

Sheriff



Edward Spooner • Sheriff Okaloosa County



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ARMY OFFICER PRESENTS FLAGS TO FAMILIES OF FALLEN DEPUTIES

A former firefighter with the North Bay Fire District near Bluewater Bay today presented flags flown over combat zones in Iraq to the spouses of three Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office deputies killed in the line of duty.

Army Chief Warrant Officer Michael Jones is a helicopter pilot with the 6th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment out of Fort Drum New York. The former graduate of Niceville High School says after learning of the tragic deaths of Deputy Anthony Forgione in July 2008 and Deputies Skip York and Burt Lopez in April 2009, he wanted to do something to honor their sacrifice.

He and his crew flew American flags over combat zones in Iraq earlier this year and today, December 18th, he hand-delivered them to Jessica Forgione, Janel York, and Michelle Lopez, the wives of the OCSO fallen deputies.

Chief Warrant Officer Jones says he lost four good friends in enemy action on the 25th of January and believes there is no higher calling than to serve to protect your community and/or country.

Jones also presented a flag to the North Bay Fire Department in honor of those who serve on the home front.

The family members of the deputies say they are grateful for Jones' efforts to remember and pay tribute to their loved ones.

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