



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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Media Release

From: Corporal Wendy McGinnis
Public Information Officer, 352-754-6830

Re: Missing Diver's Body Recovered

Date: January 03, 2012

Case Number: 2012-00166

Missing Person:

David Voiles W/M 08-14-1968

On January 02, 2012, at approximately 10:00 a.m. David Voiles arrived at the Sherman Hills Golf Course to begin a day's work of recovering golf balls from the bottom of a small lake. David has worked at this golf course, diving for golf balls, for the past two years. He has completed approximately a dozen dives in that particular lake. Shortly after 1:00 p.m. David took a break and made a phone call to his mother. Just before 7:00 p.m. contact was made with the Hernando County Sheriff's Office as he had not been seen or heard from since the earlier phone call. His golf cart was found by the lake and his vehicle was still located in the parking lot. When deputies arrived on scene, they began to actively search for David and continued their search until about 1:00 a.m. on January 03, 2012.

On January 03, 2012 at approximately 9:45 a.m. members of The Pasco County Sheriff's Office Dive Team entered the water to begin an underwater search for David Voiles. Just after 10:30 a.m. the dive team located the body of David Voiles in approximately 7.9 feet of water, which measured in at 58.6 degrees Fahrenheit. While it is very early in the investigation, it is believed that no foul play was involved. Also, no trauma was evident on David's body, which would rule out an alligator attack. At this time investigators believe that David died as a result of either equipment problems or a medical issue. An autopsy will be performed to determine the exact cause of death.

On November 15, 2011, David attended the Hernando County Sheriff's Office 3rd Quarter Awards where he was presented with a Citizen Appreciation award. David was credited for helping a female motorist who had crashed her vehicle into a canal off of Shoal Line Blvd. The female driver was unable to get out of her vehicle on her own.

“It is tragically ironic that Mr. Voiles was recently given a Citizen Appreciation Award as a result of a traffic-related water rescue,” said Sheriff Al Nienhuis. “He was obviously someone who contributed to his country through his service in the National Guard and to his community through his willingness to risk his life for a stranger. It is too early to speculate if Mr. Voiles’ life could have been saved if he wasn’t working alone. This disappointing loss does, however, underscore how important it is to have a partner when engaging in activities like diving or using dangerous equipment.”

On 09/26/2011 Deputy G. Mulverhill submitted a memo to the Hernando County Sheriff’s Office Awards Board recommending Mr. Voiles for a Citizen Appreciation Award. The memo contained the following information:

“On 09/21/11 I worked a crash on Shoal Line Blvd that involved a single vehicle going into the canal. There was no one around the vehicle at the time it happened and at one point the caller advised Dispatch that she was still in her vehicle and the water was up to her windows. She was unable to get out on her own. Both Deputy Woodbury and I were still a good distance away at this point. Shortly thereafter, Dispatch updated us and advised that a citizen drove up, saw the vehicle, entered the canal, and pulled the driver to safety. By the time Rescue and SO units got there, the water was almost to the top of the steering wheel.

The driver is a middle-aged woman with severe back problem, and possibly a bit of disability. She was unable to exit the vehicle on her own, and there is a good chance she would have drowned if this citizen had not intervened. The canal he jumped into was probably teeming with various species of dangerous reptiles, yet he willingly risked his safety in order to help this woman.

I would like Mr. Voiles to be considered for recognition at our next award ceremony.”