



THE SHIELD

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Tulsa County Sheriff's Office

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MAY IS NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH



(LET'S APPRECIATE THOSE WHO SERVE & SERVED FROM TCSO)

As a nation, we observe and participate in various national cultural and social awareness events through mass media attention and educational curriculum. However, we have not allocated appropriate recognition of the most important presence in the world today, an entity that impacts each and every American in a significant way, the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

National Military Appreciation Month (NMAM), as designated by Congress, provides a period encompassing both the history and recognition of our armed services with an in-depth look at the diversity of its individuals and achievements. This month gives the nation a time and place on which to focus and draw attention to our many expressions of appreciation and recognition of our armed services via numerous venues and also to recall and learn about our vast American military history.

National Military Appreciation Month-May 2017 includes Loyalty Day (1st), VE Day (8th), Military Spouse Appreciation Day (12th), Armed Forces Day (20th), and Memorial Day (29th). This very important month honors, remembers, recognizes and appreciates all military personnel; those men and women who have served throughout our history and all who now serve in uniform and their families as well as those Americans who have given their lives in defense of our freedoms.

It recognizes those on active duty in all branches of the services, the National Guard and Reserves plus retirees, veterans, and all of their families - well over 90 million Americans and more than 230 years of our nation's history. Let us celebrate them just as we celebrate the other important entities that make up this wonderful country of ours.

Our military continues to play a major role in the development of our country chronicled through history of unbending honor, dedication to duty and genuine love of country. Alarming is younger generations who distance themselves by lacking awareness of, nor value the service given by our fellow Americans; many of whom are of the "Greatest Generation" that we see now. Schools rarely teach crucial military events that turned the course of history evident as they continue to lose connection with our own American history. Names like Pearl Harbor, San Juan Hill, Civil War, Continental Army, 38th Parallel, Berlin Airlift, Tet

Offensive and Normandy continue to lose their significance within the general American population; particularly our future generations - our youth. Because of this, we now combine American Military History Month into the month of May encouraging educators to develop lesson plans that will highlight the history of each military branch.

Due to military deployments worldwide protecting our national interests, Americans are asked to serve. And employers are asked to accommodate these lengthy absences adding demands on the employees. Our military represents the highest caliber of professionalism, patriotism and technology. So fellow Americans; lets willingly and openly recognize their contributions and sacrifices of their families!

**GOD BLESS AMERICA'S
ARMED FORCES - OUR
FOUNDATION TO
FREEDOM.**

<http://www.nmam.org/about.htm>



Congratulations!

Recipients of Tulsa County Sheriff's Office Awards for 2016

■ Citizen of the Year

Sheri Curry

■ Deputy of the Year

Deputy Brian Osman

■ Detention Officer of the Year

Detention Officer Aaron Ramsey

■ Civilian Employee of the Year

Christina Morrison

■ Life Saving Award

Corporal Clark Hess

Deputy James Collis

Deputy Weston Edwards

Deputy Joshua Hughes

Deputy Michael Meisinger

Deputy David Allen

Deputy Jamison Hirsch

Deputy Donavan Bell

Corporal Daniel Lutz

Detention Officer Michele Angel

Detention Officer Eric Tilley

Detention Officer Toshi Dickey

Detention Officer Nicholas Mercer

LaDonna Penny

■ Certificate of Appreciation

Sgt. Mike Moore

■ Unit Commendation

Deputy Mic Bonin'

Deputy Andy Titsworth

Deputy Kimber Take

Chaplain Jyl Turner

■ Letters of Appreciation

Deputy David Wortham

Detention Officer Ashley Johnson

Detention Officer Christopher Shook





TCSO 2017 Gala



Gala Keynote Speaker, Bill Brown



LaDonna Penny receives a Certificate of Appreciation Award



Surprise Award given from a Target Grant



Awards were given to deserving TCSO Employees



Christina Morrison receives Civilian Employee of the Year Award



Guests line up for dinner



Dinner is served

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ Our History ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

TCSO History

By Retired Sgt. Lyndall Cole
TCSO Historian

“Act of Defiance”

In April of 1947, Sheriff George Blaine was given a very unusual court order. Our sheriff was ordered to evict a herd of goats off of county owned right-of-way near 21st Street and Yale Avenue. Merced and Martha Lara had a herd of 110 goats along with 10 dogs. They had been squatting on the county owned property, as well as several feet of privately owned property, for over 10 years. Finally, after the extreme smell of the animals was too much to bear, citizens within several miles of the goat encampment complained to Tulsa County Commissioner Claude Bailey who then filed the eviction action in District Court. Sheriff Blaine had no problem with sending deputies to remove the squatters and their goats, but he warned the commissioners that Commissioner Bailey would have to care for the animals.

Merced and Martha were served with eviction papers by deputies. In an outward act of defiance, the Lara couple failed to appear in the court of Judge Eben Taylor to answer why they were squatting on county owned property. Judge Taylor was forced to issue a warrant for the couple's arrest. Deputy Charles Shurtleff and Deputy Walter Whisenhunt were assigned to drive out and arrest the stubborn couple. The deputies drove to the Lara's makeshift

shack home to arrest the couple. When they arrived, Martha was there alone tending the couple's 100 goats, and the couple's numerous dogs, Merced had gone into town to buy feed for the goats. Apparently, defiance ran in the family because while the deputies were arresting Martha, one of the Lara's dogs took a bite out of Deputy Whisenhunt's pants and one of their goats nibbled off a corner of the warrant. I guess that was their response to the judge's order. The deputies placed Martha Lara in the county jail then returned to the makeshift goat ranch to wait for Merced. Commissioner Claude Bailey rode with the deputies on this return trip. When the three men arrived, Merced was there pushing a small cart of goat feed on the property. He was arrested by the deputies without incident but only after Commissioner Bailey agreed to push the cart holding the goat feed into a small shack for Mr. Lara. Martha Lara was quickly released from jail and returned to squatter's shack, but Merced remained behind bars to serve five days for contempt of court.

Even with his warning that Commissioner Bailey would be responsible for the goat's welfare, Sheriff Blaine was informed that it was he who was responsible, so the Sheriff set about making preparations to care for the

goats. The Sheriff asked Undersheriff Howard Gregory to call up to the jail and have a deputy go ask Mr. Lara how he watered his goats. The sheriff was told that the water had to be carried up the hill in buckets. One deputy asked about taking the goats to the water instead of carrying the buckets of water up the hill. He was told it was a good idea, if he could figure out a way to convince the goats!

Knowing Martha Lara was unable to carry out this large task alone, the Sheriff ordered deputies to assist her while Merced remain in custody. Sheriff Blaine sent deputies to assist with the watering of the goats, and in the meantime, he took his defiant goat rancher before Judge Taylor and County Attorney Elmer Adams to request that he be released from jail on his own recognizance so he could water his own goats. The Judge asked Merced if he were to release him to care for his goats, would he promise to move off of the county-owned land. The stubborn man's reply was another act of defiance, refusing to do so unless he was given some free land to move them to. Merced was taken back to his cell. After this meeting, Sheriff Blaine received word from his deputies that the 110 goats had been watered!

County officials were busy trying to find somewhere for the Laras and their goat herd to re-locate in Tulsa County, even trying to lease the couple approximately nine acres near the Sand Springs levee, but residents there said no, having former-County Attorney Dixie Gilmer file a petition on their behalf. After Gilmer filed the petition, a county Judge issued an injunction stopping the lease agreement. Finally, former-county Judge John T. Harley found a local Tulsa resident, Mr. T. D. Gray, who was willing to help the couple. Mr. Gray owned 1,000 acres near Sallisaw and agreed to allow the Lara's to move their herd of goats to his property. This was good news for our sheriff and his deputies, no more hauling water up the hill in buckets!



“On the left is Deputy Sheriff Walter Whisenhunt and on the right is Deputy Sheriff Charles V. Shurtleff. The two deputies are standing inside one of the Lara's makeshift shacks, accompanied by, well, goats!

~ Tulsa Tribune Photo April 30, 1947



FOP NEWS



by Paul A. Tryon, FOP Lodge #188 President

Our May meeting will be Wednesday, May 3 at 1730 with food at 1700. Former Tulsa County DA Tim Harris will be there for a short announcement. Two representatives will be there to advise on FOP member health benefits. On May 18, the Tulsa County Deputy Memorial will be held to honor our fallen brothers. Our speaker is Matt Pinnell. With everything going on in this area, state, and nation, if you have not attended one, I strongly suggest this is one you want to attend. Please assist the Sheriff's Office in supporting the May 17 Torch Run for Special Olympics, which is one of the FOP's chosen charitable organiza-

tions. I have been attending the recent budget board meetings as an observer. I have spoken with many of the board members. Everyone on the board is working together and understands the pay step problems we have faced in the past. The problems did not occur overnight and will not be fixed in one year. But I believe this will be a beginning with more to follow. We voted at the April meeting to give our support to four current legislative bills that affect us, including the commissary bill. The lodge wanted more information before we give our support to the public safety property tax bill.

FOP AUXILIARY NEWS

by Kim Tryon, FOP Lodge Auxiliary President

The Auxiliary is putting on a CLEET class on June 3rd at 10 AM at the Faulkner Building in the Wood Room. The class is free to any Deputy and their spouses/significant other. Lunch and childcare is provided free of charge. You may get registration forms from Kim Tryon in the Faulkner Building. Deadline to register is May 24 at 5 pm.

National Police Week is the week of May 15 through May 21. The TCSO Memorial is May 18, please come out and honor our Fallen Deputies.

The Auxiliary would love to have anyone interested in joining to please attend a meeting. Our meetings are the 3rd Monday of every month at 5:30 pm at the FOP Lodge 3240 Charles Page Blvd.

Auxiliary Motto: **"NEVER LET THEM WALK ALONE"**

Community Policing



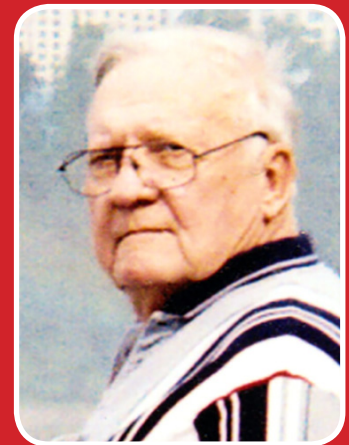
Deputies Green and Pauley are joining the Easter Bunny and McGruff at area hospitals to spread Easter joy to hospitalized children.

In Memoriam



Retired Sgt. Willie Lewis

Retired Sergeant Willie Lewis served TCSO faithfully from 1993 – 2012. He passed away on April 1, 2017. He will surely be missed by all.



Retired Deputy Charles "Buddy" Hall Maybee

Retired Deputy Charles "Buddy" Hall Maybee passed away on April 19, 2017. He served the Tulsa County Sheriff's Office from April 16, 1966 to November 4, 2009. He will also be missed.



2017 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

by Terry A. Simonson

Contrary to what we learn from the media, there is more going on at the State Capitol this legislative session than issues about education. There are a number of bills that address public safety which you should be aware of. Here are a few of them.

SB 90 - This bill, which the Governor has signed, increases the number of basic police course hours which a reserve deputy must complete and shortens the time period to get the hours. The change is the reserve deputy must complete two hundred forty (240) hours in six (6) months after they have been commissioned.

HB 2230 – Would give the Sheriff greater control over the jail commissary

HB 1483 – Would require the DOC and the county to negotiate on what is a fair and actual per diem cost to hold DOC prisoners in the county jail. If the negotiations fail, the State Auditor would mediate and set the rate.

SB 165 – Would allow the Sheriff to pay for outside counsel for deputies who are under investigation following a shooting. If the deputy is ultimately charged by the District Attorney, the deputy would then be responsible for employing his attorney.

HB 2232 – Would require that videos from body worn cameras would only have to be kept up to one (1) year. Currently records of the Sheriff's Office have to be kept seven (7) years. The main obstacle to having cameras is the cost to store the videos. The longer the storage requirement the more it costs. This is a dramatic reduction in time and could make acquiring cameras more feasible.

SB 207 – This bill says that when the Medical Examiner issues an autopsy report to law enforcement, it does not have to be released to the public or media for ten (10) days to give time for notification of the next of kin.

SB 661 – If approved, this would allow an extra filing fee of \$10 on all filed Small Claims cases to be used by the Sheriff for courthouse security measures.

SB 584 – Currently records solely in the possession of the Sheriff has to be kept for seven (7) years. This bill would reduce that time down to three (3) years.

HB 1374 – This bill would allow cities to present to the voters in the city a new concept to create a "Public Safety District". The City would be asking voters to approve a specific amount of millage (property taxes) to be dedicated to public safety. If the voters approve this, a portion of this amount would be used to pay what the county assesses the city to use the county jail to hold city prisoners.

The legislative session ends May 26th. Over the next few weeks these bills will continue to be addressed.



