

Victim Advocacy Award (2024)



(Pictured above are Detective Rafferty and Victim/Witness Coordinators Janelle Neidig and Klæe Hunter)

To wrap up National Crime Victims' Rights Week, on Friday, April 26, 2024, the Columbia County Victim/Witness Program held a ceremony to commend members of our community that routinely go above and beyond for victims of crime. The ***Columbia County Law Enforcement Victim Advocacy Award*** was created to recognize an officer that goes above and beyond for victims of crime and advocating on their behalf. Detective Rafferty was the recipient of the award and recognized for distinguishing himself by exemplifying a devotion to his duty during a homicide investigation which had an infant victim. On October 20, 2023, following a week-long trial, a jury found the suspect **GUILTY** of *Third-Degree Murder, Endangering the Welfare of Children and Tampering with Physical Evidence*. Rafferty's motivation and outstanding investigative work are an example for other investigators to model and follow. There is no greater responsibility in law enforcement than conducting a homicide investigation. A successful closure of a homicide investigation takes great skill, knowledge of the law, the highest degree of professionalism and an unwavering perseverance. Congratulations to Detective Rafferty for being the 2024 recipient of the ***Columbia County Law Enforcement Victim Advocacy Award***.