OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

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Wayne Rausch
Sheriff

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Media/Press Release

To: All media/press outlets
From: Jennifer L. McFarland
Public Information Officer
CC: File
Date: 1/27/2005
RE: Retirement Presentation for Norm Van Ness

Latah County Sheriff Wayne Rausch was honored today to present Norman Van Ness with his service weapon as a token of appreciation of twenty-five years of dedicated service to the Latah County Sheriff's Office. Van Ness started at Latah County in 1975 when he moved here from California to raise his three young children with his wife Felicia. Van Ness retired in 2001 but was not presented with his weapon at that time. Idaho Code §31-830 allows Sheriffs to present deputies with their service weapon when they retire under statutory requirements.

Several Sheriff's Office employees and Felicia Van Ness were on-hand for the emotional event. Norm Van Ness joined the Latah County Sheriff's Office under Sheriff Ed Pierson as a jail deputy. In time, Van Ness earned Jail Commander status, road deputy status, and retired as a Sergeant. He served under Sheriffs Pierson, Goetz, Odenborg, Buxton, Overstreet, and Crouch. Many deputies still working at the Sheriff's Office remember Van Ness most fondly in his role as firearms instructor and for his annual bonfire hotdog feeds. Van Ness commented that the Latah County Sheriff's Office was a "second home" to him and that coming here today for the celebration was like visiting family. From the response of the employees present, it was clearly a welcome coming home.