



News Release

Alachua County Sheriff's Office

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Media Advisory: Arrest Made in 1977 Miami-Dade Murder Case Has Local Ties to ACSO Reserve Deputy

There are some cases that cops never forget. An Alachua County Sheriff's Office Reserve Deputy who was a Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) patrol officer in 1977 kept contacting MDPD's Cold Case Detectives about a homicide that occurred on August 4th, 1977. On August 4th, 2016, they arrested the subject and charged him with murder. Thirty-nine years to the day that Coral Gables nurse, Debbie Clark, was murdered, her attacker is behind bars. The murderer had even attempted to collect on the victim's life insurance policy. It was the first homicide call for the officer, and he couldn't forget that victim, even after he retired and moved to Alachua County.

The MDPD cold case detectives came to Gainesville and met with the Reserve Deputy and Sheriff Darnell. In addition to reviewing the evidence, they also obtained search warrants for the homicide subject's hair and DNA. The case was solved by investigative techniques including DNA testing, which didn't exist back then, as well as persistence by the ACSO's Reserve Deputy and the MDPD Cold Case Detectives.

The Alachua County Sheriff's Office has a reserve unit, which consists of deputies who have the same training and authority as full-time deputies. Some are even detectives. They volunteer and work without pay, and come from all walks of life, both civilian and law enforcement. Here's one thing to remember about law enforcement: even in these times when they are targets more than ever before, they don't forget the victims. Deputies or officers, black or white, male or female, young or old, paid or volunteer; even after many years, want only one thing, justice for victims of crime.

Anyone interested in joining the Alachua County Sheriffs Reserve Unit should visit us at www.AlachuaReserveDeputy.com.

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