. Barry Hunter, a retired state police trooper who leads the local drug task force team as a member of Prozzo’s department, said Prozzo has been a friend and colleague since the two were assigned to the Connecticut River Valley Homicide Task Force, assembled in the 1980s in hopes of solving a slew of murder cases in the region.

“He’s been very loyal and faithful to the drug combat effort throughout the state and here in Sullivan County,” Hunter said. “Mike Prozzo is certainly a person of influence in New Hampshire law enforcement.”

Prozzo, who has served as chairman of the New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council for eight years and is expected to be reappointed by the governor this year, said he plans to keep working with the Drug Task Force to minimize drug crime locally and throughout the state.

“I’m just glad to be a part of it and will continue to be a part of it,” he said.

•••

Kristen Senz can be reached at (603) 543-3100, ext. 108, or by e-mail at ksenz@eagletimes.com.



Madison Avenue North
BOUTIQUE CLOTHING STORE
All New - All The Time!!
Come Visit Us
At Our New Location at
1 Pleasant St.
Claremont, NH 03743
603 287-4380
Hours: Tue-Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4
kimallen@madisonavenuenorth.comcastbiz.net

New
Merchandise
Arriving Weekly