

Ms. Kathryn Monfreda Selected for 2022 Cooper Meritorious Service Award

SEARCH is pleased to announce that Ms. **Kathryn Monfreda** will receive the organization's highest Membership honor, the 2022 *Gary R. Cooper Award for Meritorious Service*.

Ms. Monfreda retired in September 2021 as Chief of the [Criminal Records and Identification Bureau](#) for the Alaska Department of Public Safety (DPS) and at the time was serving as Vice Chair of the SEARCH Membership Group.

At its March 17 meeting, the SEARCH Board of Directors unanimously selected Ms. Monfreda for the honor to formally recognize her many outstanding achievements and contributions both to the field of criminal justice information and to the success and leadership of SEARCH. She was nominated by fellow Board Member **Jason Bright**, Montana Department of Justice.

"The Cooper Award gives the Board an opportunity to recognize one of our own" noted SEARCH Board Chair Ms. **Leslie Moore**, Kansas Bureau of Investigation. "Kathy has been an active and steadfast leader of SEARCH, and a seasoned voice in understanding the challenges confronting criminal history repositories and advocating effective solutions."

The SEARCH Board specifically cited the following in selecting Ms. Monfreda for the honor:

- Throughout the 5 years she represented the State of Alaska as the appointed SEARCH Member, Ms. Monfreda actively sought and served in leadership positions, including two terms on the Board of Directors and service as Vice Chair that began in July 2020 and lasted until her retirement.
- As a member of SEARCH's Legislative Committee, Ms. Monfreda was a key supporter of the Government Affairs program and consistently demonstrated a willingness to offer insight and guidance on pending legislation and its impact on the states and helping to communicate that to congressional staff on Capitol Hill.
- She managed and directed operations of the Alaska DPS's Criminal Records and Identification Bureau, which included responsibility of the state's criminal history records, tenprint processing, permits and licensing, and sex offender registry. Ms. Monfreda



Gary R. Cooper Award for Meritorious Service

Recognizes: A SEARCH Member for outstanding work in the field of criminal justice information systems, policy, or statistic

Named for: Gary R. Cooper, longtime SEARCH Executive Director (ret.)

Given since 1985, the Cooper Award is SEARCH's top Membership honor

Past Recipients: State-level justice and public safety agency and program officials representing 23 states and the District of Columbia

leveraged her knowledge from this operational experience to inform the deliberations of the SEARCH Board and to support SEARCH's Government Affairs education efforts.

- She served as Alaska's CJIS Systems Officer (CSO) and was appointed as State Compact Officer in 2004. Ms. Monfreda also took on a wide range of other professional affiliations and appointments, including:
 - Alaska State representative for the NCIC and Nlets, including serving on the Nlets Technical Operations Committee
 - Member of the CJIS Advisory Policy Board (APB), including serving on the APB Compliance Evaluation Subcommittee, Uniform Crime Reporting Subcommittee, Western Working Group, and Tribal Task Force
 - Board Member for the Western Identification Network, including the Executive Committee
 - Member of the State of Alaska Criminal Justice Working Group Title 12 Legal Competency Subcommittee
 - Chair of the Alaska Criminal Justice Information Advisory Board. In this role, she advised the DPS and other criminal justice agencies on those matters pertaining to the development and operation of Alaska's central criminal history repository and other criminal justice information systems.

SEARCH will formally recognize Ms. Monfreda at an awards ceremony Tuesday, July 19, being held in conjunction with the SEARCH 2022 [Annual Membership Group Meeting](#) at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Denver, CO. In addition to recognizing Ms. Monfreda as the 2022 recipient of the Cooper Award, the ceremony will also recognize SEARCH Member and Chair **Leslie Moore** (KS) as the 2021 recipient of award.