

We Will Never Forget

A Tribute to Deputy Robert Talburt (1951-1984)

Thirty years ago, the Washington County Sheriff's Office lost one of our own. Deputy Robert (Bob) Talburt was only 33 years old. He had served the people of Washington County for seven and half years and had a promising career and life ahead of him. Bob was a loving family man. He was widely respected in the community, and held in the highest esteem by his coworkers. That incredible life ended on December 14, 1984, when his patrol car hit a slippery patch of mud on the road and struck a power pole while Bob was responding to cover another deputy working a burglary call.



Bob's death left his wife, Pam, without her beloved husband and their young daughter, Melody, without her loving father. Bob left behind parents and siblings and his Washington County Sheriff's Office family.

It's not how Deputy Talburt died that made him a hero; it is how he lived. Those who knew Bob knew a man who was true to his word, honest, and ethical. He was known for his infectious grin and comforting demeanor. Bob joined the Washington County Sheriff's Office on May 1, 1977. Through his daily work he demonstrated unyielding devotion to his oath to serve this county as a deputy sheriff.

Bob and his family shared a strong faith. They were active in their church and in the community. One of Bob's favorite hobbies was scuba diving on the Oregon coast.

In 1984, there were 184 police officer line-of-duty deaths across the United States. That's nearly one police officer death every 48 hours. Three of those deaths were in Oregon. For us at the Washington County Sheriff's Office, as in all police agencies, a police officer's death is more than a statistic. It is about losing a family member. Bob was one of the best and one we will always remember. He served the community with distinction, honor, and grace.

It is the honored tradition of law enforcement to make a commitment to the families of fallen officers to never forget. We take that promise very seriously. Please pause on December 14, 2014, for a moment of silence to honor Deputy Bob Talburt and his family.



Bob built a remarkable and rich life through his family, a love of God, and his dedication to serving others. May he continue to rest in peace.