



FALLEN WRIGHT COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT HEROES



Constable Charles Albert Washburn Age 35

Wright County Sheriff's Office

Tour of Duty: Unknown

EOW: Wednesday, October 29, 1884

Cause of Death: Gunfire -Handgun

- Constable Charles Washburn succumbed to gunshot wounds sustained 10 days earlier as he and his deputy attempted to arrest a man for domestic assault. Despite being wounded, Constable Washburn was able to return fire and wounded the suspect. Constable Washburn was survived by his wife.

Sheriff John C. Nugent Jr. Age 47

Wright County Sheriffs Office

Tour of Duty: 20 years

EOW: Saturday, July 22, 1922

Cause of Death: Gunfire -Shotgun

- Sheriff Nugent was shot and killed by a shop owner while staking out the shop after a recent string of burglaries. The shop owner had requested that the Sheriff watch the store, but did not know he was coming that night. The owner heard sounds near the wood pile and as he left at 0130 hours, Sheriff Nugent turned on his flashlight and ordered the owner to put his hands up. Thinking it was a burglar, the owner opened fire with his shotgun, striking Sheriff Nugent in the chest. A deputy returned fire before going to get help, when the deputy returned he arrested the owner. The man was never charged and the shooting was ruled an accident. Sheriff Nugent was survived by his wife.

Town Marshal Rudolph Maurer Age 35

Wright County Sheriff's Office / South Haven Township

Tour of Duty: 2 years

EOW: Thursday, November 23, 1922

Cause of Death: Gunfire -Handgun

- Marshal Maurer was shot and killed while attempting to arrest several trespassers. Earlier in the day, Marshal Maurer had ordered the men out of the local train depot. Later in the evening, he encountered them again sitting by a campfire next to the railroad tracks. He was shot by the suspects as he attempted to arrest them. The men were charged with his murder. Marshal Maurer was single at the time of his murder.

Sheriff Paul Kritzeck Age 67

Wight County Sheriff's Office

Tour of Duty: 22 years

EOW: Thursday, August 16, 1951

Cause of Death: Automobile Accident

- Sheriff Paul Kritzeck was killed in an automobile accident while responding to a call. His patrol car was struck when he was turning onto County Road 33 from Highway 12. The collision knocked his vehicle into the path of an oncoming semi. Sheriff Kritzeck was survived by his wife and five children.

Sheriff James H. Kreitlow Age 37

Wright County Sheriff's Office

Tour of Duty: 9 years

EOW: August 8, 1963

Cause of Death: Heart Attack

- Sheriff Kreitlow was serving civil papers when he collapsed. He was transported to the Buffalo Memorial Hospital where he died suddenly of a heart attack.

Chief George Ryti Age 72

Annandale Police Department

Tour of Duty:

DOD: September 16, 1977

Cause of Death: Injuries from car accident (He was 64 yoa @time of accident)

- Chief Ryti was on duty the evening of December 26, 1969 when he monitored a radio call of a pursuit of a suspected drunk driver that was approaching the city of Annandale. As Chief Ryti responded to assist with the chase his squad car was broadsided by the suspect's vehicle. The intoxicated driver had shut off the headlights of his automobile during the pursuit Chief Ryti was permanently disabled and died from the injuries he received on September 16, 1977.

Deputy Sheriff Roger Ervin Wrobbel Age 42

Wright County Sheriff's Office

Tour of Duty: 11 years

EOW: Sunday, December 21, 1980

Cause of Death: Heart Attack

- Deputy Wrobbel suffered a fatal heart attack while conducting a search and rescue mission. He was at home celebrating his birthday when he received a call that a vehicle had gone through the ice on Lake Pulaski near Buffalo, Minnesota. Upon his arrival he started heading towards the scene when he suffered the heart attack. The victims had made it out of the vehicle before Deputy Wrobbel's arrival but had not told authorities. Deputy Wrobbel was survived by his wife and two sons.