



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

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WASPC HONORS STATE SEN. MIKE PADDEN WITH ITS HIGHEST HONOR, THE GENE COTTON AWARD

(Lacey, WA) – The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) has recognized Washington Senator Mike Padden (R-Spokane Valley) with its highest honor, the Gene Cotton award. The *Gene Cotton Award* is exclusively reserved for public officials whose public service careers have been dedicated to the support of outstanding public safety policy in Washington State, and whose achievements and dedication are commonly recognized throughout Washington State’s criminal justice community. Senator Padden accepted the award at WASPC’s spring conference in Spokane in late May.

“Senator Padden has consistently and thoughtfully supported law enforcement and balanced public safety policies over more than forty years as a state legislator and judge,” said Steven Strachan, WASPC executive director. “He has worked tirelessly to improve laws that help balance the need for public safety and ensure law enforcement is accountable to the community.”

The award (named for a former Clark County Sheriff and WASPC executive director) is given very infrequently and reserved only for extraordinary public officials who demonstrate their leadership to support law enforcement public policies.

WASPC was founded in 1963 and consists of executive and top management personnel from law enforcement agencies statewide. With more than 900 members it includes the 39 county sheriffs, and 240 police chiefs, as well as the Washington State Patrol, the Washington Department of Corrections, and representatives of Tribal and federal agencies.

WASPC is the only association of its kind in the nation combining representatives from local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement into a single body, working toward a common goal. WASPC’s function is to provide specific materials and services to all law enforcement agencies in the state, members, and non-members alike.

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WASPC awards its highest honor to State Senator Mike Padden (R-Spokane Valley) for his dedication to the creation of outstanding public safety policy in Washington State. Pictured L-R Sheriff Kevin Morris, WASPC Board President and Douglas County Sheriff, Senator Mike Padden and Steve Strachan, WASPC Exec. Dir.