



Victor A. Pitman
Personal History Statement
For Sheriff of Callaway County, Missouri
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My father was a career member of the armed forces, and I grew up living in several states and overseas. After graduating high school, I knew I wanted to become a law enforcement officer and approached the San Antonio Police Department. I was told I was too young, and it was recommended I go to college or join the military, then come back and apply when I was 21 years old. I proudly joined and served in the United States Army until 1991. I then chose to make Callaway County my home and have proudly lived and cared for my family here ever since.

I began my law enforcement career in 1983 when I joined the United States Army as a Military Police (MP) Officer. After graduating from the Military Police Academy, I served around the world with duties including patrol officer, DWI Specialist, and Traffic Accident Investigator. As I stated in my announcement letter, I understood that no one person can ensure the success of any mission, especially law enforcement. That motivation led me to discover one of my favorite parts of the profession when I attended my first law enforcement instructor schools in the mid-1980s. I not only had the honor of training military police officers, I also trained future command officers at the Engineer Officer Candidate School. I also represented the MP Command as part of the Worldwide Engineer Commanders Conference and received a Two-Star Letter of Commendation from the Commanding General of Ft. Leonard Wood. During my career in the Army, I earned several military honors including six Army Achievement Medals, and two Army Commendation Medals. My last duty assignment was at Ft. Leonard Wood where I was the Non-Commissioned Officer in charge of the Military Police Traffic and Training Division. While assigned to Ft. Leonard Wood I also attended the Missouri Basic Peace Officer Academy program, I was the academic honor graduate for the academy class and became a Missouri licensed peace officer. It was also during this time that I developed significant leadership, manpower management, organizational, and administrative skills. I was also introduced to law enforcement support of the courts (one of the primary roles of a sheriff's office) by helping coordinate the federal magistrates monthly court sessions. I truly enjoyed serving in the army, however, after 8 years, I was promoted to a position that did not allow me to continue as a working law enforcement officer, so I chose to leave active duty in the Army in 1991.

After leaving the army, I moved to Holts Summit, Callaway County. I applied for a position with the San Antonio Texas Police Department and was offered a position. However, I had also discovered that the City of Holts Summit was starting a full-time police department for the first time. The prospect of being involved in such an unusual endeavor was very intriguing to me, and when I was asked to help, I jumped at the opportunity. I notified San Antonio of my decision with the intention to get the police department in Holts Summit started and once it was accomplished return to my original plans in San Antonio. I soon discovered how much I enjoyed living and working in Holts Summit and Callaway County. I chose to remain in what had become my first stable home. In 1994 I was appointed as the Chief of Police in Holts Summit and proudly served in that role for about 15 years.

During these years I furthered my training and experience into criminal investigations and evidence processing. I have extensive experience in criminal investigations. The ones that always stand out to me the most because of the terrible nature of the crimes and my desire to help the victims have been crimes against children. Crimes against children can be very difficult to investigate. Except for a death investigation, the victim of adult crimes can help direct the investigative process by telling their story. However, crimes against children are much more difficult because their mental and cognitive abilities do not allow them to process the violence they experienced in an organized, factual manner. They often can only express their experience like we as adults might try to relate a fragmented, confusing nightmare we are trying to remember after being frightened awake. For this reason, children are often not allowed to testify in court. These cases require very careful interview processes, focus on evidence collection, and can be very difficult to solve. In addition, I also furthered my experience as a law enforcement instructor. I have obtained instructor ratings in numerous

law enforcement disciplines such as report writing, use of force, chemical munitions, firearms, impact weapons, and others. As the Chief of Police, I worked with the Mid-Missouri Major Case Squad, I was also invited to be on the Governor's Law Enforcement Advisory Committee, I worked with agencies across the state as part of the Department of Public Safety's Organized Crimes Task Force, and one of my favorite activities was working with an informal group of crime scene technicians from surrounding agencies helping each other improve our skills. As a law enforcement instructor, I was invited to conduct presentations at statewide conferences for the Missouri Prosecutors, Missouri Judges, and Missouri Sheriffs to name a few.

In addition to my role as the Chief of Police for Holts Summit, I was the city's Emergency Management Director. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has developed a matrix of training it recommends for all first responders. As a person advances from a line officer, through advanced leadership roles, the matrix requires advanced FEMA National Incident Management System training. I have completed all the required matrix training and more. In support of this role, I also completed the Missouri State Highway Patrol HAZWOPER (methamphetamine lab operations) program, and the FEMA/SEMA Sight Safety Officer program. I participated in regional statewide emergency management planning and exercise programs. I was also the first Police Chief representative for the Region F Regional Homeland Security Advisory Committee that helped set goals and objectives for training, grant management, and resources in the central Missouri area. If I ever wanted a profession outside law enforcement, I believe emergency management would be a top contender. I found the threat assessment and mitigation planning extremely challenging and enjoyable. Trying to identify problems and reduce their likelihood or impact on the community also significantly helped me in my law enforcement problem solving skills. I am very proud of those experiences and grateful to those that helped make them successful. Two of the programs that demonstrate that success is the FEMA grant programs that led to installation of the City of Holts Summit's Emergency Warning System and the grant program that led to the construction of the City of Holts Summits Storm Shelter facility and expansion of the City Hall. Both programs required the management of hundreds of thousands of dollars, planning and supervision of the construction projects, and overall project management. I was very grateful when completing the grant audits for each project which indicated the grants funds management and project scope showed that all funds were accounted for exactly, and all project goals were met or exceeded.

In the late 1990s, I was also a founding member of the South Callaway County Rotary Club. I was the president of the Rotary Club on two occasions and was selected as the Rotarian of Year for the year 2000 to 2001. One of my greatest honors was helping develop the G.W. Law, Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. The South Callaway County Rotary Club approached the Fulton Rotary Club to join in presenting the award annually to a law enforcement officer whose service demonstrated the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self." I later became a member of the Fulton Rotary Club and looked forward to every year being part of program that celebrated the great men and woman that serve Callaway County as law enforcement officer each year I was a member of the club. I am very grateful that the Fulton Rotary Club is carrying on the program which awarded it 26th annual award in 2023.

Around 2008, the City of Holts Summit government was suffering some difficult growing pains. There was contention at the Mayor and Board of Aldermen level, and the city made a grave mistake in my opinion when it terminated a highly qualified and dedicated long term city clerk. This left the city with a significant lack of administrative leadership. I was asked to step in and perform the role of Chief of Police and City Clerk in the interim and did so for the sake of the citizens and excellent employees of the city. While acting as city clerk, it was my privilege to help finish the excellent work of the former city clerk in transitioning the city from a Mayor and Board of Aldermen form of government to a more efficient City Administrator form of government. When that process was completed, the city needed to hire a City Administrator and I was asked to fill the role. I reluctantly accepted the role despite the fact I did not agree with some of the actions of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. By early 2010 it became clear to me that I had some personal, ethical, differences that were not going to be resolved. I was also wanting to return to my active chosen profession in law enforcement. My children were adults by this time, and I had a daughter living in Reno, Nevada who wanted me to move closer to her. I discovered there was an investigator position open in the area and after communicating with the agency there believed I had a very good probability of gaining the position. In 2010 after assisting the city in hiring a well-qualified City Administrator, I resigned my position in March of 2010 after 18 years of service to the city.

I went to Reno, Nevada to seek the investigator position. Unfortunately, the State of Nevada was suffering significant financial difficulties. Shortly after I arrived, I met with the agency and was informed the state had instituted budget cuts and many law enforcement agencies throughout the state were laying off law enforcement officers. The investigator position I was hoping for was one of the positions that was cut in the process. While in Reno, I quickly discovered I did not like the atmosphere of the area. I was missing my adult children, and especially my grandchildren at home in Holts Summit. I therefore determined to have a great extended visit with my daughter in Reno, then came back home. This was the only, and last time I have ever considered moving. Since then, I have had employment opportunities in other areas of the state, some of which would have been financially beneficial for me, but I am not willing to move from what has become my home for most of my adult life.

After returning home, I applied for and was hired by the Cole County Sheriff's Office in June of 2010. Cole County was in the process of designing and constructing a new Sheriff's Office and Jail facility. I was asked to become a part of a team to develop policies and procedures for the operation of the new jail. The team was also tasked with training the jail staff to operate the significantly larger and modern jail. As part of the team, I conducted significant research into jail statutory law, case law, and national standards for jail administration and operations. As part of the process, I became very knowledgeable about modern jail electronic security systems, detainee management, and detainee welfare programs. The team and I also worked very closely with the Sheriff and County Commission to develop bid documents for necessary services to support jail operations, conducted reviews of bid proposals, and made recommendations for awarding the bids. Upon completion of the jail facility, the team trained the jail staff, and the jail was opened in 2011. In 2012 I was promoted to the sheriff's command staff as the commander of the jail division for the Cole County Sheriff's Office. During my service as the jail commander, I supervised the administrative financial management of the jail, worked with the contractors for detainee welfare products, jail security electronics, jail medical services, and operational management of the jail to include coordinating with other agencies, court services, jail maintenance programs, jail personnel management, and ongoing jail training programs. I attended the Department of Justice, National Institute of Corrections (NIC), Jail Administrator's Training Program, and in 2013 I was invited by the NIC to Washington DC to assist in developing national training goals and objectives for jails across the United States. I was also a member of the Missouri Sheriffs' Association, Jail Standards and Training Committee (JSTC). As a member of the JSTC, I helped research and develop the Missouri Jail Standards that were approved and adopted by all the Missouri Sheriffs at their annual training conference. The JSTC was also responsible for planning the annual Jail Administrator's Training Conference for the State of Missouri and as part of the JSTC I was very active in planning and conducting those conferences. I also conducted several training sessions at the conferences.

In addition to my responsibilities as the Jail Administrator, I also worked to further my role as a law enforcement instructor. I am a Missouri Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST), Licensed Generalist and Specialist Instructor. These licenses are required to act as a Basic Peace Officer Academy instructor training new law enforcement officer. I am qualified to instruct most topics in the Basic Academy curricula and instructed hundreds of new recruits throughout the state of Missouri for the Missouri Sheriffs' Association Basic Training Academy.

In 2016, the Cole County Sheriff I worked for retired. The newly elected sheriff appointed his own command staff, and I left the Cole County Sheriff's Office and went to work for the Missouri Sheriffs' Association (MSA). I continued my work with Jail Standards Training Committee, I was also responsible for developing and training law enforcement officers across the state to maintain their continuing education requirements necessary to maintain their license as a peace officer in the State of Missouri. I also enjoyed my responsibility helping coordinate and conduct training for the Missouri Sheriffs' Conferences, Jail Administrators' Conference, Sheriffs' Administrative Assistance/Clerks conference, and Deputies Training conference, all conducted annually. As the program coordinator for the MSA, it was a great pleasure working with each of our Basic Academy Site Coordinator across the state, instructing classes, and researching and updating the basic academy curricula. To date I have researched, written, and reviewed hundreds of continuing education training and basic academy curricula courses which have been approved by the Missouri Department of Public Safety, POST Commission to meet the needs of law enforcement officers throughout the state of Missouri. It has been my honor to conduct many of those training programs along with many other law enforcement instructors across the state. I resigned from the Missouri Sheriff's Association at the end of September 2023.

I currently remain active and self-employed developing law enforcement training courses and programs for any agency that may require my services. I am still a Missouri Class A Licensed Peace Officer. One aspect of my chosen career I am most honored about is when I am approached while out in public by someone, I was able to help, and even by some people I had to arrest and they still trust me for a word of advice or information, or to simply have a friendly conversation. If you honor me by electing me to the Office of Sheriff for Callaway County, I will be 60 years old when I take office. I am still physically active, enjoying reading, camping trips, kayaking , and game night with family and friends. I like wood working, DIY projects, and experiencing all the joys of my grandchildren growing up. It would truly be my honor to serve the citizens of my home, Callaway County, as your Sheriff, it would be a proud pinnacle to my service as a law enforcement officer.