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Officer Kasey Martin possesses many of the same traits of the namesake of the award he earned.

Martin, an almost-five year veteran of the Burleson Police Department did not know Ofelia Blair, the criminal investigations division clerk who died in the spring of 2003 after a battle with cancer. Martin was one of two officers nominated for the Ofelia Blair Outstanding Character Award that was presented at the annual police banquet Feb. 17.

“Officer Martin displays all of the character traits that make for an exemplary employee and leader within the community,” Sgt. Darin Pool said in his nomination letter. “Having personally worked with Ofelia Blair for many years, I found her to be hard working, honest, attentive to detail, and most importantly, an unwavering friend.”

The sergeant described the patrol officer as “consistent and level headed” and “an example for other officers within the department. He is kind hearted and willing to assist any officer or citizen who needs him. He consistently displays an open-minded, Christian attitude in all of his dealings.”

Martin was hired by the Burleson Police Department in April 2006. He serves with the department’s bicycle patrol. The Mansfield native earned an honorable discharge from the United States Air Force where he spent six years on active duty in the Security Forces.

Martin has a selfless work ethic.

“He is always willing to help out the department by working odd schedules and covering for other shifts,” the sergeant said. “He is consistent and conscientious in his work and rarely complains about anything. He is determined to prove himself and his abilities and is ambitious in his quest for additional training and knowledge.”

The Ofelia Blair award winner volunteers as an Upwards basketball coach to help guide young children through the principles of competition, fair play and honest Christian values. That fits with the officer who describes himself as “a Christian who loves my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Martin has been married for 10 years and has an 8-year-old daughter and a 6-year-old son.