



KLAMATH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Chris Kaber

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Media Release

Date: December 18, 2020

Re: Oregon State Sheriff's Association Award – Diver Lynn Mortenson

Contact: Brandon Fowler – PIO / Emergency Manager
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On December 16, 2020 Klamath County Sheriff Chris Kaber & Klamath County Commissioner Derrick DeGroot presented Oregon State Sheriff's Association Distinguished Service Award to Klamath County Sheriff's Office Dive Rescue Diver Lynn Mortenson.

On December 23, 2019, the Klamath County Major Crime Team was investigating a missing person case believed to have actually been a homicide. The homicide would have occurred weeks prior and the investigation determined a possible location of the victim's body in a pond of water in Klamath County. The Klamath County Sheriff's Office Dive Rescue Team was activated and Dive Rescue Diver Lynn Mortenson responded.

According to investigators at the scene, Diver Mortenson entered the small body of stagnant water in freezing weather, during the hours of darkness, knowing there was a strong likelihood a body had been in that water for weeks. Diver Mortenson performed the assignment in an exemplary fashion, recovering the victim's body from the pond which confirmed the death of Pedro Padilla and allowed the Major Crime Team to move forward with the investigation without further delay.

In addition to the above service to the community, Diver Mortenson returned the following morning and continued the search for corroborating evidence to aid in the investigation. Oregon State Police Detective Thomas Andreazzi advised, "I observed Ms. Mortenson enter the frozen pond to complete her assignment. Ms. Mortenson was faced with breaking ice, and fighting through shallow waters and thick mud, creating difficult swimming circumstances. Ms. Mortenson's dedication to her job was highly impressive as she continued to dive with no complaints, until she located more evidence associated with the homicide."



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(L to R) SAR Commander LT Brian Bryson, Sheriff Chris Kaber, Diver Lynn Mortenson, Commissioner Derrick DeGroot
Photo Credit – Chuck Collins
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