Thomas named Pax River’s Police Officer of Year

By Donna Cipolloni
NAS Patuxent River Public Affairs

Patrolman 1st Class Emelie Thomas, a nine-year veteran of the NAS Patuxent River Police Department, was recognized as Pax River’s Officer of the Year at the Law Enforcement Appreciation Day luncheon and ceremony May 14 in Callaway, Maryland.

Ten police officers from various agencies received citations from the Office of the Governor as well as recognition from the Maryland Senate and House of Delegates, Commissioners of St. Mary’s County, St. Mary’s County Department of Aging and Human Services, and Triad/SAL T (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together.)

“PFC Thomas is a ‘go to’ officer and is consistently relied upon to assist fellow officers or serve as a subject matter expert to support the mission, most recently assisting field training officers with their recruits in the area of traffic stops and issuing citations,” said John Romer, Pax River police chief. “With her expertise and knowledge, she’s been trusted to handle a variety of calls and special assignments with no supervision, and has received accolades from command staff on her performance.”

Continuously conducting security checks on buildings and residences aboard the installation, Thomas has discovered numerous security infractions that have been used to educate the responsible parties on how to effectively safeguard government property.

“I come from a long line of blue-collar workers and first responders and it makes me proud to keep the legacy going in my family,” Thomas said. “I love being a police officer because I want to make a difference in the department and to as many people as I can reach.”

Thomas, who says she enjoys working at Pax River because she loves the location, the people and the food, hopes the recognition is a teaching moment for her young son.

“It means the world to me [to have received the award], I achieved it a year early.”

Other officers recognized for their efforts came from the St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office, State Fire Marshall, St. Mary’s College of Maryland, Office of the State’s Attorney, Maryland State Police, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and U.S. Coast Guard Boatswain’s Mate 2nd Class Thomas Madden from USCG Station St. Inigoes.

Pax River, Solomons swimming pools open with a splash

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Memorial Day weekend is the unofficial beginning of summer, and the newly renovated outdoor aquatic centers at both NAS Patuxent River and Naval Recreation Center Solomons are ready to welcome guests and get the season started.

Pax River Aquatic Center

Closed last year for repairs, the outdoor pool at Pax River will throw open its gates from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 25, with a Grand Opening celebration that includes prize drawings, games, a dunk booth – and free admission.

“Extensive work was done on the pipes and the entire pool has had a new liner installed,” said Heather Macquilliam, Pax aquatics manager. “The slide was refinished, we have new furniture, and the bottom of the baby pool was refinished also. And other smaller general improvements were done that have improved the entire area.”

NRC Solomons Riverside Aquatics

Boasting a huge renovation and upgrade, Riverside Aquatics at NRC Solomons features a newly installed state-of-the-art filtration and chemical system; three main pools with all new plaster and siding; a new poured concrete deck and tiles; and new LED pool lights with 15 color options.

“There’s also an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) lift in the middle pool as well as an ADA-compliant permanent staircase built in to assist those patrons who need help with access,” said Carrie Jay, installation site director. “We also have a transitioning ADA ramp that takes you from the pool area to the Snack Shack.”

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“I gave myself a five-year goal to become officer of the year and I achieved it a year early.”

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Renovations at both the NAS Patuxent River Aquatics Center and the NRC Solomons Riverside Aquatic Center offer new and improved entertainment this summer.