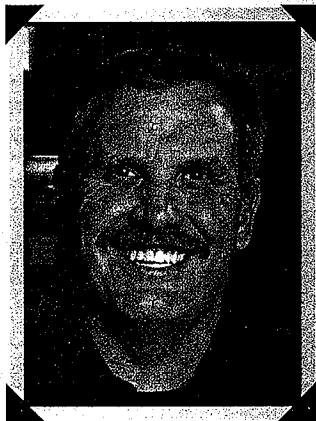


CELEBRATING

HEROES

2007 HEALTH-CARE HEROES



Greg Malsam



Karen Cody Carlson



Dr. Charles Jones



Betty Trueblood-Smith



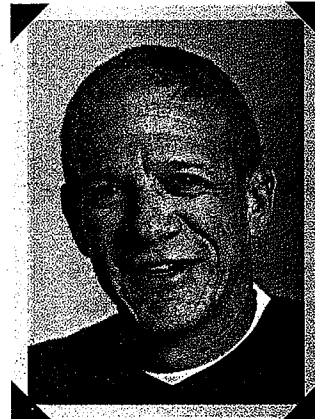
Dr. William Wright



Penny Myers



Chris Lindberg



Dr. Todd Dorfman

Malsam dedicated to creating healthy relationships

Longmont policeman educates doctors on spotting domestic abuse

BY SUZAN K. HEGLIN
Business Report Correspondent

LONGMONT — Policeman Greg Malsam has spent the better part of 10 years educating the health-care community that domestic violence is a health-care issue.



Community
Service Award

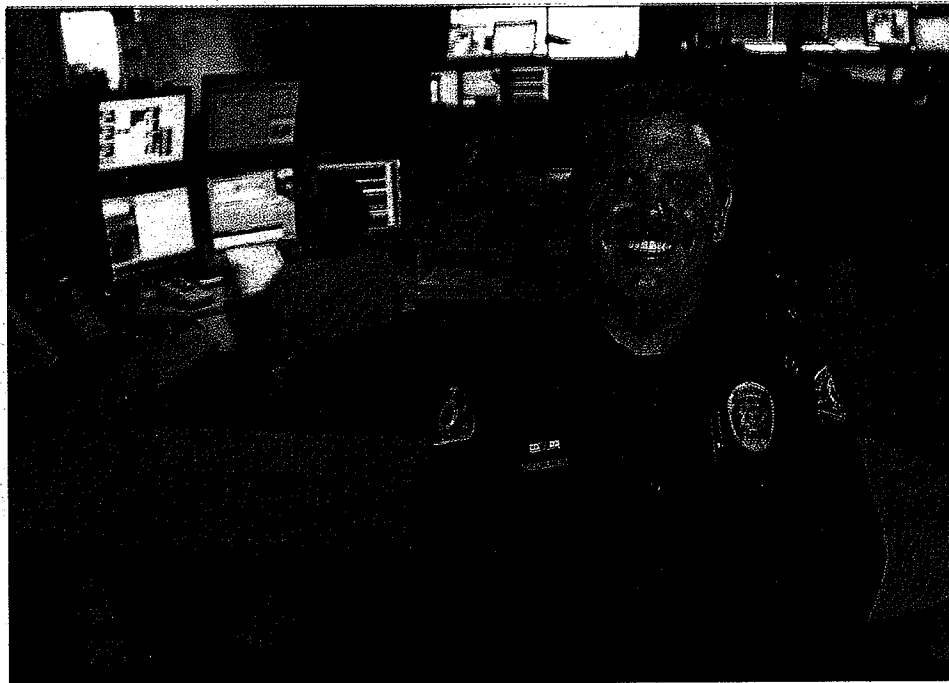
Victims of domestic abuse often show up in emergency rooms and tell doctors their injuries were caused accidentally when in reality they were the result of domestic violence.

Malsam heads up the Longmont Police Department's Domestic Violence Unit, and from 1997 to 2004 he was its only officer.

He works with doctors and first responders to identify injuries that may have been caused by domestic violence so these cases can be prosecuted with the hope victims won't be making return trips to the ER.

This approach has earned Malsam a Health-Care Heroes award in the Community Service category from the Boulder County Business Report.

A common injury seen is created by strangulation. It



JONATHAN CASTNER

Greg Malsam, a police officer and head of the Longmont Police Department's Domestic Violence Unit, helps doctors and first responders to identify injuries caused by domestic violence and how to report the incidences.

leaves specific telltale marks on the throat. While about 10 percent of violent deaths per year are due to strangulation, according to New York's Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, little known is that death can occur not only at the time of the incident but days later.

Malsam took it as his personal mission to educate first responders about strangulation.

He attributes a lot of what has happened in the law enforcement field pertaining to domestic violence

➤ See **Malsam, 7C**

MALSAM from 3C

in Boulder County to Kathy Delgado, now a district court judge with Adams County. When the two first met in the early 1990s Delgado was a chief deputy district attorney in Boulder County. She was giving lectures about the costs of domestic violence. People do die. People do get hurt. There are costs to the business community. "Kathy personalized that for me," Malsam said.

Delgado has been impressed with Malsam's passion and commitment and his efforts to solicit health-care providers to help prosecute cases.

"He just took off in terms of just wanting to do everything he could possibly do to make these cases prosecutable," Delgado said. "He's the best. What can I say?"

“You (Greg Malsam) have helped me gain strength, self-love and a desire to live. I will always be grateful to you!”

Elizabeth

VICTIM OF LIFE-THREATENING
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Delgado pushed for a domestic violence unit. It's a job many officers wouldn't want. Investigations can be lengthy, and a large number of victims will recant. Getting involved can be sticky.

Malsam accepted the challenge.

Domestic violence is one of the most underreported crimes second only to rape. It is estimated to be reported only 18 percent of the time. Domestic violence can be physical, emotional or mental. "Arguing isn't illegal in Colorado," Malsam said, but if he sees evidence of physical abuse, coercion, control, intimidation, punishment or revenge he is required to make an arrest.

One of Malsam's strengths is his ability to talk to agitated people. One night he was in a house talking to the wife of a despondent man when the man suddenly appeared. "He brings that gun into my face, and I thought, 'good night, sweet prince.'" Malsam's gun was holstered, but his tongue wasn't. He talked the man down.

He also uses his gift of gab to educate. Through the Longmont Ending Violence Initiative he teaches there are other ways to deal with people other than hurting them. He speaks at schools and community events.

Malsam has gained attention for his energy in educating other officers, firefighters and paramedics about strangulation, that the hyoid bone, at the top of the larynx, can be broken, showing no immediate effects, but can result in suffocation within 36 hours from windpipe swelling. He teaches the responders to look down the throat, listen for raspy breathing and shortness

of breath, difficulty swallowing and seeing stars.

This is not Malsam's first honor. For instance, he was the first recipient of the Beth Hayes award. His accolades could land him a job with a bigger title or more money, but he's more interested in keeping the schedule and quality of life he has now. "One thing I learned in the Marine Corps is loyalty. I'm fiercely loyal. I have no plans to leave Longmont."

Malsam worked on one case for more than a year. The woman, who we'll call Elizabeth, had multiple life-threatening assaults in an abusive relationship. While printing the details might

endanger the victim, it can be said it took much time and distance to get her to a safe place. Malsam kept in touch with her.

When Elizabeth learned about an award Malsam received from the Boulder Community Business Partnership, she replied, "Congratulations! I am so happy for you! No one appreciates you more than me! You have helped me gain strength, self-love and a desire to live. I will always be grateful to you!"

"I feel strongly I must continue to support the victims I have worked with, no matter when, no matter where," Malsam said. "We just want healthy relationships."