

Detective Samantha English joined the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office because she wanted to make a difference in the world.

"I have ALWAYS wanted to be in law enforcement ever since I was a small child," English said. "I love helping people and making a difference in their lives."

English joined the Sheriff's Office in 2007. She worked on patrol until 2013, then became a district detective where she investigated property crimes. In 2014, she joined the Major Crimes unit where they investigate suicides, armed robberies, officer involved shootings and murders. She says she has a passion for being the voice for those who no longer have one and for obtaining justice for the victims in her cases.

"In my current role in major crimes, I see people when they are truly at their lowest time and I like to try and make a difference and make the hard time they are going through a little less difficult," she said.

This year, English won the Guy White Award, which is the most prestigious award at the Sheriff's Office. The Guy White award is named for the first known deputy to have been killed in the line of duty in 1911. It's known as the "deputy of the year award" and when English was recognized, it was a total surprise.

"It feels amazing. I am completely thankful and humbled that I was even considered for the award much less that I received it," English says. "I have an amazing leadership team around me who continually mentor and guide me to be the best I can be in all that I do."

English is the third woman to have won this award since its inception in 1992.