In early 1976, a robbery suspect told me something about himself that I had not realized. Back then, Robbery suspect David Lynn McCoy said to me, “I am actually a lot like you. I enjoy the adrenalin rush I receive when committing robberies.” He then said, “You get the same adrenalin rush from making arrests, don’t you?” I didn’t want to believe it, but in my heart, I knew he was right. I enjoyed the thrill of arresting dangerous individuals who made Houston their home.

As police officers, we dealt with some of the most dangerous individuals in society. You might not remember their names, but your memory will never let you forget the experience. Thinking back about all the dangerous individuals I have encountered during my career, one name stands out in my memory. Because of a robbery investigation, I met and talked with William Smith “Butch” Ainsworth, a suspect who came to my attention while assisting Robbery Detective Ira Franks. Ira was investigating a March 4, 1984, robbery involving two suspects posing as security guards who gained entry into a southwest home at gunpoint and robbed the residence of $1700 cash, jewelry and guns. During this investigation, we worked with the Harris County Sheriff’s Office and the Texas Rangers while focusing on two suspects, Butch Ainsworth and Wesley O’Neil Sellers, aka “the California Kid”. During this investigation, I was aware of Seller’s reputation for violence, but was not familiar with Ainsworth who had spent his early years in Galveston, TX. However, Texas Ranger Joe Harrelson, who worked the Galveston area was very aware of Ainsworth’s violent reputation and quickly started briefing investigators regarding this dangerous suspect.

Sellers, at the time of this robbery, was on bond for numerous criminal charges in Harris County and was awaiting trial for the murder of a Houston police officer. He was also on bond for the burglary of a drug store. After getting Sellers identified in the robbery, Ira located Sellers near Highway 290 and Bingle and arrested him. Although the warrant had no bond, eventually the judge granted bond and Sellers fled the Houston area. He told an acquaintance he was not going back to jail and would never be arrested alive.

Many suspects claim they will never be taken alive and Sellers meant exactly that. Sellers later died in a police shootout in Tempe Arizona when police attempted to arrest him for driving a stolen car. Sellers refused to surrender and before he was killed, he shot a police sergeant in the eye and killed a police dog. As fate would have it, Ira was the last law enforcement officer to ever arrest Wesley Sellers and will remember the experience for the rest of his life.

The following is a brief summary of the many criminal charges Sellers faced before being killed by police. In 1957, Sellers was convicted of robbery in California and served six years in prison. Later in 1965, he was convicted of burglary and sentenced to 99 years in a Texas prison, but the conviction was overturned in 1968, and eight felony indictments against Sellers were dropped.

On November 26, 1969, Earl Musick outside the Walls Unit in Huntsville

Earl Musick outside the Walls Unit in Huntsville

Dan McAnulty outside the Walls Unit in Huntsville

**Dangerous Encounters**

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**WHO IS KERRY NEVES?**

**Community Involvement**
- Dickinson City Councilman, 1985–Present
- President, Galveston County Mayors & Council Members Association, 2002–2003
- Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC), 2003–Present
- Board of Directors, State Bar of Texas
- President, Galveston County Bar Association
- Who’s Who in American Law

**Active Republican Leader**
- Chairman, Galveston County Republican Party, 2007–2008
- Served as Legal Counsel to Galveston County Republican Party
- Represented Republican Party in court on ballot integrity issues
- President, Galveston Island Pachyderm Club, 2004–2006
- Lectured across Texas on legal issues associated with Roe v. Wade

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A-1 WE GET ER DONE!
**Citizen’s Sheriffs Academy Graduates**

LA MARQUE, TX - Sheriff Freddie Poor proudly announced the graduation of the 15th Citizen’s Sheriffs’ Academy in La Marque.

50 citizens from throughout Galveston County attended 12 weeks of sessions where they learned about each component of the Sheriff’s Office, meeting staff members that explained not only the responsibilities of the Office but how their jobs impact public safety throughout the County.

“We’re happy the citizens of our county take an interest in what their sheriff’s office is all about,” said Sheriff Poor. “They join a well-informed group of others, which even includes some elected officials and Sheriff’s Office employees that chose to learn more about us.”

Academy students have evenings filled with lectures and demonstrations from every division of the Sheriff’s Office, including some hands-on activities with crime scene technicians from the Identification Division as well as a first-hand look into operations within the County Jail. “These students now know more about their sheriff’s office than some of our own employees have the opportunity to learn.” Poor commented.

Graduates will now have the opportunity to join the Galveston County Citizens’ Sheriffs’ Academy Alumni Association, a non-profit group dedicated to remaining involved with and helping the Sheriff’s Office and the Galveston County community.

The late Bill Ennis, a long-time law enforcement veteran and often considered the father of citizen’s academies in Texas, helped form the Citizens’ Sheriffs’ Academy in 2002 while he worked for the Sheriff’s Office. Academy sessions have been held throughout Galveston County since then, and the 16th session is being planned for early 2013.

For more information about the Academy, contact Tommy Hansen at 409-766-2358.

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**The Golf Club**

The police arrived and found a woman dead on her living room floor with a golf club next to her body. They asked the husband, “Is this your wife?” “Yes,” he replied. “Did you kill her?” “Yes, he replied.” “It looks like you struck her about eight times with this 3-iron. Is that correct?” “Yes,” he replied, “...but could you put me down for a five.”

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**WANTED FUGITIVES**

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Galveston County Sheriff’s Office
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---

**ROTHERMEL, DANIEL KEITH**

WM DOB: 08/30/1988
510/136 BRO/HAZ
LKA: SANTA FE
FORGERY FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT
Probation Revocation

**HARDY, TRAVIS HERMAN III**

AKA HARDY, TREY
WM DOB: 08/09/1978
600/230 BLK/BRO
TAT RF ARM, UR ARM SC RF ELBOW
TAT R BRST, L HND, BACK, CHEST
LKA: DICKINSON
POSS CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
Probation Revocation

**HARRIS, MARQUISE DAJON**

B/M DOB: 08/25/1991
600/165 BLK/BRO
LKA: LEAGUE CITY
CREDIT CARD/DEBIT CARD ABUSE
Probation Revocation

**HERNANDEZ, RAUL JR**

WM DOB: 07/25/1989
510/130 BLK/BRO
TAT UR ARM, UL ARM
ROBBERY
Probation Revocation

**JOBE, DANNY LEE JR**

B/M DOB: 03/15/1985
506/180 BLK/BRO
TAT R ELBOW TAT RF ARM
TAT R HND TAT L HND SC L ARM SC L HND
LKA: GALVESTON
BURGLARY OF A HABITATION
Probation Revocation

**JONES, VANESSA SLAUGHTER**

AKA SLAUGHTER, VANESSA DANA
AKA SLAUGHTER-JONES, VANESSA DANA
WF DOB: 12/05/1968
503/110 BLK/BLU
NM R ARM SC L HND SC RF KNEE SC EYE, SC
ABDOM TAM ABDOM, BACK, UL ARM, R ARM
LKA: BACLIFF
DW 3RD OR MORE

**MATTHEWS, WILFRED LEROY**

AKA MATTHEWS, LERODY
BM DOB: 03/05/1966
511/145 BLK/BRO
SC UR ARM TAM R ARM SC L WRS SC
ABDOM
SC CHEST TAM LARM
LKA: GALVESTON
AGG ASSLT W/DANGEROUS WEAPON

**ROACH, MARION**

AKA CHILLY ROACH, MARK
BM DOB: 08/01/1985
511/235 BLK/BRO
TAT R EAR TAM R ARM TAM RF ARM TAM CHEST
TAT FACE TAM LARM
LKA: GALVESTON
AGG ROBBERY

**HORNKEL, WILLIAM PAUL**

WM DOB: 05/10/1970
510/135 BRO/BRO
TAT L FGR TAM R ARM TAM L HND
SC L HND
LKA: SAN LEON
ASSLT FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD MEMBER
W/PREV CONV
Probation Revocation

**RODEN, DORINA NICOLE**

BF DOB: 12/13/1971
507/211 BLK/BRO
LKA: GALVESTON
UNAUTHORIZED USE OF VEHICLE
Probation Revocation

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Sellers was again arrested after murdering Houston Police Officer Kenneth Wayne Moody during the commission of a burglary at Hamilton Junior High School in Houston. For details of that brutal murder see Fallen Heroes of the Bayou City, by Nelson J. Zoch, (Career Criminal Wesley Sellers Murders Officer Moody at Hamilton Junior High), pp. 140-142. After being convicted of this murder Sellers received a life sentence, but won a new trial and was back out on bond. While on bond he burglarized a drug store in 1982. Sellers later was granted bond and he was again back on Houston’s streets.

Like Sellers, Ainsworth also faced several charges other than the robbery charge. Assistant District Attorney Chuck Rosenthal elected to prosecute him on a burglary with intent to commit assault charge, instead of the robbery. Dan McAnulty, my partner at the time, helped me gather punishment evidence for Ainsworth’s prosecution. The case Chuck prosecuted instead of the punishment phase of the trial. In those records was the warden’s opinion that Ainsworth was probably the most dangerous inmate he had ever handled.

The case Chuck prosecuted instead of the robbery involved an altercation with Pete Spadachene, the father of Cheryl Ann Ainsworth. On March 14, 1984, Cheryl Ann had separated from Ainsworth and was staying at her father’s Houston home. Armed with three pistols and 37 rounds of ammo Ainsworth went to 4114 Bethel to force his wife to come back to him. Ainsworth tried to force his way into Mr. Spadachene’s home firing seven shots from two of his guns. Mr. Spadachene returned fire with his shotgun seriously wounding Ainsworth and called the Houston Police Department.

As an adult in 1970, Ainsworth got into an altercation with 20 year old Robert A. Kirsten. During this fight, Kirsten was beaten to death with a baseball bat and Ainsworth was charged with the murder. Although Ainsworth admits killing Kirsten, he never went to trial on that charge and claims he killed Kirsten in self-defense.

While awaiting trial, Ainsworth was in custody in Galveston County on other charges. The wild jail break that occurred while Ainsworth was in the Galveston jail is still remembered today. During Ainsworth’s escape, he shot Galveston County Deputy Sheriff Bob Williamson, leaving him for dead. Fortunately, Deputy Williamson survived this near death experience and testified at Ainsworth’s punishment trial for the burglary charge. Also, during the escape, Ainsworth shot 18 year old Joseph McMahen between the eyes. McMahen, who was involved with Ainsworth in the escape, died almost immediately. All together, Ainsworth has been implicated in eight deaths, but only convicted of killing McMahen.

During our investigation of Ainsworth, Dan and I traveled to the Huntsville Walls unit where we talked with the warden about Ainsworth. The warden told us about Ainsworth chopping off three of his fingers in an attempt to talk with the warden about transferring off the unit. When the warden refused to see him, he told the guards, now maybe the warden will see these and handed the guard his fingers.

We learned of other sadistic things Ainsworth was involved in while in prison and brought back records to be used in the punishment phase of the trial. In those records was the warden’s opinion that Ainsworth was probably the most dangerous inmate he had ever handled.

As police officers, we sometimes experienced the adrenaline rush that comes with making arrests. Sometimes we get the satisfaction of digging for information to make a criminal case or maybe it is just the pleasure we received from helping someone who had a problem. Our careers were unique and for me very satisfying. Hopefully you enjoyed reminiscing with me about this investigation and the Department as I remember it.
Texas hurricane history demonstrates need to prepare

Fourteen hurricanes and six tropical storms since 1961, which resulted in federal disaster declarations, serve as reminders to Texans that now is the time to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season.

The 2012 Hurricane Season begins on June 1, and while experts are predicting a slower season than in past years, most of the predictions still call for at least a normal amount of activity. The 50 year average is a little over 11 named storms, six of those becoming hurricanes and two becoming major ones - Category 3 or higher.


Six of the hurricanes and two of the tropical storms occurred in the last decade and resulted in the Lone Star State receiving approximately $7.5 billion in federal disaster aid. That assistance fell under both the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) and Individuals and Households (IHP) programs and included funding for direct housing, crisis counseling, disaster legal services, disaster unemployment, and U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) low-interest disaster loans.

Hurricane Katrina in Texas was an emergency declaration and provided reimbursements to the state for housing Katrina evacuees.

There have been no hurricanes or tropical storms resulting in a FEMA disaster declaration in the past two years, but several storms have affected the state nonetheless. Tropical Storm Hermine in 2010 caused major inland flooding in the Dallas/Fort Worth area and Tropical Storm Lee in 2011 stirred up winds that exacerbated a weekend wildfire in Bastrop County.

“These statistics more than demonstrate the need for all Texas to be prepared,” said Acting FEMA Region 6 Administrator Tony Robinson. “We say it often, but it’s the best way to get a clear message out there - Get a Kit, Hurricanes...Cont. on pg 5
Candidate cop arrests fugitive in Bacliff

BACLIFF - A Galena Park police sergeant and deputies with Constable Pam Matranga’s office arrested a fugitive in Bacliff who had been on the lam and hiding out in a trailer park there for several weeks.

Frank Villa, 33, a habitual criminal, wanted in Harris County for dealing drugs, was arrested after the officers tracked him from place to place, finally finding him in the trailer park where he was staying with his mother and two children.

Rear-end crash on Seawall brings lawsuit

GALVESTON - Galveston resident Rocio Dickey says she was in a two-vehicle accident which rendered her unconscious and has filed a lawsuit against the driver she claims was drunk.

A lawsuit filed in Galveston County District Court argues that Alyssa Fedor, also of Galveston, was “highly intoxicated” when she rear-ended the Dickey and her passenger on Seawall Boulevard on March 23.

According to the lawsuit, Fedor drove “at an excessive rate of speed” prior to the collision.

Dickey states the impact forced her into another car parked on the roadway, adding several people witnessed the event unfold.

“Dickey had no opportunity to avoid the incident and Fedor was solely at fault, which she admitted at the scene,” the suit says.

“The collision was severe and both the Dickey and Fedor’s cars were disabled as a result.”

It adds Dickey lost consciousness at the scene because of a head injury, which required her to be rushed to the emergency room.

Meanwhile, authorities charged Fedor with intoxication assault and DWI.

The suit does not clarify as to what happened to the Dickey’s passenger nor is she a party in the case.

Consequently, Dickey seeks unspecified monetary damages.

The case has been assigned to Galveston County 56th District Court Judge Lonnie Cox.

Dead Head: A policeman is on scene at a terrible accident - body parts everywhere. He is making his notes of where the pieces are and comes across a head. He writes in his notebook: “Head on boulevard” and scratches out his spelling error. "Head on boulevard..." No, doesn't look right - scratch scratch. “Head on boulevard...” dang it! Scratch scratch. He looks around and sees that no one is looking at him as he kicks the head. "Head on curb."
web sites or paying a buck at a local gas station for a thin tabloid full of pictures - some comical, others weird or just plain creepy - of people who’ve been arrested. Sometimes the photos depict people who were not convicted. Innocent people get caught up in the mix.

The magazine owners defend their product, saying they serve as a deterrent for future criminals, encourage Crime Stoppers tips, promote arrests, and put a face on area crime statistics. Mug shots are public record, they say, pointing to their First Amendment rights to publish and noting that one of the charges for which he’d been arrested had been dropped and the other downgraded.

That became clear when the mug shot site led him to a payment screen. For a fee he could get the mug shot removed. Rather than pay the money, Donnelly searched the site and found the name of Citizens Information Associates LLC listed at the bottom of the pages.

He couldn’t find a telephone number on the site, but researching Citizen Information led him to Star Nine Ventures, a seemingly affiliated Austin-based search engine optimization company. The companies shared an Austin address until recently.

Star Nine, for a fee, can make web sites appear among the top links during internet searches. Donnelly e-mailed Star Nine, telling the company that he objected to his mug shot being posted and noting that one of the charges for which he’d been arrested had been dropped and the other downgraded.

But Donnelly didn’t hear back from Star Nine. Instead, Citizens Information CEO Kyle Prall called Donnelly and left an apologetic phone message explaining how arrest information provided by law enforcement agencies could sometimes contain inaccuracies, but that mug shot publications print disparaging comments saying that everybody is innocent until proven guilty. In Donnelly’s case, the mug shot would be removed free of charge.

Meanwhile, Donnelly had gone to RipoffReport.com, an online site that publicizes scams and rip-offs. He described his experiences, characterizing Star Nine as unethical and inaccurate.

A few days later, Prall left another phone message. He’d seen Donnelly’s accusations on Ripoff Report and said he wanted to solve the dispute “without going a more serious route.” Donnelly returned the call, and Prall seemed angry about the Ripoff Report. Removing it would require the mug shot company to enroll in a mediation service, which could cost up to $2,000.

“The irony is [Prall] tried to charge me to take my information off, and now he’s mad about having to pay to get his info off,” Donnelly said.

I tried to contact Prall by calling Star Nine Ventures. Vanessa Agosto, who answers the phone there, said Prall wasn’t available but agreed to pass along the message. She also suggested I try calling Prall at his business. Doesn’t he work at Star Nine, I asked.

No, the receptionist said, he works at Citizens Information Services. What’s that? “It’s Busted!” she said, referring to the mug shot company. Star Nine is not affiliated with Citizens Information, she said.

Citizens Information Associates owns the Busted! trademark. The company’s listed representative is KGP Media LLC. Prall owns KGP Media, according to online sources.

Star Nine bills itself as a venture creation company with Ryan Russell as its CEO. Until this year it listed the same Nueces Street office address in Austin as Citizens Information. The Travis Appraisal District still lists Russell as the building’s owner.

On Feb. 2, Star Nine employee Amanda Hunt issued a press release saying that Star Nine had purchased Mugly Media Inc. of Austin and its “rapidly growing newspaper publication Busted!” The press release listed Jeremy Brooks as both executive vice president of Star Nine and a managing partner at Citizens Information, a “subsidiary of Star Nine Ventures.”

The press release also listed Prall as co-founder and CEO of Mugly Media and quoted him saying that Star Nine, through Citizens Information, will “bring the Mugly Media version of a fully integrated online and print version of the Busted! mug shot concept to the national stage.”

Agosto at Star Nine said she was unaware of the press release and that Amanda Hunt is no longer with the company. She said she didn’t know why Hunt had left.

Neither Prall nor Russell returned phone calls for comment on this article. Donnelly believes the various companies are at least loosely affiliated and working together to get mug shots, publish them, make sure they are among the top links to pop up during searches, and then charge people to take them down.

He is calling on news media, public relations associations, and consumer activists to push for legislation to outlaw mug shot companies. In some states, law enforcement agencies legally can refuse to provide booking photos and arrest records if the pictures are going to be used for commercial purposes or to harm or defraud someone.

Some Texas law enforcement agencies post mug shots on their web sites for anyone to see. Some cities, such as Fort Worth, typically release mug shots as public information. Other cities resist. The state attorney general, responding to Irving police in June 2010, ruled that the city was required to release such photos. Irving police then created a computer program that automatically posts mug shots online each day.

Loopholes that allow agencies to refuse the release of public information can become problematic, said Keith Elkins, executive director of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas.

“Historically, we have been in favor of releasing that information, especially for members of the media and for public awareness,” he said. “It’s interesting that some people may be wanting to use [mug shots and arrest records] for commercial purposes, but if the purpose is in the public’s interest, we’re in favor of more information being released than less.”
**TEXAS KILLER TO DIE JULY 18TH**

DALLAS - Yokamon Hearn, 19, was sentenced to death for the carjacking and fatal shooting of a Dallas-area stockbroker.

Acting on a tip in March of 1998, police arrested Yokamon Hearn and Delvin Diles just after midnight at a room in the Delux Inn. They abducted Frank Meziere, 23, of Plano, at a carwash, taking him to an industrial area of east Oak Cliff and shooting him repeatedly in the head. Some men driving to work about 6 a.m. the next day spotted his body in a patch of grass.

Meziere’s car was found about an hour later. Police said they had determined that Hearn and Diles carjacked Meziere when he pulled into a carwash. A police spokesman said, “they forced him into his car and drove to the murder scene.” Meziere’s father said, “I just hope justice can be done as soon as possible. I’ve always been in favor of the death penalty, and I stand by that now.”

Dallas County criminal records showed Diles had received 5 years of probation the previous summer after pleading guilty to a felony burglary charge; Hearn had been charged with misdemeanor theft, a case which was still pending at the time of Frank’s murder.

Frank Meziere had watched a Dallas Mavericks basketball game at a restaurant with a friend and before heading home stopped at a self-service car wash to clean his black Mustang convertible. The 23-year-old Plano stockbroker, a 1996 Texas A&M University graduate, never made it home. His body was found the next day, March 26, 1998, along the side of a road in an industrial area of Oak Cliff, an area of south Dallas. He had been shot in the head 10 times. His car was found about 5 miles away, abandoned and with the lights on.

“Having dealt with murders, you think you’ve seen it all,” said Jason January, a former Dallas County assistant district attorney. “But this innocent victim was shot almost for sport. “It was just the sheer overkill of the thing that was ludicrous.” Yokamon Hearn bragged to friends about how he “domed” Meziere, meaning he shot him in the head.

Hearn was set to die in 2004 for the slaying but an appeal filed by his lawyers said the inmate was mentally retarded and asked the courts to halt the punishment so they can pursue their claim. The U.S. Supreme Court has barred execution of the mentally retarded.

Prosecutors said questions about Hearn’s mental competence never surfaced previously. Hearn, 25, refused to speak with reporters as his execution date neared.

The U.S. Supreme Court later denied his request seeking a review of his case. “It’s hard sometimes to know what a death penalty case is, but after a while you know one when you see it,” said January, the lead prosecutor at Hearn’s trial. “And just this screamed out for the death penalty.” Dallas jurors agreed, deliberating less than an hour to convict Hearn and about an hour before deciding on punishment.

Hearn was 19 at the time of the crime and had a lengthy record that included burglary, robbery, assault, a sexual assault and weapons possession. “I remember having a big map of the city showing places he had hit and pulled guns on people,” January recalled this week. “He was an equal opportunity carjacker – women, black, white, everybody.” Hearn, along with 2 other Dallas men and one woman from Oklahoma City, were seen on a security camera video at a convenience store adjacent to the car wash. They had been out looking for someone to carjack, authorities said.

According to testimony at his trial, Hearn drove Meziere’s car after he and companion Delvin Diles forced the victim into the car. The two others, Dwight Burley and Teresa Shirley, were in a second car in a convoy that took them to an area near Dallas’ wastewater treatment plant. Meziere was shot there with a Tec-9 automatic, then with a .22-caliber pistol.

Hearn drove off with his car. Shirley, driver of the 2nd car, testified Meziere had his arms raised near his head and appeared to beg for his life as Hearn swung the Tec-9, a 9 mm assault-style rifle stolen from an apartment the previous day, back and forth before opening fire.

After the victim hit the ground, Hearn shot him several more times, she said. Diles added some shots from his revolver. Hearn drove off with Meziere’s car and kept the victim’s license.

A witness testified at his trial that Hearn later bragged at a party about the shooting.

Physical evidence linked both Hearn and Diles to the car. Diles, 19 at the time, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to consecutive life terms for Meziere’s death and an unrelated aggravated robbery. He and Hearn were arrested within days of the slaying. Shirley, then 19, and Burley, then 20, were arrested more than 8 months later. Each pleaded guilty to aggravated robbery and received 10-year prison sentences.
**12th year running for Special Olympics Awareness**

NAVASOTA, TX - It's been 12 years since the Texas Law Enforcement Special Olympics Torch Run started making its way to Navasota. The annual event in May not only raises awareness for Special Olympics worldwide, but has also been instrumental in raising funds for the program.

The local Torch Run was initially started by former Texas Department of Criminal Justice employee Shirley Curtiss of Navasota, who served as the Wallace Pack Unit Special Olympics fundraising coordinator, along with help from current Wallace Pack Unit Sgt. Mitch Kroll of Anderson and fellow TDCJ employees. Curtiss said she came up with the idea after attending numerous Special Olympics activities throughout the state and nation.

"It's such a wonderful program to get the children out and get them to do special things that they really enjoy doing and don't always get the opportunity to do. They're all special to me," said Curtiss. "It's wonderful to see the people that come out and support it - all for a very great cause. All the TDCJ employees and Mitch Kroll, who is here running, have been very instrumental in helping with this."

Curtiss said the event has grown tremendously, as it started out with a few participants in 2000. Last Wednesday, approximately 35 law enforcement officers from the Houston area joined a number of local officers in the Torch Run, as it made its way through downtown Navasota on Washington Avenue and stopped at the VFW Post 4006 for a lunch prepared by the Grimes County Sheriff's Office.

"It shows the brotherhood and the continuity of everything. It just makes you feel good," said Sgt. Kroll. "It's fun to come out and support the kids and have a good time with them."

Officers share what Torch Run means to them

Besides local law enforcement officers from Navasota Police Department, Grimes County Sheriff's Office, Texas Department of Criminal Justice and Department of Public Safety, participating departments included Houston Police Department, Harris County Sheriff's Office, Galveston Police Department, Missouri City Police Department and Sugar Land Police Department. Statewide, about 1,000 officers helped raise support for Special Olympics.

Wallace Pack Unit of Navasota representative and Bryan Juvenile Detention Center Officer Jeff Overstreet, who has been involved in the Torch Run for the past 10 years, said the privilege of holding the torch, alongside Sgt. Kroll, is a great honor to him.

"I was in the military (U.S. Army) and I spent time in Desert Storm and Desert Shield, but this is one of the best honors I've ever had," said Overstreet. "I have a passion for children; these children are special."

Missouri City Police Department Officer Pete Alvarado, who has been a participant for the past 8 years, said taking the time out to help raise funds for Special Olympics athletes is important because, "It's a good cause - to raise money so that they can continue their games and purchase the things that they need to purchase."

Houston ISD Police Officer and Torch Run Coordinator Lee Nino said that since its inception in Wichita, Kan. 31 years ago, the Law Enforcement Special Olympics Torch Run has raised nearly $42 million for the athletes.

Officer Nino, who has been a participant for the past 12 years and an officer for 20 years, said, "Society always looks at people with mental illnesses or intellectual disabilities, as well as physical disabilities, and they don't understand that they're just as human as we are. The only difference is they may have a little bit of trouble learning more or grasping tasks. They're special to us because this is why we do what we do to raise the money for our athletes."

Sugar Land Officer Heath Norris, who has been volunteering for the past 18 years, said he first became involved to show support of his now 21-year-old niece, Chelsea, who has special needs.

"It means a lot to me - just to be able to help out the youth, as well as adults, who can't do some things that we take for granted. It's very important to let them experience the things we do as well," said Officer Norris.

---

**The Wino:** The drunken wino was stumbling down the street with one foot on the curb and one foot in the gutter. A cop pulled up and said, "I've got to take you in, sir. You're obviously drunk." The wino asked, "Ocifer, are ya absolutely sure I'm drunk?" "Yeah, buddy, I'm sure," said the copper. "Let's go." Obviously relieved, the wino said "That's a relief - I thought I was a cripple."
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Ask people why they have deer heads on their walls and they will tell you it’s because they’re such
beautiful animals. I think my wife is beautiful, but I only have photographs of her on the wall.

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Page 10 - The Police News
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