



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Sheriff Announces Line of Duty Death of Detective Tommy Breedlove

Date: September 5, 2021

With profound sadness and a heavy heart, Sheriff Al Nienhuis announces the Line of Duty Death of Detective Tommy Breedlove.

Detective Breedlove was recently hospitalized after contracting COVID-19. He succumbed to the illness late last night, 09-04-2021.

Detective Breedlove worked in Major Case Investigations and was in charge of the agency's Sexual Offender / Sexual Predator Monitoring Program (SPOT) since its implementation in 2006. Throughout this time, Detective Breedlove worked tirelessly tracking and monitoring every sexual offender and predator who moved into and out of Hernando County. He was relentless as it pertained to protecting children and punishing those who dared to harm them.

Detective Breedlove was 54 years old. He began his law enforcement career at the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, in the Florida Keys, in 1988. In June of 1998, Detective Breedlove started at the Hernando County Sheriff's Office in the Patrol Division. In August of 2002, he was promoted to the rank of detective in Major Case Investigations, where in 2006 he implemented the HCSO's SPOT Program.

Tommy and his wife Breena have seven children, ranging in ages from 12 to 22. The Breedlove family are active members of the Eden Baptist Church in Lake Lindsey, where Tommy was the head of security and a Sunday school teacher for adults. Please keep his wife and children, as well as his church family, in your thoughts and prayers as they grieve this loss.

Detective Breedlove's love for law enforcement led him to yet another area where his legacy will live on. He helped mold the next generation of law enforcement professionals by being a long time and well-respected instructor at a local law enforcement academy.

We are in the process of planning a Line of Duty Death funeral service, with full law enforcement honors. Funeral information will be provided as soon as possible.

Detective Breedlove received 18 employee awards, commendations and letters of appreciation throughout his 23-year career at the HCSO and 33 commendations while employed by the Monroe County Sheriff's Office.

May he sleep now beneath the wings of St. Michael. Blessed are the peacekeepers.

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, ran unopposed in 2016, and was re-elected in 2020. Sheriff Nienhuis remains accountable to the people of Hernando County.