

CLASS OF 2020



Walter McNeil

Walter A. McNeil was elected Sheriff of Leon County in November 2016. In his distinguished 40-year career as a public servant, McNeil led the fight against crime in Tallahassee and across America. For 10 years, at the helm of the Tallahassee Police Department, McNeil was recognized for his progressive voice and his effective response to citizen concerns.

In 2005 McNeil was deployed by then Gov. Jeb Bush as the overhead commander for Florida's Emergency Response to the Mississippi Gulf Coast for Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts.

From 2007-2008 McNeil lead the Department of Juvenile Justice under former Gov. Charlie Crist and from 2008-2011 McNeil was appointed to lead the Florida Department of Corrections.

In 2012 he was selected to serve on the advisory group that met with Vice President Biden to discuss gun violence. In the same year McNeil was selected as President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), traveling to foreign countries to discuss methods to combat terrorism, human trafficking, cyber-crimes and other 21st century concerns that may impact global security and policing issues.

McNeil's community policing efforts to control gangs, drugs and juvenile crime earned him numerous honors; including the Tallahassee NAACP Humanitarian Award, Public Sector Business Person of the Year, United States DEA Award, amongst many others.

McNeil currently serves on a number of Boards including Southside Rotary Club; Big Bend Minority Chamber; United Way of the Big Bend; Boy Scouts of America; Tallahassee Community College; Boys and Girls Club of the Big Bend; Flagler College; Boys Town of North Florida and Fellowship of Christian Athletes, to name of a few.

McNeil and his family are active members of New Mount Zion AME Church.

Watch the video presented at the 2020 Heroes in Public Safety Lifetime Achievement Award Ceremony of Richard Davison speaking on behalf of Walter McNeil [HERE](#).