



CITY OF CLEARWATER

POST OFFICE BOX 4748, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33758-4748
CLEARWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT, 645 PIERCE STREET, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33756
TELEPHONE (727) 562-4242

POLICE DEPARTMENT

RELEASE 11-012

February 1, 2011

Contact: Elizabeth Watts

Public Safety PIO

elizabeth.watts@myclearwater.com

(727) 562-4333

CLEARWATER POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR RECOGNIZED; PUBLIC SAFETY & SERVICE AWARDS PRESENTED TO POLICE & FIRE

WHO: Police Officer of the Year:
Officer Paul Comini

2011 Public Safety & Service Award Recipients:

Sgt. Richard Crean (Police)

Firefighter Dennis O'Connor (Fire)

Karen Crown, Joseph F. Cornelius Family Foundation Representative

Ann Kerr, Rotary Club of Clearwater President

WHAT: Joseph F. Cornelius Family Foundation's Outstanding Police Officer of the Year Award and the 2010 Rotary Public Safety & Service Awards

WHEN: February 2, 2011
12:00 p.m.

MEDIA NOTE: Award presentations will be at approximately 12:20 p.m.

WHERE: Belleair Country Club
1 Country Club Lane
Belleair, Fla.

WHY: **Officer Paul Comini will be recognized as Outstanding Police Officer of the Year** for his pulling a suicidal man to safety on the Memorial Causeway Bridge last May. Ofc. Comini grabbed the man and struggled with him, holding him by his leg and arm over the railing until additional officers arrived to help him pull the man to safety. He put his own life in danger to save another.

This is the 34th Annual Joseph F. Cornelius Family Foundation's Outstanding Police Officer of the Year award presentation. It is the Clearwater Police



"EQUAL EMPLOYMENT AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER"



CITY OF CLEARWATER

POST OFFICE BOX 4748, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33758-4748
CLEARWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT, 645 PIERCE STREET, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33756
TELEPHONE (727) 562-4242

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Department's highest honor. The late Joseph F. Cornelius, former president and CEO of the Bank of Clearwater, founded the annual award to recognize heroism or exceptional accomplishments. Mr. Cornelius' daughter, Karen Crown, will help present the award.

The Rotary Club of Clearwater is the host for this event and will also present the **2010 Rotary Public Safety and Service Awards to Sergeant Richard Crean and Firefighter Dennis O'Connor**. This award is made annually to a Clearwater Police Officer and Clearwater Firefighter who have made a commitment to community involvement by giving their personal time, talents and efforts to help others.

Sgt. Crean was selected for his commitment to volunteering within his community to enhance the Tarpon Springs Little League organization and to promote sportsmanship. He has served in many positions including volunteer, board member, umpire, manager, coach, team dad, scorekeeper and concession helper. Sgt. Crean has been a key factor in expanding softball operations, with the addition of three new teams and has coached as many as three teams at one time to meet the growing demand.

FF Dennis O'Connor is being recognized for his dedication to a number of programs and activities that provide financial, physical, and emotional support to those in our community, including being

- A "burn buddy" at Camp Hopetake - a weeklong overnight camp for children who have survived a burn injury.
- A volunteer at the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Summer Camp.
- A participant in the Susan G. Komen 3-Day for the Cure: Tampa Bay.

All awards will be presented during a joint Rotary Club luncheon of the Rotary Club of Clearwater and the Rotary Club of Belleair.

#####

