


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 21, 2010

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE CITY COUNCIL NAMING COMMITTEE ON THE PROPOSED NAMING OF THE ALEXANDRIA ADULT DETENTION CENTER IN HONOR OF THE LATE DEPUTY SHERIFF WILLIAM TRUESDALE

ISSUE: City Council consideration of the City Council Naming Committee's recommendation on the proposal by Sheriff Dana Lawhorne to name the Alexandria Adult Detention Center in honor of the late Deputy Sheriff William Truesdale.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council receive the Naming Committee's recommendation and schedule the proposal to name the Alexandria Adult Detention Center in honor of the late Deputy Sheriff William Truesdale, who was killed in the line of duty in 1981, for public hearing and consideration on Saturday, November 13.

DISCUSSION: On January 27, 1981, Alexandria Deputy Sheriff William Truesdale, 47, was killed by inmate Wilbert Lee Evans when Deputy Sheriff Truesdale was transporting three inmates from the detention center to the Alexandria Courthouse (Attachment 1). Deputy Truesdale is the first and only member of the Alexandria Sheriff's Office to be killed in the line of duty.

Sheriff Lawhorne has requested that Council name the Alexandria Adult Detention Center, located at 2001 Mill Road, in honor of the late Deputy Sheriff William Truesdale.

In 1985, City Council passed a resolution honoring the late Deputy Sheriff Truesdale. During the dedication and opening of the detention center in 1987, a short entrance roadway adjacent to the center was named Truesdale Drive. The Sheriff has asked that Council consider the naming of the detention center in honor of the late Deputy Sheriff Truesdale in order to acknowledge the ultimate sacrifice made by the only deputy sheriff in the history of the office to be killed in the line of duty. The naming of the detention center also would be an important recognition of the danger deputy sheriffs face on a daily basis in the course of their work in the detention center, the courthouse and in the community.

The City Council Naming Committee (Councilwoman Pepper, Councilman Fannon and City Manager James Hartmann) considered this request at its meeting on October 15. The committee voted to recommend that the proposal to name the Alexandria Detention Center after the late Deputy Sheriff William Truesdale be presented to City Council at its October 26 legislative meeting, set for public hearing and consideration on Saturday, November 13. The Committee recommended that Council approve naming the facility in honor of the late Deputy Sheriff William Truesdale.

ATTACHMENTS: Attachment 1: News Clips

STAFF:

Deputy City Manager Michele R. Evans
Chief Deputy Lenny George, Sheriff

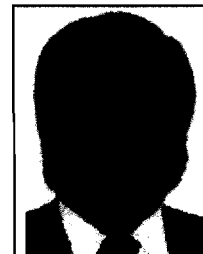


Deputy Sheriff William G. Truesdale

**Alexandria Sheriff's Office
Virginia**

End of Watch: Tuesday, January 27, 1981

Cause: Gunfire

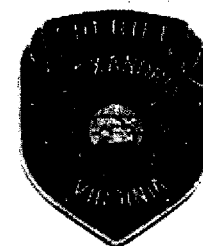


Biographical Info

Age: 47

Tour of Duty: Not available

Badge Number: Not available



Deputy Truesdale was shot and killed with his own weapon while transporting prisoners from court back to the jail. One of the prisoners overpowered Deputy Truesdale and shot him with his own weapon. The suspect then shot his handcuffs off and attempted to flee but was immediately apprehended.

The suspect was sentenced to death in April 1981 and executed on October 17, 1990.

Deputy Truesdale was survived by his wife and three children.

Visit Deputy Sheriff Truesdale's memorial at www.ODMP.org

Alexandria Gazette Packet

Honoring the Fallen

New plaque at City Hall honors sheriff's deputies who have died in the line of duty.

By Michael Lee Pope

Wednesday, August 25, 2010

SHARE

Nobody involved in the deadly jailbreak will forget what happened that chilly January day in 1981, when a 40-year-old inmate from North Carolina grabbed a deputy sheriff's service revolver and began shooting. Two hours later, 47-year-old Sheriff's Deputy William Truesdale was dead after being shot once in the chest with his own Model 64 Smith and Wesson .38-caliber revolver. Truesdale was the first and only Alexandria Sheriff's Deputy to die in the line of duty.

"His death is a sharp reminder that on every level, we the citizens employ a group of people who daily take chances in order to protect us," the *Alexandria Port Packet* editorialized at the time.

Flash forward a generation later. Alexandria Sheriff's Association Vice President Monique Edwards was walking through a vestibule at the south entrance of City Hall when she noticed something missing. There was an elaborate plaque on the west side of the door marking the names of firefighters who died in the line of duty. And then she noticed another plaque honoring police officers who died in the line of duty on the east side of the vestibule. But nothing honoring sheriff's deputies who have given the last full measure of devotion — Truesdale and future deputies.

"Of course, we don't want anyone to be killed in the line of duty," said Edwards, who's worked in the Sheriff's Office since 1993. "But if that happens, we should be ready to honor them in the same way that firefighters and police officers are honored."

So she and the Alexandria Sheriff's Association went to work, starting a yearlong process of adding a new plaque to the south entrance of City Hall. She worked with the city manager's office and General Services, moving the process from concept to design and finally installation. This week, city officials gathered at City Hall for an official unveiling.

"It reminds us that there's a thin line between order and chaos," said Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, glancing at the names of police officers who died in the line of duty. "These are people who have made the ultimate sacrifice so that we could live in a free society, so it's appropriate that they are honored here at City Hall."



Michael Lee Pope/Gazette Packet
Deputy Sheriff Monique Edwards, right, spearheaded the yearlong effort to install the plaque at City Hall.



Michael Lee Pope/Gazette Packet
Sheriff Dana Lawhorne and Alexandria Sheriff's Association Vice President Monique Edwards unveil a new plaque at City Hall dedicated to deputy sheriffs who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

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