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Office sought: Sheriff, Volusia County

Education:

- Graduated from T. Dewitt Taylor High School in 1982
- Attended Daytona Beach Community College from 1982 – 1984
- Graduated from the 75th Recruit Class of the Florida Highway Patrol Academy in 1986
- Currently attending Daytona State College seeking a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice

Occupation:

- Lieutenant with the Florida Highway Patrol in the Troop D – DeLand District. Member of Florida Highway Patrol Graduating Class of 1986.

Training & Experience:

- I have 22 years of professional law enforcement experience with the Florida Highway Patrol serving all areas of Law Enforcement. My veteran knowledge of fighting crime on the highways as a road trooper, being a K-9 handler arresting drug dealers and taking illegal and illicit drugs off of Florida's Highways are just some of my qualifications. Experience as a Traffic Homicide Investigator, a member of the Bureau of Investigations conducting personnel investigations and fraud investigations add to my credentials. With most recent experience as a Shift Commander, a Sub-District Commander, Evidence/Property Custodian, Manager of daily operations of personnel and the special events coordinator for the Daytona 500, Daytona Bike Week, African-American Spring Break, Daytona 400, and Biketoberfest.

Training & Experience Continued:

- 1986 Trooper, Florida Highway Patrol
- 1989 K-9 Trooper, Florida Highway Patrol
- 1993 Corporal, Florida Highway Patrol
- 1997 Sergeant, Florida Highway Patrol
- 1998 Lieutenant, Florida Highway Patrol

Name the two most important issues that you believe are of concern to your district and how you would address each.

- Restore Volusia County citizens' faith and confidence in their Sheriff's office by bring leadership to the Volusia County Sheriff's Office, leading by action with fresh and new innovative ideas. One such idea is to sponsor a Volusia County Family Symposium where our citizens specifically seniors, children and women, can become acquainted or re-acquainted on ways to keep themselves from becoming victims. This can be accomplished with Law Enforcement Professionals teaching and educating, as well as have private vendors teaching educating and introducing products that would enhance individual's personal safety. This should be an annual event with no cost to citizens and should be held at locations such as the Volusia County Fairgrounds and the Ocean Center for ease of access to citizens residing on the Eastside or the Westside of Volusia County.
- Be an advocate for all citizens to serve and protect to the best of our abilities and skills by reducing the crime rate in all areas through strict and rigorous enforcement. Areas of major concerns are the amount of illegal and illicit drugs being transported through and bought and sold in Volusia County, unlawful gang activities, crime against the elderly and widespread fraud and corruption within our county. The safety of our children at school has been compromised by the reduction of School Resource Officers. All of these issues must be taken seriously and addressed.

What is your position on the State Legislature dictating local government taxation and revenue policy? Defend your position.

- Good government should mean as an administrator, tax payers dollars should not be wasted but spent wisely. All areas of government should be evaluated to assess if citizen's needs are being met and duplication of services are being avoided. There should be no taxation without proven representation; there should be a means to an end. The State Legislature should only be able to mandate policies if the policies work correctly and have been proven to be successful.

The duty to ensure safety of the general public often comes into conflict with constitutional protections, such as prohibition of search and seizure. How do you balance public duty and individual rights?

- The public duty doctrine applies to policing functions. Florida’s public duty doctrine states that, [a] governmental duty to protect its citizens is a general duty to the public as a whole, and where there is only a general duty to protect the public; there is no duty of care to an individual citizen which may result in liability.¹ However, I feel that individual rights cannot be trampled as it would lead to the degradation of the United States Constitution. The Amendments clearly states what rights individuals have and those rights are protected by the United States Constitution and ***shall not*** be violated.

Officers’ salaries are not adequate and must often be supplemented with overtime or off-duty pay. What are your ideas that may be remedies to this problem?

- Reduce or eliminate unnecessary budget items and reallocate those monies for salary increases. Implement step pay plans to avoid the loss of personnel due to inadequate salaries. Evaluate certain programs in local government to understand if public safety issues, retaining law enforcement professionals through salary increases, are more important than non-public safety issues.

Name a specific issue that we have not address that you feel is important to your constituents?

- A disconnect between the general public and the Sheriff's office exists and there are no clearly defined roles on how the public can interact with the Sheriff's office. The public can't appreciate what the Sheriff's office has to offer because they simply don't know. They are unaware of the services available to the community. It is my hope that the public feels a sense of ownership in the county, a Sheriff's office they can be proud of through community involvement.

1. William N. Drake, Jr. "Florida's Public Duty Doctrine," Florida Bar Journal, May 1, 2006