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Sergeant
Brian
Burzynski
Honored



Sergeant Brian Burzynski

by Captain Barry Caver,
Company E-Midland

In recognition of his outstanding and significant contributions to the accomplishment of the Texas Ranger Division's mission of conducting criminal and public integrity investigations and the protection of life and property in Texas.

Sergeant Burzynski's thorough investigation techniques and his determined perseverance in seeking prosecutorial action against the sexual predators responsible for this abuse undoubtedly played a significant role in a comprehensive investigation being conducted at each of the Texas Youth Commission facilities in the state.

Sergeant Burzynski's initiative, diligence, and commitment to pursuing prosecution against high-ranking members of a state agency responsible for offenses against juvenile inmates reflects the high moral standards the public has come to admire and respect from officers of the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Texas Ranger Division.



These well-deserved words of praise were delivered by Colonel Tommy Davis, Texas Department of Public Safety Director, on September 1, 2007. The person honored was a Fort Stockton Ranger, Sergeant Brian Burzynski.

The citation is the result of Ranger Burzynski's investigation of the West Texas State School, a maximum-security, all-male correction facility for juveniles in the city of Pyote. In February 2005, a troubled math teacher who volunteered at the institution contacted Ranger Burzynski with a disturbing story. The teacher revealed that several of his students had come to him saying that the assistant superintendent was having sex with many of the young inmates.

Ranger Burzynski immediately went to work. During the next two months, he conducted or was present during 44 witness statements. He also interviewed 74 of the prisoners and secured 354 pieces of physical evidence. By July 2005, Ranger Burzynski had identified 3 prison employees suspected of having sexual contact with incarcerated inmates.

Gathering his findings, Sergeant Burzynski presented his conclusions and evidence to the Ward County district attorney for prosecution. For almost a year and a half, Ranger Burzynski continued to gather proof while the district attorney decided what to do. Frustrated with so little action, Burzynski talked with the Texas attorney general's office in November 2006 and was able to generate enough attention to proceed with the prosecution of the sexual predators.

As public awareness of the lack of prosecution grew, the Texas State Legislature wanted to know why the original three suspects presented to the Ward County District Attorney had never been prosecuted. Sergeant Burzynski was asked to present testimony before a joint oversight committee regarding his investigation at the Pyote facility. The Ranger's testimony was so compelling and forceful that the committee and those attending the hearing gave him a standing ovation.

Ranger Burzynski certainly kicked open a Pandora's box. As of this writing, the Texas attorney general has assigned a special prosecutor and several investigators to assist Ranger Burzynski in bringing these sexual fiends to justice. Board members and several key administrators of the Texas Youth Commission have resigned, and investigations are ongoing as to whether several of the TYC's officials may have tampered with government records.

Sergeant Burzynski's investigations were also the catalyst for a complete statewide review of the Texas Youth Commission's common methods of intimidation, sexual assault, and sanctioned oppression. In addition, the TYC has instituted its own investigation team.

"This is why we have Texas Rangers"

- Senator John Whitmire

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum and the *Texas Ranger Dispatch* proudly endorse Senator Whitmire's words.