

**Law Enforcement Officer of the Year  
Washington Association of  
January 16, 2015 (as prepared)**

Thank you Craig (Bulkley, president of WACOPS).

Sheriff (Ty) Trenary, members of the Washington Council of Police and Sheriffs, it is my great honor to be here to help you present this award to Snohomish County Deputy Glen Bergstrom.

I cannot imagine how hard it must have been for the Awards Board to choose a hero among heroes. There are so many who came to the aid of the victims of the catastrophic SR 530 landslide on that drizzly Saturday morning, and in the days and weeks that followed. To be singled out among them is indeed a high honor.

It is a tribute to Deputy Bergstrom that Sheriff Trenary and a large group of his peers from the Snohomish County Sheriff's Department are here to honor him. Please stand if you are one of the men and women who serve with Deputy Bergstrom. Today is also a day to honor the members of five families who lost their loved ones as a result of the landslide. Please also stand if you are among those. We are also very fortunate to have with us Deputy Bergstrom's wife Barbara and his parents, Glen and Lita, as well as many other members of his family and extended family. Please stand if you are a family member. Thank you, you may be seated. We appreciate your show of support for your colleagues, your neighbors, your family members and your friend.

What most of us heard in breaking bits and pieces over the news that morning, Deputy Bergstrom knew almost immediately from a call from his wife, Barbara, that this could be a tragedy beyond description.

Following my remarks you will hear the details of his actions read from his nomination. After reading it myself, I agree that Deputy Bergstrom is highly deserving of the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award. In times like this a law enforcement officer needs to rely heavily on both instinct and professional training. Deputy Bergstrom's quick actions constituted both. He also had the tactical advantage of being raised in the area and living within a quarter mile of the slide zone, meaning he knew the area very well.

Being here to present this award brings my involvement to the SR 530 tragedy to full circle. In my role as lieutenant governor since the governor was out of state, I signed the emergency order that designated state emergency series, including the National Guard and the State Guard, to respond. So for me, being able to stand here and help honor someone who was so intensely and directly involved makes this even more meaningful.

As you recall, initial reports had more than 100 people were missing as the result of the SR 530 catastrophic landslide. In fact it took several days to sort out who was missing and who was lost. While we are incredibly sad for those who lost their lives, we were also thankful that the loss was not nearly that of what we feared early on.

The only good to be found in the tragedy was when the whole state came together – volunteering massive amounts of time, money and resources. I know the citizens of Snohomish County really

appreciated this outpouring of care, concern and assistance. It shows that we can really come together in times of urgent need.

The state was in full emergency operations mode to support Snohomish County emergency management. For a few weeks Oso, Darrington, Arlington, Marysville and all of Snohomish County were in the national and international spotlight with members of the news media reporting events as soon as they developed.

Yet Deputy Bergstrom wasn't anywhere near the media. He was right there in the epicenter of the disaster, the entire time. He quietly worked long days and into the evening to perform his duties, to help families and coordinate on-the-ground support. He did it not for fame or reward, but for the love of his community and his dedication to his job.

Deputy Glen Bergstrom, presenting you with this award as Law Enforcement Officer of the Year can only be a small token of public appreciation. We thank you for your service, and thank your wife and family too for their support of you and the community during this all-consuming tragedy.

We salute you, and we are very proud of you. You are an exemplary model of solid professionalism to your peers and a man who deserves the respect and admiration of your community, your state and your nation. Thank you.