ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIVISION
Of the
International Association for Identification

Outstanding Achievement Award
Nomination Form

Submitted by: Sandra Weise

Agency: Aurora Police Department Address: 15001 E Alameda Parkway

City: Aurora State: CO Zip: 80012

Date Submitted: _____ RMDIAI member? [X] Yes [ ] No

Nomination for: [X] Individual
[ ] Forensic Team (At least 1 member on team must be RMDIAI member)

Nominee Name(s) and Agency**:**

Wendy Kipple, Dillon Police Department

Brief summary of reason for nomination (Attach additional pages as necessary):

Detailed information (attach additional pages as necessary):

I am nominating Sergeant Wendy Kipple of the Dillon Police Department for an Outstanding Achievement Award for several reasons. Wendy is not just a Patrol Sergeant for her department. She also processes most of their evidence for latents, does all of the latent comparisons and is a consummate crime scene investigator. As if this were not enough, she has also taken on the responsibility of owning and training a K-9 for her department.
In addition to her duties with the Dillon Police, Wendy is also a Deputy Coroner's Investigator for the Summit County Coroner's Office, where she is one of only three death investigators available for the county to call upon.
Since both a municipal and a county job are just not enough for her, Wendy is also a member of the Region VIII D-MORT team through the Federal Bureau of Investigation. And, no, of course she is not "just a member", Wendy is one of their Administrative Officers and does double duty on top of that as both a Medicolegal Death Investigator and a Fingerprint Specialist.

This area for RMDIAI Board of Directors Use Only

Date Received: _____ Approved [ ] Disapproved [ ] Date: _____

Reason: _____

Award: Certificate [ ] Plaque [ ] Other _____

Award Place: Conference [ ] Other [ ]

Notify Recipient(s) Yes [ ] No [ ] Other [ ]

Date Notified: _____

As a member of D-MORT, Wendy recently completed not one, not two, but three tours of duty in Louisiana, working with the team to identify the bodies recovered subsequent to Hurricane Katrina. This is a big deal in and of itself, but an even bigger deal if you factor in her overwhelming fear of snakes, many of whom call the balmy swamps of that region their home.

Because there is occasionally some daylight left after she works these jobs, Wendy also volunteers her time for both the Colorado Association of Property and Evidence Technicians (CAPET) and out very own RMD-IAI. She is current president of CAPET. Wendy has been the RMD treasurer for three years now and will continue to be, because let's face it, no one else will take the job!

Then, in her free time, Wendy also works on training her horses, training her dogs, and working on her leather crafts, many of which she donates to both CAPET and RMD-IAI for attendance appreciation gifts. She also studied for and passed the IAI Crime Scene Technician certification. Not to mention keeping up o her correspondence with the many friends she has made all across the country, no small task indeed.

Now, I hope you all have some kind of taste of what it is Wendy does everyday (other than not sleep!) that makes her achievements so outstanding. The woman is a powerhouse that just never quits. But, these jobs in and of themselves are not why Wendy Kipple deserves an Outstanding Achievement Award.

Wendy has earned this award not through her mere occupational achievements, but by the manner in which she conducts herself both on and off the job. Despite all she has seen and heard and done in her many years in this business, in spite of all the blood and guts and the occasional snake, Wendy never fails to be friendly, optimistic and ever-helpful. She has every reason to be overwhelmed and yet she consistently finds that extra little bit of energy, that extra bit of time to do the job right the first time. She gets frustrated like any other mere mortal, but instead of complaining she finds the silver lining and concentrates on that. She is kind and patient even when we don't deserve it. If you are down, she will make you laugh. If you are being stupid, she will help you find your brain again. If you need help with a big task, she will ask when she needs to be there. If you need help with a small task, you will likely find it done before you get the chance to ask. In fact, I have only ever heard her complain about two things: 1) That she doesn't have enough time to do something; and 2) That there is not a Starbucks nearby when she needs one.

All these years on the job, all of these accomplishments and she doesn't get jaded. She just gives her all and it is so often more than we ever thought possible. She is an inspiration and a friend and I am proud to work with her in any situation.