

CHIEF GENE SAUNDERS SELECTED FOR IAOTP'S PRESIDENTIAL AWARD IN MILITARY SERVICE

Chief Gene Saunders honored member of the International Association of Top Professionals (IAOTP) will be honored at their annual awards gala

NEW YORK, NY, UNITED STATES, August 16, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Chief Gene Saunders is the Founder/CEO & Chief Director General of Lifesaver International based out of Port St. Lucie, Florida. He was recently chosen for The Presidential Award in Military Service for 2024 by the International Association of Top Professionals (IAOTP).

Being selected for this distinction by the International Association of Top Professionals is a renowned honor. The Presidential Award in Military is a distinguished accolade presented to individuals who have demonstrated

exceptional dedication, innovation, and leadership in the armed forces. This prestigious award recognizes significant contributions to improvement, advancing knowledge in the industry, and advocating for policy changes that enhance the well-being of all. Chief has shown a remarkable commitment to excellence and has made a lasting impact on the military through his professional achievements and community involvement. Chief Gene Saunders will accept his award on stage at IAOTP's Annual Awards Gala at the Gaylord Opryland Resort in Nashville in December 2024.

www.iaotp.com/award-gala

Chief Gene Saunders has exemplary brilliance in many fields and has dedicated more than four decades of his career as a proficient Officer of Law. Stephanie Ciriame, President of IAOTP says, "Chief has been an inspirational member and a mentor to all of us at IAOTP from day 1. His endless list of professional accomplishments, academic achievements, leadership abilities,



passion for his purpose, and contributions to society are making a global impact. We are honored to present him with IAOTP's Presidential Award and cannot wait to celebrate him at our annual awards gala in Nashville this December!

As a dynamic results-driven leader who has excelled in every position he has ever had the honor of serving, Chief Saunders founded Project Lifesaver International in 1999. He has overseen its growth with more than 1,600 public safety organizations in 50 states, 6 Provinces in Canada and 1 agency in Australia.

Project Lifesaver is a 501 (C)(3) community based, public safety, non-profit organization that provides law enforcement, fire/rescue, and caregivers with a program designed to protect, and when necessary, quickly locate individuals with cognitive disorders who are prone to the life-threatening behavior of wandering.

Project Lifesaver's program has helped provide thousands of family's peace of mind knowing that their loved one had protection and safety in case they wander. To date over 4,000 people have been rescued through Project Lifesaver.

Chief Saunders impressive repertoire of prior roles includes his 33 years of service with the Chesapeake Police Department serving in Patrol, Vice, Narcotics, Detectives and Training. He served in line function and command elements of each of these units.

Chief Saunders co-founded the Special Weapons and Tactics team in 1974 serving as tactical commander and commander for 23 years with over 800 operations.

Additionally, he was Chief Investigator on several large multi-state, international drug and organized crime conspiracy investigations. Served as Shift Commander, Olympic Security Team, Soccer venue, Olympics, Atlanta, Georgia 1996. Upon his retirement in 2001 as a Captain, he served in the National Guard and State Defense Force in Infantry, Airborne and Ranger Units in leadership and command positions.

Moreover, Chief Saunders was in the US Air Force Aux. (Civil Air Patrol) as a Senior Squadron (Ranger)commander and 5 years as Commandant of the Middle East Region Staff College. Equally, he is a Certified instructor in Pursuit Driving, Firearms, Special Operations, Raid Planning, General Law Enforcement and Search and Rescue. Also, Chief Saunders has functioned as a Helicopter Flight Officer, as a volunteer, with the Virginia Beach Police Department and did several years of skydiving.



His remarkable skills and specialties include but are not limited to: Search and Rescue, Training, Interrogation, Public Speaking, Firearms, Driving, Special Operations, Investigations, Non-Profits, Crime Prevention, Preparedness, Command, Electronic Search and Rescue, Intelligence, Program Management, Expert Witness, Community Policing, Team Building, Supervisory Skills, First Responder, SWAT, Leadership, Crisis Management, Surveillance, Emergency Services, Private Investigations, Project Planning, Homeland Security, Disaster Response, Criminal Justice, Patrol, Security Operations and Personal Protection.

Throughout his illustrious career, Chief Saunders has received awards, accolades and has been recognized internationally for his expertise. He is widely known as the Father of radio tracking recovery of persons at risk. This year, Chief was awarded Most Inspirational Member for 2024 by IAOTP and was recognized as a World Leader and awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award at Westminster Palace, The House of Lords by the World Leaders Summit. In 2023, Chief was awarded with Man of the Year and Male Visionary of the Year and was featured on the famous Nasdaq billboard in Times Square NYC, and on the famous Planet Hollywood billboard on the Las Vegas strip. He was also exclusively interviewed on TIP Radio and published in the Top 50 Fearless Leaders Book. In 2021 he was graced the front cover of TIP (Top Industry Professionals) Magazine and Chief Saunders received his Top CEO of the Year Award at IAOTP's 2021 Annual Awards Gala. Furthermore, Chief Saunders has earned 3 Commendation Medals and the Chief's Leadership Award given by the Chesapeake Police Department, 3 Line of Duty Injury Medals and 3 Silver Stars for Valor for three separate incidents given by the American Police Hall of Fame. He also received a Presidential Commendation for his SWAT service given by President Bill Clinton, earned the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation's "Service Before Self" Citizens Honor Award and was awarded as Treasure Coast Non-Profit Leader of the Year for 2019. Chief Gene Saunders will be announced as Most Inspirational Member and receive our Presidential Award at IAOTP's 2024 Annual Award Gala being held at the Gaylord Opryland Resort in Nashville this December.

Along with these merits also include the Local Hero Award given by the Bank of America, he was named as a Person of Distinction by the Al Cole Radio Show, he received the Moving America Forward Award given by the William Shatner TV Show and was granted the Hero Award from Pilot International-Virginia District. Chief Saunders is actively involved in 11 different prestigious organizations as his career continues to advance.

Besides his successful career, Chief Saunders is a sought-after speaker and the author of several articles for magazines concerning wandering. He has appeared on numerous local, national and international radio and television programs such as: CBS; the Early Show; Extreme Makeover Home Edition; Living the Life; Fox News; The Discovery Channel, CNN News, The Daily Buzz and William Shatner's "Moving America Forward." Chief Saunders also held lead and supporting roles on the following TV series: The Prosecutors, The FBI Files, The New Detectives and The Untold Stories of the Navy SEALs.

Looking back, Chief Saunders attributes his success to his perseverance, education,

resourcefulness and patience. When not working, he enjoys spending time with his family and traveling. For the future, Chief Saunders will continue his mission of "Bringing Loved Ones Home".

For more information on Chief Saunders please visit: www.projectlifesaver.org

To view his video biographies, click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUi3VJTefQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bsQbMOZ2wS0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfGzuEG6Ubl>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rhYK9-fi7M&t=1s>

About IAOTP

The International Association of Top Professionals (IAOTP) is an international boutique networking organization who handpicks the world's finest, most prestigious top professionals from different industries. These top professionals are given an opportunity to collaborate, share their ideas, be keynote speakers and to help influence others in their fields. This organization is not a membership that anyone can join. You must be asked by the President or be nominated by a distinguished honorary member after a brief interview.

IAOTP's experts have given thousands of top prestigious professionals around the world, the recognition and credibility that they deserve and have helped in building their branding empires. IAOTP prides itself to be a one-of-a-kind boutique networking organization that hand picks only the best of the best and creates a networking platform that connects and brings these top professionals together.

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