



**SANDRA HUTCHENS**  
**SHERIFF-CORONER**

## **SHERIFF-CORONER DEPARTMENT COUNTY OF ORANGE, CALIFORNIA**

550 NORTH FLOWER STREET – P.O. BOX 449  
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92702-0449 (714) 647-7042

## **NEWS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Gail Krause, (714) 647-1840

### **Honoring Our Fallen Heroes: The New Orange County Peace Officer's Memorial** *An opportunity for the community to pay tribute to our fallen officers.*

**TUSTIN, California** (September 18, 2012) –Charged with protecting those they serve, police officers put themselves in harm's way to enforce the law. Unfortunately, some officers pay the ultimate price, laying down their own life in valiant service of others.

*"This memorial allows us to keep Matt's memory alive. We do not ever want people to forget him and his sacrifice," states Mary Huffman, Davis' mother. "The current memorial is nice, but I can't touch it. When I touch Matt's name, it makes him real."*

In honor of these fallen heroes, the Sheriff's Advisory Council and the Orange County Chiefs' of Police and Sheriff's Association (OCCPSA) are constructing a new Orange County Peace Officer's Memorial Monument at the Regional Training Facility in Tustin. The existing Memorial Monument is located in Santa Ana but age and ongoing deterioration have taken its toll on the structure.

The new monument will honor the 51 law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty in Orange County. Among the fallen, is Sergeant Matthew R. Davis. Davis began his career with the Orange County Sheriff's Department in 1986. While assigned to patrol, he received numerous citizen commendations from the community and was honored by Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) for his continual efforts to keep drunk drivers off the roads.

Nearly a decade ago, on September 20, 2002, Sergeant Davis was involved in a traffic collision while on duty as a motorcycle officer in Mission Viejo. A driver pulled out in front of Davis at an intersection. Despite heroic medical efforts, he succumbed to his injuries two days later.

"This memorial allows us to keep Matt's memory alive. We do not ever want people to forget him and his sacrifice," states Mary Huffman, Davis' mother who also serves as the Executive Director of Southern California Concerns of Police Survivors. "The current memorial is nice, but I can't touch it. When I touch Matt's name, it makes him real." Huffman also states, "The new benches will allow surviving family members to sit and remember our loved ones."

In addition to being very accessible to visitors, the memorial will include the walls of honor, water features and heroic-size bronze statuary. It will also feature the *Walk of Heroes*, a prominent path approaching the monument that will display a limited number of commemorative brick pavers. Pavers can be purchased for a minimum donation of \$200 and provides community members with an opportunity to show their support for law enforcement officers in Orange County.

The construction of the new memorial is estimated at \$1.4 million. To date, approximately half the funds have been raised through donations from individuals, foundations and corporations. All proceeds from the *Walk of Heroes* brick paver program will help to underwrite the Peace Officer Memorial Monument construction and maintenance fund. This is a limited opportunity and community members are encouraged to reserve their pavers today. For more information, visit [www.ocpeaceofficersmemorial.com](http://www.ocpeaceofficersmemorial.com).

**MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:** Interview with Mary Huffman and tour of the new memorial construction site.

**About the Orange County Sheriff's Advisory Council**

The Orange County Sheriff's Advisory Council (OCSAC) was formed in 1979 as a California non-profit corporation for the purpose of supporting law enforcement. Public safety agencies must compete for scarce tax dollars with other public entities in government. Funding is not always available no matter how necessary and worthy a particular request might be. It is on these occasions that the OCSAC renders vital assistance. There are approximately 560 business and community leaders who are member of the OCSAC. For more information about OCSAC, call (714) 647-4593.

**About Orange County Sheriff's Department**

The Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) is a multi-faceted law enforcement agency with a proud tradition of service to the residents of Orange County since 1889. Under the direction of Sheriff Sandra Hutchens and her executive command staff, approximately 3,600 sworn and professional staff members along with more than 800 reserve personnel provide law enforcement services free from prejudice or favor, with leadership, integrity, and respect to all people. OCSD serves 670,000 Orange County residents in 12 contract cities and the unincorporated County areas through 24-hour police patrols, investigative units, parking control and vehicle abatement services. In addition, OCSD provides the following services to the more than three million residents of the County of Orange: coroner, forensic science, correctional facilities, hazardous device squad, communications, court security, John Wayne Airport security, harbor patrol and many other services. For more information about OCSD, visit [www.OCSD.org](http://www.OCSD.org) and Like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/OCSheriff](https://www.facebook.com/OCSheriff).

# # #