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**SHERIFF LOU VALLARIO  
GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO**

## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

September 7, 2010

### Sheriff's Staff Presents Leader with Surprise Recognition

**GARFIELD COUNTY, Colo.** – At a recent gathering in the Garfield County Sheriff's Office in Glenwood Springs, staff members representing a large cross-section of the patrol, detentions and administrative divisions packed into the large training room for an unsolicited event. The individual for whom the occasion was planned was still unaware and down the hall handling the various issues that cross his desk on a daily basis.

When asked to attend an impromptu meeting that needed his attention, Sheriff Lou Vallario entered the room to his surprise and to the applause of fellow workers. The event was not about issues or politics; it was to convey due appreciation to the Sheriff for his leadership in protecting those who inhabit a 3,000 square mile area.

Members presented Sheriff Vallario with "The 2010 High Caliber Award" for his "outstanding leadership and possessing the highest caliber of standards." The presentation included a wooden plaque labeled with the award's title and an affixed .50 caliber bullet – a round of ammunition carefully engineered to deliver a precise impact at the center of its intended destination.

Accompanying the plaque was a framed certificate stating:

*The Garfield County Sheriff's Office Staff presents this award to Sheriff Lou Vallario for his distinguished service as a forthright leader and professional law enforcement role model.*

*Sheriff Vallario's impact to accomplishing the mission is always of the highest caliber. He leads from the front, supports from behind and walks shoulder to shoulder with those sworn to protect and serve the citizens of Garfield County, Colorado. The distinctive Leadership and Accomplishments of Sheriff Vallario reflect great credit upon himself and the entire Garfield County Sheriff's Office.*

The idea to openly recognize the Sheriff for his positive impact and easy accessibility by his personnel arose from reports, quips and exterior views that he is "arrogant and unapproachable," and that this feeling was the average consensus among the employees. The award's true purpose was to personally show Sheriff Lou Vallario that nothing could be further from the truth.

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