

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Sheriff Joe Arpaio Unveils Historic Anniversary Centennial Badge

PHOENIX, ARIZONA --The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office will officially unveil a new Arizona Centennial badge. Designed to reflect Arizona history and tradition, the new badge is the Maricopa County Sheriff's way to honor the 100-year statehood anniversary.

Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio will make the official announcement that the Arizona Centennial badge is the authorized uniform badge of the Maricopa County Sheriff Office and will pin the new badge on a deputy, a detention officer and a volunteer posse member on Tuesday, November 1 at 3PM in his office at Sheriff's Headquarters, 100 West Washington, Suite 1900. *Media is invited to attend.*

The badge, which Arpaio says is optional to wear, will be in effect from November 1, 2011 to December 31, 2012 and will be retired thereafter, having its place as a commemorative piece in Arizona history.

The centennial badge consists of two layers. The top layer is the existing Maricopa County Sheriff's six-point star badge with the state seal in the middle. The star sits atop a gold, enameled-filled circle. The circle contains sunbursts and the color blue; representing the Arizona State Flag.

"This is a beautiful badge that represents the responsibility that this Office has in protecting the state of Arizona," said Sheriff Arpaio.

According to the Sheriff, the badge he is authorizing deputies to wear is unique in that it was designed by one of his own employees.

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Sheriff's Detective Wade Voeltz is a ten year long employee who has served as a patrol deputy, Special Assignment Unit deputy, and is currently assigned to the Human Smuggling Division who spotted an opportunity to involve the office with the state celebration.

"We wanted to show that we're involved and we support the state celebration," said Voeltz.

Voeltz, a self-taught artist, has always been interested in graphic design with experience ranging from suspect portrayal sketching to children's book illustration. With nothing yet planned for the upcoming centennial celebration, the detective grabbed the reins and started drafting a badge design.

Once the design was completed, Voeltz worked with SymbolArts to manufacture the centennial badge. They produced a prototype for the detective to show to his coworkers.

"I met with Sheriff Arpaio and his executive staff to discuss the Centennial badge design. Each of them gave me a huge thumbs-up," said Voeltz. "Everyone who has seen the badge has been completely impressed."

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