



ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IDENTIFICATION

Donnie Heiduck, President
Heather Hatfield, Vice President
RMDIAI Board of Directors

I was shocked to realize that Wendy Kipple had not already received the Jay Jensen Award for the RMDIAI. The Jay Jensen Award is presented to individuals for exceptional work in the field of the Identification Science and untiring dedication to the RMDIAI. Wendy Kipple, just by definition of her character and work for the Rocky Mountain Division of the IAI, earned this award years ago. I would like to take this time to apologize to her for our oversight and nominate her for the Jay Jensen Award. I assumed, and took for granted, that she had already received this award – we cannot continue to allow her to be overlooked or take her for granted anymore!

Wendy first joined the RMDIAI in 1996 and became the Treasurer in 2004. She earned the well-deserved RMDIAI Outstanding Achievement Award in 2006. She continued in the role of Treasurer until 2011, at which time she became the Vice President. The intent was to allow her to rise through the ranks so that she would eventually be able to have the title of a Past President in the organization. Another individual took over the Treasurer position for this period of transition. Unfortunately, that did not go well, and the position of Treasurer fell into disarray without Wendy's oversight. This led to Wendy serving as both the President AND the Treasurer in 2012. It took her quite a while to get things back in order. This is what happens when we take people for granted. We learned our lesson, and Wendy has since then continued in the role of Treasurer. I dare say, we firmly believe this is her lifetime commitment.

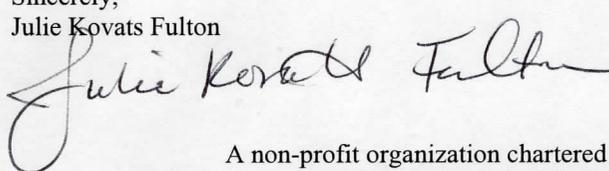
Throughout all her time with the RMDIAI, Wendy has shown great professionalism and incredible humility. She is one of the most accomplished, dedicated, and sincere people I know – within the RMDIAI, as well as in her everyday life. As if all her hard work and dedication for the RMDIAI wasn't enough, I think it warrants mentioning all her other endeavors:

In late 1989, Wendy became a Deputy Sheriff with Summit County and served in this position for just over 4 years - until she became a Police Sergeant for the Dillon Police Department. She served in this position for just over 19 years – during which time, she supervised patrol officers, trained new officers, patrolled the community, served as the Evidence Technician, Crime Scene Investigator, and Fingerprint Examiner – all while also serving on the mounted patrol during the summers AND as a K-9 officer for 14 years! She also became a Medicolegal Death Investigator with DMORT (Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team) and spent nine weeks in Louisiana assisting with the recovery and identification of deceased after Hurricane Katrina. She earned her bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice/Police Science in 2010. Wendy was the third coroner investigator in the state of Colorado to obtain her Board Fellow Certification from the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators. It was also during this time that she joined the RMDIAI and eventually took over as the Treasurer.

She is currently an investigator with the 11th JD District Attorney's Office, a Certified Equine Guided Education Facilitator, a Medicolegal Death Investigator with DMORT Region 8, and the Chief Deputy Coroner of Summit County. She is an avid and talented leather worker and an unapologetic animal lover.

It is with great passion and humble respect that I nominate one of my favorite people to receive the RMDIAI Jay Jensen Award. It has undeniably already been earned.

Sincerely,
Julie Kovats Fulton

 *Julie Kovats Fulton* *October 9, 2018*

A non-profit organization chartered in 1967 for the purpose of educating law enforcement professionals in the Colorado-Wyoming-New Mexico area in the forensic sciences.