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## **Chief Martin Kendzora** St. Clairsville Police Department

### *Distinguished Law Enforcement Lifetime Achievement Award*

Martin J. Kendzora was not only known for being a fair and honest leader during his 38 years as chief of the St. Clairsville Police Department, but as a person who truly loves his community. He retired in 2013 after serving the department for more than 49 years. Chief Kendzora was a founding member of the Belmont County Drug Task Force, through which he collaborated with other law enforcement agencies and helped find funding to combat the local drug problem.

His dedication and respect for his badge earned him the honor of Belmont County Police Chief of the Year in 2005, the year the award was instituted. "He knew the town and all of its citizens so well that he had an army of sources and information when criminal conduct occurred," said U.S. District Judge Edmund A. Sargus Jr., one of his 11 nominators. "His ethics, his commitment, and his habits have been embedded in the department he led so well for so many years."

Chief Kendzora's influence reached well beyond the local criminal justice community. Whether he was conducting a safety lesson at a local nursery school, coaching little league baseball, or guiding teenagers from ways of crime to becoming responsible, law-abiding citizens, he was always a visible and positive presence in the community. In fact, colleagues say it was common for those he helped to revisit the department years later and reminisce about the impact he had on their lives.