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For immediate release

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**Oak Brook chief sworn in as ILACP president**

James R. Kruger, Jr., chief of police in Oak Brook, Illinois was sworn in April 21, 2017, as the 69th president of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police. He will lead the 1,300-member organization for one year.

“These are challenging times in our profession, but at the same time they are an extremely exciting time of change and growth,” Kruger said in his Installation Speech to more than 200 people. “We know in our hearts that there is much more support for law enforcement at the local level than what is portrayed nationally. However, that focus has also provided an opportunity for us to take the lead and be the change.”

As the Illinois Chiefs’ president, he intends to be a strong spokesman for law enforcement and help “protect this state and the communities we serve from the erosion of common decency and values.” He also wants to take the template of the DuPage County Diversity Outreach Program and introduce its successes throughout the state. “I want to ensure that we do whatever is possible in the area of recruitment to attract qualified police officers and leaders of tomorrow from all walks of life,” he said.

Kruger became the Oak Brook chief in 2011, and before that served as Chief of Police for the villages of Roselle and Winfield for more than seven years after serving twenty years with the Carpentersville Police Department, attaining the rank of Commander.

He is a 1994 graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command.  He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Management and Leadership from Judson University in Elgin, Illinois, graduating with Highest Distinction, and a Master of Science from National-Louis University, Chicago.  He also attended the FBI Midwest Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar in 2010.  Kruger was recognized by the Illinois State Crime Commission in 2008 with the Excellence in Law Enforcement Award, Judson University in 2009 with the Distinguished Alumni Award, and the Meritorious Service Award from the Northwest Police Association in 1995.

He serves as president of the DuPage County Chiefs of Police Association and a past president of the Oak Brook Rotary Club, member of the Advisory Board of Directors of North East Multiregional Training (NEMRT), member of the Advisory Council of the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy, Secretary of the Northern Illinois Police Alarm System (NIPAS) and board member of Fight Crime Invest in Kids. Kruger is also a Certified Police Chief through the ILACP. He has been appointed by Governor Rauner to serve on the State of Illinois Law Enforcement Medal of Honor Committee.

Kruger has been a member of the ILACP since 2004. He was appointed to the Executive Board in 2005 and served on the Membership and Legislative committees. He was appointed Chair of the Membership Committee in 2012 and elected as Third Vice President in 2014.

  Besides Chief Kruger’s police duties, he was the founding Director of the Criminal Justice Management program at Judson University as well as an Adjunct Professor in both the Criminal Justice Program and Management and Leadership program at Judson and Elgin Community College.

Kruger and his wife Karen live in Sleepy Hollow, where he also serves as Chairman of the Village Zoning Board. They have two children and four grandchildren.

As president, Kruger leads a 10-person Board of Officers. Other officers sworn in April 21 during the Installation Banquet in Oak Brook were:

Chief Brian Fengel, Bartonville, 1st Vice President;

Chief Steven Stelter, Westchester, 2nd Vice President;

Chief James Black, Crystal Lake, 3rd Vice President;

Chief Danny Langloss, Dixon, 4th Vice President;

Chief Steven Casstevens, Buffalo Grove, Past President;

Chief Dan Ryan, Leland Grove, Vice President at Large, Region 1;

Chief Dean Stiegemeier, South Beloit, Vice President at Large, Region 2;

Chief William Kushner, Des Plaines, Region 3; and

Chief Russell Laine, Fox Lake, Parliamentarian.

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