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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL PAL ANNOUNCES OCTOBER 2019 INSPIRATIONAL AWARD HONOREES

Honorees for October Include Youth, Volunteer, Alumni, and Law Enforcement Officer of the Month

Charlotte, NC- The National Association of Police Athletic/Activities Leagues, Inc. (National PAL) is pleased to announce the October recipients of its monthly Inspirational Awards which recognizes individuals in the National PAL network who inspire their colleagues and friends and are steadfast in their service to their communities.



Michael B. Harris, our October Youth of the Month, is an inspiring 12-year Selma Police Activities League member who serves as an exemplary example of a youth leader. Not only does Michael encourage other youth to become mentors, but he also encourages fellow youth to participate in community projects including “Clean It Up Selma” (a community littering project) and the ATAP CDC Kickstart (a youth program food delivery service). During the holiday season, Michael packs food for unemployed city workers and gathers gifts for his local nursing home to spread holiday cheer. He is also an honor roll student with a 3.6 GPA and will graduate with a High School and Associates Degree by May of 2020.

The October National PAL Law Enforcement Officer of the Month is **Sheriff Shaun Golden** of the Monmouth County Sheriff’s Office. Throughout his 25-year career, Sheriff Golden has established a plethora of diverse community safety programs including Monmouth Police Activities League, Senior ID Program, and HOPE One. Under his leadership, over 30 community programs have been established to educate inmates, youth and aid those suffering from addiction. Not only has he created sustainable community programs, but he also served as a volunteer firefighter and EMT. As a dedicated Monmouth PAL supporter, Sheriff Golden allocates much of his time guiding Monmouth youth.



Lieutenant Damon Ballard, our October Alumni of the Month, has shown growth and dedication to shaping Cobb County PAL youth. Inspired by his PAL mentors, Lieutenant Ballard sought a career in Law Enforcement and has served as a police officer for over 20 years. Since initially volunteering in the Chapters midnight basketball program three years ago, he has taken the initiative to create a year-round martial arts program where he serves as an instructor. He also volunteers within the Chapters boxing program and assisted in the coordination of Cobb County’s 2019 “Smoke ‘n’ Guns” Police versus Firefighter Charity Boxing event.

Volunteer of the month, **Patrick Brown**, has dutifully served Fort Worth PAL for 38 years. Brown is currently serving as the Commissioner of Fort Worth Police Athletic League Flag Football and also coordinates the After Dark Code Blue Basketball games. For the past two years, Brown has also served on the Board of Commissioners where he oversees 500 youth, 40 volunteers and over 10 mentors. Understanding the need in his community, he created the “Understanding The Needs In Today’s Youth” program in which youth are guided to bloom into well-rounded citizens.



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About The National Association of Police Athletics/Activities League, Inc. (National PAL)

National PAL exists to prevent juvenile crime and violence by providing civic, athletic, recreational, mentoring and educational opportunities and resources to all National PAL Member Chapters. National PAL builds bridges between kids, cops, and the community, fostering a positive environment across the country. As a membership organization, National PAL provides local Chapters with training, resources, and opportunities to create a new program to improve upon and enhance the quality of existing programs and to increase opportunities in their community.