

4.7.08 To: Vice Mayor Pepper.
Councilman Louanne

City of Alexandria, Virginia
Sheriff's Office

MEMORANDUM



the Mayor would
like the Naming
Committee to
Consider this
request.



DATE: APRIL 1, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

orals

FROM: DANA LAWHORNE, SHERIFF

4-8-08

SUBJECT: RENAMING OF THE ALEXANDRIA DETENTION CENTER

The purpose of this memorandum is to request your favorable consideration to renaming the Alexandria Detention Center to the **William G. Truesdale Memorial Detention Center**. Deputy Truesdale is the only Alexandria Sheriff's Office Deputy killed in the line of duty in our history.

During the afternoon of January 27, 1981, Deputy Truesdale escorted Wilbert Lee Evans back to the old jail, located at 519 Princess Street, from a court appearance at our courthouse. Evans was a prisoner from North Carolina who was brought to Alexandria to testify as a witness against another prisoner. As it turned out, Evans' willingness to testify was merely a ruse to create an opportunity to escape at some point during the transportation process. Evans was serving a prison term for assault before being brought to Alexandria.

As Evans, who was handcuffed to another prisoner, exited the transport van and began to walk up the steps to the jail, he managed to overpower Deputy Truesdale and remove the deputy's service revolver from its holster. Evans fatally shot Deputy Truesdale and freed himself by shooting off the handcuffs. Evans then ran from the scene and was apprehended a short time later in the 300 block of North Columbus Street. Deputy Truesdale's service revolver was located nearby.

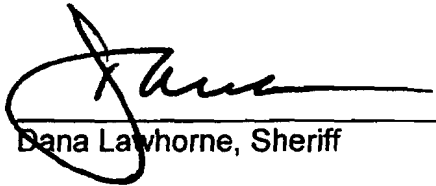
Evans was convicted of capital murder in June, 1981 and sentenced to death. After exhausting the appeals process, he was executed on October 19, 1990.

Deputy Truesdale was an eight year veteran of the Sheriff's Office at the time of his tragic death at the age of 47. He began his law enforcement career while serving in the Navy as a Shore Patrolman. Deputy Truesdale was subsequently employed by the Fairmount Heights (MD) Police Department and the District of Columbia Department of Corrections prior to beginning his career with the Sheriff's Office in 1973. He is survived by his wife and three children.

In 1985, the Alexandria City Council passed a resolution honoring the late Deputy Truesdale. During the opening ceremonies for the new Public Safety Center in 1987, an entrance roadway to the new Center was officially dedicated as Truesdale Drive. Although this recognition is much appreciated, it does not adequately recognize the ultimate sacrifice made by the only Deputy in our history killed in the line of duty. Approval of this request will ensure that Deputy Truesdale is appropriately memorialized.

If approved, our Office will hold a dedication ceremony during National Corrections Week in May, 2009. It would be my honor to have you join us at this event.

Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration of this request.



Dana Lawhorne, Sheriff

cc: James K. Hartmann, City Manager
Michele Evans, Deputy City Manager