

Wilson Womack

Senior Sergeant

First Day on the job: June 3, 1980.

Who was the Sheriff back then?

Carl Thomas.....I've served four Sheriffs Carl Thomas, Don Byrd, Jim Bowles and Lupe Valdez..... And I can Honestly say, I've enjoyed working for all four of them.

What did you do prior to coming to the Sheriffs Department?

How did you decide you wanted to get into law enforcement?

I worked for the Dallas Fire Department and while working there I had always wanted to be in law enforcement. After working there for a couple years, I Applied for both the Dallas Police Department and the Dallas Sheriff's Department and the Sheriff's Department called me first. I went through two academies only 3 years apart. I put in to go to five different agencies, the Sheriff's department was the first one to call....well here I am!

What was your first assignment prior to the academy?

"Well I working as a clerk waiting for my time to go to the academy, I worked in Bonds and Warrants.

After the Academy, where were you assigned?

"Old Jail, in my opinion the BEST JAIL IN THE STATE OF TEXAS!"

Why is that?

"Just the notoriety of it, we had some of the most infamous and famous inmates in the country to be incarcerated there.....Raymond Burr, Jack Ruby just to name a few. The jail in its self is interesting, the gallows, all of the inmate murals makes it a really unique place to work. I think every body should have a chance to work there, or at lease take a tour.



From the Old Jail then where were you assigned?

Warrants.

How was Warrants?

January 21st, 1991. We were going out to an address to pick up a guy on a mental illness warrant, also known as a white warrant, and take him to parkland for a psych evaluation. The people who filled out the paperwork were asked if he was known to carry a gun but they did not admit that they knew he carried a gun because they were afraid that we would just shoot him. We didn't have a reason to shoot him. When we went over there, he came out and my partner, Paul Patterson, saw that he had a gun and he grabbed him by the arm. He shot me right here (points to top forehead) Somehow, he got away and shot Paul in the hand and the ankle. He started running and I started chasing. When I got close enough to shoot him, I realized that I had just stepped on his gun and it was under my foot. I couldn't shoot an unarmed man.

What ever happened to him.

He went to Vernon state hospital. He had to do 5 years and I think he did 3 of them there. When he got out, he had a massive heart attack and died.

What did he get for shooting y'all?

Just the five years...

Only five years?

Right

Wow

See, he was mentally ill and he wasn't competent.

Where did you go after warrants?

In 1997 I made SGT and I was assigned to intake for 6 years. Then I went to the Bond desk for a little over a year. Then Suzzanne Kays, Decker, and now Fugitive since 2006.

Wow!

Have you had any major obstacles you've had to overcome in your Career?

That's a good question. Believe it or not, I haven't because most of the obstacles are ones you've placed on yourself.

Is there anything else you'd like to share?

The position I am in now is the best and the one I love the most. We bring in fugitives from all over the United States and it's interesting to see how many people we bring in per month with the few officers that I have. I have the greatest crew that you could ever assemble. If someone asked me to fill out a list of the ten best investigators that I want to have in my unit, I'd tell them that I've already got 'em.

Is there anything that you'd like to share with the readers?

I've been here 30 years in June and all I can tell folks is that this is a great career. I've worked under 4 sheriffs and I've enjoyed working with every single one of them.

Someone hiring new... What advice would you give them?

If you've decided that this is what you want to do then don't let your personality show one way or the other. Treat everyone with equal compassion regardless of race, background, or status.

