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## NATIONAL PAL ANNOUNCES MARCH INSPIRATIONAL AWARD HONOREES

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

**Charlotte, NC** – The National Association of Police Athletic/Activities Leagues, Inc. (National PAL) is pleased to announce the March 2019 recipients of its Law Enforcement Officer, Youth, and Alumni of the Month awards. Through these awards, National PAL recognizes individuals in the PAL network who inspire their PAL colleagues and friends, and are steadfast in their service to their communities.

Suffolk County Police **Officer Edward Groce** a 16 year veteran and our Law Enforcement Officer for the Month of March. He joined the PAL Unit in 2012 where he substantially increased community programs throughout the Town of Islip. Officer Groce revived programs including track, lacrosse, karate, football, and baseball and created a summer basketball program. He also helped existing programs see growth in the number of participants.



**Betty Arnold**, our March Youth of the Month, is a learner, leader and known as a “fine young lady”. Arnold joined the Palatka PAL (PPAL) in 2017 and was elected as the President of the Youth Development Program (YDC). You can always find her encouraging others to join PPAL and get involved in positive activities in our community. As Arnold prepares to graduate Summa Cum Laude in May of 2019, she currently has a 4.77-grade point average and 395 community service hours.

The March Alumni of the Month is **Mayte Alonso** of Oxnard PAL. Alonso joined Oxnard PAL’s YDC program when she was 11 years old serving as YDC President for two years, and as a member of the CAL PAL youth board of directors for four years. She has carried that devotion beyond her YDC involvement volunteering for the Washington Lawyers Committee as a Worker’s Rights Assistant Clinic Coordinator, interned for Congresswoman Julia Brownley’s 2016 campaign, and served as Vice Chair in the City of Oxnard’s Youth Commission. Her journey, from where she started, to attending Georgetown University is a manifestation of her commitment to assisting at-risk youth in Oxnard and not only bettering her own life but bettering the lives of those in underserved communities.



Program Coordinator **Kerri Henderson** has been employed with the Flagler Sheriff’s Police Athletic League for over two years but has been involved in volunteering on her own time to make a thriving mentoring program serving over sixty elementary age children. Henderson has applied for and obtained the McGruff grant funding through National PAL. She recently spent her morning dancing and playing with the elementary school kids as a fun way to bridge the relationship between law enforcement and school children

*“We are excited to highlight those who are enhancing and impacting both our communities’ youth and community based PAL programs across the country,”* said Jeff Hood, CEO of National PAL. *“We look forward to acknowledging more of our future inspirational awardees who are making a difference all across this Country.”*

National PAL accepts nominations for the Inspirational Awards honoring law enforcement, volunteers Alumni, and youth on a monthly basis. For more information on these awards or to submit a nomination, please visit [www.nationalpal.org](http://www.nationalpal.org).

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### **About The National Association of Police Athletics/Activities Leagues, 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 PAL Member Chapters. National PAL builds bridges between kids, cops, and the community, fostering a positive environment across the country. As a membership organization, the National PAL provides local Chapters with training, resources, and opportunities to create new programs, to improve upon and enhance the quality of existing programs and to increase opportunities in their community.