

<b>WINNEBAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE NEWS MEDIA RELEASE</b>		<b>NEWS RELEASE NUMBER 2017-019</b>
<b>INFORMATION: TWO WINNEBAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES HONORED</b>		
<b>DATE: 03/22/2017</b>	<b>TIME: 1100 HOURS</b>	<b>PAGE 1 OF 1</b>

**THE VILLAGE OF MACHESNEY PARK BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND VILLAGE PRESIDENT JERRY BOLIN PRESENTED MEDALS OF VALOR TO WINNEBAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES MICHAEL GRUNINGER AND ANTHONY SAVAIANO ON MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2017.**

**THE DEPUTIES WERE HONORED FOR THEIR RESPONSE TO A HOME INVASION AT 1028 MINNS DRIVE IN MACHESNEY PARK ON DECEMBER 28, 2016. UPON ARRIVAL, THE DEPUTIES CONFRONTED AN ARMED MALE WHO POINTED A GUN AT THEM. AS A RESULT, THE DEPUTIES USED DEADLY FORCE TO SUBDUE THE ARMED MALE SUSPECT, LATER IDENTIFIED AS 36 YEAR OLD MICHAEL MERNACK. MR. MERNACK RECOVERED FROM HIS INJURIES AND HAS SINCE BEEN CHARGED WITH THE MURDER OF 16 YEAR OLD REBECCA FINKENHOFER AND THE ATTEMPTED FIRST DEGREE MURDER OF FINKENHOFER'S GRANDMOTHER, 63 YEAR OLD CHERYL PUCKETT. MICHAEL MERNACK IS PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY IN A COURT OF LAW.**

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY SHERIFF GARY CARUANA SAYS " MY CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF THE VICTIMS. I AM PROUD OF MY DEPUTIES FOR HANDLING THIS HORRIBLE INCIDENT WITH PROFESSIONALISM AND BRAVERY."**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>: SHERIFF</li> <li>: CHIEF DEPUTY</li> <li>: DEPUTY CHIEF OF DETECTIVE BUREAU</li> <li>: DEPUTY CHIEF OF PATROL BUREAU</li> <li>: DEPUTY CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU</li> <li>: DEPUTY CHIEF OF SUPPORT SERVICES</li> <li>: SUPERINTENDENT OF CORRECTIONS</li> <li>: ACCREDITATION MANAGER</li> <li>: MACHESNEY PARK SECTION SUPERVISOR</li> <li>: FOREST PRESERVE SECTION SUPERVISOR</li> <li>: ESDA SECTION DIRECTOR</li> <li>: PATROL ROLL CALL BOOK</li> <li>: PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER</li> <li>: 1ST FLOOR BULLETIN BOARD</li> <li>: WEB SITE COORDINATOR</li> </ul> <p><small>S/A-32C REVISED 07/01/12</small></p>	<hr/> <b>SHERIFF GARY CARUANA</b> <hr/> <b>SUPERVISOR AUTHORIZING RELEASE</b>  DATE: 03 / 22 / 17    TIME: 1100 HOURS
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