

# Sheriff



**Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff**

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October 11, 2011

## **OCSO THANKS COMMUNITY MEMBERS FOR HEART- WARMING GESTURES OF SUPPORT FOR DEPUTIES**

Sheriff Larry Ashley and members of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office are sending a public thank-you to two members of the local community who have taken steps to show appreciation to deputies for their service.

An anonymous donor has purchased 96 tickets to the movie "Courageous" for Okaloosa deputies as a show of gratitude for the work they do protecting the public and serving the community.

In a letter to the Sheriff, the donor said:

**"I work 60+ hours each week, but never risking my life to the extent that you do. I am grateful that you are here to serve and protect extensively throughout Okaloosa County. I live in the Niceville area, but not in the city, so you are my first line of defense.**

**Throughout my brief residency here, I have had multiple positive encounters with representatives from your department. I am not used to interacting with law enforcement, but have had some concerns dealing with someone who acts as though the law does not apply to them, and was uncertain how to respond. Each time, the deputies were professional, patient, and pleasant, trying to help me understand the laws I inquired about.**

**As I attended the movie, Courageous, I thought of you. Everyday, facing multiple challenges involving unstable and unreasonable people who believe the law does not apply to them. Yet, you serve faithfully and seem to enjoy your work and the camaraderie of your fellow deputies. I don't know how realistic this movie is, but it hit home with me, deepening my appreciation for your service."**

In addition to this donation, a local businessman who wanted to honor first responders purchased 75 dinner tickets for deputies for the Fort Walton Beach High School "Chow Down" October 6th. Proceeds from the Chow Down are used to fund community outreach activities which benefit the needy in our area.

"These generous acts in support of our deputies are tremendously appreciated," said Sheriff Ashley. "Community support is critically important and these donations show that residents realize the tough, challenging jobs our Deputies perform daily and appreciate that service. It truly lifts our spirits to another level and we want to publicly express our gratitude for their thoughtfulness."

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The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is accredited by the  
Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

"The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate"