



Remembering Retired Chief William E. Crosier

Willoughby Township Police Department

It is with great sadness that we share that 1988-1989 OACP Past President and retired Chief William E. Crosier, Willoughby PD, passed away on Monday, July 14th, 2025.

Chief Crosier's service in law enforcement spanned over 50 years, beginning at the Willoughby Police Department in 1960. After being promoted through the ranks, Chief Crosier served as Chief of Police (and for a brief time jointly as Fire Chief) for 13 years, retiring in 1992. He went on to serve as a Chief Deputy for the Lake County Sheriff's Office until 2011.

Chief Crosier was an integral part of the OACP and its history including serving on the Executive Committee for seven years, leading the way to the purchase of the OACP Dublin headquarters in 1989 and being one of the

founding fathers of the Law Enforcement Foundation (LEF) (established in 1985), the Police Executive Leadership College (1985) and the Ohio D.A.R.E program (1988). In 2003 the OACP created an award in his honor, the William E. Crosier Distinguished Service Award which is still presented as an annual award at the Annual Conference. This award was created and named after an individual who dedicated his life to going above and beyond the call of duty.

A few words from Chief Crosier's acceptance speech in 1988:

*"No greater honor can be bestowed upon an individual than to be selected by your peers to lead them. To start my year as President, let me make a few confessions and tell you who I really am. I believe in God. I believe in my country. When a high school band marches by playing "God Bless America" a shiver still runs up and down my spine. And yes, at a baseball game when they play the **Star-Spangled Banner**, I still put my hand over my heart. Maybe I am old fashioned but I kind of like it that way. I have been accused of being a perfectionist. I'm sorry but anything worth doing is worth doing right. But you see, I am not unique. I know that what I have just told you are exactly the same ideals which you the membership stand for. That's what the OACP is all about. We are ready to meet the challenges. With every challenge, comes opportunities. Opportunities to better serve our membership. Opportunities to better serve our public. We must accomplish this together. We must continue to let our voices be heard across the land as the professional spokesman for law enforcement here in Ohio. Let me close with the following thought: Woven through the fabric of this great nation is a strong, thin, blue thread which represents the law enforcement profession. I am proud to be a law enforcement officer. I am proud to be a chief of police. I am proud to be a member of the OACP. I am proud to serve as your President. Thank you for the privilege."*

Chief Crosier spent his lifetime in optimistic and enthusiastic pursuit of service to others. **Thank you, Chief Crosier!**

Remembering Chief Crosier

Chief Crosier had a remarkable career in law enforcement that spanned over 50 years. He was hired by the Willoughby Police Department in 1960. He served his community as a patrol officer, detective, sergeant, and then lieutenant. He was appointed to Chief of Police in 1979 and retired in 1992. During that time, he also served as Willoughby Fire Chief for a period of time. Chief Crosier was a past president of the Lake County Association of Chiefs of Police, and he was a past president of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. He received numerous awards for his outstanding service over his career as well as attending the 109th Session of the FBI National Academy.

After his retirement, he served as Chief Deputy under Sheriff Dan Dunlap with the Lake County Sheriff's Office until 2010.

Chief Crosier was a long time member of the Willoughby Rotary Club where he served as club president in 1989. Chief Crosier was always active in the community helping out wherever he could.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Chief Crosier and his family. He will always be remembered as the exemplary public servant.

Thank you for your service.

-Willoughby Police Chief Jim Schultz

Chief Crosier served in our Lake County community in law enforcement for over 50 years. He began his career as a patrolman in the City of Willoughby. There he served in many roles there from patrolman to detective, eventually becoming the Chief of Police for the Willoughby Police Department. During that time, he was a rarity by serving both as police chief and fire chief. During his tenure in Willoughby he attended the 109th session of the FBI National Academy, became the President of the Lake County Police Chiefs Association, as well as the President of the Ohio Chiefs of Police Association. During his tenure he received the Liberty Bell award, Paul Harris fellow award, and the Ohio Chief of Police Distinguished Service award.

When Bill retired from Willoughby, incoming Sheriff Dan Dunlap asked him to be his Chief Deputy when he was sworn in in 1993. Over the next 18 years Chief Crosier's sage advice and counsel helped move the Sheriff's Office forward. Sheriff Dunlap believed in educating members of the Sheriff's Office at all levels, and Chief Deputy Crosier followed the Sheriff's lead by pushing for graduates of the Police Executive Leadership college, Certified Law Enforcement Executive program, and for numerous deputies to attend the FBI National Academy. It is difficult to recount the impact that a person has had over 50 years of a law enforcement career. When Chief Deputy Crosier retired from the Sheriff's Office in 2011 then Sheriff Dunlap put it best when he reflected "His advice and counsel have been sought by Chiefs of Police across the State and beyond." Bill was a good friend to me and was a person who had compassion for those he served alongside in his career. Truly he helped educate me and guided me throughout my career and I will miss him dearly.

Our prayers today are for Bill and his family. We will always remember his commitment to family, his care and concern for his law enforcement partners, and for his service to our Lake County community.

As an old Irish blessing says it best, "Until we meet again Chief Crosier, may God hold you in the palm of his hand."

-Lake County Sheriff Frank Leonbruno