

2006 George Almond Officer of the Year Named

Photography By Sherrie Byrd

The Cary Chapter of the N.C. Police Benevolent Foundation awarded Detective Jim Grier with the 2006 George Almond Officer of the Year award during a banquet at the Embassy Suites in Cary on Feb. 17.

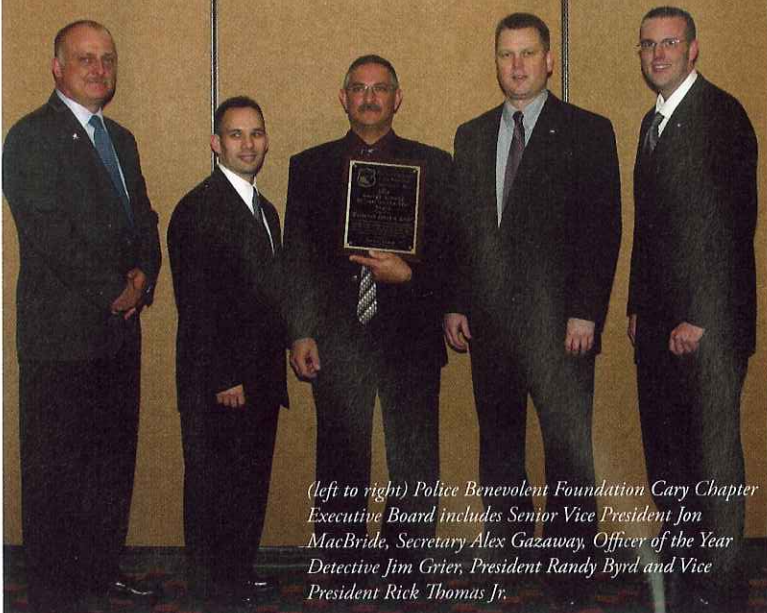
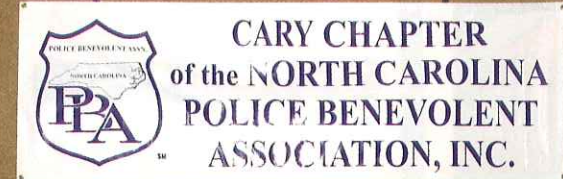
More than 200 people attended the event to support the nominees for an award in honor of retired Detective George Almond. Almond was shot in the line of duty in October 2001 and returned as a detective in juvenile investigations before retiring in August 2004. Grier was selected from a group of five finalists including Sheri Abraham, Wyatt Crabtree, Brian Smith and Jim Young.

Grier was nominated by his commander, Capt. Dave Wulff of the Cary Police, because of his Life Program (Re-Directing Youth Toward a Crime Free Future) where youth ages 12-17 are recommended

the NORTH CAROLINA
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George and Pam Almond



(left to right) Police Benevolent Foundation Cary Chapter Executive Board includes Senior Vice President Jon MacBride, Secretary Alex Gazaway, Officer of the Year Detective Jim Grier, President Randy Byrd and Vice President Rick Thomas Jr.

to the program by officers, schools, families and friends and given a taste of what life in prison is like. Forty out of 44 youth have found success from attending the program.

"This speaks volumes to the effort put into the development of the program and the dedication Detective Grier has to the community," according to Capt. Wulff.

Banquet attendees enjoyed dinner and live music by a jazz ensemble. The Cary Police Department Honor Guard presented the colors and 8-year-old Katherine Fritsch sang the national anthem.

Cary Chapter President Randy Byrd introduced John Bachman, with WRAL-TV, as the master of ceremonies. Wake County Clerk of Court Lorrin Freeman was the featured speaker. Freeman, who is a former prosecutor and assistant attorney general for the state, gave a heartfelt speech about the community's commitment to law enforcement and George Almond's dedication to public service.

"I can think of no one better for this award to be named after than George Almond," she said. "He embodies those highest aspirations that we as citizens have for our law enforcement ... to be brave and selfless, to act with integrity and to be committed to serving the public."

For more information, visit www.ncpba.org/carychapter.htm.



Katherine Fritsch sings the National Anthem with the Cary Police Honor Guard.