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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Chico Police Officer Honored As ‘Woman of the Year’ By California Lawmaker
— Assemblyman James Gallagher Recognizes Law Enforcement Excellence —**

Chico, CA — Chico Police Department Officer Sophia Maggiora was honored as the 2016 Woman of the Year by Assembly Member James Gallagher (R-Yuba City) for the Third Assembly District. Officer Maggiora received the award Monday, March 6, 2017, during a special Assembly ceremony at the State Capitol in Sacramento.

“I am extremely honored to be recognized,” said Maggiora. “I was in a room full of incredible women who have impressive backgrounds and are truly dedicated to their causes. I feel honored that I was among them.”

Assemblyman Gallagher said he wanted to recognize the contributions of women in the Third Assembly District. Gallagher said, “This is a woman who has already made a lot of great contributions early in her career and we believe there is more to come. We are excited to honor her for her outstanding job protecting the residents of my district.”

Sophia Maggiora attended Pleasant Valley High School. While at Pleasant Valley, she became a Police Explorer with the Chico Police Department. It was during her time as an explorer that she solidified her desire to become a police officer.

“I feel honored to wear the badge and serve my community. I discovered law enforcement is my passion and now I am able to turn that passion into action,” said Maggiora.

Maggiora joined the Chico Police Department in 2014 and has quickly established herself as a dedicated law enforcement officer. In the past year alone she has been chosen as Officer of the Month and has achieved three awards for recovering stolen vehicles. In November 2015, she became an Arrest and Control Tactics instructor and in January 2016, she was appointed as a Crime Scene Investigator. Maggiora also volunteers as a law enforcement liaison connecting victims of domestic violence with services offered through Catalyst Domestic Violence Services in Butte County.

I could not be more proud of Officer Maggiora,” said Police Chief Michael O’Brien. “To have one of my officers honored in this way is satisfying. This recognition speaks to the high quality of our Chico Police Officers.

Held annually, the Woman of the Year ceremony celebrates California’s extraordinary women. The first ceremony was held in 1987 to help commemorate Women’s History Month. The event has become an annual Capitol tradition to salute women who have performed outstanding community service.

Assemblyman James Gallagher represents the 3rd Assembly District, which encompasses all of Glenn, Sutter, Tehama and Yuba counties as well as portions of Butte and Colusa counties.

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For more about the Chico Police Department Explorer program visit
http://www.chico.ca.us/police/cpd_explorers.asp

*Attached are Photos of Assemblyman Gallagher and Officer Maggiora at the Woman of the Year Event



