



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

### Media Release

---

**From:** Michael Terry  
Community Relations Specialist, 352-797-3608

**Re:** Two Killed in Head-On Crash on Cortez Boulevard, Ridge Manor

**Date:** July 4, 2017

---

On 7/4/17 at approximately 12:59 a.m., a Hernando County deputy was driving eastbound on Cortez Boulevard, near McKethan Road, in Ridge Manor, when the driver of a vehicle approached traveling west in the eastbound lane.

The deputy, and the driver of a truck traveling in front of the deputy, both swerved off of the roadway to avoid a collision with the wrong-way driver.

The wrong-way driver continued heading west in the eastbound lane as the deputy attempted to turn around and radio for assistance to another deputy who was on patrol near I-75 and Cortez Boulevard.

Less than a minute after running the deputy off the road, the wrong-way driver collided head on with the driver of another vehicle who was traveling east on Cortez Boulevard, near the Ridge Manor Campground.

The drivers of both vehicles, who are not being identified at this time, died at the scene of the crash.

The deputy involved in the initial encounter with the wrong-way driver was not injured.

Cortez Boulevard remains blocked off in both directions from McKethan Road to Westwood Drive.

The Florida Highway Patrol has been called in to investigate the crash.

There are no additional details available as this time.

#### **The Office of Sheriff:**

The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, and remains accountable to them.