



SERVE & CONNECT SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR THE FOURTH ANNUAL GREGORY ALIA AWARD

Serve & Connect is seeking nominations for the Fourth Annual Officer Gregory Alia Award. Serve & Connect is a nonprofit (501c3) organization focused on igniting positive change through police-community partnerships. It was founded in memory of Officer Gregory Alia who was killed in line of duty on September 30, 2015 in Forest Acres, SC.

About the Officer Gregory Alia Award: Officer Alia was a hero for how he died; but more importantly, he was a hero for how he lived. Since his death, countless stories have emerged about the ways in which Officer Alia touched lives everyday through his kind, compassionate, and thoughtful approach to policing. He treated each person he encountered with dignity and respect, and he went above and beyond to ensure that all people were cared for in large and small ways.

It is in this spirit that we seek to elevate the power of little moments – those everyday moments that so often go untold – in which police are making our communities safer, healthier and happier places for all through their acts of compassionate service.

The Officer Gregory Alia Award recognizes an outstanding officer who demonstrates a commitment to serve his/her community with respect and compassion; one who goes above the call of duty to ensure that members of the community are protected, cared for, and feel valued; one who treats all members of the community as equal and who employs their role with thoughtfulness and tact; and who through everyday interactions builds a safer community for all. This prestigious award is open to any law enforcement officer statewide throughout South Carolina and is intended for officers who, like Officer Alia, are serving in a non-command position.

Nominations are open April 1st, 2019 - May 15th, 2019. Nominations may be submitted electronically to info@serveandconnect.net or via mail to PO Box 6840 Columbia, SC 29260. Nominations are open to the public. Packets must include: 1) contact information for both the nominee as well as the individual submitting the nomination; 2) a letter detailing why this candidate is deserving of this award; and 3) a letter of support from the nominee's department. Supporting documentation (e.g., news articles, pictures, letters of community support) are also welcomed and encouraged.

Applications will be reviewed by a committee of law enforcement and community leaders. A decision will be determined no later than June 30, 2019. Finalists and departments will be notified upon decision and will receive complimentary tickets (4) to our annual Knight of Honor Gala scheduled for September 27, 2019 from 6:30 - 10:30pm at the SC State Museum in Columbia, SC. Nominees will be celebrated both leading up to the event and year-round following the event through various media outlets.

For more Inquiries about this award or to learn more about Serve & Connect, please contact Kassy Alia Ray at kassy@serveandconnect.net or (301) 908-2635.

