

Russel Lierz, Captain  
Nemaha County Sheriff's Reserves

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak to you about David W. Mee. I hope that I can paint a picture for you of the truly remarkable person that Dave was. Even knowing him as I did, it is difficult to put into words.

I met Dave as a teenager in the way that most teenagers meet state troopers. Behind the wheel of my car, cruising down the highway a bit too fast, and then noticing the red lights in the rearview mirror. As Dave approached my driver's window, I knew two things without a doubt. One, I was getting a ticket, and two that I deserved it! Despite all this, Dave made an impression on me that day.

Years later, I was able to work with Dave as part of the Reserves. Dave worked closely with the entire department from deputies to dispatchers to reserve officers. I had the honor to work with Dave on many occasions ranging from Ident-A-Kid programs to searches for missing persons.

David W. Mee was a man with presence. I am not sure if it was simply the way he carried himself, or if it was the campaign hat and boots, but when he entered the room, you took notice. With Dave, you always knew exactly where you stood. Yes was yes, and no was no. He believed that if something was worth doing, it was worth doing well. No matter what the job, project, or event, Dave applied himself 100%. If you were working with him, you knew that he expected this from you as well. He didn't have to say anything; you were simply inspired to follow his lead.

Law enforcement was not only Dave's chosen career, it was his life. After serving in the United States Air Force, Dave joined the Kansas Highway Patrol where he remained for 27 years. Law Enforcement was something very near and dear to Dave. It was more than a career. It was his life, and his co-workers were his family. We all knew where we could turn to for advice and help. After he retired from the Patrol, Dave spent a couple years working for Nemaha County as the Emergency Manager. This wasn't enough for Dave. He felt compelled to reenter law enforcement, and successfully ran for election as Sheriff in 2000. When he swore his oath to that office in January 2001, we were all looking forward to seeing what he would do for Nemaha County.

During Dave's tenure as Sheriff, he continued his involvement in the community by working fundraisers for EMS, Fire and volunteer groups. He personally participated in the Ident-A-Kid program, helping to fingerprint more than 500 kids in the Nemaha County area. Dave also participated in United For Youth.

In 2004, Dave sought and secured a second term as Sheriff. Being re-elected was one of the highest compliments that the citizens of Nemaha County could possibly give Dave.

In December 2005, Dave suffered a heart attack and then later passed away on January 2, 2006, just one day shy of his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. We lost a dear friend and comrade that day. Dave is survived by his wife Brenda who is here with us today, two daughters, Lori & Diane, and by his grandson Tommy.

The dedication of a stretch of State Highway 9 as the David W. Mee Memorial Highway would be an amazing honor to Dave's memory. This particular stretch of highway was one Dave traveled frequently.

I want to thank you for giving us this opportunity to share Dave's story.