



Christopher John "Chris" Connell

July 21, 1960 - October 5, 2019

Christopher John Connell , age 59, a resident of Tallahassee, Florida, passed away suddenly after a brief illness on October 5, 2019 at Shands Hospital in Gainesville, FL surrounded by his loving wife Carla (Calton), his son Michael and daughter Kristen. He is survived by his mother Maureen Connell (McDermott), father Lawrence (Laurel) Connell as well as brothers James (Vicky), Thomas (Laura) and Paul (Ann) Connell and sister Laureen (William) Dempsey (Connell), Carla's parents Bill and Bobbie Calton, siblings Nancy (Marion) Cooper and Larry (Kay) Calton, and numerous aunts, uncles, niece, nephews and his trusted dog Copper.

Chris was born in New York City, moving to Merritt Island at the age of six. He lived there until the age of thirteen when he moved to Tallahassee. He graduated from Lincoln High School, attended Florida State University and earned his Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice/Police Science from St. Leo University. Chris and Carla married in 1987.

Chris served in varying positions of increasing responsibility within the Tallahassee Police Department (TPD). He served as a Patrol Officer, a Field Training Officer, Investigator with Vice and Narcotics Unit, and an Investigator with the Robbery Task Force. As a Sergeant, Chris served as a Patrol Sergeant and worked with the Career Criminal Unit, and was the TAC Entry Team Leader. As a Lieutenant Chris was a Tactical Team Commander,

Criminal Investigations Assistant Division Commander, and Shift Watch Commander. As a Captain, he was Division Commander for Uniform Patrol, Special Operations and Homeland Security/Special Investigations, the TAC Team Commander and other positions. In addition, Chris was President of the Florida SWAT Association in 2005. Chris retired after 28 years as a Major overseeing the Operations and Support Bureaus. Upon retirement from TPD, he began work as an Inspector-Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Coordinator with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). In December 2014, he was selected to serve with FDLE as the Director of Capitol Police. Recently, Chris was among the 20 finalists to be considered for the Chief of Police, City of Tallahassee Police Department.

Chris worked with numerous charitable organizations raising thousands of dollars to help those in need throughout his career. He generously donated his time to ensure all those who worked with him were also taken care of.

Chris loved his family fiercely, and enjoyed spending time with them at their beach house, taking the boat out to fish or simply be out on the water. Many people only saw the serious side of Chris, but his friends and family knew he had a wicked sense of humor and enjoyed laughing. He loved to rough house and kid around with his brothers, and was always known as someone to be counted on through thick and thin.

A memorial service will be held at Thomasville Road Baptist Church on Friday, October 11th at 2pm. After the service there will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall. In lieu of flowers the family suggests a donation be made to your favorite charity in Chris Connell's name.

Susie Mozolic of Bevis Funeral Home is assisting the family with their arrangements. (www.bevisfh.com 850-385-2193)

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT 11. 2:00 PM (ET)

Thomasville Road Baptist Church
3131 Thomasville Road
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Visitation

OCT 11. 3:00 PM (ET)

Thomasville Road Baptist Church
3131 Thomasville Road
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Tribute Wall

CH

“ Chris was a Field Training Officer when I started at the Tallahassee Police Department. He always represented the definition of a professional police officer. To a young cop, you could not ask for a better role model. No words can adequately describe the commitment that Chris made to his community. I hope as a family you find solace in the fact that Chris epitomized what it was to be a good human being. I also hope it brings comfort to you knowing that there are many people still alive that will have full lives because of the direct actions of your husband, your father, your family member. It was an honor to serve with him.

Chad Hoffman and family.

Chad Hoffman - October 10, 2019 at 10:58 AM

FA

“ Florida SWAT Association/SRI purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Christopher John "Chris" Connell.



Florida SWAT Association/SRI - October 09, 2019 at 03:53 PM

NA

“ Nat'l Legislative Services & Security Assoc. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Christopher John "Chris" Connell.



Nat'l Legislative Services & Security Assoc. - October 09, 2019 at 03:32 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Christopher John "Chris" Connell.



October 09, 2019 at 02:35 PM



“ *In September of 1999 Chris selected me to one of the open entry team member positions on the TPD TAC Team. Admittedly he is my "SWAT Daddy". Chris took the time to teach and mentor me within TPD. He was always willing to teach and share his experience. I would consider him a friend and a mentor. Even while at FDLE he ensured he was instrumental in having a positive impact for our Special Operations Team. He was dedicated to the cause. Chris will be sorely missed. With deepest sympathy, My family and I wish you and your family our greatest condolences .*

Jason & Shannon Knowles



Jason Knowles - October 09, 2019 at 02:13 PM



“ *The members of the FDLE Pensacola Operations Center are deeply sorry about the loss of Chris. As you grieve, know that we are remembering and honoring him. Last year when our area was devastated by Hurricane Michael, Chris was instrumental in delivering needed resources to the area.*

PROC - October 08, 2019 at 02:29 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Christopher John "Chris" Connell.



October 08, 2019 at 01:46 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Christopher John "Chris" Connell.



October 08, 2019 at 09:55 AM



“ So sorry for the loss of this great man. I enjoyed working with him. Prayers for the family during this time.

Jean Love - October 07, 2019 at 09:33 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Christopher John "Chris" Connell.



October 07, 2019 at 03:50 PM