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For immediate release

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Buffalo Grove police chief sworn in as president of statewide association

SPRINGFIELD – Police Chief Steven R. Casstevens of the Buffalo Grove Police Department was sworn in as the 68th president of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police on Friday, April 22, 2016 at the organization’s Annual Conference in Schaumburg.

In his acceptance speech, he said he wants the association to revive a community policing award for departments that excel in that area. “We need to highlight those agencies that are clearly living the community policing philosophy and fostering greatness in their communities,” he said.

He also encouraged Illinois police departments “to be courageous leaders” and tell more positive stories about what police officers are doing every day. “The problem is,” he said, “that our profession doesn’t tell enough of the good stories, or that we don’t tell them skillfully, or in a manner that is accessible and digestible for our communities, and we don’t tell them to the right people.”

Casstevens, also a vice president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, is slated to become the international president in 2019.

The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police is a professional organization representing more than 1,200 chiefs of police and other leaders of police and public safety organizations in Illinois. More than 230 chiefs, other law enforcement personnel, and local and state elected officials attended the organization's installation event. Casstevens will serve as the association’s president until April 2017.

Also sworn in with Casstevens were Chief James Black of Crystal Lake as the association’s fourth vice president; Chief Steve Stelter of Westchester as third vice president; Chief Brian Fengel of Bartonville as second vice president; and Chief James Kruger of Oak Brook as first vice president.

Prior to taking over as Chief of the Buffalo Grove Police Department Casstevens was Chief of the Cary Police Department for 2 ½ years. He was previously with the Hoffman Estates Police Department for nearly 30 years. Casstevens began his law enforcement career in the U.S. Army Military Police with the 101st Airborne Division. In 1996, he was part of the Law Enforcement Team at the Centennial Olympics in Atlanta. He is an ILACP-Certified Police Chief and a graduate of Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command and its Executive Management Program, as well as the FBI National Academy. Among his numerous awards is the National Public Service Award from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.