

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 14, 2025

Contact: Representative Emerson
(608) 237-9191

Representative Jodi Emerson Honors Officer Tony Helstern as First Responder of the Year for the 91st Assembly District

Madison, WI — Today, Rep. Jodi Emerson (D–Eau Claire) proudly honored Officer Tony Helstern as the First Responder of the Year for Wisconsin’s 91st Assembly District during a ceremony at the State Capitol, recognizing his extraordinary service, professional dedication, and heroic actions in the line of duty.

Officer Helstern was honored in recognition of over 12 years of service to the Chippewa Valley through his work in law enforcement. He has served with both the Altoona and Cadott Police Departments, including 8 years as a K9 officer in Altoona, and has also served as a criminal justice instructor at Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) since 2015.

Since July 2021, Officer Helstern has continued his commitment to public safety through his role with the Cadott Police Department.

On the night of April 9, 2025, Officer Helstern took swift and decisive action that saved the lives of two individuals trapped in a residential fire, demonstrating the courage and quick thinking that defines Wisconsin’s first responders.

"It is an honor to recognize Officer Helstern for his dedication to our community," said Representative Emerson. "His actions on April 9th, and his years of service as an officer and educator, reflect the highest standards of public service. Officer Helstern represents the very best of our first responders in Wisconsin."

Each year, the Wisconsin State Assembly honors first responders from across the state who go above and beyond in their duties. Officer Helstern’s nomination was supported by members of the community and selected for his exceptional service and bravery.

###