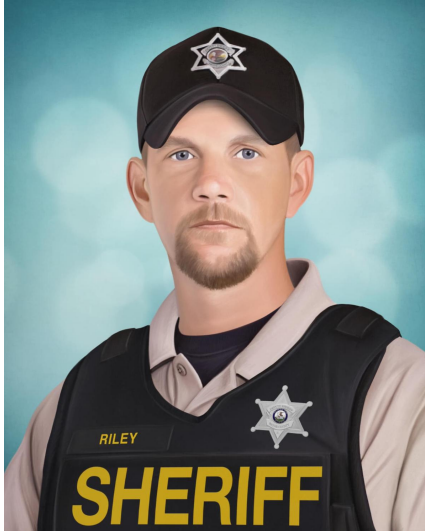




ILLINOIS SHERIFFS'  
ASSOCIATION

Together We Make A Difference.

## EOW: Illinois Officers Lost in December, 2021



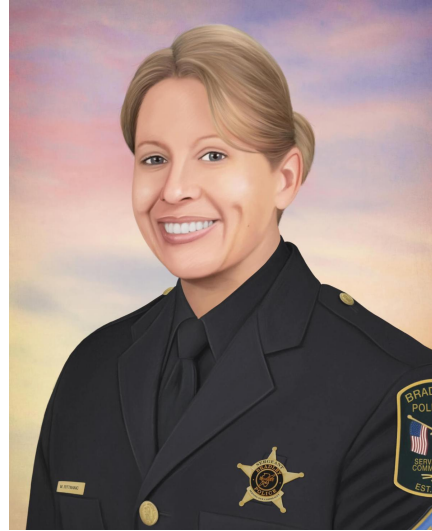
Wayne County (Illinois) Deputy Sheriff Sean Riley responded to a radio call to assist a motorist on Interstate 64 near the Illinois/Indiana border.

When backup arrived on scene following an emergency assistance radio transmission from Sean, the deputy was found shot to death on the roadside and his patrol vehicle missing.

Sean's killer was apprehended the same day following a violent, multi-state crime spree where multiple people were carjacked, a bystander was shot and an individual was kidnapped and held hostage.

Deputy Sean Riley was a 3-year veteran of the Wayne County Sheriff's Office serving in both corrections and patrol. The 38-year old husband and father of three will be laid to rest later this morning.

By: [Jonny Castro Art](#)



"You don't have to do this." Those were Sergeant Marlene Rittmanic's last words to her killers before she was gunned down on December 29th.

Moments earlier, the sergeant and her partner, Officer Tyler Bailey, were dispatched to a noise complaint in the parking lot of a hotel in Bradley, Illinois. Their investigation led them to a room where it was determined the male inside had a warrant for his arrest. Just as the suspect's girlfriend tried to stop them from entering the room to take him into custody, the male opened fire on the officers.

Officer Bailey suffered a gunshot wound to the head and was gravely wounded. Sergeant Rittmanic was also shot, and attempted to seek cover down the hallway. The gunman chased after the wounded Sergeant and tried to shoot her again, but his gun jammed. With the help of his girlfriend, the pair disarmed the badly injured officer of her service weapon. Callously, the suspect proceeded to fatally shoot Marlene as she pleaded for her life. Both suspects have since been arrested, and both suspects will have the death penalty sought after them for this horrific crime.

Sergeant Marlene Rittmanic was a beloved and highly respected member of the Bradley Police Department who served over two decades in Illinois Law Enforcement. She was remembered as a natural leader by her officers.

Marlene had a gift for community policing, and



knew how to speak to the members of the community and understand their needs. For her dedicated service, Marlene was named Officer of the Year in 2020. Sergeant Rittmanic was 49-years old.

By: Jonny Castro Art

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## Dear Citizens:



*A heartfelt letter from Sheriff Nicholas Petitgout*

**Every County Deputy understands that they may lay down their life for the community they serve.**

The frequency at which this is occurring is unprecedented. All law enforcement officers understand the risk as do their families, whether willing or unwilling, they understand. Filled with grief I write you today, concerned for families I have never met. Concerned for my own men and women. Truly concerned for where WE are heading.

I find myself older, hopefully wiser, but none the less deep in thought. Constantly, deep in thought.

Sleepless, deep in thought. Worried for where society is heading.

A Deputy is murdered, brutally murdered, as if one way of phrasing it is somehow worse than the other, helping a motorist a long a dark stretch of interstate. No provocation, an immediate action with no basis, no understanding, and no remorse.

I find myself older, hopefully wiser, but none the less deep in thought. Constantly, deep in thought. Sleepless, deep in thought. Worried for where society is heading. A Deputy is murdered, brutally murdered, as if one way of phrasing it is somehow worse than the other, helping a motorist a long a dark stretch of interstate. No provocation, an immediate action with no basis, no understanding, and no remorse.

We cannot stand idly by and continue to accept this as the new normal in policing. **We do not sign up to be murdered.** We understand that it may happen in some obscure way we understand it, but we do not sign up to be executed along the side of a highway, alone. No one signs up for what we as law enforcement officers have experienced the past few years. Unprovoked violence, ambushed on the most routine of calls. I fear someday soon we will not be able to recruit anyone to do this important job.

The reason you get this long narration from me.

While standing at a recent visitation for a murdered County Deputy a member of the organization, C.O.P.S., said to me that this was their 25<sup>th</sup> funeral since 2015 in Illinois. 25. Now for, C.O.P.S., Concerns of Police Survivors. They are the angels who come to our communities and put on these massive events, police funerals. Rebuilding the shattered lives of survivors and co-workers affected by line-of-duty deaths. [www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org](http://www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org)

This struck me. One, would be too many. 25 in Illinois. Since 2015. Not acceptable.

I hope my words move you. All I ask for is concern. Concern, that if this continues. Who will answer your calls for help when we you need it? The previous decade, we had countless men and women ready to join our ranks to serve their communities. The next decade, we might have to beg and incentivize just maintain an operating level of staffing, we hope. I hope for better days to come and pray for the families recently devastated by evil.

If you wish to donate to Concerns of Police Survivors go to their website. If you would like to stop by the McDonough County Sheriff's Office, we will gladly make sure your donation makes it to the right place.

Concerned,  
Sheriff Nicholas M. Petitgout  
McDonough County

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## "They Protect Us, We Support Them"

*ISA Store Now Open*



***Click on above images to visit the ISA Store***

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## Meeting Cass County Sheriff: Devron D. Ohrn

### **Devron D. Ohrn**

Dedicated to his family and  
keeping the community safe

Article [HERE](#)

### **Tell us about yourself and your family:**

I am married to my wife Holly and we have one son named Kohen, who turned 5 years-old Dec. 11. We live in rural Arenzville.

### **Describe what you do**

professionally, as well as your roles within the community:



I am the Cass County Sheriff and I coach junior high boys basketball at Triopia.

**What first made you get involved with your chosen field?**

I always wanted to be someone who could help other people. I realized the law enforcement field was a great way to be involved in all aspects of the community and be able to make a difference in the lives of people living and visiting my community.

**Describe what drives you to get involved within the community:**

I love to help people. Being able to help someone on their worst day makes me want to keep coming back to work each day.

**What's the best thing to happen to you because of your community or career service?**

I have been able to meet and work with so many great people. I love hearing stories of people's lives and things that have helped for the better and things that they did to improve their lives.

**What's your personal philosophy on life?**

Get better every day and don't talk about it, be about it. We have all made mistakes in our lives and I try to improve each day to become a better person.

**Tell us about someone or something that has influenced you:**

My grandpa Howard greatly influenced my life. He was my best friend and the hardest working person I have ever met. He had a great ability to see the good in everyone and I always admired that.

**What changes would you like to see in your community in the next 10 years, and how can they be brought to fruition?**

I would like to see the positive things in our community get more recognition. Cass County has so many great things to offer and I think the more we can promote the positive the more it will entice people to become more positive. With that, though, I think recognizing the negative things is the first step in correcting those problems for a better future.

**If you weren't doing what you do now, what would you be doing instead?**

I would probably be a teacher or a farmer. I love interacting with kids and learning from them as much as I hope they learn from me. I also love the field of agriculture and am just as amazed at the big equipment as a child is.

**How do you think someone meeting you for the first time would describe you?**

Hardworking, caring, skinny, and a dork. I dedicate most of my time to work. I have a goofy sense of humor that is entertaining to some.

**What do you do when you aren't working or volunteering?**

I like to spend time with my son. He brings me a lot of joy and I'm working on prioritizing my time to spend more of it with him and my wife.

**What do you consider the biggest challenge about your community?**

The biggest challenge of my community I believe is the lack of some services that bigger communities can offer. For the size of our county, we have many great services to help the citizens, but if we were a



larger area we would be able to offer more.

**Tell us about your biggest strength:**

My biggest strength is how much I care and the time I dedicate to my job. I take everything to heart and if someone has a problem I take it personally and do all I can do to make their situation better.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be, and why?

If I could change one thing it would be the ability to not sweat the small stuff. I need to learn that I can't make everyone happy and just do the best I can do.

**What are your goals for yourself?**

My goals are to improve myself every day and become better at making time for my family.

**What might someone be surprised to know about you?**

I love junk food and soda. If I could eat candy bars and drink soda for every meal I would.

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## Legislative Session Begins



Written by: *ISA Executive Director, Jim Kaitschuk*

We all know how challenging the past year was for all of us, but as we enter into 2022 we do so with what appears to be a change in the winds for our policy makers.

This spring legislative session will be considerably condensed with plans for adjournment by April 9<sup>th</sup>. However, we all know devastating things can occur in very small windows. We will continue this year to share issues (both good and bad) as they come up through newsletters, but more immediately through our social media sites.

***You all have been instrumental in helping to shift the attitude toward the men and women that stand on the thin blue line.*** I hope that you will continue to do so and weigh in on legislation as we move throughout the spring session.

There will be opportunities for you to not only speak with your legislators but also to fill out witness slips to indicate your position. I am very hopeful that we will see some real positive outcomes from this spring session, but none of this would even be under consideration without the work that all of you have done to show your support for the law enforcement community!

Best wishes for a safe and healthy 2022!

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## National Blue Blood Drive



Happy New Year! Please consider making a New Year's Resolution to help keep critical blood supplies available for those in need by donating at one of the blood drives listed below.

During the pandemic blood supplies plummeted. Please consider donating life-saving blood. Each donation can save/help three people. Imagine if it was your loved one who was saved by a generous donation.

In light of social distancing concerns, PLEASE MAKE AN APPOINTMENT so plans can be made to keep donors spaced for safety. Appointment information is listed below specific to each drive. All materials are sanitized for donors' protection. Masks and Photo ID are required.

### **January 6**

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
State Police District 11  
Cafeteria- 1100 Eastport Plaza Drive  
**Collinsville, IL**  
Click [HERE](#) to sign up

### **January 10**

9:30 AM - 2:30 PM  
Forensic Science Center - Chicago  
Wellness Committee  
1941 Roosevelt Road  
**Chicago, IL 60608**  
Click [HERE](#) to sign up

### **January 11**

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Illinois State Police District 14  
1600 N. Lafayette St.  
**Macomb, IL**  
Click [HERE](#) to sign up

### **January 12**

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Illinois State Police Morton  
Morton Forensic Science Laboratory  
1810 South Main St.  
**Morton, IL**  
Click [HERE](#) to sign up

### **January 12**

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Illinois State Police District 6  
800 S. Old Airport Rd.  
**Pontiac, IL**  
Click [HERE](#) to sign up

### **January 13**

Noon - 4:00 PM  
Illinois State Police Belleville  
Metro-East Forensic Science Laboratory  
2220 West Main Street  
**Belleville, IL**  
Click [HERE](#) to sign up

### **January 13**

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
State Police Joliet  
Joliet Forensic Science Laboratory  
515 Woodruff Rd  
**Joliet, IL**  
Click [HERE](#) to sign up

### **January 13**

7:30 AM – 2:30 PM  
ISP CHQ Springfield  
801 S 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
**Springfield, IL**  
Click [HERE](#) to sign up

### **January 14**

1:00 PM – 6:00 PM  
Veterans Airport of Southern Illinois  
10400 Terminal Drive, #200,  
**Marion, IL**  
Please sign up using the Red Cross app or at  
[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)  
Use Sponsor Code: ILState

### **January 28**

12:00 PM – 5:00 PM  
American Legion  
117 S Poplar St,  
**Centralia, IL**  
Please sign up using the Red Cross app or at  
[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)  
Use Sponsor Code: Badges

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# LEADERSHIP



A TRUE LEADER HAS THE CONFIDENCE TO STAND ALONE, THE COURAGE TO MAKE TOUGH DECISIONS, AND THE COMPASSION TO LISTEN TO THE NEEDS OF OTHERS. THEY DO NOT SET OUT TO BE A LEADER, BUT BECOMES ONE BY THE QUALITY OF THEIR ACTIONS AND THE INTEGRITY OF THEIR INTENT. IN THE END, LEADERS ARE MUCH LIKE EAGLES...THEY DON'T FLOCK, YOU FIND THEM ONE AT A TIME.



## 2022 Upcoming Events:

Sheriff's Winter Training Conference  
February 12 - 15, 2022  
East Peoria

Chief Deputy & Jail Administrators  
April 13- 15, 2022  
East Peoria

Jail Medical Summit  
August 25, 2022  
Peoria

Sheriff Summer Training Conference  
September 17 - 20, 2022  
East Peoria

Administrative Assistants Training  
October 20-22, 2022  
TBA

New Sheriff Management Institute  
November 13 - 17, 2022  
Springfield

