

# NASSAU COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



*Behind the  
Badge  
Newsletter*

**October - December  
2017**



# ERIC OLIVER MEMORIAL

## MEMORIAL MONUMENT PLACED TO HONOR DEPUTY ERIC OLIVER ON 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH

**Yulee, Fla.** – On Wednesday, November 22, 2017, at 7:00 AM, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office held a Historic Memorial Reveal Celebration in honor of NCSO Deputy Eric Oliver.

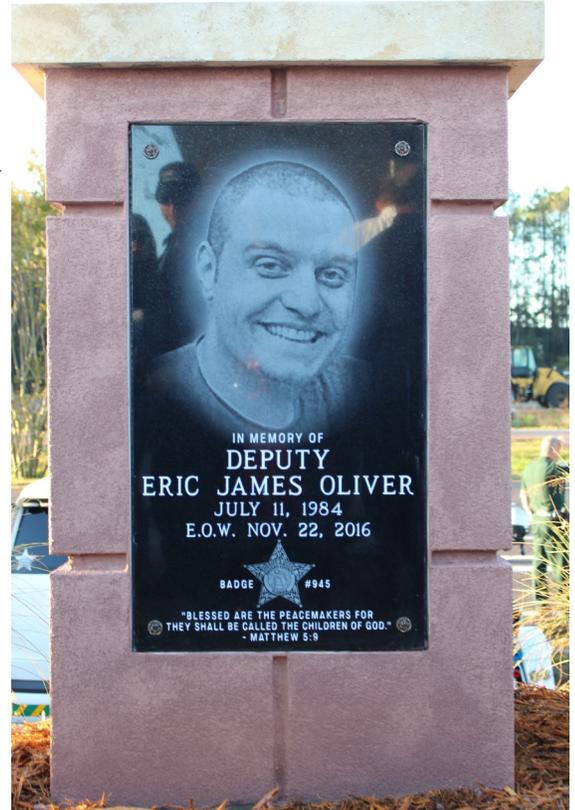
The celebration took place at the GATE Convenience Store #1214, located at 463779 SR-200 in Yulee, Florida where a monument was unveiled in honor of Deputy Oliver on the one year anniversary of his death.

Law enforcement officers and fire/rescue personnel from several agencies, as well as community leaders and local residents gathered for the dedication ceremony to honor Eric and his family.

The memorial was unveiled by NCSO's "C" Team, which Deputy Oliver was assigned to when he died.

Deputy Oliver was assisting a U.S. Border Patrol Agent at the time he was struck and killed by a vehicle while pursuing a criminal suspect on foot across State Road 200 in Yulee on November 22, 2016.

GATE graciously allowed the memorial monument to be placed on their property, which is where the initial foot chase began and is directly in front of where Deputy Oliver was killed.

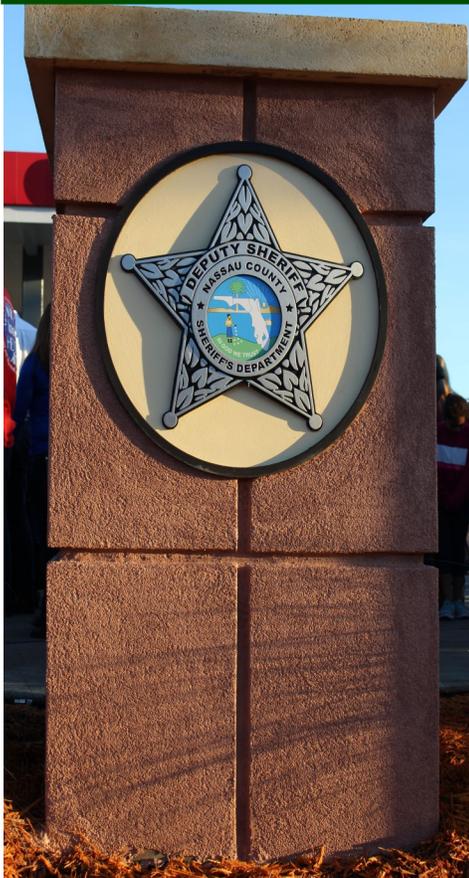


"Deputy Oliver died doing what he loved to do serving and protecting our community," said Sheriff Bill Leeper. "He will never be forgotten by our agency, by those who worked with him, by his family, by his friends and now, all those who pass this way will remember him as well."



After the ceremony, Chick-fil-A restaurant located at 464004 SR-200 in Yulee, donated a portion of their sales from 8 AM – 11 AM to the Concerns of police Survivors (COPS) organization to assist families of those law enforcement officers who are killed in-the-line-of-duty.

# ERIC OLIVER MEMORIAL



# NCSO PROMOTION CEREMONY

**Yulee, Fla.** – On Friday, December 1, 2017, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office held a promotion ceremony for four lieutenants and five sergeants.

A large group of NCSO employees, as well as family and friends of those being promoted gathered at the Sheriff's Office Administration Building to witness one of the largest ever promotion ceremonies at NCSO. Each new supervisor was presented a certificate of promotion and had a family member pin their new badge on their uniform.



Sheriff Bill Leeper stated that each of these individuals earned their promotion through the agency's promotional testing process and have been leaders within the organization, as well as the community. He went on to thank all of the family members in attendance who have supported them in their career choice of law enforcement.

Those promoted and their new assignments are:

- Lieutenant Tim Cooper – Assigned to Corrections overseeing Inmate Transportation and Courthouse Bailiffs.
- Lieutenant Jeremy Carter – Assigned to Corrections as Shift Commander for "B" Shift
- Lieutenant Jeff Stull II – Assigned to Corrections as Shift Commander for "D" Shift
- Lieutenant Philip Crews – Assigned to Corrections as Shift Commander for "A" Shift
- Sergeant Bubba Rhoden – Assigned to Patrol "A" Shift
- Sergeant Brandon Schmidt – Assigned to Patrol "D" Shift
- Sergeant Dee Gaston – Assigned to Patrol "C" Shift
- Sergeant Lance McConnell – Assigned to Patrol "B" Shift
- Sergeant Josh Hyers – Assigned to Corrections "C" Shift



# 2017 NCSO SHOP WITH COPS

## 2017 Sheriff's Office *Shop with a Cop* a success

**Yulee, Fla.** – Christmas was merrier for 240 Nassau County youngsters who participated in *Shop with a Cop* on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> and December 14<sup>th</sup> at the Yulee Wal-Mart with deputies and correctional officers from the Nassau County Sheriff's Office and troopers from the Florida Highway Patrol.

*Shop with a Cop* pairs the officers with children from low-income families with officers who treat them to a spirited day of shopping. The program creates a positive bond between the kids and officers.

“Nothing embraces the Christmas spirit more than watching children select the toys and books on their wish lists and making sure they have clothes and other necessities,” said Sheriff Bill Leeper. “We look forward to participating in this event every year and I am very proud of the officers and civilian employees who volunteer their time to make this day special for these children.”

Each child is allotted \$100, half of which they must spend on necessities like clothing, shoes, school supplies, and other needs. The other half is reserved for toys, movies and other fun items.

The event is made possible by the support of NCSO Charities, Inc. (which holds fundraising events throughout the year), Amelia Island Concours d' Elegance Foundation, Inc., Wal-Mart, and individual donors.

NCSO Charities, Inc. is a Florida Not For Profit Corporation

established to organize, promote, and sponsor charitable missions and events in Nassau County. The mission of NCSO Charities, Inc. is summarized in its slogan: Nurturing Community Safety through Outreach. To donate to *Shop with a Cop* please contact Lawanna Ware, Treasurer, at (904) 548-4018. All donations are tax deductible.



# 2017 NCSO SHOP WITH COPS



# EXPLORERS

## NCSO Explorers – today’s youth, tomorrow’s leaders

**Yulee, Fla.** – The Nassau County Sheriff’s Office Explorers Post traveled to the Florida Sheriffs Explorers Association Delegates meeting in Palm Beach County, in November 2017. While there the kids participated in defensive tactics training, shooting on the range, traffic stop training, shoot don’t shoot simulations, low lighting search and rescue, team challenges and individual obstacle course.

The Nassau County Sheriff’s Office Explorer Unit is a member of the Florida Sheriffs Explorer Association. The Florida Sheriff’s Explorer Association is made up of 35 Explorer Posts from around the State of Florida. Each Post is comprised of young adults that are exploring the field of law enforcement. These young adults are males and females ages 13 to 21 years old. The association was created to allow Sheriff’s Explorer Posts to meet quarterly to train, network, and meet other Explorers from different types of agencies and different ways of life.

Law enforcement exploring provides educational training for youth and young adults on the purpose, mission and objectives of law enforcement. The program provides career orientation experiences, leadership opportunities and community service activities.



To be eligible to join NCSO’s Explorer Unit, you must be of good moral character, maintain respect for law enforcement, maintain school attendance, be attending or have graduated from high school or college, maintain a 2.0 grade point average, be between 13 and 21 years old, pass a background check and be a current resident of Nassau County.

For further information about the NCSO Explorer program contact the Nassau County Sheriff’s Office at 77151 Citizens Circle, Yulee, Florida 32097 or 904-225-0331. The NCSO Exploring Unit is a non-profit 501(3) (c) charitable organization.

## New Employees Swearing In Ceremony

Nassau County Sheriff Bill Leeper had the opportunity to swear-in several new employees on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 in front of a large crowd of family and current employees of NCSO. Three Patrol Deputies, two Detention Deputies, two Communications Officers, one Jail Booking Specialist, and one I.T. Technician were sworn in as they begin their career with NCSO. We wish all of these new employees a long and successful career.



# FBI JOINT CHILD PORN INVESTIGATION

## JACKSONVILLE MAN ARRESTED AND INDICTED FOR DISTRIBUTING CHILD SEX ABUSE VIDEOS

Yulee, Fla. – Acting United States Attorney W. Stephen Muldrow announced today that Pryce Elijah Demars (24, Jacksonville) has been arrested and indicted by a federal grand jury for distribution of child pornography. He faces a mandatory minimum penalty of 5 years, up to 20 years, in federal prison and a potential lifetime of supervision. Demars has been detained pending his trial on January 2, 2018.

According to court documents, on November 15, 2017, FBI agents and local law enforcement officers executed a federal search warrant at Demars's Jacksonville residence, in connection with a child exploitation investigation into online users of a particular file-sharing program. FBI agents determined that from August 3, 2016, through April 12, 2017, Demars had distributed videos depicting young children being sexually abused to other individuals using a computer over the Internet. During an interview, Demars admitted that he had searched for child pornography on the Internet, downloaded it, and distributed it to another individual in exchange for video games and other items of value.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, and the Nassau County Sheriff's Office. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney D. Rodney Brown.

It is another case brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who sexually exploit children, and to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.usdoj.gov/psc](http://www.usdoj.gov/psc). For more information about internet safety education, please visit [www.usdoj.gov/psc](http://www.usdoj.gov/psc) and click on the tab "resources."



# CITIZEN'S ACADEMY GRADUATION NUMBER SIX

## Sheriff's Office graduates 6th Citizens Academy

**Yulee, Fla.** – Sheriff Bill Leeper has announced the graduation of the 6th Law Enforcement Citizens Academy at the Nassau County Sheriff's Office.

NCSO's Citizen Law Enforcement Academy is an educational and informative program that allows Nassau citizens the opportunity to learn about the issues that face law enforcement in our community. The program provides insight into the philosophy and operations of the Sheriff's Office. The program also helps citizens better understand police work in their community, and develops stronger ties between our community and the Sheriff's Office.

The 9 week program gives adults a behind the scenes look at Sheriff's Office operations through hands-on participation and expert speakers. It's conducted in a classroom setting, as well as "in-the-field" utilizing instructors from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines. The Citizen's Academy is designed to provide members of the community with the opportunity to gain specific knowledge about the workings of the Nassau County Sheriff's Office and a general insight into the field of law enforcement. The program is informational only and does not train or promote citizens to act in a law enforcement capacity.

Classes include a tour of NCSO's facilities and virtually every aspect of a deputy's job including patrol operations, traffic enforcement, hostage negotiations, vice & narcotics, crime scene investigations, corrections and 9-1-1 communications dispatch. Students also watch a K-9 demonstration and visit the Firearms Range to take part in weapons safety training. Participants learn what takes place behind the badge at the Nassau County Sheriff's Office.

The Citizen's Law Enforcement Academy is free of charge and is held on consecutive Thursday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and one Saturday morning from 8:00 a.m. until noon at the Nassau County Sheriff's Office.

Class size is limited and all applicants will be screened through a routine criminal background check prior to their acceptance into the program.



The 7th Citizen Academy class will be starting in early 2018. For further information, contact the Nassau County Sheriff's Office Human Resources Department or Larry Boatwright (Volunteer Coordinator) at (904) 548-4027 or [lboatwright@nassauso.com](mailto:lboatwright@nassauso.com).

# CHECK PRESENTATION

## DEA and IRS present NCSO a check after completion of investigation

**Yulee, Fla.** – The Nassau County Sheriff’s Office, Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) worked together on a case that originally began in 2011 involving a doctor at a pain clinic in Clay County.

As a member of the DEA Task Force, NCSO became involved in the case in 2014. It was determined through the investigation that Doctor Russell H. Sachs was operating a “pill mill” at the Physician Pain Management Clinic in Green Cove Springs, Florida and was over prescribing medication, such as Oxycodone, Methadone and Hydrocodone, to his patients, as well as money laundering.

A Federal Arrest Warrant was issued for Sachs on March 11, 2015. On March 13, 2015, DEA, IRS, FBI and NCSO executed a search warrant at the residence of Sachs. A variety of miscellaneous precious gold metals were seized, \$393,622 in value, which was determined to be purchased by Sachs with U.S. Currency earned from Unlawful Dispensing of a Controlled Substance.

In January, 2017, Sachs was sentenced to 24 months at the United States Bureau of Prisons followed by 36 months of supervised release (Federal Probation) after pleading guilty to the charge of Unlawful Dispensing of a Controlled Substance. Dr. Sachs also surrendered his medical license for life, as part of his plea agreement.

NCSO was awarded a portion of the seized funds from DEA and IRS in the amount of \$104,617.01. Representatives of DEA and the IRS presented NCSO Sheriff Bill Leeper the check on Friday, November 17, 2017.



**Picture:** Left to Right, Mike Mayer (DEA Group Supervisor), Sheriff Bill Leeper, Chad Cook (DEA Area Supervisor in Charge), Andy Macey (IRS Group Supervisor)

# NARCAN SPRAY

## Nassau County Sheriff's Office to utilize Narcan spray in opiate overdoses

**Yulee, Fla.** – Nassau County Sheriff's Office has expanded its use of Narcan, an opiate overdose counteragent. Deputies will carry the lifesaving medication thanks to a grant from the Florida Sheriffs Association.

"Our firefighters have administered Narcan for years, so we recognized the importance of putting this opiate antidote in the hands of our deputies, who are often the first to arrive on scene," Sheriff Bill Leeper said.

The Florida Sheriffs Association initially provided 12 units of Narcan spray in a nasal pump applicator.

The nasal pump applicator is suitable for law enforcement and first responders who have a basic understanding of medical protocols. "What's good about this pump is if it's not an overdose [the spray] won't hurt anybody," Leeper said. "It's a stop-gap measure."

Narcan also ensures the safety of deputies and canines in the event that they accidentally come in contact with the synthetic opiates fentanyl and carfentanil, Leeper said. They're often mixed with heroin or used as a substitute. "Synthetic fentanyl and particularly carfentanil in very minute doses can kill somebody," Leeper said.

NCSO responds to an average of 25 calls per month dealing with opiates, which includes overdoses and possession. "The opiate crisis is very real and very deadly," said Leeper.



# NCSO Arrests Burglary Suspects

**Yulee, Fla.** – The Nassau County Sheriff's Office investigated nine different burglaries in the Callahan area during October and November 2017.

Investigators from NCSO were able to track numerous stolen items from these burglaries to several pawn shops in the Jacksonville area.

As a result of additional investigation, one suspect has been arrested for burglary, grand theft and dealing in stolen property and two other individuals were also arrested for dealing in stolen property.

Investigators have recovered approximately \$10,000 worth of stolen property so far. The stolen property recovered includes several thousand dollars in jewelry, leather jackets and electronics.

The investigation is continuing to determine any others who may be involved in these burglaries, as well as locating additional stolen items.

## Those arrested were:

- Bernard Carrafa, 42, from Jacksonville (currently in the Duval County Jail) – Burglary, Grand Theft, Dealing in Stolen property
- Robyn Carrafa, 43, from Jacksonville (out on bond) – Dealing in Stolen Property
- Jazmin Jarvis, 23, from Jacksonville (out on bond) – Dealing in Stolen property



# Welcome **OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS**



*Cara Arthur*  
*Dispatcher*



*Jessica Batten*  
*Financial Services Clerk*



*Carrie Beasley*  
*IT*



*Lucas Duggan*  
*Patrol Deputy*



*Benjamin Keith*  
*Detention Deputy*



*Sera Lewis*  
*Dispatcher*



*David Lumpkin*  
*Patrol Deputy*



*Jordan Newbern*  
*Receptionist*



*Joseph Pickett*  
*Detention Deputy*



*Ivan Pinkston*  
*Patrol Deputy*



*Amanda Schwaigert*  
*Dispatcher*



*Paula "Nikki" Taylor*  
*Booking Specialist*

# FOURTH QUARTER AWARDS

SUPERVISOR OF THE  
QUARTER  
SGT. REX RANDOLPH



DEPUTY OF THE QUARTER  
G. BRAD KNIGHT

DETENTION DEPUTY OF THE  
QUARTER  
CATHERINE WEBB



INVESTIGATOR OF THE  
QUARTER  
TIM BEAZLEY



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER  
OF THE QUARTER  
ALICIA DICKERSON



CIVILIAN OF THE QUARTER  
WILLIAM WOODS



# SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

## 25 YEARS

RENEE GRAHAM, LIEUTENANT/  
SPECIAL OPERATIONS

## 15 YEARS

WILLIAM WETTSTEIN, SERGEANT/  
PATROL

JAMES DRURY, BAILIFF

## 10 YEARS

ADAM BENNETT, BAILIFF

PHILIP CREWS, SERGEANT/PATROL

ASA HIGGS, BAILIFF

## 5 YEARS

NICOLAS THORNTON, DETENTION  
DEPUTY

# EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS

## January

## February

Sandra Jones	01/02	Kay Lynn Crews	02/03
Billy Estep	01/03	Ryan Goethe	02/06
John McGrath	01/04	Robin Patterson	02/07
Mark Delacruz	01/04	Philip Crews	02/08
Keith Crean	01/04	Brian Higginbotham	02/09
Latresa Carroll	01/04	Jennifer Hires	02/09
Ken Clements	01/05	David Lumpkin	02/09
Lawanna Ware	01/13	Ivan Pinkston	02/10
Nolan Chancey	01/18	Lance McConnell	02/12
Paula Deluca	01/19	Amanda Schwaigert	02/12
Dee Gaston	01/21	Tracy Osborne	02/13
Karl Griner	01/22	Riccardo Quiles	02/14
Carrie Beasley	01/23	Alyssa Fender	02/14
Jonathan McCracken	01/24	Jonathan Hooper	02/15
Jessica Batten	01/24	Donna Wiggins	02/19
Phil Davis	01/26	Lizandro Deleon	02/20
Jeff Stull II	01/27	Tim Beazley	02/21
Amanda Clemons	01/27	Joann Herrington	02/23
Brittany O'Berry	01/27	Troy Gill	02/23
Cara Arthur	01/28	Jenny Timberlake	02/25
		Mark Murdock	02/25
		Brandy Turman	02/25
		Shannon Price	02/26
		Lucas Duggan	02/28



# EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS

## March

Sharon Tedder	03/01
David King	03/03
Renee Graham	03/03
Garland Rhoden	03/05
Jeremy Hyers	03/06
Charity Rose	03/10
Jayne Woods	03/10
Nicholas Carter	03/10
Jordan Newbern	03/10
Benjamin Keith	03/13
William Anno	03/17
Barbara Ramirez	03/19
Jeff Stull Sr.	03/19
Nicholas Hamilton	03/19
Charles Gander	03/20
William Terry	03/20
Bobby Lippelman	03/21
Adam Bennett	03/22
Mary Mercer	03/26
Christopher Walton	03/26
Ashleigh Harris	03/26



## NCSO Blood Drive

Thanks to all you have come out and given blood! Your donation matters! You are saving lives! For those who didn't get a chance to give this last time, please come out next time and donate! Your donation can save up to 3 lives!

*Thank you!*



## Sundaes With the Sheriff







# BEHIND THE BADGE

# Newsletter



We hope that you have enjoyed this issue of the Nassau County Sheriff's Office *Behind the Badge* Newsletter! If you have articles or information for the next newsletter, please contact Ashleigh Harris at 904-548-4012 or by email at [awharris@nassauso.com](mailto:awharris@nassauso.com)

**As always, please stay safe!**

