

Tribute to Deputies Lost in the Line of Duty

According to the Washington, D.C. based National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) the number of law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty last year was the lowest in 50 years. Traffic accidents claimed 56 officers' lives last year, a figure down 21% from the previous year.

Craig Floyd, chairman and CEO of the NLEOMF, attributes driver training for officers for the reduced numbers in law enforcement deaths in traffic fatalities.

"If you look at the last 12 years, more officers have been killed in traffic-related incidents than have been shot and killed or any other cause of death, and that's certainly a troubling trend that we've been concerned about for some time now."

According to the MCSO website the last five officers killed in Monroe County since 1989 were due to traffic accidents. Here is a history of the loss of our deputies.



**Deputy Melissa Powers,
Lost June 22, 2010**

Deputy Melissa "Missy" Powers, 36, was killed in the line of duty in a traffic accident which took place at 10:20 p.m. on June 22, 2010 while responding to a call.

Deputy Powers is survived by two children and her husband, who is a Detective with the Homestead Police.

Deputy Powers was hired by the Monroe County Sheriff's Office in December of 2006 as a road patrol deputy working in the city of Marathon. In February of 2010, she transferred to road patrol in the Key Largo area. Prior to working for the Sheriff's Office, she worked for the Florida Department of Corrections.



**Deputy Robin Tanner
Lost December 13, 2007**

Monroe County Sheriff's Deputy Robin Tanner was killed at 7 a.m. December 13, 2007 in a single vehicle automobile accident as she was responding, on duty, to a medical call. She was responding to a report of a woman not breathing in the vicinity of 119th Street in Marathon. The single vehicle accident took place near 90th Street. She was rushed to Fisherman's Hospital where she was declared deceased a short time later.

Deputy Tanner was assigned to the Marathon area as a patrol officer. She was 47 years old when she passed.

She first came to work for the Sheriff's Office in January of 1987 as a Records Clerk. She attended the Law Enforcement Academy at Florida Keys Community College's Institute of Criminal Justice in 1988 and shortly thereafter became a patrol officer. She worked in the lower Keys until she resigned in June of 1991. She returned to work for the Sheriff's Office in June of 2004 and worked in the middle Keys as a patrol officer until her death.

Ocean Reef Resort. For some reason, he had pulled off of the highway and onto Val Jean Way, in Tavernier. He was stopped at a stop sign at Val Jean Way and Highway U.S. One when he pulled out into the path on an oncoming semi tractor trailer truck, and was broad sided on the driver's side by the truck.

Deputy Alexander has worked for the Monroe County Sheriff's Office for just less than a year. He worked on the midnight shift as a deputy at the Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo. He was also on the Monroe County Sheriff's Office Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team.

Prior to working in the Florida Keys, Deputy Alexander worked for the Miami-Dade Police Department for 16 years. He left that department as a Lieutenant. Deputy Alexander is survived by his wife, Stella, and their two children.



**Deputy David J. Cormier
Lost in 1989**

David J. Cormier, a reserve deputy for the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, died November 19, 1989, from injuries he received when the patrol car he was riding in collided with a pick-up truck.

The collision occurred about 10:55 p.m., on U.S. Highway 1 on Plantation Key at Mile Marker 87.5. Deputy Joseph Ferraro and Reserve Deputy Cormier were responding to a back-up call from another deputy. Patrick Walter from Davie, Florida, had just left the parking lot of the Islamorada Inn in his 1973 Chevrolet pick-up truck when, according to the Florida Highway Patrol, he "failed to yield the right of way" to the patrol car, which had blue and red lights flashing. Deputy Ferraro swerved to the left in an attempt to avoid the accident, but collided with the left side of the pick-up truck. Deputy Ferraro sustained head and neck injuries and was transported to Baptist Hospital and has since made a full recovery. Patrick Walter died at the scene of the accident and Reserve Deputy Cormier was stabilized at Mariners Hospital before being airlifted to Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, where he died during surgery at 2:30 a.m. the following morning.



**Deputy Nick Pham
Lost November 26, 2008**

Monroe County Sheriff's Deputy Nick Pham was killed in the line of duty on November 26, 2008 in a traffic accident. Deputy Pham was on traffic patrol, when his patrol car collided with a semi-tractor trailer truck at the 62 mile marker of highway U.S. One at 12:20 p.m.

Deputy Pham worked for the Sheriff's Office since he was hired on September 15, 2004. He was initially assigned to road patrol in the upper Keys in Sector 7 - the Key Largo area. In July of 2006, he transferred to the Traffic Enforcement Division. He leaves a wife, Jackey, and children who live in Homestead. Deputy Pham worked for Florida City Police and the Dade Correctional Institution prior to working for the Monroe County Sheriff's Office.



**Deputy Michael Alexander
Lost in 1998**

Deputy Michael Alexander died in a traffic accident May 3rd, 1998 while on duty working for the Monroe County Sheriff's Office.

He had just left roll call at the Plantation Key Substation and was en route to his duty station at the



BENEFIT

for the family of

Deputy Misty Powers

Sunday

Sent

CANCELED DUE TO GRIEF

at the

American Legion

Corner of Seagate Blvd & Ocean Drive
at MM 99.6 (formerly Tugboats)

Basket Raffles, Silent & Auctions, Food, Music & Fun!

MUSIC BY

**Felix the Catt and Luke Ptomey
Tim Dressing • Gary Lee Jennings
Scott Youngberg • Cindy Lawson
Alan Truesdell • Ted Hyde
Steve Dunlop & More**

Sponsored by

**The American Legion Post 333 • VFW # 10211
The Coconut Telegraph Newspaper
WORZ-FM • Ocean Reef Radio
Coral Financial Jewelry and Pawn**

*KeysTransportation will be providing a shuttle service from
the Waldorf Plaza at MM 99.6 to the benefit and back.*



Monroe County Sheriff's Deputy Melissa (Misty) Powers was killed in June when her patrol car was involved in a single-vehicle accident at mile marker 101 on U.S.1. while on duty. She was pinned in the car and had to be extricated. She was rushed to Mariner's Hospital where she was pronounced dead.

Melissa Powers came to work for the Monroe County Sheriff's Office in December 2006 as a road patrol deputy working in the city of Marathon. She transferred to road patrol in the Key Largo area in February of this year. Prior to working for the Sheriff's Office, she worked for the Florida Department of Corrections.

Deputy Powers was 36 years old. She is survived by two young children, and her husband who is a Detective with the Homestead Police department.

For more info:

**Tammy Patten
Key Largo Realty
305-395-2062
or
Denise Malefyt
305-304-2837**