



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Beards Behind the Badge raises \$1,005 for the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum

JOHNSTON, Iowa – The Johnston Police Officers began looking a little different in November, but it was for a good cause to give back to the Johnston community. During the "Beards Behind the Badge" campaign, officers and other city staff could donate money to grow a beard. The Johnston Police Department raised and presented the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum with a \$1,005 check.

"This is our fifth year of the campaign," said Police Chief Dennis McDaniel. "It is a great way to get city staff and our police members involved while giving back to an organization within our community. We are truly lucky to have the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum in our backyard. I encourage everyone to take a tour of the museum to honor the heroic service of all Iowa veterans. Our department is extremely grateful to give back in a big way this year."

The Iowa Gold Star Military Museum's mission is to honor and depict the military experience of Iowa citizens in all wars, homeland defense and Iowa service. The Museum's purpose is to collect, preserve and exhibit materials that illustrate the story of Iowa's military past from statehood to the present.

The department would like to thank members and businesses who donated. The best beard behind the badge for 2021 went to Lieutenant Tompkins. Judges said his beard was well-groomed.

The officers hope the awareness raised from this campaign will make an impact among the people when they see a member of the military or veteran. Several members of the Johnston Police Department proudly serve within the military, so this donation was extra special this year.

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