

## President's Message

It is with great pleasure that I write this column as its purpose is to invite you to our annual Fall Luncheon. At this event, we will honor and roast our retiring Kern County Sheriff, Carl Sparks. This is a man who has dedicated his life to serving the citizens of Kern County. If you ever wanted to know the meaning of dedication, just look at his 37 year career with the Kern County Sheriff's Department. That is the true meaning of dedication.

I could go on and on with praise for Sheriff Sparks, however, if you wish to hear more, you will have to attend our luncheon November 20th, at noon, at Buck Owens Crystal Palace.

I want to thank all of you for supporting the Foundation during the past year. Without it, we could not have complete all of the projects we have for the year. **EVERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO YOU ALL!**

Another special "thank you" goes to board member



Randy Raymond and his committee for the construction of the Fallen Deputies Memorial. This took an enormous amount of work and dedication to see it through to completion. This project is very special to active and retired members of the Kern County Sheriff's Department as we all have a friend named on that wall. The memorial was dedicated on October 30th at a noontime ceremony.

I hope to see all of you at the Fall Luncheon for our tribute to Sheriff Carl Sparks.

*Frank Williams,  
President.*

## Carl Sparks



## KERN COUNTY SHERIFF-CORONER RETIRES

Well folks, the Sheriff says it's time to hang up the guns and call it a career. After an illustrious 37 years with the Kern County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Sparks decided to dedicate more time to his wife, Linda, and the rest of his family. That family includes a 35-year union with Linda, 3 children and 2 grandchildren.

Carl was born and raised in Kern County. He attended local schools and graduated from Bakersfield High School in 1958. After graduation, Carl attended both Bakersfield Junior College (That's what it was called in those days) and Lancaster Junior College. Throughout his career he also attended California State University Bakersfield. Sheriff Sparks proudly served his country for three and a half years in the United States Marine Corps with tours in Cuba, Japan and Viet Nam. Upon his release from the Military, Carl decided what his goal in life was: to be a Kern County Deputy Sheriff.

Carl Sparks was commissioned as a Deputy Sheriff in 1965. He spent the next 37 years rising in rank from Deputy to Sheriff of Kern County. Carl spent the majority of his career wearing the "Uniform". He liked the "Streets" and spent as much time as possible on them. He especially liked working late at night. "That's where the action is" he was often heard to say. Carl was a strong advocate of Law and Order and often went above and beyond to secure the perpetrator of a crime or to see to it that a victim of a crime was taken care of.

## *Carl Sparks from Page 1*

When Carl was reassigned to Search and Rescue, he found his forte and Kern County began to hear from him. He was responsible for educating people about the dangers of the Kern River and what the tasks of Search and Rescue were. He brought Search and Rescue to the forefront of the public eye and kept it there.

Carl Sparks was inaugurated as Sheriff of Kern County on January 7, 1991. He was re-elected as Sheriff -Coroner on January 3, 1995 and again on January 5, 1999. During his 12 years as Sheriff, Carl was active in many local, state and federal associations and organizations. He has been an active member of the California State Sheriff's Association since becoming Sheriff and a board member since 1997. He is active in the National Sheriff's Association and has been a board member since 2000. There are many other organizations, which are too numerous to list, that Sheriff Sparks has involved himself in.

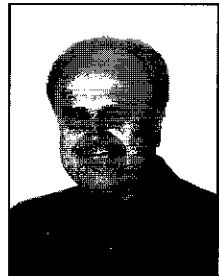
During his career, he was a presenter at the 1996 National Sheriffs' Association. He was an invited speaker for The Drug Court Program in 1994. Carl was a member of the Legislative Committee for Proposition 172 (1/2 cent sales tax for Public Safety). Was a member of the Legislative Committee for Three Strikes and you're out. He was the 1984 Kern County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. In 2000, he was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award for an Elected Official by the Public Employees Roundtable of Kern. Sheriff Sparks is a graduate of the F.B.I. Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Sheriff Carl Sparks was a Sheriff of and for the common man. It made no difference if you were Governor of the State or a homeless person; you were treated with respect and professionalism. Carl is and has always been plain spoken and to the point. You always know where you stand with him. In fact, it has been said that Carl is the ultimate politician; once you engage him in conversation, it's hard to get him to stop talking.

Sheriff Sparks, enjoy your retirement!

*EDITOR*

**Tom  
Sheets**



## **A Law Enforcement Legend In His Own Time?**

*Many things will be said and written about Carl Sparks over the next several months, but those of us who worked side by side with him over the years have many stories to tell.*

First of all, Carl has always been known for his extraordinary high speed driving, short response times and a string of Sheriff vehicles in the County wrecking yard.

As an example, one night Carl was enroute to home for dinner in the southwest when a "shots fired" assault with a deadly weapon call, the call was in east Bakersfield. The closest car responded from Union Avenue driving as quickly as they could. Carl called in on the radio enroute, and imagine the deputies' surprise when Carl not only beat him to the call probably 10 to 15 miles further away, but had already gotten the drop on the bad guys and yet left him to do the paperwork. We can only imagine it remained the same as Sheriff.

Retired Commander Frank Williams who went through the sheriff's academy with Carl recalls everyone wore suits and ties and Carl, being a former Marine, tried his best to be "spit and polish" officer and was the first to try anything. Frank still to this day is happy Carl got the ultimate job of Sheriff.

Several deputies commented about Carl's unquestionable dedication and devotion to the Sheriff's Department. Carl's pride in the department is obvious.

Finally, on Carl's position in the media, some say he is too strong or too tough, but Larry King said to Attorney General Bill Lockyear, "I like your Sheriff and his ideas." Carl had just arrived on the show after his deputies had rescued two young females from certain death. He spoke from the heart, not as a politician, but someone who has seen it all and knew what could have happened. It seemed that a simple statement confirmed that for once and for all, good had won out over evil. That certainly is the goal of the Sheriff who worked up through the ranks, learning as he went sometimes dealing with controversy, but always with conviction and commitment to the safety of Kern County.

An era has passed, and we all wish Carl and Linda a long and healthy retirement.

## Sheriff's Memorial

Here it is November already. I would like to wish you and yours a great holiday season!!

On October 30<sup>th</sup> the Kern County Sheriff Fallen Deputy Memorial was dedicated to the memory of the twenty-eight men who gave their life protecting us. I personally, can only rank the birth of my boys as being a greater honor than that of being involved in this memorial honoring these fine men. It was my privilege.

There was a committee that made this all happen. Normally a committee consists of people that want their name on a letterhead and an addition to their resume'. Or, the committee is like a log floating down a river with a million ants on it and they ALL think they're driving..... Not this one. I was the chairman of the committee that worked very hard towards the goal that started in October 2000. Over the two full years of work, *they* made it happen. Nobody was immune to my constant chiding, begging, yelling, bitching and moaning.

Mary K. Shell of WZI Inc. is a very powerful person in this town. She was on the committee. Not as a name, but a hard worker who sometimes squinted at me with that "look", but she got us the money we needed. Thanks Miki.

Toni Stevenson put on the golf tournament for us. She probably called me names she had never used before. She worked on the tournament between her full time job, kids, husband, soccer and dinner. But she made us money. Thanks Toni.

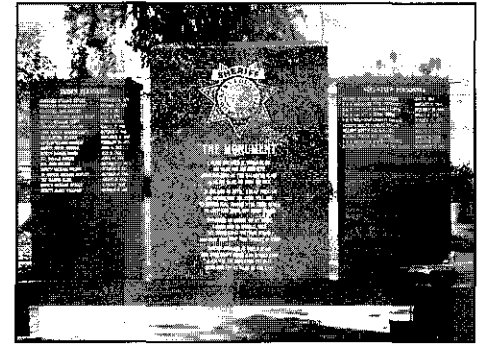
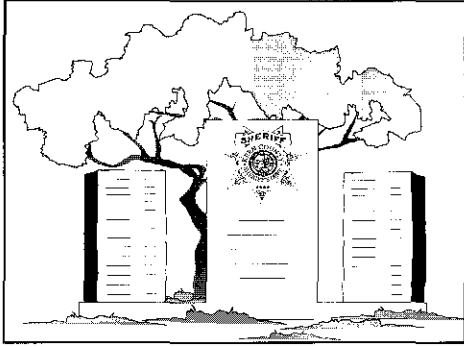
Dennis Muleady of Advance Beverage-Budweiser. Where would we have been without the total support of Bill Lazzerini and Advance Beverage? NOWHERE. Dennis was given the time and full resources of Advance Beverage to make sure the project happened. Not only did Dennis provide the committee with a place to meet each month, he provided the flyers announcing our events, gave us prizes for the golf tournament and the best beer in the world at our dinner and tournament. . Thanks Denny.

John Fidler, Kern County Sheriff's Homicide Detective was invaluable as my "Go to" guy when I needed help cutting through the sometimes-awkward county rules. He was there every time I called and he handled what needed to be done instantly. Thanks Fid.

Lisa Boydston, Branch Manager for Bank of Stockdale was our dinner chairman. She was challenged by me to bring in a certain amount of profit from the dinner. She surpassed that goal by a bunch. The dinner at Coconut Joe's Private Beach Club was a huge success. Lisa got Jim Pennington, the Number One auctioneer in the world to run our auction. He sold the donated items for over \$6,000 !!!! Lisa was also assigned to work with me directly on the sales of the pavers and the engraving on them. She actually put up with me for over four months, me barking orders and generally being a putz. But she did good !!!! At the end of the night, Coconut Joe's not only waived the fee for the rent, but also donated all the food !!!! All due to Lisa and her hard work. Thanks Lisa.

Vern Marcois (mar-coys) owns Marcois Construction. He is a general contractor that has built all the Supreme Bean coffee buildings in town. He is very particular whom he works for and is very meticulous in his work. Basically, he's a picky perfectionist. He built our monument. That's why it turned out the beautiful thing that it is. Vern lost money on this whole deal. That was not supposed to happen. But he refused to charge us what he should have. He said "How can I charge the full amount when these men listed on the monument didn't ask for anything extra?" Thanks Vernon.

Jim La Mar of Greenlawn Mortuaries and Cemeteries was on the committee. He supplied us the entire plaza—including pavers, benches and monoliths at his cost. He lost money on the project. But he said he thought it was the right thing to do. Jim's Father's name is listed on the CHP Memorial on Buck Owens Blvd. His Father was killed on duty. Jim never met his Father. Jim was in his Mother's womb when that day happened. Damn..... Thanks Jim.



The seven-foot plus tall center monolith had the prayer called "The Monument" engraved into it under the Sheriff's Star. It reads:

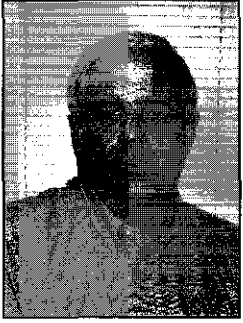
*"The Monument"*

*I never dreamed it would be me,  
My name for all eternity,  
Recorded here at this hallowed place,  
Alas, my name, no more my face.*

*"In the line of duty" I hear them say,  
My family now the price will pay.  
My folded flag stained with their tears;  
We only had those few short years.*

*The badge no longer on my chest,  
I sleep now in eternal rest.  
My sword I pass to those behind,  
And pray they keep this thought in mind.*

*I never dreamed it would be me,  
And with heavy heart and bended knee;  
I ask for all here from the past,  
Dear God, let my name be the last.*



Randy Raymond Sr.

There are two six foot plus monoliths that flank the center monolith. On the left are the eighteen names of the sworn deputies sheriff killed in the line of duty. On the right stands the monolith with the ten names of the volunteers who gave their life serving us. The plaza itself is made up of 124 granite pavers that individuals and businesses in the community bought and had their personal message engraved into it. Some are very poignant and some very thought provoking. You will have to see the monument to appreciate the grandeur and yet simplicity.

The Honor Guard, in all their regalia posted the flag of our nation. A bugler wailed the ever somber "Taps" from the distance. The bagpiper, complete with kilt and full military uniform blew the tear jerking "Amazing Grace" on his crying pipes. A helicopter flyover paid their respects. A twenty one-gun salute broke the silence with a resounding boom. A lone, unknown deputy stood by an empty patrol car at attention. Each man's name was read aloud. The prayer was read to the crowd. All the top brass was there in their Class "A" uniforms—the sun glinting from all the gold.

Twenty-eight white doves—one for every man on the monument— were released in their honor. There wasn't a dry eye to be seen.

I hope and pray that the mournful slain deputy who spoke the spiritual words in the prayer would be granted his wish by God—— ".....let my name be the last".

Randy Raymond Sr.

## SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

For the last several years, the Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation has awarded an Annual scholarship to a Kern County high school senior entering college who is pursuing a career in the field of law enforcement or criminology. The scholarship totaled \$4,000 and was made in biannual payments over a four-year period.



Lisa Boydston

We have two students currently active in our program. Justin Smith is attending Cal State University Bakersfield. He is a graduate of Stockdale High School and was our 2001 recipient. Curtis Rhoades is attending Bakersfield College, he is a graduate of Centennial High School and was our 2002 recipient.

Additionally this year, Dr. Robert Fong, Administration of Justice Chair at CSUB, contacted us. He had an exceptional group of students enrolled in the Criminal Justice program that were in need of assistance. The Board of Directors voted unanimously to make a one-time award to two students in the amount of \$1,000 each. Recipients, Allison Rickels and Debbie Welty were very appreciative of the donation made by the Foundation.

The Board is currently reviewing our scholarship program to ensure that we are accomplishing our goal of assisting a college student in becoming a leader in law enforcement in Kern County. The new guidelines for scholarship recipients will be published in our next newsletter. If you have any additional questions about the scholarship program or revisions to the program, please contact the Kern County Law Enforcement Foundations Scholarship Committee.

Lisa Boydston  
Scholarship Chairman

**KERN COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT FOUNDATION**

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# Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation Luncheon



11:30am Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2002  
at Buck Owens' Crystal Palace  
2800 Buck Owens Blvd.

For tickets, reservations contact:  
Pauly Wren, 861-7911 ext. 110

*Retirement Roast of Sheriff Carl Sparks*