

COLLIER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL



We Remember



NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEK
MAY 9 - 15, 2010

CCSO LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL SERVICE

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2010, 8:30 A.M.

- Welcome Sheriff Kevin J. Rambosk
- Presentation of Colors CCSO Honor Guard & Mounted Patrol
- Pledge of Allegiance Lieutenant René Gonzales, CCSO
Victim & Witness Assistance Unit
- National Anthem Corporal Sylee Gibson
- Invocation Chaplain Charles Bagley
- Memorial Address Sheriff Kevin J. Rambosk
- Guest Speaker Retired CCSO Captain Tom Smith
- Amazing Grace Members of the Harp & Thistle
Pipe Band
- At this time family members may step forward to light a candle
and place flowers on the table in honor of their loved one.*
- For Those Who Served Village School of Naples Chorus
- Last Call CCSO Communications Bureau
- Fly Over CCSO Aviation Bureau
- Taps Corporal Raul Roman, CCSO
Honor Guard
- Closing remarks Sheriff Kevin J. Rambosk



CCSO Law Enforcement Memorial Speech

CCSO Alumni Association

May 11, 2009

Good Morning;

I'm Tom Smith, I retired 13 months ago, after 32 years with the Collier County Sheriff's Office. I am founder and Executive Director of the Collier County Sheriff's Office Alumni Association; one of only two such organizations in Florida. We are a free association of past and present CCSO members, dedicated to sharing information among retirees, maintaining communication through active memberships while retaining and enhancing the CCSO legacy; we are "Connecting the past with our future" as our slogan on this banner says.

President John F. Kennedy proclaimed May 15th of each year as Peace Officer's Memorial Day and the week surrounding that date has since transitioned to National Police Week. A week designated to honor those who protect us every day.

As I prepared thoughts for today, I reflected on the solemn nature that this week represents and wanted to provide to you a perspective on law enforcement in Collier County and how these Deputies, honored on our memorial, and many others not engraved here, have created a rich history for our agency. One which often times is forgotten and replaced by current issues of the day.

I have worked with all but 4 of the 10 deputies on our memorial; so this day means a lot to me. When we mention their names being placed on a memorial we usually point out that they "*gave the ultimate sacrifice*".

But what does their "Ultimate Sacrifice" really tell us about these individuals?

Dictionaries define the word "Ultimate" as... "attaining the end of a series of stages or the culmination of something". "Sacrifice" has been defined as "giving up something of value, making one sacred and incurring a loss".

Symbolically "Sacrifice" has been described as "the giving of one's life to a cause or the performance of selfless deeds".

For me today the word "ultimate" has more impact, because it speaks of a person's culmination of deeds, an end of many stages, a pinnacle of career highlights; it represents who and what these Deputies were; ... in essence their life-History.

Each of the deputies on this memorial is usually remembered for the gun-shot wound, injury or vehicle crash that took their lives. However each had an important role within this agency while they protected, served, rescued and provided for our citizens; while they added to our agency's legacy (some for only a few days and others for many years).

Our agency personnel files contain notations of their performance, as well as personal and professional successes. Newspaper archives will store their policing exploits, cases and arrests in

print. I'm sure their family scrapbooks are filled with images of their life, their career and their memories.

This is who they truly are. It is our duty to remember more than just their names and the dates they gave their ultimate sacrifice.

Our CCSO history is relatively unknown.

I'd like to take just a few moments to unveil the agency that these fallen officers gave their lives for.

Did you know that prior to 1923 the ground we stand on today was part of Lee County?

Our first documented records of policing in our area came in the early 1920's, when a lone Lee County Deputy was assigned to reside on Chokoloskee Island (this Lee Deputy was Maliki Hisler, the great-great-grandfather of John Hisler, one of our retired deputies from the 1990's). If you think about risk, Maliki's nearest back-up was the Lee County Sheriff who would have to arrive by boat from Ft. Myers. Deputies of this area were quite resourceful and brave.

If you've been living here any length of time, I'm sure you've heard stories how Mr. Barron Collier made an offer to complete the unfinished Tamiami Trail if the Florida legislature would create a county in his name. Well it's much more complicated than that, but in essence that vote took place and on July 7, 1923 Collier County was born with a vast wilderness area of 1.3 million acres or 2,025 square miles; one of the largest land-mass counties east of the Mississippi River.

Our first Sheriff, W.R. Maynard was appointed that July day, during a meeting at the Everglade Rod & Gun Club; and he brought along his wife- Blanche Maynard as his Chief Deputy (a custom of the time) and retained Maliki Hisler as his first resident deputy. A few days later Deputy J. H. Cox was hired to patrol Immokalee.

Since creation the CCSO has had only seven Sheriff's (Sheriff Maynard, Thorpe, Atkins, Hendry, Rogers, Hunter and Sheriff Kevin Rambosk).

Sheriff W. R. Maynard was called the "Flying Sheriff" from his WWI piloting exploits and the fact he flew a bi-plane over Collier County taking aerial photographs to create the county's first maps. Our second Sheriff, Louis Thorp was recognized for his hound-dogs and his expert use of a bull whip; which he'd crack to break up fights and bring ruffians under control; and Sheriff Rogers for his keen mind, advances in agency technology and calming country charm.

Each Sheriff has and will be remembered for their way of doing business and their indelible marks on our history.

This memorial dedicated in October 1993, is a special place. In Feb 2009, a man in his 80's and his family visited the memorial for the first time, commemorating his father's name, Deputy William E. Hutto. For many years Deputy Hutto was thought to be the first of our deputies killed in the line of duty. However, later historical research revealed that a group of officers commissioned by Barron Collier in 1928 to protect his newly opened Tamiami Trail and its

travelers, whom he dubbed the Southwest Mounted Police, were actually deputized and paid by the Sheriff.

These motorcycle riding patrol officers and their wives were stationed at six-way stations placed every ten miles along the Tamiami Trail (Belle Meade, Royal Palm Hammock, Fahkahatchee, Turner River, Monroe, Paolita Stations). Each day they rode their motorcycles 5 miles each side of the station looking for poachers, disabled vehicles and traffic violators; while their wives tended to the gas pumps and store.

Sadly, two of our Southwest Mounted Police members, W. R. Richardson, who had been a Deputy for only 9 days died on Dec 14, 1928 and Deputy William Irwin, a 90 day member of the force died on Jan 20, 1929. They were killed on their motorcycles performing their unique and remote line-of-duty, the tragic victims of a head on collision, pot holes, bridge abutments and horrible roadway conditions. Both were added to our memorial 8 years after its initial dedication.

One of our biggest mysteries started in August of 1924. Deputy J.H. Cox (remember he was hired as one of the very first deputies for Immokalee), was traveling with his wife in the Everglades and intercepted a group of seven bootleggers. While attempting to arrest them he was severely beaten and cut with a razor. His wife interceded and they fled; only to be identified and arrested later; indicted for liquor violations and attempted murder. Six months later as the trial was growing near, Deputy Cox was nowhere to be found, everything in his home remained but he was gone. With the lack of testimony to be offered by Deputy Cox the charges against the seven were dropped.

Deputy Cox's disappearance remained a mystery until 1973, when a once notorious and often indicted bootlegger made a death bed confession; that 50 years earlier he and his conspirators had taken Deputy Cox, his wife and two small children into the Everglade and murdered them.

Without substantiation of this horrible tale, and further confirmation of Deputy Cox's death, his name cannot be engraved on this memorial. We are hoping that continued research into this and other interesting facts will fill the gaps in our history.

Just a few years later, Christmas Eve 1931, Deputy William E. Hutto, who I mentioned earlier was shot and killed by bootleggers. Although a primary suspect and several others were indicted (including Sheriff Louis Thorp) for liquor violations leading to Deputy Hutto's murder, none were ever convicted.

Time has clouded facts and records are long-lost but it seems there will always be a fair supply of tall-tales and interesting stories to add color to our very unique CCSO history; one still to be fully discovered and revealed to those interested.

As agency stories unfold we realize that our Deputies throughout the years have been subjected to difficult and yet rewarding careers. There are many deputies in this agency, that have given to us something other than their lives. There are those who have suffered grievous physical injuries (from fists, knives, gun-shot wounds, fractures and more). Those who have endured lengthy and painful recoveries, struggling with often-time debilitating life-long symptoms; while others sustain personal tragedies (like divorce, alcoholism and even suicide). All at hands of their choice to be a life-long and dedicated law enforcement officer for this county.

With that in mind, I think it is important to also aim today's thoughts and prayers toward the many other deputies who currently serve or previously have served this county. For those graced by God to have finished a fulfilling career, to have given a slightly different "Ultimate Sacrifice" by culminating something, by finishing a series of stages, and by accomplishing selfless deeds... they too have also given up so much.

In closing I would like to say...

It's a difficult job, something most of us would not give up for the world. This is who and what we are. Each of us have created and left a mark in some way on this community, creating a never ending, always evolving HISTORY of the Collier County Sheriff's Office for the future to discover and to enjoy.

I speak for the Alumni of this agency... as we pay tribute and honor, to those on this memorial and on other law enforcement memorials throughout the United States.

... and as we salute every dedicated active duty law enforcement officer, correctional officer and civilian member of the Collier County Sheriff's office.

May God Bless you and keep you safe.

Thank You

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"Connecting The Past with Our Future"

CALHOUN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



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