

March 15, 2012

Sally Ellertson
Public Information Officer
141 West Renfro
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261
817-426-9622
F: 817-426-9390
sellertson@burlesontx.com
www.burlesontx.com

In 2010, Officer Chaz Garrett was tapped as Rookie of the Year for his work in 2009. In 2012, the officer was on the stage again at the Burleson Police Department's annual awards banquet but this time it was to be recognized as the department's Officer of the Year.

"This is a very humbling and flattering experience," Officer Garrett said. "For your peers to nominate you for such an honor feels great."

Garrett was hired by Burleson in March 2009. His prior law enforcement experience included 11 months as a reserve deputy for the Johnson County Sheriff's Office. His great-grandfather was a Johnson County sheriff's deputy in the 1930s.

The 30-year-old Cleburne native said he has "always been a go-getter. I've never known how to do things just half way."

According to the nomination letter, Garrett's statistics are "among the top when compared to other officers. He is very active in completing close patrols and neighborhood patrols and he investigates every call and makes the proper determination of what course of action needs to be taken. He is also known as an officer who is always willing to help when help is needed."

One way that the award winner helps the community is working with the department's Police Explorers post and "taking extra time to work with the young people involved to create a positive influence on them," according to the nomination.

Garrett was an Explorer crew leader in high school. "Though it wasn't a law enforcement program, I learned great life and leadership skills from advisor Allen Reed," Garrett said.

According to the nomination letter, Garrett "is often the one who helps energize the shift and keeps the morale high. He is enthusiastic and enjoys being a police officer. His attitude and willingness to help out makes the entire shift run smoother. The entire police department and community benefits."

The Officer of the Year enjoys duck hunting and is an avid bass fisherman.