



OFFICE OF  
Steve Boyer

# KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF

614 DIVISION ST. MS-37 • PORT ORCHARD, WASHINGTON 98366 • (360) 337-5698 • FAX 337-4923

For immediate release:  
KCSO news release #08-012 / 125 / 1

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

## Former undersheriff **Charles Alvis Wheeler**

**Port Orchard, Wash.** -- It is with a profound sense of loss that the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office informs the agency and the public of the death of former Undersheriff Charles "Chuck" Wheeler, at age 61. Wheeler died Sunday morning at Harrison Medical Center, Bremerton, from complications of a lengthy illness.

"Chuck was a man of strong convictions who dedicated his life to service in law enforcement and to the citizens of Kitsap County," said Sheriff Steve Boyer on Tuesday. "His real measure was his commitment to the citizens and his community. Chuck also held a deep affection for Special Olympics Washington."

Wheeler began his law enforcement career on April 17, 1972 as a patrol deputy. He served in the field for eight years until his transfer to the detectives division in May 1980. He put his investigative skills to one side, however, when he was asked by former Sheriff Pat Jones to assume the job as undersheriff.

"The position of undersheriff is unique to law enforcement and to county sheriff's agencies in particular," added Sheriff Boyer. "The undersheriff fulfills duties as the agency's second-in-command, as the chief of staff and as financial operations officer."

Wheeler served as undersheriff for more than half of his career with Kitsap County until his retirement on Nov. 29, 1996.

"He was an exceptional law enforcement officer who always strived to do the right thing for the agency and the community," said former Sheriff Pat Jones. "Chuck was undersheriff when the county was experiencing tremendous infrastructure and population growth, as the Trident Submarine program at Bangor was coming on-line.

"Consequently we increased our law enforcement services to meet the needs of the community," added the former sheriff. "There were issues with an increase in major felony crimes in that time period, although unrelated to the Trident program. Chuck provided the oversight and strategic planning to meet these new demands. I couldn't have asked for a better undersheriff and friend. We will miss him greatly."

Final arrangements are being handled by Miller Woodlawn Funeral Home and Memorial Park. Internment is private. A celebration of Chuck's life will be held at a later date to be announced by the Wheeler family.

The Kitsap County Sheriff's Office will keep thoughts and prayers for the Wheeler family foremost, as we all mourn the loss of a cherished husband, father and dedicated public servant.

**# # #**