

Photo
Not Available



Undersheriff James Thompson

Missoula County Sheriff's Department
End of Watch: Monday, July 01, 1878
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Heat exhaustion

Undersheriff Thompson died of heat stroke after riding on horseback for 60 miles in 100 degree temperature, from Missoula to the Flathead Indian Reservation, to arrest a man who had escaped from the County Jail. When he arrived at the reservation he collapsed. He was put under the care of a doctor but died one week later.

Photo
Not Available



Deputy Sheriff H. M. (Muggins) Taylor

Custer County Sheriff's Department
End of Watch: Sunday, October 01, 1882
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Deputy Taylor was shot and killed while attempting to stop a drunk man from beating his wife at a local laundry in Billings, Montana. The suspect was apprehended.

Photo
Not Available



Policeman William F. Jordan

Butte Police Department
End of Watch: Friday, June 24, 1892
Age: 39
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Policeman Jordan was shot and killed after interrupting a burglary in progress. His killer was never identified. Policeman Jordan had served with the Butte Police Department for 9 years and was survived by his wife and three children.

Photo
Not Available



Special Deputy Sheriff William Rader

Meagher County Sheriff's Department
End of Watch: Tuesday, May 09, 1893
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Unidentified

No further information about the death of Special Deputy Sheriff William Rader is currently available.

Photo
Not Available



Deputy Sheriff James Mackay

Meagher County Sheriff's Department
End of Watch: Thursday, May 11, 1893
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Deputy Mackay was shot and killed in the line of duty. The suspect was hanged in 1896.



Police Officer John W. Flynn

Helena Police Department
End of Watch: Wednesday, April 11, 1894
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Officer Flynn was shot and killed when he interrupted a burglary in progress at the Northern Pacific Railroad Depot in Helena. He was making his usual rounds when he encountered several burglars in the ticket office breaking into a safe. As he entered the office he was struck with an object and then shot three times as he yelled for help. The suspects fled the scene with \$140. Officer Flynn was survived by his wife and two children.

Photo
Not Available



Policeman Dennis W. Daly

Butte Police Department

End of Watch: Wednesday, July 04, 1894

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Policeman Daly was shot and killed during a riot that had started after a saloon owner put anti-Catholic symbols on his saloon. A large group gathered outside of the saloon and began throwing rocks through the windows. One of the rock throwers was arrested and as Policeman Daly tried to clear a path to escort the prisoner through he was shot in the chest. Another man in the crowd was also shot and killed. Two different coroner's juries failed to identify the shooter and no one was ever arrested for the murders.

Photo
Not Available



Policeman Frederick Kranbeck

Butte Police Department

End of Watch: Tuesday, January 15, 1895

Age: 48

Cause of Death: Explosion

Policeman Kranbeck was killed in a warehouse explosion. Eight firefighters were also killed in the explosion. Policeman Kranbeck was survived by his wife.

Photo
Not Available



City Marshal Commodore Perry Downing

Great Falls Police Department

End of Watch: Thursday, November 07, 1895

Age: 51

Cause of Death: Struck by streetcar

Marshal Downing was struck and killed by a streetcar while responding to a report of a bicycle accident.

Photo
Not Available



Policeman Fred A. Parlin

Butte Police Department

End of Watch: Wednesday, March 18, 1896

Age: 26

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Policeman Parlin was shot and killed while investigating shots being fired. Policeman Parlin was walking his beat when he heard a gunshot from an alley. When he went to investigate, he heard an argument inside a house. As Policeman Parlin opened the door to the house, he was shot once in the head. Policeman Parlin had served with the Butte Police Department for one year and was survived by his wife and child.

Photo
Not Available



Special Deputy Sheriff John Allen

Gallatin County Sheriff's Department

End of Watch: Saturday, January 16, 1897

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Deputy Allen was shot and killed while assisting the sheriff serve an arrest warrant. The suspect opened fire from within a barn when he was cornered, striking Deputy Allen in the head. Despite his wounds, Deputy Allen was able to identify the shooter. He succumbed to his wounds two weeks later.

Deputy Allen had been deputized by the sheriff that day to help serve the warrant.

Photo
Not Available



Police Officer Luke Curry

Great Falls Police Department

End of Watch: Saturday, November 19, 1898

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Officer Curry was shot by a citizen while checking doors on his walking beat. As he checked a door the citizen thought there was an intruder and fired a shot, striking Officer Curry.



Sheriff George T. Young

Park County Sheriff's Department

End of Watch: Friday, November 09, 1900

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Sheriff Young was shot and killed while attempting to arrest a train robbery and murder suspect. A suspect robbed a man on a train while enroute to Garrison, Montana. When the train arrived in Garrison, the suspect left the train and went to Logan, Montana where he shot and killed a rancher. The suspect was spotted at a train station in Springdale, Montana. Sheriff Young and his undersheriff responded to make the arrest. When they arrived at the train station, the officers started questioning people in the station. Sheriff Young went inside the station to get a better description of the suspect from the station agent. When he went back outside, he found the suspect on the platform. As the undersheriff came to assist Sheriff Young, the suspect pulled a gun and shot the undersheriff, seriously wounding him. The suspect then shot Sheriff Young, who died instantly. The suspect escaped and was never caught even though a large posse searched for him for several days.

Deputy Sheriff John J. Streb

Silver Bow County Sheriff's Department

End of Watch: Thursday, December 20, 1900

Age: 25

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Photo
Not Available

Patch
Not Available

Deputy Streb was shot and killed after responding to a report of a man with a gun. Deputy Streb and another deputy responded to a report of a man with a gun at a dance. As the Deputies were talking to the suspect, the suspect shot and killed Deputy Streb.



Sheriff James E. Summers

Madison County Sheriff's Department

End of Watch: Friday, January 25, 1901

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Sheriff Summers was shot and killed in Morgan Gulch while attempting to serve an arrest warrant on a man for burglary of a rancher's cabin. The suspect was apprehended the following day.

Deputy Sheriff Jack Faul Williams

Valley County Sheriff's Department

End of Watch: Saturday, June 06, 1903

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Photo
Not Available



Deputy Williams was shot and killed during a prison escape from the county jail. A prisoner who had been sentenced to death had somehow obtained a rifle and shot Deputy Williams to death. The prisoner and three other inmates escaped the prison. One suspect was immediately recaptured and hung by an angry mob of citizens. One other suspect was killed in a gunfight with a posse that was attempting to track the suspects down. A third suspect escaped.

Special Deputy Edmund Trudeau

Missoula County Sheriff's Department

End of Watch: Sunday, February 14, 1904

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Photo
Not Available



Special Deputy Trudeau was shot and killed after ejecting an intoxicated man from a dance hall. The man went home, obtained a rifle, then returned to the scene and opened fire. Special Deputy Trudeau was fatally wounded in the exchange of gunfire. Other deputies arrived on the scene and in the ensuing gunfight and apprehended the suspect. On June 8, 1904, the suspect was sentenced to 99 years in prison for Deputy Trudeau's murder.

Policeman Fred Stevens

Havre Police Department

End of Watch: Wednesday, May 25, 1904

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Photo
Not Available



Policeman Stevens was shot and killed in the line of duty. The following month the same suspect shot and killed Sheriff Harry Harris of the St. Croix County, Wisconsin, Sheriff's Office.

Photo
Not Available



Policeman Patrick Dougherty

Anaconda Police Department
End of Watch: Friday, June 03, 1904
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Assault

No further information about the death of Policeman Patrick Dougherty is currently available.

Photo
Not Available



Sergeant Robert T. Hannah

Billings Police Department
End of Watch: Saturday, July 02, 1904
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Sergeant Hannah was shot and killed when he responded to a robbery at a local saloon. Two robbery suspects entered a local saloon and gambling hall through a rear door. As they entered the building, two customers heard the commotion and left through the front door. The two customers went to the police station and reported the robbery. Sergeant Hannah, the Yellowstone County Sheriff and a Northern Pacific detective responded to the robbery. When they arrived, a gun battle ensued and both Sergeant Hannah and the Yellowstone County Sheriff were wounded. The Yellowstone County Sheriff suffered a minor wound to his hand, however, Sergeant Hannah suffered from serious wounds and died later that day. Two suspects were arrested and confessed to murdering Sergeant Hannah.

Photo
Not Available



Deputy Sheriff Anthony Korizek

Lewis & Clark County Sheriff's Department
End of Watch: Friday, August 12, 1904
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Deputy Korizek was shot and killed while transporting a prisoner from a jail cell to court. The prisoner had just been convicted of attempting to extort \$50,000 from the Northern Pacific Railroad and was being taken before the judge for another appearance. The suspect had somehow obtained a handgun and pulled it out after Deputy Korizek opened his cell door. The deputy attempted to pull his own gun but was shot in the chest. Several other deputies heard the shots ran to the scene. They shot and wounded the suspect who fled into the basement of the Governor's Mansion and committed suicide.

Photo
Not Available



Policeman Joseph A. Freshman

Butte Police Department
End of Watch: Sunday, September 23, 1906
Age: 52
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Policeman Freshman was shot and killed after a man tried to rob him as he walked his post. Policeman Freshman was walking his post when a man approached him and attempted to rob him at gunpoint. At first the suspect did not realize that he was robbing a police officer due to the poor lighting condition, but when he realized he was robbing an officer, he opened fire, killing Policeman Freshman. Policeman Freshman had served with the Butte Police Department for six months and was survived by his wife and four children.

Photo
Not Available



Deputy Warden John Robinson

Montana Department of Corrections - State Prison
End of Watch: Sunday, March 08, 1908
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Unidentified

No further information about the death of Deputy Warden John Robinson is currently available.



Sheriff James T. Webb

Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office
End of Watch: Tuesday, March 24, 1908
Age: 42
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Sheriff Webb was shot and killed near Roundup while attempting to apprehend a man for stealing horses. The suspect was later apprehended and killed by a posse. Sheriff Webb's funeral was attended by over 2,500 people.

Photo
Not Available



Deputy Game Warden Charles B. Peyton

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

End of Watch: Sunday, October 18, 1908

Age: 35

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Game Warden Peyton was shot and killed while investigating illegal hunting. Game Warden Peyton had gone to the Flathead Indian Reservation to question several tribe members. During the questioning Game Warden Peyton was shot and killed. Four tribe members were also shot and killed.

Game Warden Peyton had been with the agency for two years and was survived by his wife and three children.

Photo
Not Available

Patch
Not Available

Special Deputy Sheriff Charles B. Streb

Silver Bow County Sheriff's Department

End of Watch: Monday, July 24, 1911

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Unidentified

No further information about the death of Special Deputy Sheriff Charles B. Streb is currently available.

Photo
Not Available



Deputy Sheriff Joseph S. Brannin

Sweet Grass County Sheriff's Department

End of Watch: Thursday, November 16, 1911

Age: 28

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Deputy Brannin was shot and killed while attempting to serve a warrant on a horse thief in Melville, Montana. Deputy Brannin met the suspect in a saloon and served the warrant. The man asked to collect some belongings before leaving. As the two left, one of the suspect's friends struck Deputy Brannin in the face with a bottle. Deputy Brannin shot the man who struck him, but was then shot by the original suspect. The man was arrested and sent to prison.

Deputy Brannin had been with the agency for one year and was survived by 12 siblings and his mother.

Photo
Not Available



Undersheriff Orville Bittle

Rosebud County Sheriff's Department

End of Watch: Saturday, December 16, 1911

Age: 36

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Undersheriff Bittle was shot and killed as he attempted to arrest cattle thieves.

Undersheriff Bittle was survived by his wife.

Photo
Not Available



Sheriff Tom A. Courtney

Sheridan County Sheriff's Department

End of Watch: Friday, April 04, 1913

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Sheriff Courtney and Undersheriff Bermeister were killed while attempting to arrest a man for disturbing the peace. The man was known for carrying a gun and shot and killed them. When he realized escape was impossible, he surrendered and was placed in the town jail. The local residents broke down the jail doors and lynched him.

Photo
Not Available



Undersheriff Richard Burmeister

Sheridan County Sheriff's Department

End of Watch: Friday, April 04, 1913

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Sheriff Courtney and Undersheriff Bermeister were killed while attempting to arrest a man for disturbing the peace. The man was known for carrying a gun and shot and killed them. When he realized escape was impossible, he surrendered and was placed in the town jail. The local residents broke down the jail doors and lynched him.

Photo
Not Available



Policeman Ivan W. Lincoln

Butte Police Department
End of Watch: Tuesday, March 30, 1915
Age: 29
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Policeman Lincoln was shot and killed while patrolling the property of a coal company. Policeman Lincoln had served with the Butte Police Department for two years.

Photo
Not Available



Sheriff Alfred F. Klugman

Mineral County Sheriff's Office
End of Watch: Friday, May 21, 1915
Age: 30
Cause of Death: Gunfire (Accidental)

Sheriff Klugman was accidentally shot and killed when his service revolver slipped from his pocket and discharged when it struck the floor.

He was returning from an official trip to the western portion of the county. He was staying in a hotel when he was awoken by a citizen and asked to quell a disturbance in the street below. The pistol fell from his pocket and discharged when he was getting dressed.

Sheriff Klugman was the county's first elected sheriff. He had served with the Mineral County Sheriff's Office for 1 year. He was survived by his parents, brother, and sister.

Photo
Not Available



Policeman James H. Pace

Butte Police Department
End of Watch: Tuesday, July 27, 1915
Age: 41
Cause of Death: Heart attack

Policeman Pace suffered a fatal heart attack after a struggle with a man with a gun.

Photo
Not Available



Policeman Bart J. McCarthy

Butte Police Department
End of Watch: Saturday, July 22, 1916
Age: 29
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Policeman McCarthy was shot and killed by a local constable.

Patrolman McCarthy observed the constable beating up a vender and approached. The Constable turned around and shot Policeman McCarthy, killing him. The Constable was already facing assault charges for shooting another Butte Policeman.

Policeman McCarthy had served with the Butte Police Department for three months.

Photo
Not Available

Patch
Not Available

Constable Val DeRosier

Marysville Police Department
End of Watch: Thursday, September 13, 1917
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Unidentified

No further information about the death of Constable Val DeRosier is currently available.



Policeman Enos Nelson

Billings Police Department
End of Watch: Monday, December 17, 1917
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Policeman Nelson was shot and killed after responding to a report of a man with a gun in a bar.

When Patrolman Nelson arrived at the bar, he discovered the male had left. Policeman Nelson exited the back door of the bar and was shot and killed by the suspect, who was hiding behind a fence.

The suspect was later apprehended after a shootout and hanged.

Photo
Not Available



Deputy Sheriff Pomeroy Vrelland

Gallatin County Sheriff's Department
End of Watch: Friday, October 10, 1919
Age: 38
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Deputy Vrelland and Deputy Sheriff Frank Curtice were shot and killed as they attempted to arrest a suspect.

Photo
Not Available



Deputy Sheriff Frank C. Curtice

Gallatin County Sheriff's Department
End of Watch: Friday, October 10, 1919
Age: 39
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Deputy Curtice and Deputy Sheriff Pomeropy were shot and killed as they attempted to arrest a suspect. Deputy Curtice had served with the Gallatin County Sheriff's Department for four years and was survived by his wife and three children.

Photo
Not Available



Undersheriff George Warburton

Powell County Sheriff's Department
End of Watch: Tuesday, April 20, 1920
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Unidentified

No further information about the death of Undersheriff George Warburton is currently available.

Photo
Not Available



Sheriff C. K. Wyman

Beaverhead County Sheriff's Department
End of Watch: Wednesday, April 21, 1920
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Sheriff Wyman was shot and killed by a man he was attempting to arrest for grand larceny. The man was arrested and sentenced to hang for Sheriff Wyman's murder.

Photo
Not Available



Police Officer Frank H. Connolly

Great Falls Police Department
End of Watch: Monday, August 02, 1920
Age: 51
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Officer Connolly was shot and killed while questioning a suspicious person outside a hotel. Officer Connolly had served with the Great Falls Police Department for 11 years and was survived by his wife and three children.



Patch
Not Available

Sheriff Jesse Garfield

Golden Valley County Sheriff's Department
End of Watch: Saturday, December 18, 1920
Age: 37
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Sheriff Garfield succumbed to wounds received two weeks earlier while investigating a complaint on a rancher by the man's neighbor. As Sheriff Garfield knocked on the door the rancher opened fire with a shotgun, seriously wounding him. Sheriff Garfield attempted to drive back to town, but his patrol car's gas tank was also struck by the shotgun blast and his car ran out of gas. He was able to make it back to town after getting help from a railroad work crew. He succumbed to his wounds in a Billings hospital two weeks later.

Sheriff Garfield had been with the agency for six months. His wife was appointed Sheriff to complete his un-expired term.



Undersheriff Irving Keeler

Treasure County Sheriff's Office
End of Watch: Friday, December 09, 1921
Age: 37
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Undersheriff Keeler was shot and killed by a man he was arresting on a charge of Petty Theft. Undersheriff Keeler had served with the Treasure County Sheriff's Office for one year and was survived by his wife and two children.



Chief of Police John Ferdinand Bockman

Libby Police Department
End of Watch: Monday, April 28, 1924
Age: 32
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Chief Bockman was shot and killed while questioning a shooting suspect next to a railroad line. A railroad worker had asked the suspect and another man to leave but was shot at by the pair. When Chief Bockman arrived on the scene he ordered the man to raise his hands, but was met with gunfire. Chief Bockman was able to return fire, mortally wounding the suspect before being shot in the face. The suspect received a shoulder wound and died in jail two days later. Chief Bockman was a WWI veteran and was the city's only police officer at the time. He had been with the agency for three years and was survived by wife, two sons, and parents.

Photo
Not Available



Police Officer Charles Wilson

Livingston Police Department
End of Watch: Wednesday, August 20, 1924
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Officer Wilson was shot and killed when he interrupted a burglary in progress at a local house. Officer Wilson chased the two suspects into a nearby rail yard where he was shot and killed when the suspects opened fire. One of the suspects dropped a bag belonging to Deputy Joseph Morgan of the Muskogee County, Oklahoma, Sheriff's Department. The suspects had murdered Deputy Morgan in Tarrant County, Texas, on June 16, 1924 while he was transporting them back to Oklahoma after they had been arrested in Texas. After murdering Officer Wilson the suspects fled and went on to murder Officer Haze Burch of the Phoenix, Arizona, Police Department on February 5, 1925 when Officer Burch caught them siphoning gas from a vehicle. One of the suspects was convicted in Arizona of murdering Officer Burch and hanged on January 8, 1926. The other brother was convicted in Texas of murdering of Deputy Morgan and was sentenced to life in prison.

Photo
Not Available



Police Officer Joseph E. Sage

Butte Police Department
End of Watch: Wednesday, April 08, 1925
Age: 65
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Officer Sage was shot and killed in an ambush. While on patrol, Officer Sage passed a group of men in the street. As he passed the men, the group of men opened fire on Officer Sage. Unknown to Officer Sage, the group of men were fugitives from Mexico. Officer Sage was taken to a local hospital in Butte where he died from his wounds later in the day. Officer Sage was survived by a sister and four brothers.

Photo
Not Available



Sheriff Russell J. Sage

Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office
End of Watch: Tuesday, July 06, 1926
Age: 42
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Sheriff Sage was shot and killed by a mentally ill prisoner. Sheriff Sage had served as sheriff for 5 years and had previously served as a police officer for the Billings Police Department for 4 years.

Photo
Not Available



Sheriff Robert P. Gilmore

Big Horn County Sheriff's Department

End of Watch: Friday, October 29, 1926

Age: 63

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Sheriff Gilmore and Officer John MacLeod, of the Montana-Crow Indian Reservation Police Department, were shot and killed when they went to arrest a transient. The man was the suspect in several burglaries in the county and wanted for disturbing the peace on the reservation. The officers told him the charges would be dropped if he left town. The officers went to his shack to arrest him after he failed to leave town. They were confronted by the man with a .22 caliber rifle and the man opened fire, fatally wounding Sheriff Gilmore in the neck. The suspect then wounded the Undersheriff before barricading himself in his shack.

As Officer MacLeod attempted to kick in the back door he was shot in the groin. The round struck an artery and Officer MacLeod bled to death. Deputies from Yellowstone County responded to the scene and set the house on fire. As the man fled he was shot and killed by the crowd.

Sheriff Gilmore had been with the agency or 11 years and was survived by his wife and daughter.

Photo
Not Available

Patch
Not Available

Deputy Sheriff Batt Arrigoni

Silver Bow County Sheriff's Department

End of Watch: Thursday, December 29, 1927

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Unidentified

No further information about the death of Deputy Sheriff Batt Arrigoni is currently available.

Photo
Not Available



Chief Deputy Sheriff Herbert Locke

Cascade County Sheriff's Department

End of Watch: Tuesday, December 11, 1928

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Unidentified

No further information about the death of Chief Deputy Sheriff Herbert Locke is currently available.

Photo
Not Available



Chief of Police Peter Holt

Livingston Police Department

End of Watch: Wednesday, August 21, 1929

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Unidentified

The only information about the death of Chief of Police Peter Holt that is currently available is that the suspect was executed in 1929. The suspect also killed Police Officer Martin Zollman, Livingston Police Department.

Photo
Not Available



Police Officer Martin Zollman

Livingston Police Department

End of Watch: Wednesday, August 21, 1929

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Unidentified

The only information about the death of Police Officer Martin Zollman that is currently available is that the suspect was executed in 1929. The suspect also killed Chief of Police Peter Holt, Livingston Police Department.

Photo
Not Available



Sheriff Frank S. Metzel

Madison County Sheriff's Department

End of Watch: Monday, October 27, 1930

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Sheriff Metzel was shot and killed while intervening in a bank robbery. He had received information that a robbery was going to take place and he and several deputies surrounded the bank. They exchanged shots with the suspects as the men attempted to leave the bank. Two of the suspects escaped but the third was arrested inside of the bank.

Photo
Not Available



Town Marshal Jacob Neitzling

Columbia Falls Police Department
End of Watch: Sunday, April 19, 1931
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Unidentified

No further information about the death of Town Marshal Jacob Neitzling is currently available.

Photo
Not Available



Undersheriff H. Frank Whitsel

Sweet Grass County Sheriff's Department
End of Watch: Wednesday, August 24, 1932
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Undersheriff Whitsel was shot and killed while he and the sheriff searched for a suicidal man. The two officers were on horseback and riding a remote trail in Blind Bridger Canyon when they were ambushed by the man with a rifle. Both men were struck and Undersheriff Whitsel was mortally wounded. Although wounded, the sheriff was able to go for help. The body of the suspect was found a short time later suffering from a self inflicted gunshot wound.

Photo
Not Available



Deputy Sheriff Lyle Ward

Missoula County Sheriff's Department
End of Watch: Monday, March 26, 1934
Age: 47
Cause of Death: Vehicle pursuit

Deputy Ward was killed in a motorcycle accident while attempting to overtake a car on Highway 200. He was attempting to pull a vehicle over when his motorcycle hit sand in the roadway, causing it to go out of control. Deputy Ward had been hired only ten days earlier, because of his motorcycle experience, to combat speeders on county highways. He was survived by his daughter, mother, sister, and brother.

Photo
Not Available

Patch
Not Available

Policeman James Fraser

Miles City Police Department
End of Watch: Wednesday, August 07, 1935
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Unidentified

No further information about the death of Policeman James Fraser is currently available.

Photo
Not Available



Chief of Police Jeremiah Joseph Murphy

Butte Police Department
End of Watch: Friday, September 20, 1935
Age: 63
Cause of Death: Assault

Chief Murphy was killed in a struggle with a man he was attempting to arrest. Chief Murphy was attempting to subdue a man with a gun at the Montana Power Company when he struck his head on the marble floor. Chief Murphy died as a result of his injuries. Chief Murphy had served with the Butte Police Department for 42 years and was survived by his wife and two children.



Deputy Sheriff Julius B. Olson

Teton County Sheriff's Department
End of Watch: Monday, September 30, 1935
Age: 42
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Deputy Olson was shot and killed while investigating a suspicious man with a rifle. A citizen had approached Deputy Olson in Dutton and informed him that he had found a rifle in his car that did not belong to him. Deputy Olson asked the citizen to bring the rifle to him. When the citizen returned to his car he found a man holding the rifle and overheard him say "they can't get me now." The citizen returned to Deputy Olson and told him what he observed. Deputy Olson then went to a local store and called for backup. As Deputy Olson spoke with another citizen about getting a ride the suspect, who was hiding nearby, shot him in the stomach. Deputy Olson was taken to Choteau Hospital where he died two days later. The suspect had escaped from custody prior the incident and was known to hold a grudge against Deputy Olson for previous encounters with him. The man's body was found in a field two days later with a self inflicted gunshot wound to the head. Deputy Olson had served with the Teton County Sheriff's Department for 1 year and was survived by his wife and six children.

Photo
Not Available



Chief of Police Ed Tenbroeck

Shelby Police Department

End of Watch: Sunday, December 22, 1935

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Unidentified

No further information about the death of Chief of Police Ed Tenbroeck is currently available.

Photo
Not Available



Undersheriff James Shelton Alsup

Toole County Sheriff's Department

End of Watch: Sunday, December 22, 1935

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Unidentified

No further information about the death of Undersheriff James Shelton Alsup is currently available.

Photo
Not Available



Patrolman Arthur D. Pettit

Billings Police Department

End of Watch: Monday, December 23, 1935

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Gunfire (Accidental)

Patrolman Pettit was accidentally shot and killed by another officer while working in the City Jail. He had served with the Billings Police Department for 17 years.



Policeman Thomas O'Neil

Butte Police Department

End of Watch: Wednesday, December 25, 1935

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Policeman O'Neil was shot and killed while investigating a disturbance at a boarding house. The suspect shot and killed another person at the boarding house before fleeing. The suspect shot another person the following day during a large search for the man. The suspect who murdered Policeman O'Neil was also suspected of being involved in the murder of Deputy Sheriff Thomas Meehan, of the King County, Washington, Sheriff's Department, on November 13, 1935. After murdering Policeman O'Neil, the suspect fled to an acquaintance's house where he held several people hostage. One of the hostages was able to escape and alert authorities. During the standoff the suspect admitted to the hostages that he had murdered both officers and two other citizens. The suspect was shot and killed in a shootout with officers a short time later.

Photo
Not Available



Lieutenant Segval Semingsen

Great Falls Police Department

End of Watch: Saturday, November 28, 1936

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Unidentified

No further information about the death of Lieutenant Segval Semingsen is currently available.

Photo
Not Available



Policeman Nicholas Aleksich

Butte Police Department

End of Watch: Sunday, February 28, 1937

Age: 41

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Policeman Aleksich was shot and killed as he walked his beat by an emotionally disturbed person. Policeman Aleksich had served with the Butte Police Department for 10 years and was survived by his wife and two children.

Photo
Not Available



Town Marshal Leslie A. Green

Columbia Falls Police Department

End of Watch: Saturday, October 02, 1937

Age: 46

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Marshal Green was shot and killed in the line of duty. He was survived by his wife, daughter, and three sons.

Photo
Not Available



Correctional Officer Frank L. Russell

Montana Department of Corrections - State Prison

End of Watch: Saturday, January 22, 1938

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Unidentified

No further information about the death of Correctional Officer Frank L. Russell is currently available.



Patch
Not Available

Undersheriff Arthur Burford

Golden Valley County Sheriff's Department

End of Watch: Thursday, April 14, 1938

Age: 43

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Undersheriff Burford was shot and killed when he and a deputy had gone to a residence on a business matter. Unknown to the deputies, the rancher and his wife murdered two teenage ranch hands several days earlier. The two suspects, thinking the deputies were coming to arrest them for the murders, opened fire from an upstairs window as the deputies approached the house. Undersheriff Burford was struck in the leg and both deputies took cover behind the patrol car.

During the shootout the deputies exhausted all of their ammunition but were pinned down behind the car. As night fell the deputy was able to make his way from the property and go for help, but before he returned the suspect came down and shot Undersheriff Burford in the head, killing him. The suspect was convicted and later hung for the crime.

Photo
Not Available



Assistant Chief of Police Edwin E. Stuart

Anaconda Police Department

End of Watch: Tuesday, June 06, 1939

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Unidentified

No further information about the death of Assistant Chief of Police Edwin E. Stuart is currently available.

Photo
Not Available



Deputy Sheriff Lloyd J. Stringer

Missoula County Sheriff's Department

End of Watch: Tuesday, March 11, 1941

Age: 48

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Deputy Stringer was shot and killed after responding to the scene of a shooting. A local man was angry over a civil action and shot a power company employee who was reading his power meter. Officers arrived and surrounded the house. During the ensuing standoff four canisters of tear gas were fired into the house, finally forcing the suspect to flee. When he did so he opened fire with a 30-06 rifle, fatally wounding Deputy Stringer and a bystander. The suspect was shot and killed in return gunfire. Deputy Stringer had been with the agency for two years and was survived by his wife and daughter.

Photo
Not Available



Undersheriff Ed O'Donnell

Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office

End of Watch: Thursday, June 26, 1941

Age: 46

Cause of Death: Aircraft accident

Undersheriff O'Donnell was killed in an airplane accident while participating in a search for several suspects. The plane crashed approximately 20 miles south of Broadus.

Undersheriff O'Donnell had served with the agency for a total of 8 years and was survived by his wife, son, three sisters, and seven brothers.



Policeman Frank Cavanagh

Glendive Police Department

End of Watch: Wednesday, July 03, 1946

Age: 33

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Policeman Cavanagh was shot and killed while arresting a suspect for disturbing the peace and threatening to kill his wife. The man's wife had signed a complaint in order to have the man removed from the home. Policeman Cavanagh met the man at the house and asked him to accompany him to the police station. As the two walked out of the house the man suddenly produced a revolver and shot Policeman Cavanagh once in the back and then three times in the body, killing him instantly. The suspect fled but was arrested a short time later. He was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison but was paroled in 1962.

Policeman Cavanagh had served with the Glendive Police Department for 5 years. He was survived by his wife.

Photo
Not Available



Patrolman Robert G. Steele

Montana Highway Patrol

End of Watch: Saturday, November 02, 1946

Age: 30

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Trooper Steele was shot and killed while he and his partner investigated a vehicle which had just been used in a robbery in the city of Billings, Montana. They observed a vehicle matching the description pull of Highway 10 and turn its lights off. Trooper Steele and a fellow trooper, riding together, pulled in behind the vehicle. Trooper Steele approached on the passenger's side with his gun drawn. One of the occupants suddenly turned and shot Trooper Steele in the throat, killing him. Trooper Steele's partner shot and killed the suspect. The driver of the vehicle then jumped out of the vehicle and exchanged shots with the partner. Both were wounded in the shootout. The second suspect fled but was apprehended after an 11-hour manhunt. The man was paroled in 1977 but was returned to prison after a parole violation and has remained there ever since. Patrolman Steele was a WWII veteran and had been with the agency for six years. He had returned to the police force from WWII only two months before his murder.

Photo
Not Available

Patch
Not Available

Policeman Leo Clinton Shonrock

Hardin Police Department

End of Watch: Friday, August 29, 1947

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Unidentified

No further information about the death of Policeman Leo Clinton Shonrock is currently available.

Photo
Not Available

Patch
Not Available

Sheriff William Holmes

Fallon County Sheriff's Department

End of Watch: Sunday, August 07, 1949

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Unidentified

No further information about the death of Sheriff William Holmes is currently available.



Police Officer Oscar Theodore Peterson

Poplar Police Department

End of Watch: Saturday, November 18, 1950

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Unidentified

No further information about the death of Police Officer Oscar Theodore Peterson is currently available.

Photo
Not Available



Undersheriff Roy Hodges

Park County Sheriff's Department

End of Watch: Sunday, April 18, 1954

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Unidentified

No further information about the death of Undersheriff Roy Hodges is currently available.

Photo
Not Available



Patrolman James H. Anderson

Montana Highway Patrol
End of Watch: Saturday, July 24, 1954
Age: 47
Cause of Death: Struck by vehicle

Patrolman Anderson was struck and killed by a vehicle during a traffic stop for a routine equipment inspection near Livingston, Montana. He was standing at the driver's side window of the vehicle he pulled over when he was struck. The driver who struck Patrolman Anderson was convicted of manslaughter. Patrolman Anderson had been with the agency for 13 years.

Photo
Not Available



Sheriff Michael James Bergan

Meagher County Sheriff's Department
End of Watch: Saturday, February 19, 1955
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Unidentified

No further information about the death of Sheriff Michael James Bergan is currently available.

Photo
Not Available



Game Warden Harold Gartside

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
End of Watch: Sunday, April 24, 1955
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Unidentified

No further information about the death of Game Warden Harold Gartside is currently available.

Photo
Not Available



Police Officer Lloyd Eugene Murphy

Whitefish Police Department
End of Watch: Thursday, April 26, 1956
Age: 52
Cause of Death: Heart attack

Officer Murphy suffered a fatal heart attack during a stressful situation while on duty. Officer Murphy served with the Whitefish Police Department for 10 years. He was survived by his wife, son, three daughters, two brothers, and sister.

Photo
Not Available



Game Warden Roy Thompson

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
End of Watch: Monday, August 19, 1957
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Motorcycle accident

Warden Thompson was killed in a motorcycle accident while assigned to Missoula, Montana. He was test driving a new off-road motorcycle for a new program intended for patrolling mountain trails. Warden Thompson was unfamiliar with the controls on the motorcycle and accidentally caused it to accelerate, causing it to driver off of a cliff.



Undersheriff Otto S. Fossen

Liberty County Sheriff's Department
End of Watch: Saturday, October 05, 1957
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Unidentified

No further information about the death of Undersheriff Otto S. Fossen is currently available.

Photo
Not Available



Game Warden Marion R. Ammerman

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
End of Watch: Thursday, February 13, 1958
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Unidentified

No further information about the death of Game Warden Marion R. Ammerman is currently available.

Photo
Not Available



Deputy Warden Theodore Rothe
Montana Department of Corrections - State Prison
End of Watch: Thursday, April 16, 1959
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Deputy Rothe was shot and killed by an inmate.

Photo
Not Available



Game Warden John C. Thompson
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
End of Watch: Thursday, November 10, 1960
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Heart attack

Game Warden Thompson suffered a fatal heart attack while investigating illegal activity.

Photo
Not Available



Deputy Sheriff George Eikhoff
Richland County Sheriff's Department
End of Watch: Tuesday, February 06, 1962
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Unidentified

No further information about the death of Deputy Sheriff George Eikhoff is currently available.

Photo
Not Available



Game Warden I. L. Todd
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
End of Watch: Wednesday, December 27, 1967
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Heart attack

Game Warden Todd suffered a fatal heart attack while conducting an investigation.



Patrolman Richard E. Hedstrom
Montana Highway Patrol
End of Watch: Thursday, July 19, 1973
Age: 24
Cause of Death: Vehicular assault

Patrolman Hedstrom was struck and killed by a drunk driver during a traffic stop in Columbia Falls, Montana. He was writing a warning for a malfunctioning headlight and his training officer was sitting in the patrol car when it was struck from behind by a pickup truck at 87 mph. The impact pushed the patrol car into Patrolman Hedstrom, causing fatal injuries. The driver of the truck was to be charged with negligent homicide but died of injuries sustained in the accident. Patrolman Hedstrom had only been with the agency for 18 days.



Game Warden Eugene Sara
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
End of Watch: Monday, January 07, 1974
Age: 48
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Warden Sara and Chief Don Williams of the Thompson Falls Police Department were shot and killed after responding to a domestic disturbance call. The suspect had shot Officer Williams and stolen his weapon, and as Warden Sara and his partner arrived the suspect opened fire on them, mortally wounding Warden Sara. Both officers were able to return fire, killing the suspect. Warden Sara's wife was working as a dispatcher on the night of the incident and dispatched the officers on the call. He had been with the agency for 16 years and is survived by his wife and children.



Chief of Police Don Richard Williams

Thompson Falls Police Department

End of Watch: Monday, January 07, 1974

Age: 44

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Chief Williams and Game Warden Eugene Sara of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks were shot and killed after responding to a domestic disturbance call. The suspect had shot Officer Williams and stolen his weapon, and as Warden Sara and his partner arrived the suspect opened fire on them, mortally wounding Warden Sara. Both officers were able to return fire, killing the suspect.



Sergeant Donald E. Gregory

Missoula Police Department

End of Watch: Tuesday, January 27, 1976

Age: 31

Cause of Death: Gunfire (Accidental)

Sergeant Gregory was accidentally shot and killed by another officer who was struggling with a suspect. The officers had responded to the scene of a home invasion robbery and the first officer located the suspect in a basement. A struggle ensued and the officer was attempting to control both the suspect and his department-issued shotgun. As Sergeant Gregory entered the basement to assist the shotgun discharged, fatally wounding him. The suspect was taken into custody and faced only the original charged against him.

Sergeant Gregory had been with the agency for eight years and was survived by his wife, father, and eight siblings.



Patrolman Michael M. Ren

Montana Highway Patrol

End of Watch: Saturday, April 08, 1978

Age: 30

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Patrolman Ren was shot and killed after being called to assist a deputy from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office in serving two felony warrants on a recently released mental patient. The suspect was wanted for violating terms of his release from a State mental health facility. Patrolman Ren spotted the suspect driving a pickup truck and a high-speed chase ensued. During the chase, the suspect retrieved a .308 rifle from inside the cab of his pickup and opened fire on both officers. Five rounds struck Patrolman Ren's patrol car before the suspect crashed in the town of Eureka. As Patrolman Ren pulled up, the suspect jumped from his truck and shot Ren in the abdomen with the .308, the round traveled in between in the back panels of his Kevlar vest.

The suspect ran to a nearby residence and took the household hostage. Officers from the sheriff's department, Highway Patrol and U.S. Border Patrol surrounded the residence. After six hours, the suspect released his hostages but remained barricaded inside the house. Three canisters of tear gas were fired into the house, and the suspect surrendered. The suspect was charged with murder of a police officer.

Patrolman Ren was survived by his wife, 5-year-old son and his parents. In 2000 Patrolman Ren's son joined the Montana Highway Patrol. Patrolman Ren had been with the agency for six years and previously he was a police officer in Columbia Falls, Montana, for two years. He was assigned to District VI.

Photo
Not Available



Game Warden Delbert E. Bloom

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

End of Watch: Saturday, June 02, 1979

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Aircraft accident

Game Warden Bloom was killed in an airplane accident while conducting a search.

Photo
Not Available

Patch
Not Available

Agent Randolph Scott Hergesheimer

Montana Department of Justice - Division of Criminal Investigation

End of Watch: Wednesday, February 20, 1980

Age: 35

Cause of Death: Automobile accident

Agent Hergesheimer was killed in an automobile accident while he and a fellow agent were returning from an investigation in Butte, Montana. Their department vehicle was truck by a tractor-trailer and Agent Hergesheimer was killed. His partner was seriously injured.

Agent Hergesheimer had been with the agency for 12 years and was survived by his wife, son, parents, sister and two brothers.

Photo
Not Available



Sheriff Raymond L. Davis
Beaverhead County Sheriff's Department
End of Watch: Saturday, August 09, 1980
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Heart attack

Sheriff Davis suffered a fatal heart attack while participating in a search and rescue operation looking for a missing hiker. He complained that he was not feeling well and laid down at the base camp and suffered the heart attack.

Photo
Not Available



Patrolman Stephen Carl Shaffer
Dillon Police Department
End of Watch: Saturday, February 14, 1981
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Assault

Patrolman Shaffer was struck and killed by a drunken driver during a traffic stop.

Photo
Not Available



Officer Stephen A. LePiane
Missoula Police Department
End of Watch: Friday, November 05, 1982
Age: 32
Cause of Death: Vehicular assault

Officer LePiane was killed when his cruiser was broadsided by a drunk driver at about 0200 hours. He was following another officer to back him up on a traffic stop when a vehicle ran a stop sign at a high rate of speed and struck his patrol car on the driver's side door. Although he was wearing his seatbelt the impact caused him to be ejected from the vehicle. The other officer observed the accident in his mirror and immediately turned around. The suspect was apprehended and charged with negligent homicide. Officer LePiane had been with the agency for three years and was survived by his wife, two sons, father, and three siblings.



Sergeant Allen Leslie Kimery
Missoula County Sheriff's Department
End of Watch: Thursday, December 06, 1984
Age: 38
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Sergeant Kimery was shot and killed while making a traffic stop on a vehicle suspected of not paying for gas. He was monitoring another local agency's radio at the time and heard a description of the vehicle. At the time, local prosecutor's would not prosecute gas drive-offs because the high frequency in which they were occurring. Instead, officers would make the offenders return and pay for the gas. Unknown to Sergeant Kimery, because NCIC was down at the time, the vehicle had just been stolen from Great Falls, Montana.

As he approached the vehicle the suspect opened fire with a .357 caliber handgun, striking Sergeant Kimery in the chest. He was able to return fire and wound the suspect. The suspect was sentenced to 20 years to life for Sergeant Kimery's murder. Sergeant Kimery had just given his vest to a rookie deputy and was due to receive a new vest the following day.

Sergeant Kimery had been with the agency for 9 years and was survived by his wife, son, two daughters, and his parents.



Lieutenant Timothy J. Sullivan
Anaconda Police Department
End of Watch: Sunday, February 10, 1985
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Lieutenant Sullivan was shot and killed while responding to a domestic disturbance call. He was shot by the male suspect upon his arrival. The suspect then shot and killed the female before committing suicide.

Photo
Not Available



Patrolman Clifford Wayne Haskin
East Helena Police Department
End of Watch: Saturday, September 14, 1985
Age: Not Available
Cause of Death: Unidentified

No further information about the death of Patrolman Clifford Wayne Haskin is currently available.

Photo
Not Available



Correctional Officer Richard C. Wallace

Montana Department of Corrections - State Prison

End of Watch: Monday, December 30, 1985

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Explosion

Officer Wallace was killed when a propane tank exploded in a new Department of Corrections administration building that was under construction.

Photo
Not Available



Game Warden Robert M. May

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

End of Watch: Tuesday, December 06, 1988

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Motorcycle accident

Game Warden May was killed in a motorcycle accident while on patrol.



Detective Alexander Finlay Mavity

Billings Police Department

End of Watch: Tuesday, February 14, 1989

Age: 20

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Detective Mavity was shot and killed while attempting to recapture a prisoner who had escaped his custody. Detective Mavity chased the suspect into an alley and began to struggle with him. The suspect was able to gain control of Detective Mavity's service weapon during the struggle and shot him. The man was then shot and killed by two other officers.

Detective Mavity had served with the Billings Police Department for 8 years and was survived by his wife, daughter, sister, and parents.



Chief of Police Orville Edwin Sharbono

Fairview Police Department

End of Watch: Saturday, March 17, 1990

Age: Not Available

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Chief of Police Sharbono was shot and killed while serving civil papers. While on the scene the suspect flanked Chief Sharbono from a side door and shot him in the lower back. Chief Sharbono was able to return fire and wound the suspect, however, as he lay on the ground the suspect walked over to him and shot him in the head. The suspect was apprehended and sentenced to life. Chief Sharbono was survived by his wife and three grown children.

Photo
Not Available



Deputy Sheriff Janet Louise Rogers

Big Horn County Sheriff's Department

End of Watch: Thursday, June 14, 1990

Age: 39

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Deputy Rogers was shot and killed when she was involved in a gun battle with an armed robbery suspect at 1330 hours. She and several other deputies had chased the bank robbery suspect until her patrol car collided with the suspect's car and ended the chase. The suspect immediately opened fire, striking Deputy Rogers in the abdomen below her vest. Her husband, who was also a deputy involved in the chase, was able to return fire and kill the suspect. Deputy Rogers was flown to a hospital in Billings, Montana, where she succumbed to her wound four hours later.

Deputy Rogers had been with the 15-person department for nine years. She was survived by her husband and three sons.



Senior Officer Shane Russell Chadwick

Great Falls Police Department

End of Watch: Wednesday, September 07, 1994

Age: 29

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Officer Chadwick was shot and killed while responding to a noise complaint at an apartment complex in the early morning hours. The suspect was a mentally ill man, known as the "Birdman," who was shoveling birdseed to hundreds of birds, causing a lot of noise. As Officer Chadwick approached the suspect the man suddenly turned and shot at him with two 9 mm handguns in ambush attack. The suspect was later shot and killed by a police sniper.

Officer Chadwick was survived by his wife and son.

Photo
Not Available



Deputy Sheriff William Wolfe

Ravalli County Sheriff's Department

End of Watch: Sunday, August 24, 1997

Age: 50

Cause of Death: Heart attack

Deputy Wolfe died from a heart attack while participating in a required training run at the academy.



Reserve Deputy Deborah Jean Hobbs

Lake County Sheriff's Office

End of Watch: Thursday, January 16, 2003

Age: 39

Cause of Death: Automobile accident

Reserve Deputy Hobbs succumbed to injuries received two weeks earlier when she and her partner were involved in an on duty automobile accident on U.S. Highway 93.

The officer's Jeep Cherokee patrol car went out of control after hitting a patch of black-ice. The car spun into the oncoming lanes and was broadsided by a pickup truck. Reserve Deputy Hobbs was transported to Kalispell Regional Medical Center where she succumbed to her injuries 12 days later without regaining consciousness.

Reserve Deputy Hobbs had been with the Lake County Sheriff's Office for just over two years, and is survived by her parents. Her husband is also a reserve deputy and detention officer for the same agency.



Deputy Sheriff Joshua Thomas Rutherford

Blaine County Sheriff's Office

End of Watch: Thursday, May 29, 2003

Age: 28

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Deputy Rutherford was shot and killed when he and another deputy responded to a domestic disturbance on U.S. Route 2 in Harlem, Montana.

Upon their arrival at the scene, the deputies encountered one of the subjects next to a motel. The subject was able to gain control of Deputy Rutherford's service weapon and opened fire on the deputies, killing Deputy Rutherford and wounding his partner. Deputy Rutherford was off duty at the time but had been called in to assist at the scene of the domestic disturbance.

The subject was apprehended following the shootings and was transferred to a jail in a neighboring county. The man was a registered violent offender. The suspect was convicted of deliberate homicide and attempted deliberate homicide on November 5, 2004. He faces a possible death penalty during the penalty phase of his trial in April 2005.

Deputy Rutherford had served with the Blaine County Sheriff's Office for 4 years. He is survived by his four young children.

To Date 110 Peace Officers Gave Their Lives Doing Their Job of Protecting Others