

DEDICATION



The Orlando Police Department Retirees' Association dedicates this website to the late Captain Jack R. Stacey, Jr.

For those who knew Captain Stacey, he liked to be known as "Jack R. Stacey, Jr. of the Orlando Police Department." He followed in his dad's footsteps, Jack R. Stacey, Sr., joining OPD in 1972. In his early years, he was known as a young feisty officer liking to joke and playing a few pranks, but grew to be a well respected man throughout his illustrious career.

Captain Stacey was my first mentor on the department. For some reason, we ended up working on many committees and projects together. After a couple, we selected each other to be on the same committees because of the mutual respect we had for each other.

One of the most important projects we worked on was the COP'S Training Team which trained of all OPD personnel in Community Oriented Policing. He was a lieutenant at the time and I was fairly new to the department. Other members of the team were: Sgt. Robbie Newsome, Sgt. Sheila Williams, Sgt. Joe Robinson, and Ofc. Jon Martin, Ofc. Jonathan Pinder, John Cabrera and myself. The project lasted about a year with every civilian and officer having to attend; even Mayor Glenda Hood came for a full session. When the course was completed, we received a Unit Citation for our efforts.

After a while, a few of us formed the OPD Newsletter Committee to spread the news of the activities of the department. Captain Stacey was selected to be our liaison with the Department. That project lasted several years. During that time, Captain Stacey was also sharing the news with the retirees on a limited basis. We didn't have E-mails or the web at that time. Most communications were by mail or phone. He always stressed to me that he wanted the retirees to be remembered for all their years of dedication and to keep them a part the OPD family.

Captain Stacey retired in December of 1998 and at that time asked me to take over as Executive Director of the OPD Retirees Association. After a brief discussion about my new ideas for the association with more hands on activity, we agreed that I could run it my way.

So it was in Jan. of 1999 that the new OPD Retirees Association was started under my direction. At the beginning, it only had 124 members which grew to what it is today, over 450 members, not counting the approx. 1,000 active OPD personnel who share in the news. It includes many from the Fire Department, City Hall, city personnel, judges, other law enforcement, etc. It was the dawn of the e-mail system and at first, there wasn't a retiree newsletter but I quickly saw the need to create one. So the newsletter started in a very primitive way, but today has approximately 25-30 pages each issue. Chief Jerry Demings willingly agreed for the department to help in any way they could.



Receiving the Unit Citation for our C.O.P. Program

As soon as Captain Jack R. Stacey, Jr. retired, he took over the CrimeLine for Central Florida. Not long after going to work for them, he was diagnosed with cancer. He fought the brave fight and cheerfully continued to work as often and as long as he could. Their office was right in the middle of OPD, so he was where he loved to be. Many days he looked so weak, he could barely walk but came to work anyway. His heart was in the department and all the friends he'd made along the way. He continued to be an active part of the retirees association, attending luncheons, breakfasts and the yearly reunions bringing with him his wife and two sons. He loved what I had created with the newsletter and many activities we held. His dedication to OPD, both active and retired, was evident up until the very end.



Capt. Stacey with his wife, Robin.



Capt. Stacey with his wife, Robin and his two sons, at one of our yearly reunions.



He's in the rear in pale yellow at one of our first "Early Bird" breakfasts.



At another "Early-Bird" breakfast.



At a "Sleepy-Head" luncheon.

Captain Jack R. Stacey, Jr. passed away on Dec. 26, 2000, leaving his wife Robin and two young sons. He will be remembered and loved by all who knew him.

With my prayers and my thanks, I send all my appreciation to Capt. Stacey. He was a great man who taught me by example. He won't be forgotten. Jack, just keep heaven warm for me. With love,

Guy Ann Sheffield

