

## October

### 2 October 1977 – Deputy Lynn Lewis, Automobile Accident

Deputy Lewis was killed in an automobile accident while returning from a Chief of Police Conference. His patrol car went out of control on a freeway and struck a directional standard. Deputy Lewis had been with the agency for six years.

### 4 October 1974 - Deputy James Foote, Automobile Accident

Deputy Foote was killed in an automobile accident while responding to a report of a gang fight. Deputy Foote had been with the agency for six years and was survived by his wife.

### 7 October 1972 – Deputy Joseph R. Herrera, Struck by Vehicle

Deputy Joseph Herrera was killed when a Department bus struck him. Deputy Herrera was directing a bus that was backing up at the Mens' Central Jail. He was accidentally crushed between the bus and a fence.

### 11 October 1967 – Deputy James W. Waygood, Automobile Accident

Deputy James Waygood was killed in a traffic accident while on patrol.

### 12 October 1957 – Deputy Harold Stephen Blevins, Gunfire

Deputy Harold Blevins was shot and killed during an armed robbery. Deputy Blevins and his partner responded to an armed robbery in progress by two suspects at a local restaurant. As Deputy Blevins and his partner walked up to the restaurant, one of the suspects opened fire striking Deputy Blevins in the head. His partner returned fire on the suspects, killing the suspect that had killed Deputy Blevins. Deputy Blevins' partner was also shot and severely wounded.

A standoff ensued. Responding deputies were able to rescue the wounded deputy and the victims of the robbery. The standoff continued until the remaining suspect was found hiding in a car at the restaurant. The two suspects were career criminals that were released from State Prisons within six months prior to the robbery.

### 12 October 1962 – Officer Dess K. Phipps (Compton PD), Automobile Accident

Officer Phipps was killed in an automobile accident during a high speed pursuit.

### **14 October 1960 – Reserve Deputy Lee E. Sawyer, Struck by Vehicle**

Deputy Sawyer was killed when his patrol car was struck by a drunk driver at the intersection of South Street and Paramount Boulevard while driving between two parks on Halloween night. He was assigned to a work park security detail for the Halloween festivities.

Deputy Sawyer had been with the agency for 9 years and was assigned to Lakewood Station. He was survived by his wife, daughter, and two sons.

### **23 October 1974 – Deputy Theodor A. Abreu, Automobile Accident**

Deputy Theodor Abreu was killed in an off duty automobile accident.

### **24 October 1988 – Deputy Roy Allan Chester & Deputy James Daniel McSweeney, Aircraft Accident**

Deputy Roy Chester and Deputy James McSweeney were killed in a helicopter accident while working on a multi-agency narcotics task force. A car was spotted in a canyon and the helicopter began to descend when its rotor blades struck power lines and caused it to crash.

Also killed in the accident were Investigator Michael Davis of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, Sergeant Richard Romero of the Imperial County Sheriff's Department, and Deputy Mark Tonkin of the Orange County Sheriff's Department, and the three California National Guard crew members operating the flight.

Deputy Chester and Deputy McSweeney both served with the agency for 12 years.

### **24 October 2008 – Deputy Randy Jay Hamson, Struck by Vehicle**

Deputy Randy Hamson succumbed to injuries sustained on August 16, 2004, when he was struck by a vehicle on Sierra Highway. He had been investigating an accident when he saw an oncoming car driving without its headlights on. As he stepped into the roadway to get the driver's attention with his flashlight he was struck by another car.

He remained in a coma in a long term care facility until succumbing to his injuries.

Deputy Hamson had served with the agency for 5 years at the time of the accident. He is survived by his wife, two sons, parents, and two brothers.

### **25 October 1914 Deputy Constable Anthony Brian Coutts, Gunfire**

Deputy Constable Coutts sent to a rooming house at 222 ½ N. Main Street in downtown Los Angeles to serve a writ of attachment against one of the owners of the property, J.W. Ferguson. While Coutts was attempting to serve the writ against Ferguson, an argument ensued between Coutts and M.L. Mercado who was employed by Ferguson as a night clerk. A young woman

tried to intervene to assist Constable Coutts but he moved her aside and took hold of Machado and attempted to arrest him for obstruction. Machado then drew a handgun and shot Coutts in the stomach. The wounded deputy constable attempted to flee that building by running for the exit. Machado fired two more shots at him as he ran. One bullet missed and broke a pane of glass, but the other struck Coutts in the back. The young deputy constable died at approximately 5 A.M. the next morning. Machado was later tried and convicted of manslaughter.

### **30 October 1997 – Deputy Michael Lee Hoenig, Gunfire**

Deputy Hoenig was shot and killed at approximately 0115 hours. Deputy Hoenig had been following the suspect, who was on a bicycle. The suspect opened fire on Deputy Hoenig as he was about to question him. Deputy Hoenig was sitting in his patrol car when the suspect fired through the window of the rear passenger door. A round struck Deputy Hoenig, who then attempted to exit his patrol car. The suspect then came around the back of the patrol car and fired at least six more shots.

Deputy Hoenig was wearing a bullet proof vest, but the fatal bullet struck him in the neck. He was found lying outside of his patrol car with his gun next to him. He never had a chance to return fire or to call for help. The suspect was found guilty and sentenced to death in December of 1998.

Deputy Hoenig's parents were present in the courtroom when the sentence was read.

Deputy Hoenig had been with the department for three years and had been with another agency for seven years before it was merged the sheriff's department. He is survived by his parents, two brothers and his sister.