

Short Biography of Tony Thompson, Sheriff of Black Hawk County

Sheriff Tony Thompson took office January 1, 2009, was re-elected in November of 2012 with nearly 70% of the vote, and ran unopposed in 2016. He ran again contested in 2020 and won again by nearly 70% of the vote and this will be his last term in office.

He joined the US Army as a military police officer in December of 1988 and retired from the Iowa Army National Guard with just over 21 years following his election as Sheriff. His career with the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office began in March of 1994 and he has worked in the Jail, Special Services and Patrol Divisions. His prior assignments include: Drug Education Officer, Community Services Coordinator, Computer Crimes Investigator, Patrol Officer, Public Information Officer, and SWAT Team leader prior to taking command of the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office. He lives with his family on a hobby farm in rural Cedar Falls.

Sheriff Thompson is known statewide for his mental health advocacy and diversion efforts from the criminal justice system. He served on the Complex Mental Health Needs Subcommittee for the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services and helped frame the mental health redesign legislation in 2012. He has also served on the state's Public Safety Advisory Board, Iowa's Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Advisory Council. He is a past state president of the Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association and continues to serve on several local boards, committees and councils, including the steering committee for their own county Crisis Stabilization and Access Center.

Education: Winterset High School 1987, University of Northern Iowa 1989-1993: BA-Communication Studies, Liberty University 2013-2015: MS- Public Administration and Criminal Justice

Sheriff Thompson also teaches Criminal Justice oriented classes for Upper Iowa University, Des Moines Area Community College, the University of Northern Iowa, and Simpson College as an adjunct professor.

Elected: November 4th, 2008

Took Office: January 1st, 2009 (Re-elected in 2012, 2016 and 2020)

Wife: Janel (Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner) **Sons:** Brady (Warrant Officer and full-time Black Hawk helicopter pilot for the Iowa Army National Guard) and Bryce (Trooper- Iowa State Patrol, Post 9, Cedar Falls, and a member of the Iowa Army National Guard)