



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sheriff's Office Retirements in January

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Washoe County Sheriff Michael Haley announces the retirement of seven staff members in January.

Lieutenant James Forbus - 29 years in law enforcement

With 29 years in law enforcement, James Forbus spent 20 of those years at Washoe County Sheriff's Office beginning as a deputy and moving up the ranks to Lieutenant. Forbus has spent much of his efforts working to get drugs off our streets with the Consolidated Narcotics Unit and was recognized by the Drug Enforcement Administration for his work. Forbus was awarded the Bronze Star for his actions which directed a trainee to safety while they were under fire.

Sergeant Esther Barnes - 28 years in law enforcement

Esther Barnes has been with the Sheriff's Office just under 29 years. In her career she worked Detention, Civil Division, was a Field Training Officer and the Crime Scene Investigator (CSI) Coordinator. Twice awarded Employee of the Month, Barnes promoted to Sergeant in 2004 and finishes her career working in Detention.

Sergeant Cheryl Beltron - 24 years in law enforcement

Cheryl Beltron has been in law enforcement for 24 years, the last 20 with the Sheriff's Office. Beltron worked patrol, detention, for the courts where she was a bailiff for Judge Agosti, and as a detective assigned to work juvenile cases. As a Sergeant, Beltron worked in Detention for 5 years before taking over the Patrol Training Officer Program and finishes her career in charge of all Training at the Sheriff's Office. Beltron plans to return to school and begin a career as an aesthetician.

Detective Stephanie D. Moen - 21 years in law enforcement

In her 21 year career, Stephanie Moen has worked in Detention, Patrol, Community Service as the D.A.R.E Deputy and Consolidated Narcotics Unit (CNU) prior to becoming a Detective. Beginning as a Reserve Deputy, Moen set her goal of becoming a Homicide Detective. She would end her career being responsible for investigating or assisting in some of the most high profile murder cases in Washoe County.

Deputy Howard Garretson - 27 years in law enforcement

Since being hired in 1980, Howard Garretson has worked in virtually every division of the Sheriff's Office and every aspect of law enforcement; from Patrol, to SWAT to Detectives. Garretson finishes his career working closely with the people of Washoe County as a Community Liaison Officer and was responsible for coordinating Reserve and Citizen's Academies, open space clean-up efforts and underage alcohol and tobacco stings.

Supervising Criminalist David L. Atkinson - 35 years working in Forensic Science

David Atkinson was an integral part of building the Washoe County Crime Lab's reputation as one of the top full service crime labs on the west coast. Spending five years with Tucson PD, then thirty years with Washoe County, Atkinson did the firearms and general evidence examinations for all of the law enforcement agencies in northern Nevada. Atkinson examined evidence concerning every major case in Washoe County from the Galaxy Crash to the Weller Shooting last year.

Background Investigator Mercy Bustos - 20 years working with law enforcement

Mercy Bustos spent the last 20 years working with law enforcement as an investigator at both the Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney's Office. Bustos was instrumental in coordinating the Hispanic Citizen's Academy and represented the Sheriff's Office numerous Hispanic community events. Bustos served as President of the Reno Chapter of the National Latino Peace Officers Association where she was awarded Latina of the Year. Representing Northern Nevada in the Hispanic Leadership Summit, Bustos received commendations from Senator Harry Reid and Senator John Ensign for her community involvement.