

Text of Officer Virchau's Award Citation from Crimestoppers

"Officer Virchau entered service with the New York State University Police, at the University at Buffalo, on April 14, 1986. He received his initial training at the New York State Troopers Academy in Albany, in the first SUNY Academy class hosted there.

In March of 1993 Officer Virchau was commended by Crisis Services for his actions in support of one of their Community Outreach Teams. In January on 1995 Officer Virchau received the Meritorious Service Award for Community Policing including educational programs for students, initiating a safety escort service and presenting crime awareness programs in the University Dormitories. In February of 1997 Officer Virchau received a commendation for his assistance with ASLET in Erie County.

In April of 2000 Officer Virchau became a certified Field Training Officer for the department. Since that time he has helped train 31 of the current 41 Officers in his department. He has played an integral role in the training of new dispatchers as the technologies involved have changed.

In June of 2006 the department lost an Officer in the line of duty. Officer Virchau coordinated stress debriefings for his fellow Officers in the aftermath. He went out of his way to keep tabs on everyone and ensure that they all made it through. He has performed this function numerous times since then. Whenever one of our Officers is involved in a traumatic incident, Officer Virchau follows up with them and arranges debriefings as needed.

In March of 2007 Officer Virchau was trained as a Crisis Intervention Officer. Since that time Officer Virchau has served as a peer counselor for the WNY Police Helpline. In that capacity he has served not only our department but the entire Western New York Police family.

Officer Virchau has served and protected this community for more than 28 years, and continues to excel."