

Carolyn “Bunny” Welsh
Chester County Sheriff’s Office
Pennsylvania



Sheriff Carolyn "Bunny" Welsh of Chadds Ford, PA is the first woman to be elected Sheriff of Chester County. She is one of two female sheriffs in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and one of only 38 female sheriffs in the nation. She is also the first woman to be elected president of a class at the National Sheriffs Institute at the Department of Corrections in Longmont Colorado.

In 1997 Sheriff Welsh was named one of the Top 50 Women in Business in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. She received numerous Pennsylvania Senatorial Citations and commendations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Her outstanding volunteer efforts in the community earned her the National “Eckerd 100 Women of 2000” award. In 2002 Sheriff Welsh received the prestigious “Breaking the Glass Ceiling” award from the National Center for Women and Policing. In 2004 Sheriff Welsh was inducted into the International Police Association Hall of Fame, and she received the 2004 March of Dimes Chester County Women of Achievement award.

In 2004 she was elected to serve on the Executive Board of the Pennsylvania Sheriff’s Association, and in July 2009 she was sworn in as president. This is the first time in the 88 year history of the association that a woman has been elected to the top leadership position. In January 2011 she was elected to the Executive Board of the National Sheriffs Association.

In June of 2005 Sheriff Welsh was selected by the FBI Training Committee and graduated from the Mid-Atlantic Law Enforcement Executive Development Program “LEEDS”. In 2006 she was presented with an award for “30 Remarkable Women Making Domestic Violence History” by the Pennsylvania Coalition against Domestic Violence.

Under the leadership of Sheriff Welsh, the Chester County Sheriff’s Office has received numerous awards and recognitions. In 2008 and again in 2011, the CCSO was selected as the top sheriff’s office in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for Crime Prevention and Community Outreach.

Among her many accomplishments, Sheriff Welsh is also the mother of four, and grandmother of nine.