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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL PAL ANNOUNCES MARCH 2020 INSPIRATIONAL AWARD HONOREES

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

Charlotte, NC- The National Association of Police Athletic/Activities Leagues, Inc. (National PAL) is pleased to announce the March 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.



Luis Navarro, our March Youth of the Month, is a born and raised Waterbury Police Athletic League (WPAL) participant. As a teen, he accepted employment in Waterbury’s River Brigade and Shovel Brigade program where he removed blighted debris around his community and assisted the elderly in shoveling snow from around their homes. Narvarro has also managed to balance community service projects (including holiday toy drives, serving food the homeless, and assisting with the PAL Special Olympics) with maintaining an A/B honor roll status, working, and playing on both his high school basketball and football teams. Recently, he has been awarded the Blessed Sacrament School “George Smith Award ” for his work ethic and leadership qualities. Luis plans to enroll in higher education to become an auto mechanic and is known at WPAL as a fantastic role model for younger youths.

The Law Enforcement Officer of the Month is a 16-year PAL veteran, **Officer Gary Lewis**. Lewis impacts youths’ lives through various programs according to their needs. Within the Richmond (RPAL) Explorer Post, Lewis serves as a law enforcement career mentor to youth interest in joining the force. Within the RPAL Diversion program, he works with juvenile first-time offenders and guides them to keep their lives on the right track by encouraging better life choices, eliminating arrest records, and avoiding prosecution. Additionally, he organizes basketball camps where he teaches essential life values like determination, respect, and discipline. Most notably, Officer Lewis created the “Straight A’s Program” where he provides college tours as an incentive for youth to improve their grades and behaviors. Because of his extensive and genuine connection to his community, youth have refrained from calling Officer Lewis “5-0”, and now refers to “Dad”.



Volunteer of the month, **Adam Rowe**, is Placer County Sheriff’s Activities Leagues volunteer that has served as the lead volunteer for their after-school program. For the last two years, he has dedicated himself as a mentor to 20 youth under their NPAL Mentorship Program. Three times a week, he meets with youth 8-16 years of age and discusses topics from anti-bullying to youth empowerment. Not only has he been a reliable mentor, but he has also helped organize two fundraising events totaling \$20,000 per year.



Adam Jensen, our Alumni of the month, was an active explorer post participant at the Moorhead Police Department which sparked his passion for a law enforcement career. For the last five years as an alumnus, he has assumed the lead adviser position for Moorhead Police Athletic League to give back to the very PAL that inspired him. Within his role, he not only runs the program by organizing training, managing equipment, and budgetary matters, but he also spends quality mentoring youth. Every week, he meets with his mentees to educate them on law enforcement career paths, discuss personal issues and serve as a role model.



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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.