How communities can honor local police

Safe communities allow residents to thrive and live their lives to the fullest. Such communities are sought-after places to live, and maintaining a community-wide sense of safety and security is no small task.

Local police forces do much to keep their communities safe, so it's no great mystery why residents want to show how much they appreciate the people who ensure their towns and cities remain wonderful places to call home. With that in mind, community residents, small business owners and elected officials can consider the following ways to honor local police.

• Offer discounts to law enforcement and their families. Small business owners recognize the vital role local police play in keeping Main Street safe. A safe dining and shopping district is beneficial to business owners' bottom line, and that makes it worth their while to offer discounts to local law

enforcement and their families. Local restaurant owners can offer percentage-based law enforcement discounts on food and drinks to active and retired law enforcement personnel and their families. Local shop owners can follow suit. Year-round discounts for law enforcement and their families are a nice token of business owners' appreciation, and such offers can be increased during busy times of year, such as the holiday season.

• Showcase officers on social media. Local governments can get in on the act by highlighting a different officer each month on various social media platforms. Interview a new officer each month and highlight their backgrounds and careers. This can be a great way to showcase the talents of local officers and foster strong connections between community residents and the men and women in law enforcement who keep their towns and cities safe.

• Feature officers during

public celebrations. Parades, holiday bazaars and local scholastic sporting events are some examples of events that bring community residents together. Such events provide great opportunities to thank local law enforcement and bring them into direct contact with residents. Encourage parade attendees to shake hands with featured officers and utilize wellattended community events, such as high school football games, to formally recognize local police departments and officers. A halftime announcement honoring an "Officer of the Month" is one way to showcase officers so residents can put a name and a face on their local police departments.

• Support police during town council meetings. Attendance at town council meetings is a good way to remain informed about what's going on in a community, and it also serves as an opportunity to support measures aimed at benefiting local law



enforcement personnel. Support efforts to increase salaries for local police officers and upgrade their resources so they can continue to do their jobs to the best of their abilities.

There's no shortage of ways for communities and residents to express their appreciation and support for the local law enforcement personnel who keep their towns and cities safe.

What does "Back the Blue" mean?

"Back the blue" means to show support for law enforcement officers, acknowledging their dangerous and difficult jobs of protecting communities. The phrase is used to express gratitude, stand with officers, and show solidarity with the police, symbolized by the traditional blue uniforms. It is a call to support law enforcement without necessarily condoning every action or implying that misconduct should not be addressed.

 $Common\ interpretations\ and$

actions associated with "Back the Blue"

Showing appreciation: A simple "thank you" or greeting to an officer is a way to "back the blue".

Honoring the job: It acknowledges the personal risks officers take to maintain order and protect the public.

Supporting law enforcement initiatives: This can include supporting community programs, such as the Attorney General's "Back the Blue" campaign, which aims to build

positive relationships between police and the public.

Opposing police defunding: In some contexts, "backing the blue" is a political stance against efforts to reduce police funding.

Expressing solidarity: It is a way for citizens to stand with the police and show they are part of a team dedicated to maintaining peace.

Symbolism and history

Thin Blue Line: The phrase is closely associated with the "thin blue line" symbol, which represents the police as a

protective force separating the public from chaos and crime.

Origin: The term "thin blue line" has roots in a 19th-century British military term ("the thin red line") but was specifically adopted by the NYPD in 1922 and later popularized in the United States.

Symbolic meaning: For civilians, it can mean a willingness to stand with those who maintain peace. For officers, it can be a reminder of the larger cause they are part of.

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History of the Thin Blue Line

The "thin blue line" is a term that typically refers to the concept of the police as the line between law-and-order and chaos in society. The "blue" in "thin blue line" refers to the blue color of the uniforms of many police departments.

The phrase originated as an allusion to the Thin Red Line incident during the Crimean War in 1854, wherein a Scottish regiment—wearing red uniforms—famously held off an Imperial Russian Army cavalry charge. Its use referring specifically to the police was popularized by Los Angeles Police Department Chief William H. Parker during the 1950s; author and police officer Joseph Wambaugh in the 1970s, by which time "thin blue line" was used across the United States: and Errol Morris's documentary The Thin Blue Line (1988). In recent years, the symbol has also been used by the Blue Lives Matter

which aims to show solidarity with the police, and a number of far-right movements in the U.S., particularly after the Unite the Right rally in 2017.

History

The term is adapted from
The Thin Red Line, an incident
of the 1854 Battle of Balaclava
during the Crimean War where
troops the 93rd Regiment of Foot
successfully stood their ground
against a Imperial Russian Army
cavalry charge. This action was
widely publicized by the British
press and depicted in several
artworks, becoming one of the
most famous episodes of the
entire conflict. The name is now
used for firefighters today.

In the book Lawtalk, James Clapp and Elizabeth Thornburg say the term spread to other professions, e.g., a "thin white line of bishops."

An early known use of the phrase "thin blue line" is from a 1911 poem by Nels Dickmann Anderson, titled "The Thin Blue

Line." In the poem, the phrase is used to refer to the United States Army, alluding both to the Thin Red Line and to the fact that US Army soldiers wore blue uniforms from the eighteenth century through the nineteenth century.

First used to refer to police when New York police commissioner Richard Enright used the phrase in 1922. In the 1950s, Los Angeles Police Chief Bill Parker often used the term in speeches, and he also lent the phrase to the departmentproduced television show The Thin Blue Line. Parker used the term "thin blue line" to further reinforce the role of the LAPD. As Parker explained, the thin blue line, representing the LAPD, was the barrier between law and order and social and civil anarchy.

The Oxford English Dictionary records its use in 1962 by The Sunday Times referring to police presence at an anti-nuclear demonstration. The phrase is also documented in a 1965 pamphlet by the Massachusetts government, referring to its state police force, and in even earlier police reports of the NYPD. By the early 1970s, the term had spread to police departments across the United States. Author and police officer Joseph Wambaugh helped to further popularize the phrase with his police novels throughout the 1970s and 1980s.

The term was used for the title of Errol Morris's 1988 documentary film The Thin Blue Line about the murder of the Dallas Police officer Robert W. Wood. Judge Don Metcalfe, who presided over the trial of Randall Adams, states in the film that prosecutor "Doug Mulder's final argument was one I'd never heard before: about the 'thin blue line' of police that separate the public from anarchy." The judge admitted to being deeply moved by the prosecutor's words, though the trial resulted in a wrongful



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12 facts about law enforcement

Law enforcement professionals are in the business of keeping people safe and secure. Statista reports that, in 2022, there were 70,566 police officers across Canada and 708,001 officer employed in the United States.

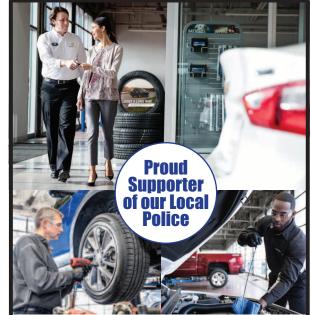
People from all walks of life work in law enforcement, where careers include dispatchers, crime scene technicians and police chiefs. The law enforcement field is vast and interesting, and the following are 14 facts about those who protect and serve, courtesy of Fact Retriever, Kiddle, the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund, and the Law Enforcement Legal Defense Fund.

1. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police provide police services to every province in

Canada except Quebec and Ontario.

- **2.** In 1916, Georgia Ann Robinson became the first African American police woman.
- **3.** Law enforcement agencies are still staffed primarily with men. However, about 12 percent of sworn law enforcement officers in the U.S. are women.
- **4.** The deadliest day in law enforcement history was on September 11, 2001. Seventy-two officers were killed while responding to the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and other locations.
- **5.** Police are trained in first aid and rescue because they usually are the first to arrive on the scene of an emergency.
- **6.** The police are known by different names ina other countries. In Ireland, for example, they are known as the Garda.

- **7.** Around 90 percent of London's police officers do not carry firearms.
- **8.** Police in the United States cannot make an arrest without probable cause and the intent to prosecute.
- **9.** The vast majority of Americans (71 percent) are satisfied with local police.
- **10.** Most cops (95 percent) never fire their service weapons on duty during their entire careers.
- **11.** 99.9 percent of police calls are resolved peacefully.
- **12.** In colonial America, law enforcement officers had less authority and personnel and were not effective at apprehending criminals. The church congregation would hold trials to "catch" criminals.



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Sheriff Jon Hayden focuses on Community, Teamwork, and Continuous Improvement

By: Laurna Todd Scene Writer

Graves County Sheriff Jon Hayden shared insights about his service, staff, and goals for the department in a recent interview.

Sheriff Hayden brings decades of law enforcement experience to his role. He served three terms as McCracken County Sheriff, completing a 27-year career there in 2018, before returning to his home county. "My wife and I are both from Graves County originally, and most of our families live here," he said. "Being elected sheriff in Graves County in 2019—and re-elected in 2022—means a lot to me. It's an honor to serve the county where I was born and raised."

This year, the department welcomed three new deputies. One is currently attending the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training Academy, another is slated to begin this fall, and the third is a lateral transfer from the McCracken County Sheriff's Office. The latter brought valuable experience from both the Paducah Police Department and McCracken County, and he and his family are longtime Graves County residents.

Sheriff Hayden praised the department's culture. "Our staff works well together, and most of us genuinely look at one another as family. What stands out is their willingness to jump in and help each other without being asked. It makes the office stronger and the community

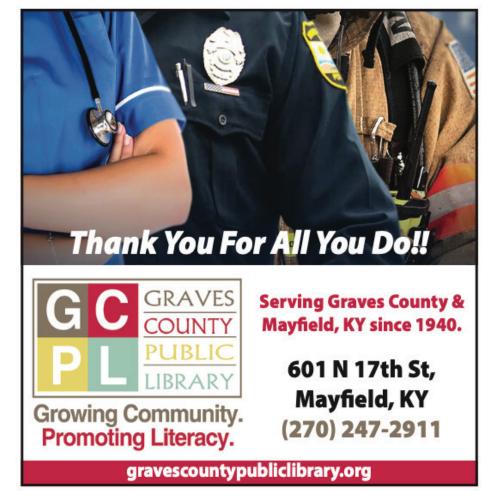
Looking forward, Hayden



Graves County Sheriff Jon Hayden

emphasized continuous improvement. "Our ongoing goal is to become better each day in the jobs we perform for the community. We strive to be an agency that the residents of Mayfield and Graves County can depend on—transparent, ethical, and always acting in their best interest."

Under Sheriff Hayden's leadership, the Graves County Sheriff's Office continues to prioritize community trust, staff cohesion, and excellence in public service.







Many skilled professionals work in police departments

Each and every day, communities rely on law enforcement agencies to keep their cities and towns orderly and safe. Uniformed patrol officers may be the most visible employees of police departments, but there are many individuals who work in concert to keep communities safe and precincts running smoothly. The following are some of the essential personnel who serve in local police departments across the country.

Dispatcher/

telecommunicator: This may be the first person individuals speak with during an emergency situation. Dispatchers typically work on the phone in police departments or from remote call centers. They patch information through to law enforcement so that officers can respond to situations.

- Investigators: Some departments employ civilian detectives to strengthen their investigative services. They work primarily from desks within the police department. These investigators will look into a wide range of low-level crimes like traffic incidents, burglaries and financial crimes. Sworn officers are able to devote their time elsewhere in the field as a result.
- Police technician: A technician is an entry-level position who assists sworn

personnel in follow-up investigations. Technicians also may perform other tasks, including working on paperwork or filing incident reports.

- Officer/detective: The broadest rank in the police department belongs to those who are police officers, patrol officers and police detectives. These people respond to emergencies and non-emergency calls, patrol areas, obtain warrants, and perform many other duties, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- Information technology **specialists:** Those with IT experience can work in police departments with video surveillance, in-car mobile data terminals, wireless communications, and global mapping technology to assist with crime prevention. Some IT professionals enter cybercrime detective units to help solve crimes related to computers and the internet.
- Victim advocates: These people help victims of crime cope with trauma and may work in the services department of a police force. They typically inform victims of their legal rights, including their right to protection.
- Sheriff: According to Indeed, a sheriff is an elected official authorized by the state to enforce laws at a county level. They



cover areas that are wider than those covered by local police departments. Sheriffs also may manage local jails and ensure security in these areas.

- Evidence custodian: This is the person who oversees evidence and is responsible for cataloging and securing it safely in storage.
- Crime scene technician: The technician is a forensic expert who works with law enforcement to collect evidence found at crime scenes to help solve crimes.

• Additional officials: Police departments follow a hierarchy of rank advancement. Above officers one will find corporals, sergeants, lieutenants, captains, a deputy police chief, and a chief of police. Higher ranks may manage other officers, monitor budgets and programs, enforce policies, and serve as the public face of local police departments.

Various professionals work at police departments across the country.









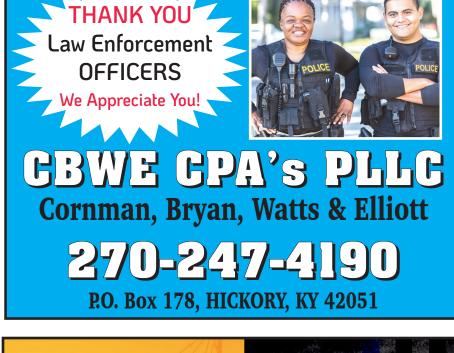


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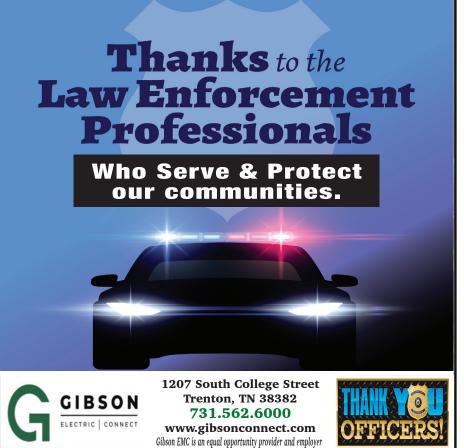












Carlisle County Sheriff outlines plans, recognizes staff excellence

By: Laurna Todd Scene Writer

Carlisle County Sheriff Eric Perry recently shared his perspective on serving the community, recognizing staff, and future goals for the department.

Sheriff Perry has served as Carlisle County's Sheriff for approximately 1.5 years. He was appointed in June 2024 and elected in a special election that November. "I was born and raised in this county and have served as Deputy and then Chief Deputy for the last 15 years,'

he said. "This community and county is who I love to serve. I try to give back to better our way of life and keep our families safe."

This year, the department added two new deputies. Austin Rathman joined as a full-time Deputy and completed his training at the DOCJT Academy, graduating in June 2025. Additionally, certified parttime Deputy Jeff Hartman was hired to help relieve workload pressures for Sheriff Perry and Chief Deputy Ben Green.

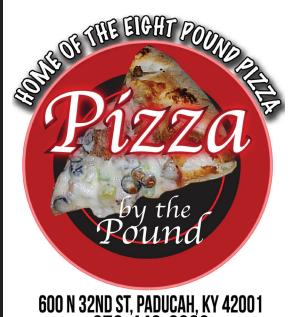
Sheriff Perry praised the dedication of his staff. "The staff I have in place were here under the former Sheriff and they know their jobs, which makes office life easier. My office manager and her assistant are the best at what they do—I could not be more proud to have them on board."

Looking ahead, Perry is excited about upcoming initiatives. "I am looking forward to getting our Task Force off the ground. We are still in the beginning stages and preparing for the upcoming election year."

Under Sheriff Perry's leadership, the Carlisle County Sheriff's Office continues to focus on safety, efficiency, and service to the local community.



Carlisle County Sheriff Eric Perry



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Sheriff Ryan Norman Highlights Staff, New Hires, and Department Goals

By: Laurna Todd Scene Writer

McCracken County Sheriff Ryan Norman recently shared insights about his role, his team, and plans for the Sheriff's Office.

Norman has served as Sheriff for three years. "Being the Sheriff, to me, means that I get to have a lasting effect on our county and hopefully continue to make it a great place to live," he said. "The Sheriff's Office has a great team that truly cares for our community. It is exciting to help shape the culture here as well as the future of our county, our home."

This year, the department welcomed eight new staff members: four deputies—Caleb Cope, Ashley Copeland, Daniel Griggs, and Jon Wentworth—and four court security officers—Madyson Coil, Tina Raper, Tyler Steele, and Theresita Vasquez.

Norman noted that all the deputies were already certified and had prior experience, with Deputy Copeland also serving in the Army National Guard.

Norman praised the dedication of his staff. "From our office personnel to our deputies, they are all committed to helping our community. They spend countless hours training, working overtime, and participating in programs like our Sheriff's Office Citizen's Academy. Many sacrifice family time and other activities to fill gaps and assist us. These qualities are hard to find."

Looking ahead, Norman shared ambitious plans for the department. "We are working towards accreditation by the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police, which is a multiyear process. Our standing goals are to constantly improve through monthly training. Even minor skills can make a law enforcement



officer great, and we strive to improve each one. The Sheriff's Foundation also purchased a 3D scanner for \$70,000 earlier this year, which has already helped our team tremendously and will continue to do so in the future."

Sheriff Norman's focus on community, staff excellence, and innovation highlights the ongoing dedication of McCracken County law enforcement to keeping residents safe and supported.

McCracken County Jailer discusses daily challenges, staff dedication, and future initiatives

By: Laurna Todd Scene Writer

PADUCAH — McCracken County Jailer Stephen Carter has served the county for 16 years and recently took on the role of Jailer two months ago. "Working in this role is deeply meaningful to me because it allows me to make a positive impact on both the facility and the lives of those entrusted to our care," he said. "I take great pride in leading a dedicated team and building a safe, secure, and rehabilitative environment."

The jail operates 24/7, with staff overseeing inmate movement, medical care, meals, security checks, and rehabilitation programs. "[Working closely with inmates] requires patience,

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professionalism, and empathy," Carter explained. "It can be demanding, but it's rewarding to see individuals make positive changes."

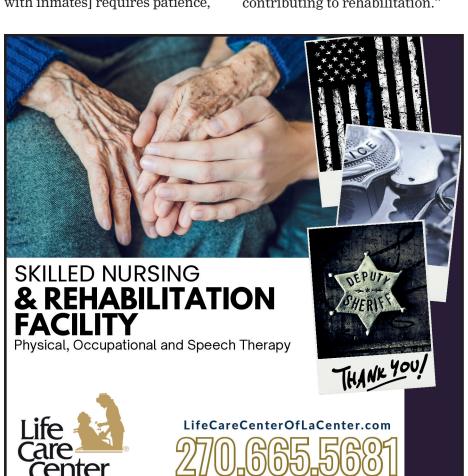
While most inmates come from McCracken County, the jail also houses individuals from surrounding counties and occasionally from state or federal agencies. This diversity adds complexity, but the staff maintains strong coordination with other jurisdictions to ensure smooth operations.

Carter praised his team's dedication and professionalism. "What truly sets our staff apart is their commitment to safety, fairness, and supporting one another. They handle challenges with integrity and take pride in contributing to rehabilitation."

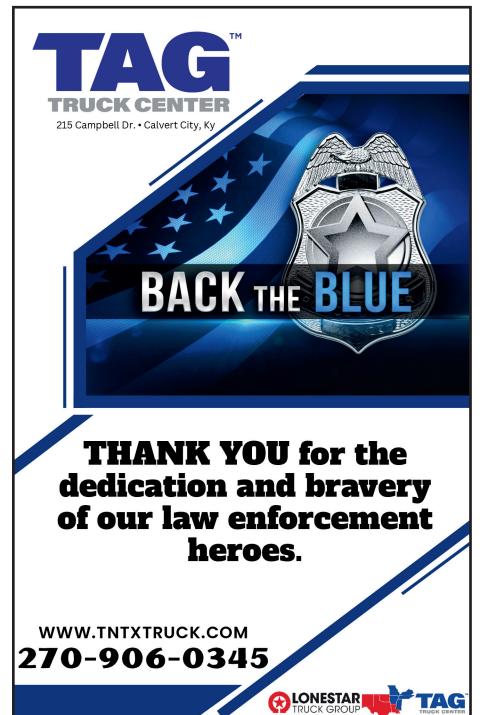
Looking ahead, the jail is focusing on improving reentry programs. A new initiative provides inmates within 90 days of release with state-issued IDs and birth certificates, helping remove barriers to employment and essential services. Ongoing professional development and

training opportunities for staff are also priorities.

"Our staff is the backbone of this facility," Carter said. "Investing in their growth and well-being is key to our continued success."



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Inside Calloway County Jail: Jailer shares challenges, achievements, and staff dedication

By: Laurna Todd Scene Writer

Ken Claud, the elected Jailer for Calloway County, has served in this role for eleven years, following a 27-year career in law enforcement that included six years as Chief of Police for the City of Murray. As jailer, Claud oversees the overall management and security of the facility, assisted by a staff of 32 deputy jailers and two non-sworn positions. "The jail operates 24/7," Claud said. "Our staff must be present every day, regardless of weather or holidays. I am extremely proud of their dedication and professionalism."

Dealing with inmates can be challenging, Claud noted, but he believes respect produces better outcomes. The main



Ken Claud, Calloway County Jailer

jail has a rated capacity of 129 beds, with an additional 34-bed restricted custody center. The population typically ranges around 140, with about half being state inmates after felony convictions. The county receives

a per diem payment for housing state inmates, which helps offset operating costs.

Claud highlighted several rehabilitative programs offered at the jail, including work contracts with local entities such as the City of Murray, the Kentucky Department of Transportation, and Murray Electric System. Inmates also have access to evidence-based classes covering topics like anger management, parenting, and moral reconation therapy, as well as the opportunity to earn a GED through a partnership with the Kentucky Department of Adult Education.

Technology upgrades have also improved safety and security, including a body scanner, digital radios, handheld devices for cell checks and headcounts, and upgraded surveillance cameras. While the jail, now nearly 30 years old, faces ongoing infrastructure challenges, Claud emphasized continual maintenance and equipment replacement, including the kitchen and laundry areas.

Staffing has historically been a challenge due to the demands of corrections work. However, a recent salary study by the Calloway County Fiscal Court raised deputy jailer starting pay from \$14 to \$17.45 per hour, aiming to stabilize the workforce and reduce turnover.

Claud reflected, "The county jail is a major part of the criminal justice system. It has been my honor to lead this institution for the last eleven years. We also welcome tours for appropriate groups to educate the public about the work we do."

"We stand united with our law enforcement heroes. Thank you for your service, courage, and sacrifice."



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Leadership, Loyalty, and Service: Sheriff Davidson reflects on his role

By: Laurna Todd Scene Writer

Livingston County Sheriff Bobby Davidson, elected in November 2010, recently reflected on his years of service, the strength of his department, and the deep connection he feels with the community he proudly serves. "Being Sheriff is not something I take lightly," Davidson said. "In fact, it means more to me than words can fully express. It's not just a title — it's a promise: a promise to serve, to protect, and to lead with integrity." For Davidson, the role of sheriff is rooted in both duty and personal connection. "This isn't just where I work it's where I live, where I raise



my family, and where I share a deep bond with each and every one of you." He emphasized that law enforcement goes beyond enforcing the law; it's about building trust with residents

and being present in their daily lives. "It's about showing up, not just in moments of crisis, but in everyday life — at community events, in our schools, and on the front steps of homes when someone needs help." Under Davidson's leadership, the Livingston County Sheriff's Office has launched and expanded numerous outreach initiatives, including the implementation of School Resource Officers (SROs) in schools to ensure the safety of children, as well as programs like Cram the Cruiser, Santa Cop, and DARE — all aimed at supporting youth and fostering positive relationships within the community. "We've lowered

crime rates and expanded outreach," he stated. "But I know there's still more to be done. I'm committed — not just as a law enforcement officer, but as your neighbor — to doing the hard work necessary to keep improving." While Davidson did not highlight individual new hires this year, he offered high praise for the entire team serving under him. "I want to recognize the dedicated deputies who wear the badge in this department, along with the court security officers up front. They put their lives on the line each day with courage, professionalism, and a sense of duty that inspires me. They are the backbone of this office, and I'm proud to lead them." Maintaining law and order is a foundational responsibility for the department, ensuring safety, accountability, and peace of mind for county residents. Sheriff Davidson expressed gratitude that there are still individuals willing to step up and accept this responsibility with pride and purpose. As he looks to the year ahead, Davidson is focused on continuing to grow the department's impact through both innovation and community partnership.







Marshall County Sheriff Matt Hillbrecht highlights staff, new hires, and department goals

By: Laurna Todd Scene Writer

Marshall County Sheriff Matt Hillbrecht has dedicated more than two decades to serving his community, sharing a deep connection to the county he calls home.

Sheriff Hillbrecht has served as Marshall County Sheriff since January 2023, but his career in law enforcement spans 26 years. "Marshall County is my home, where my children were raised, and now where my grandchildren are being raised," he said. "It means everything to me to serve in a capacity to help make Marshall County a safer place to live and raise our families. It has been a privilege to serve the citizens of Marshall County over the course of my career, and I hope to continue for several more vears."

This year, the Sheriff's Office welcomed several new team

members, including Deputies
Dustin Bevil, Patrick Kelly, and
Trevin Green; School Resource
Officers Nathan Maxlow, Caleb
Curtner, Benny Kauffman,
John Lancaster, and Greg
Reynolds; and Court Security
Officers Darvin Stom and Mike
Frensley. Hillbrecht praised their
contributions, saying each has
played a vital role in the success
of the office.

Sheriff Hillbrecht also praised his staff for their dedication and courage. "In a world where law enforcement is often scrutinized, these deputies continue to serve with pride, integrity, and bravery every single day. They put on their uniform knowing the risks, protecting strangers, and making the community safer. Their commitment is what truly makes a great team, and I am honored to serve alongside these heroes."

Looking ahead, Hillbrecht outlined several goals and initiatives for 2025. One key accomplishment is the expansion of the Peer Support Team, in collaboration with neighboring police departments, providing mental health services to officers after traumatic events. Another upcoming initiative is a Police Clergy Alliance, designed to offer spiritual and emotional support to victims and their families during crises.

The department is also advancing in technology and safety, implementing a drone program, updating mobile data terminals in cruisers, and pursuing grants to obtain additional ballistic shields, helmets, and protective gear for deputies.

Sheriff Hillbrecht's focus on community, staff excellence, and innovative programs underscores the ongoing dedication of

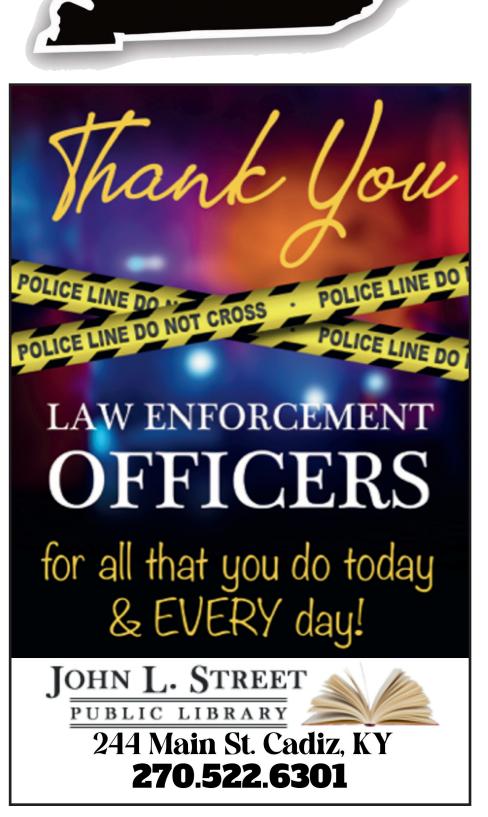


Marshall County Sheriff
Matt Hillbrecht

Marshall County law enforcement to keeping residents safe and supported.







Backing the Blue in Washington

In 2022 Congressman Sam Graves of Missouri wrote:

I've heard a lot of bad ideas over the years. But one of them, this notion that we should "defund the police," really takes the cake.

There's no substitute for the brave law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line to keep our communities safe. When you call 911, and I pray that day never comes for you, you expect an armed police officer to respond, not a social worker. But that's exactly what some of the out-of-touch liberals want to happen.

They want to defund our police departments and send unarmed social workers to do the job of law enforcement professionals. That's a recipe for disaster. You don't stop rising crime by sending social workers to do the job of cops and letting criminals off the hook. You stop rising crime by supporting our police officers and cracking down on violent criminals. That seems fairly easy to understand.

This isn't some harmless, obscure political debate. These kinds of ideas and policies are having real impacts on our communities. The Biden Administration's decision to turn their backs on law-enforcement agents at the border has allowed deadly fentanyl to flood into our communities at an unpredicted rate.

I don't just mean border towns in Texas and Arizona. Almost every other day, I see a new story of a teen or toddler stolen from us



too soon—in places like Kansas City and Chillicothe. None of this nonsense has done anything to fight back against the crime plaguing our country. In fact, it's only emboldened criminals to attack and target our law enforcement officers.

In May, the FBI released data showing that the number of law-enforcement officers intentionally killed in the line of duty reached the highest level our country has seen since September 11, 2001. That's completely unacceptable.

I cosponsored the Protect and Serve Act to enhance penalties for the cowardly criminals that target our police officers. It's time we got serious about cracking down on violent criminals. Back the blue shouldn't just be a catchy slogan. It should be something we all try to live up to—to fight back against all these attacks on our police officers and this "defund the police" nonsense.

Sincerely, Sam Graves

Op-ed by 4 House Republicans

This op-ed from May 2025 with Reps. Pete Stauber, Troy Nehls, Clay Higgins, and Congressman Gabe Evans shares how House Republicans have backed the blue.

During National Police Week, our nation remembers those who bravely served our communities in uniform and who made the ultimate sacrifice upholding the law.

Despite these sacrifices, President Joe Biden and Democrats turned their backs on law enforcement officers across America for the last four years. By allowing millions of illegal immigrants into our country and by passing soft-on-crime policies, the radical Left put local law enforcement officers' lives in danger.

Now, with President Donald Trump in the White House and with Republicans in control of Congress, America's law enforcement can rest assured knowing we will always back the blue. As former law enforcement officers now serving in Congress, we are dedicated to enacting legislation to better the lives of our fellow officers.

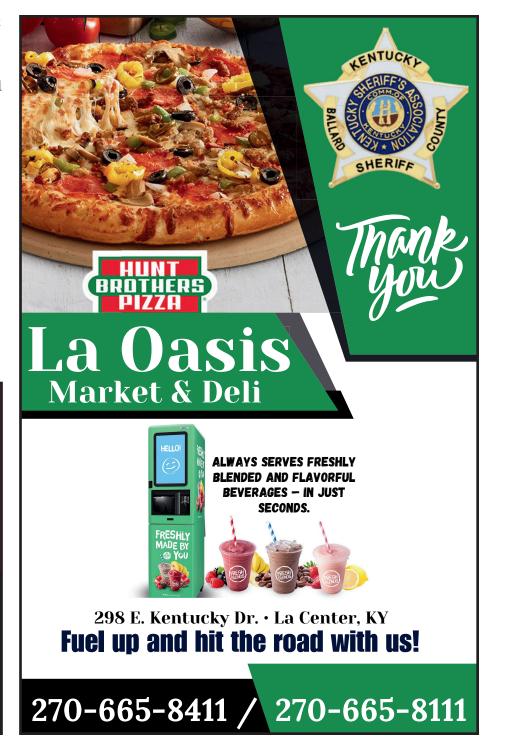
We've already passed numerous measures to help law enforcement officers do their jobs, like the HALT Fentanyl Act and the Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act.

The HALT Fentanyl Act would equip law enforcement officials with the power to go after fentanyl traffickers by permanently classifying fentanyl analogs as a Schedule I substance. And the Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act would enact harsher penalties for those who evade law enforcement near the border and prevent illegal immigrants who flee Border Patrol from ever being admitted to the United States. Both bills could help prevent future tragedies from happening again.

In case it wasn't clear, the days of lawmakers turning their backs on law enforcement officers are over. House Republicans are working with President Trump to honor and protect those who put their lives on the line.

America's laws are being upheld again. The Thin Blue Line protects our families and communities. It's only right that we have their backs.

Reps. Pete Stauber, Troy Nehls, Clay Higgins, and Gabe Evans are Republican members of Congress. All four served their communities in law enforcement roles before their time in office.





Criminal Justice Training announce 22 Officers Graduate

Program sharpens investigative skills of Kentucky's law enforcement officers

Gov. Andy Beshear and the Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT) announced that 22 crime scene investigators (CSIs) from across the commonwealth have graduated from the 2025 Kentucky Criminalistics Academy (KCA) Crime Scene Technician Course Class 10.

"Crime scene investigators are vital in supporting our law enforcement and providing justice for victims across our commonwealth," Gov. Beshear said. "You have answered a call that will help build a safer New Kentucky Home, and for that, all of Kentucky thanks you."

KCA is made up of two five-week, 200-hour courses for full-time and newly appointed CSIs and patrol officers who serve as CSIs for their agencies. In addition to sworn officers, KCA is open to civilian CSIs who work for law enforcement agencies.

"Your skills as law enforcement officers have been enhanced by completing this

academy," DOCJT Commissioner Mike Bosse said. "It reflects your dedication to the field. I wish you all the best as you continue your careers."

KCA certification includes training in:

- Digital photography
- Advanced latent print development
- Evidence collection and documentation
- Latent fingerprint recognition and identification
- Shooting scene reconstruction
- Bloodstain pattern recognition and documentation
- Post blast investigation
- Forensic mapping
- Computer crimes investigations
- Forensic anthropological recovery course (University of Tennessee)

DOCJT provides basic training for city and county police officers, sheriff's deputies, university police and airport police throughout the state, only excluding

"Blue runs deep — in our community, our gratitude, and our hearts."



the Louisville Metro Police Department, Lexington Police Department, Bowling Green Police Department, Owensboro Police Department and Kentucky State Police, each of which have independent academies.

THE KCA CLASS NO. 10 GRADUATES AND THEIR AGENCIES ARE:

- 1. **Jeffery Bessinger**, Scottsville Police Department
- 2. Christopher Boone, Hillview Police Department
- **3. Chase Bowman,** Nicholasville Police Department

4. Emma Burbrink, Louisville Metro

- Police Department
 5. Allyson L. Cook, Hardin County
- Sheriff's Office
- **6. Travis Davis**, Todd County Sheriff's Office
- **7. Scott Evely,** Lexington Police Department
- **8. Evan B. Guilfoyle,** Erlanger Police Department
- **9. Dalton T. Hayes,** Montgomery County Sheriff's Office
- **10. James C. Hobson,** Pikeville Police Department
- 11. Brad Holloman, Kentucky State Police
- **12. Ryan W. Kilmer,** Florence Police Department
- **13. Ethan Manley,** Florence Police Department
- **14. Tai Nguyen,** Lexington Police Department
- **15. Nicholas R. Paton,** Frankfort Police Department
- **16. Kelsey Skaggs**, Daviess County Sheriff's Office
- **17. David R. Thompson,** Bourbon County Sheriff's Office
- **18. Brandon S. Vance,** Ft. Thomas Police Department
- **19. Zachary L. Vance,** Highland Heights Police Department
- **20. Cheryl Vice**, Louisville Metro Police Department
- **21. Benjamin E. Williams,** Bowling Green Police Department
- **22. Trista Winebarger,** Murray Police Department







Showing appreciation to your local police officers

You can support law enforcement through various actions, including providing direct appreciation like sending thankyou letters or food, and engaging with your local police department by volunteering. following their social media, or attending community events. Supporting their work also involves advocating for policies that provide adequate funding,

training, and resources for officers.
Show personal appreciation

Write a letter: Send a formal letter to your local police department, praising specific actions you

have witnessed.

Say thank you: A simple greeting and a verbal "thank you" to officers you see in the community can make a difference.

Bring food: Drop off gift cards, coffee, or meals at the local precinct for officers to enjoy.

Pay it forward: Buy an officer's coffee or lunch when you are at a restaurant with them.

Engage with your local police

Volunteer: Join the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) program or other local volunteer opportunities, which can include administrative work, community outreach, and other support tasks.

Follow on

social media: Stay informed about local events, crime alerts, and traffic updates by following your police department's social media accounts.

Attend community events: Look for and attend events organized by or for your local police department.

Support nonprofits: Donate to or support non-profit organizations that help law enforcement officers and their families, or those that assist in breaking the stigma around mental health for officers.

Advocate for systemic support

Advocate for funding: Support policies that provide adequate funding for law enforcement agencies.

Support training and resources: Encourage the allocation of resources for officer training and mental health support, such as counseling and peer support programs.

Encourage reform: Support police reform measures that aim to improve the institution while acknowledging the need for a police presence in the community.

Support the
National Law
Enforcement Officers
Memorial and
Museum: Support
the museum and
memorial to honor
fallen officers and
their families.

Law Enforcement support includes other programs

Law enforcement support includes federal programs like the Department of Defense's 1033 Program and the Department of Justice's grant systems, which provide funding and equipment. Community support can be shown through participation in community policing programs and attendance at community meetings. The Department of Homeland Security's Office for State and Local Law Enforcement acts as a liaison and resource for state, local, and tribal law enforcement.

Federal and state support programs

Department of Justice (DOJ) Grants: Provides funding, training, and technical assistance for public safety and criminal justice activities through the Justice Grants System (JustGrants).

Law Enforcement
Support Office
(LESO): The
Defense Logistics
Agency program
that transfers excess
Department of
Defense property,
such as vehicles,
tools, and supplies,
to law enforcement
agencies.

DHS Office for State and Local Law Enforcement (OSLLE): Serves as a liaison and resource for state, local, and tribal law enforcement within the Department of Homeland Security.

Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC): Located within Immigration and Customs Enforcement, it is a national point-ofcontact for sharing information and providing assistance to law enforcement partners.

FinCEN Support:
The Financial
Crimes Enforcement
Network provides
financial intelligence
support, including
access to Bank
Secrecy Act data
and participation in
a global network of
financial intelligence
units.

Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA): Part of the Office of Justice Programs, it provides grants, training, and technical assistance to strengthen the criminal justice system.

Community and individual support

Participate in community policing programs: These programs allow for direct communication and collaboration between citizens and police to address community issues.

Attend community

meetings: This provides a platform to communicate directly with police representatives and help solve local problems, fostering a positive relationship.

Support law enforcement organizations: You can support organizations dedicated to providing resources, training, and assistance to law enforcement officers.

Provide feedback and information: Citizens can provide information to law enforcement about crimes or neighborhood concerns.

Report issues:

You can report concerns about police misconduct to the appropriate oversight or internal affairs departments.

Be a supportive bystander: Respect law enforcement officers' actions, and avoid interfering with their work.







Strengthening and unleashing America's Law Enforcement to pursue criminals and protect innocent citizens

From President DONALD J. TRUMP in April 2025

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Purpose and Policy. Safe communities rely on the backbone and heroism of a tough and well-equipped police force. My Administration is steadfastly committed to empowering State and local law enforcement to firmly police dangerous criminal behavior and protect innocent citizens.

When local leaders demonize law enforcement and impose legal and political handcuffs that make aggressively enforcing the law impossible, crime thrives and innocent citizens and small business owners suffer. My Administration will therefore: establish best practices at the State and local level for cities to unleash high-impact local police forces; protect and defend law enforcement officers wrongly accused and abused by State or local officials; and surge resources to officers in need. My Administration will work to ensure that law enforcement officers across America focus on ending crime, not pursuing harmful, illegal race- and sex-based "equity" policies.

The result will be a law-abiding society in which tenacious law enforcement officers protect the innocent, violations of law are not tolerated, and American communities are safely enjoyed by all their citizens again.

Sec. 2. Legal Defense of Law Enforcement Officers. The Attorney General shall take all

appropriate action to create a mechanism to provide legal resources and indemnification to law enforcement officers who unjustly incur expenses and liabilities for actions taken during the performance of their official duties to enforce the law. This mechanism shall include the use of private-sector pro bono assistance for such law enforcement officers.

Sec. 3.
Empowering State and Local Law Enforcement.
(a) The Attorney General and other appropriate heads of executive departments and agencies (agencies) shall take all appropriate action to maximize the use of Federal resources to:

- (i) provide new best practices to State and local law enforcement to aggressively police communities against all crimes;
- (ii) expand access and improve the quality of training available to State and local law enforcement;
- (iii) increase pay and benefits for law enforcement officers;
- (iv) strengthen and expand legal protections for law enforcement officers;
- (v) seek enhanced sentences for crimes against law enforcement officers:
- (vi) promote investment in the security and capacity of prisons; and
- (vii) increase the investment in and collection, distribution, and uniformity of crime data across jurisdictions.
- (b) Within 60 days of the date of this order, the Attorney General shall review all ongoing Federal consent decrees, out-of-court agreements, and post-judgment orders to which a State or local law enforcement agency is a party and modify, rescind, or move to conclude

such measures that unduly impede the performance of law enforcement functions.

Sec. 4. Using **National Security Assets for Law and Order.** (a) Within 90 days of the date of this order, the **Attorney General** and the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the heads of agencies as appropriate, shall increase the provision of excess military and national security assets in local jurisdictions to assist State and local law enforcement.

(b) Within 90 days of the date of this order, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Attorney General, shall determine how military and national security assets, training, nonlethal capabilities, and personnel can most effectively be utilized to prevent crime.

Sec. 5. Holding State and Local Officials Accountable. The Attorney General shall pursue all necessary legal remedies and enforcement measures to enforce the rights of Americans impacted by crime and shall prioritize prosecution of any applicable violations of Federal criminal law with respect to State and local jurisdictions whose officials:

- (a) willfully and unlawfully direct the obstruction of criminal law, including by directly and unlawfully prohibiting law enforcement officers from carrying out duties necessary for public safety and law enforcement; or
- (b) unlawfully engage in discrimination or civil-rights violations under the guise of "diversity, equity, and inclusion" initiatives that restrict law enforcement activity or endanger citizens.

Sec. 6. Use of Homeland Security Task Forces. The Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall utilize the Homeland Security Task Forces (HSTFs) formed in accordance with Executive Order 14159 of January 20, 2025 (Protecting the American People Against Invasion) to coordinate and advance the objectives of this order.

Sec. 7. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

i. the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or

ii. the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by

any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

(d) The Department of Justice shall provide funding for this order's publication in the Federal Register.

Does your community have a neighborhood watch group? If so, join your neighbors to talk about safety. If your neighborhood doesn't have a group, consider starting one. Talk to your local law enforcement agency to find out how.



"Honoring Those Who Protect and Serve — Today and Every Day."

What is the biggest issue in law enforcement?

The biggest challenges facing police officers today are staffing shortages, driven by difficulties in recruitment and retention, and the subsequent increased workload and officer burnout. Other significant challenges include building trust and community relations, adapting to evolving crime trends and technology, and managing officer morale and mental health amid high stress and negative public sentiment.

Recruitment and Retention Challenges

High Attrition: A significant number of officers are leaving the profession due to retirement, burnout, and changing generational preferences for worklife balance.

Declining
Interest: Law
enforcement careers
are becoming less
appealing to younger
generations who may
prioritize different

work conditions, compensation, and a desire for more flexibility.

Increased
Workload: The
shortage of officers
leads to higher
workloads, fatigue,
and decreased
efficiency for the
remaining officers,
impacting their
well-being and the
quality of community
service.

Community Relations and Trust

Eroded Trust: High-profile incidents and negative public perception have strained relationships between police and the communities they serve.

Lack of
Engagement:
Staffing shortages
limit opportunities
for officers to
engage in proactive
community programs
and build positive
relationships, making
it harder to foster
trust.

Operational and Evolving Demands Complex Crimes: Police are increasingly tasked with handling complex crimes like cybercrime and cross-border criminal activities, which require specialized knowledge and coordination.

Technological
Demands: Keeping
pace with rapid
technological
advancements and
effectively using new
tools is a constant
challenge, with tight
budgets sometimes
hindering necessary
training and
equipment.

Broadening Responsibilities: Officers are expected to handle a wider range of issues, including mental health crises and school security, in addition to traditional policing duties.

Officer Well-being Burnout and Stress: High workloads, stress from complex situations, and the pressures of community relations contribute to significant rates of burnout and mental health issues among officers.

Morale and Support: Chiefs face the difficult task of maintaining high morale and creating supportive environments for officers who are experiencing high levels of stress and fatigue. To all of the police officers out there...

We see you.
We support you.
We pray for you.
We thank you
for your service.





"Proud to support our law enforcement families — your dedication keeps us safe."

WE STRIVE TO GIVE THE BEST CARE TO YOUR LOVED ONES.



Caring for our seniors is perhaps the greatest responsibility we have. Those who walked before us have given so much and made possible the life we all enjoy.

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- Dressing
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- Doctor Appts.
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- Companionship

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The National Police Association endorses the Keep Violent Criminals Off Our Streets Act

Releasing criminal suspects pretrial without the safeguards provided by cash bail serves no valid purpose, and in fact only rewards lawlessness. These cashless bail policies have driven a violent crime surge that is claiming innocent victims and destroying communities. The Keep Violent Criminals Off Our Streets Act (S. 2705 / H.R. 5213), introduced in the U.S. Senate by Sen. Marsha Blackburn (TN) and in the House by Rep. Elise Stefanik (NY-21), would help put an end to this madness. This bill, endorsed by the National Police Association (NPA), prohibits funds from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice **Assistance Grant** (JAG) Program from being distributed to state and local governments that limit or prohibit cash bail. The text for the Senate bill is here. and the House bill is here.

Specifically, the Attorney General would be prohibited from awarding JAG grants to jurisdictions that restrict cash bail for suspects charged with offenses that place the citizenry in imminent danger. Violent offenses like murder, rape, and carjacking would be covered under this bill, as would public disorder offenses like looting and rioting.

The Keep Violent Criminals Off Our Streets Act codifies two Executive Orders that President Trump signed to protect lawabiding citizens from the devastation of cashless bail policies.

"Police officers are fulfilling their constitutional obligations. They're conducting investigations, making arrests, and placing their own lives at risk to remove the worst offenders from our streets. Cashless bail policies undermine this lifesaving work while emboldening criminal offenders and placing all of us at risk," said Paula Fitzsimmons, Legislative Director, National Police Association. "By risking the loss of coveted JAG grant funding, the Keep **Violent Criminals**

Off Our Streets Act would compel prosecutors and judges to use cash bail to keep violent offenders off our streets," Fitzsimmons added.

The NPA extends its gratitude to Sen. Blackburn and Rep. Stefanik for introducing the Keep **Violent Criminals** Off Our Streets Act. We believe this bill will save lives, help restore trust in the justice system, and enable police agencies to utilize their resources more effectively. We encourage Congress to prioritize this bill.

To support this and future anti-crime, pro-police legislation, join the NPA's Call to Action team. Receive email alerts on bills, including which lawmakers to contact.

About: The
National Police
Association (NPA)
is a nonprofit
organization
dedicated to
supporting law
enforcement through
advocacy, education,
and the courts. For
more information,
visit NationalPolice.
org.

