

REMARKS OF
CRAWFORD C. MARTIN, ATTORNEY GENERAL
18TH ANNUAL ATTORNEY GENERAL'S
LAW ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE
PRESENTATION OF POLICE CERTIFICATION
SEPTEMBER 20, 1968

We come now to one of the high points of this Law Enforcement Conference, a moment of pride for all Texans ... a moment in the history of Texas.

It's a moment that I want to share with all of you, especially. You who are so vitally concerned with the problems of law enforcement ... and who share with me a feeling of intense pride, and great appreciation, that Texas has come a long way, in a short time, toward improving the training and education of its law enforcement officers.

All of you know of the work of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education--and I'd like to especially recognize a member of my staff who has played an important role in that Commission Mr. Nola White, my First Assistant and Chief of the Crime Prevention Division.

The efforts of this Commission ... and the law officers themselves ... have resulted in setting up a program for certifying that police officers have met a high standard of admission, education and training. It has been a voluntary program, and I believe that this lends extra honor to those who achieve certification.

And now, it is my honor to present the first certification awarded by the Commission ... it goes to a young man, a member of the Victoria Police Department who served with the Marines in Vietnam before becoming a police officer.

He is Officer Johnny Frank Baylor, who has recently been promoted to Public Safety Technician, City Police Department, City of Victoria--and I know, Officer Baylor, that your wife and child are as proud of you tonight as we are.

I would congratulate you for meeting these first standards in Texas on police training and education. I would congratulate you for the quality of your personal achievement.

I would also congratulate you as a symbol ... for the outstanding law enforcement officers of this state who have long sought a program of certification and who are now working to meet the requirements for certification which have been laid down by the Commission.

I would also like to congratulate and recognize your Chief-Director of Police, John L. Guseman, of the Victoria Police Department for having the first police department in the State of Texas in which every single officer has submitted his application for certification.

When I looked at Director Guseman's outstanding record as a law enforcement officer, I understood his outstanding leadership of the Victoria Department.

Director Guseman has served with the Kansas City, Missouri, Police Department; with the San Antonio Police Department, the U. S. Prison System, the Weslaco Police Department, the Bexar County Juvenile Department, and as Chief of Police for both Harlingen and Bryan.

I am proud of Director Guseman, and Officer Baylor, and the entire Victoria Police Department. I am proud of ALL the police departments of Texas that are working to attain their standard of education and training.

I look forward to the day when Texas history will note--NOT that the FIRST policeman, or the FIRST department, was certified--but that ALL Texas law officers have reached that standard.

That day will come, my friends.

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Source: 1968 Victoria Police Department Annual Report