

3/18 (13)

**Town of Acton**

# Memo

**To:** Board of Selectmen  
**From:** Steven L Ledoux, Town Manager   
**CC:**  
**Date:** March 14, 2013  
**Re:** Employee of the Year and Public Safety Employee of the Year

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It is my pleasure to recommend Denise Whitney of the Acton Nursing Service as Employee of the Year and Patrolman / K9 Officer Dan Holway and Miso as Public Safety Employees of the Year.

Denise Whitney has worked for the Nursing Department since 2007 as a Certified Home Health Aide. Recently she has transitioned to not only working in the home health aide capacity but also covering secretarial hours in the office.

As a Certified Home Health Aide (CHHA), Denise is well loved within the Acton Nursing Service community. She always treats patients and family members with respect, courtesy and great care. I frequently get calls from patients and family members of patients reporting how pleased they have been with Denise taking care of them. Denise is always professional in the delivery of care as a CHHA. She takes great pride in her job as it comes through in the care she gives.

Denise has become a huge asset within the office since sharing her time between patient care and the open secretarial position. She is always pleasant to all who either are coming into the office or calling on the telephone. Denise works well with the other departments that she has frequent interactions with and all have voiced their pleasure with working with her. Denise is well organized and works well independently. She is always willing to help with whatever needs to be done to get things done in a timely manner.

I am recommending K-9 Handler and Patrol Officer Daniel Holway and his K-9 Miso for the Town of Acton Public Safety Employee of the Year Award. Dan came to the Chief with the idea for this program about six years ago and did all the research on his own initiative. Since approval the department has found the K-9 Program to be of immense value in all aspects of police work. A brief description and chronology of the program is below in Officer Holway's words:

Miso is a seven year old dual purpose German Shepherd. His disciplines are patrol and narcotic detection.

As a team, we graduated from the Boston Police Canine Patrol Academy in September of 2007 and graduated from the Boston Police Canine Narcotic Academy in February of 2008.

In the patrol function Miso is trained in: obedience, evidence recovery, article searches, building searches, tracking, handler protection, agility, area searches and criminal apprehension.

In the narcotic function Miso is trained to detect: marijuana, hashish, heroin, black tar heroin, methamphetamine, ecstasy, cocaine and crack cocaine.

As a team, and when schedules permit, we attended certification through the United States Police Canine Association. This is a National certification for patrol and narcotics.

When Miso became certified, it wasn't long before we began to be called out or requested for back up in our own town as well as assisting in mutual aid calls for surrounding towns. We have provided mutual aid for the towns of Littleton, Ayer, Boxborough, Groton, Concord, Stow, Sudbury, Bedford, and Carlisle.

Miso has located a dozen people on calls for Acton and on mutual aid calls. These finds have included: children, the physically impaired, suspects with warrants, domestic violence suspects, B&E suspects, felons and a deceased person.

Miso has located numerous articles and evidence on tracks and area searches. These finds have helped solve crimes and led to arrests. Some of these articles consist of: hats, clothes, shoes, sandals, pocket books, burglarious tools, notes, gloves, and on one track, a suit case.