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INDIANA LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL

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Remembering Harrison County Sheriff William Carver on the 25th Anniversary of His Line of Duty Death

One of Three Indiana Officers Honored on the National Memorial but Denied Inclusion on the State Memorial

Harrison County | Harrison County Sheriff William Carver is being remembered today on the 25th anniversary of the ultimate sacrifice he made when he suffered a fatal heart attack while responding to an apartment fire that claimed the life of a resident on September 29, 2001. He is one of three fallen officers in Indiana who are honored on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington but denied inclusion on the Indiana Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters Memorial in Indianapolis.

While attending an auction with his wife and father-in-law being conducted on his late mother-in-law's estate in Laconia, he was requested at the scene of a fatal fire at the Knights of Pythias Lodge at 213 East Chestnut Street in Corydon where the body of Thomas Schickel, 45, was found in his upstairs apartment having died of smoke inhalation.

As he drove the 14-mile route to the scene, he began experiencing severe chest pain and drove farther to the office of his personal physician, Reggie D. Lyell, M.D., where he collapsed from a heart attack shortly after arriving. He was immediately taken to the emergency room of the adjacent Harrison County Hospital where he suffered a massive heart attack and despite resuscitative efforts, passed away at 11:48 am.

William Eugene Carver, 50, from Elizabeth, was born to Ernest Eugene Wright and Betty Lou (née Carter) Carver on April 10, 1951 in Corydon. He served in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War as a sergeant and in 1975, he married Cloris Belle Thomas (née Wiseman).

He was survived by his sons, Daniel Carver and James Thomas; daughter, Fairy Belle (Jason) Blankenship; grandson, Bradly Blankenship; father; brothers, Terry Carver, Michael Carver, Bobby Ems, Jerry Ems and Billy Wright; sisters, Delores Carter, Judy Cole, Bonnie Peterson and Tammy Glefinger; and father-in-law, Edward Roy Wiseman. His funeral was held on October 3 at Corydon Central High School in Corydon with interment at Smith Campground Cemetery in Dogwood.

Carver, a Republican sworn in on January 1, 1999 as the 51st sheriff of Harrison County and was in the third year of his four-year term. During his 28-year career, he had previously served as the town marshal in Corydon for six years. Corydon Police Chief Rolla Pirtle was appointed acting sheriff until C. Wendell Smith was appointed to serve the remaining 15 months of Carver's term.

Sheriff Carver is honored on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington on Panel 19E, Line 25. He is the second fallen officer of the Harrison County Sheriff's Department, the third of three line of duty deaths that have originated from Harrison County and is one of 21 Indiana sheriffs with line of duty deaths.

Deaths attributable to natural causes, such as a heart attack, qualify as an eligible line of duty death when a specific stressful response causes an officer's death immediately or within 24 hours of responding to an emergency situation that involves a serious injury or death.

Despite being approved by the National Memorial, Sheriff Carver has been denied inclusion on the State Memorial. Beginning in 2007 and every year thereafter until the creation of this website in 2017, repeated attempts to advocate for his inclusion have failed. Although there are 23 fallen officers who have died from a heart attack from Indiana who are

honored on the National Memorial, two such officer's sacrifices continue to be denied their recognition on the State Memorial.

Our organization strongly advocates for any officer who has been approved by and is honored on the National Memorial to also be approved by and honored on the State Memorial without undue debate or burdensome obstacles to their surviving family or agency they represented by utilizing federal eligibility criteria.

View our memorial for Sheriff Carver at: www.officersearch.inlem.org/officer.php?id=0155

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About the Indiana Law Enforcement Memorial

Founded in 2017, the Indiana Law Enforcement Memorial is a nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring all of our state's fallen officers. Its mission is to honor law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice; provide support to their surviving family members and affected agencies; and conduct research into and foster public awareness of Indiana line of duty deaths. Each of these over 500 officers are memorialized through a website maintained as an exclusive resource to our state with the most comprehensive details to preserve the history surrounding their incidents and an extensive compilation of statistical data.