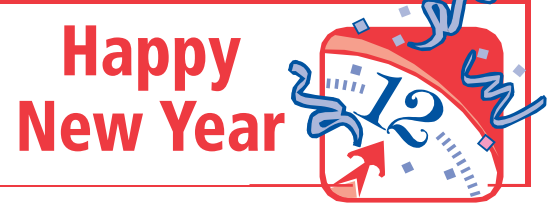


FUGITIVES CAPTURED **1724**
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JUSTICE COALITION'S VICTIMS' ADVOCATE

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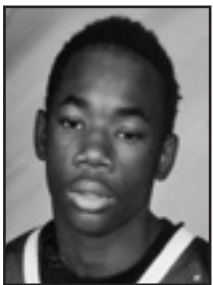


Ted Malcolm Hires, Sr. September 5, 1946 - December 17, 2008

Ted Hires was found deceased by his wife at his home on Dec. 17. He will long be remembered by the Jacksonville community as a strong, effective advocate of victims' rights. He leaves a powerful legacy in the Justice Coalition, which will continue the mission he passionately believed in: together we can, together we will make a difference.

A Wound That Will Never Heal

By Shirley Shaw



Keisha Jackson sat throughout the week-long murder trial of Josef Williams, most of the time gently rocking her body to and fro, her gaze focused on the back of the chair in front of her. She occasionally glanced up at the young man who more than two years before had shot her beloved son in the back, cruelly taking his

life. Most of the time she remained composed, but when she opted to view crime scene photos of Radarius displayed for the jury, grief overcame her and she ran from the courtroom, weeping uncontrollably. Her happy, funny 13-year-old child was gone forever, and even his killer being convicted for the crime could not ease the pain of his loss.

Since April 16, 2006, Keisha has replayed the events of that fateful day over and over in her mind. Trouble had been brewing for some time between Williams and her older son, Anthony, but the situation had eased somewhat and she thought the problem had been resolved. When her sons asked if they could attend a teen party that Saturday night, she first said no, then reconsidered and drove them and three of their friends there. They said they would get a ride home with a cousin, so she gave Radarius money for the two brothers and left after instructing him to call her if they needed a ride home.

While Keisha was enjoying an evening out with friends, someone came and told her she needed to get home, that her son had been shot near their house. She fainted at the news, was revived, and sped to the scene, thinking all the time that Anthony was the victim. Police stopped her when she tried to go through the crime tape, but she cried, "My son has been shot, which one? Where is he?"

Then she looked at the group of teens being questioned by police, and there was Anthony. "Oh, my God, Radarius has been shot," she cried, and asked again where he was. Police instructed her to go to Shands Trauma Unit, so she stopped by to pick up the boys' grandfather and proceeded to the hospital. He told Keisha he had prayed and asked God if Pear (his pet

WOUND... Continued on page 4

Police-involved shootings

Individuals make conscious decisions for actions; "It's all about choices"

By Shirley Shaw

Twenty-eight times last year Jacksonville news media reported that a criminal was shot by police officers. Beginning in January, an 18-year old shoplifting suspect emptied his gun on Officer Jared Reston, who then killed his attacker although he was critically wounded and lying on the ground. Other such incidents continued throughout the year to December when Assistant Police Chief Carson Tranquille shot in the leg one of three masked, armed teenage burglars who said they "drove to a nice neighborhood to commit the robbery."

Public reaction to these "police-involved shootings" is divided, with the overwhelming majority of citizens expressing their support for police and outrage at the increasingly brazen criminals who terrorize our community. The elderly and handicapped are easy prey; they are accosted at ATM machines, at gas pumps, even shopping in supermarkets and malls. Men and women alike are victims of armed thugs, many still in their teens, who demand wallets, money and cars.

Looking over the list of criminals shot by police, we see a variety of scenarios:

- man shot after hitting an off-duty JSO officer in the head with a board,

- man shot and killed after firing at undercover officers investigating auto burglaries and drug dealing,

- teen shot and killed after armed robbery of convenience store,

- 22-year old shot after pointing gun at officer investigating drug dealing,

- young woman shot and killed after shooting an officer following a vehicle chase,

- man shot and killed after ramming stolen police cruiser into other police cars then stabbing an officer with a knife,

- carjacker shot when he ran from stolen car,

- murderer shot when confronted by police, and so on.

We're all fed up with the crime in our city. We're sick and tired of being waylaid in every section of town - in every walk of life - by thugs who are too sorry to earn their own living and demand we give them what we have worked for. And we totally disagree with those who believe police officers should be chastised, and even punished, for protecting honest, law-abiding citizens, and themselves.

Individual choices

Ted Hires, founder of the Justice Coalition in 1995, said in an interview just before he died, "It's all about individuals making conscious choices to be criminals



and robbers and killers. It's not because someone was raised poor, or without a father, or didn't get an education - it's because each individual chose to live a certain lifestyle, to kill and destroy.

"And by the same token, police officers make their individual choices - to uphold the law, make the community safe, put their lives on the line to protect us. When confronted by criminals with guns in their hands shooting at them, police officers have to make a conscious choice to defend themselves and those they swore to protect.

"Remember - it's all about choices!"

A concerned citizen recently called our office, disturbed by the "uneven reporting on [the subject of police-involved shootings]. I don't think people understand the danger officers face every single day they go out." Her child is a JSO

SHOOTINGS... Continued on page 14

New Year's Resolutions for Preventing Crime



From the Sheriff's Desk

Sheriff John Rutherford

Happy New Year! Please join us in our fight to prevent crime before it happens by following some of these tips and becoming involved with your Jacksonville Sheriff's Office:

- **Form a Neighborhood Watch group.** Citizens tell us that they want to help prevent crime, and there is no better place to start than close to home. These watch groups work to keep people connected; they are committed to reporting suspicious activity to the police.

Simple things, like picking up neighbors' newspapers when they are out of town, can eliminate a "sign" for thieves that the home is empty. Watch meetings include tips like these from JSO officers, and more. Call 630-2160 or visit our website at www.coj.net/jso and click on Community Affairs. JSO also offers a River Watch program for citizens with homes and businesses on the river, and the Business Watch program also helps businesses in commercial areas.

- **Join a Sheriff's Advisory Council.** ShAdCo members are committed to building relationships with the officers who work in their neighborhoods, and those officers are committed to keeping members informed about what is going on.

Monthly meetings include discussions about crime patterns or trends, as well as information about enforcement activity by JSO. Neighborhood walks and monthly meetings help keep members informed about the issues in their sector of the city and the zone. Again, call JSO's Community Affairs at 630-2160 for more information. Applications are also available online at www.coj.net/jso - Community Affairs.

- **Apply to join the Citizen Police Academy.** This program, offered twice each year at no charge, is a 12-week class. Classes are held one evening a week in locations that can range from the Police Memorial Building to the Montgomery

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