

PRESS RELEASE. 1/24/2011

Chief Craig Knouse has made the decision to join his wife Linda in retirement. Chief Knouse says, "Serving the public for 40 years in law enforcement has brought many tremendous & rewarding experiences. It has been my privilege to serve the people of Liberty for the past nine years as Chief of Police."

During that time, Chief Knouse has lead several positive initiatives within the Liberty Police Department. New, modern policies on police procedures were developed and instituted in order to make the Liberty Police Department more professional and accountable to the citizens of Liberty. Chief Knouse advocated and instituted many changes in the technology the Police Department uses to provide the best services possible. Examples are in-car computer reporting and updates, cutting edge technology for in-car cameras, and the deployment of Tasers to reduce injuries to suspects and officers alike in violent arrest situations to name a few of the improvements made.

Chief Knouse stated there were difficult times as well. "The St. James School Shooting, the devastation of the Liberty Tornado and of course, the tragic School Bus accident were the most difficult events during my tenure. In each and every instance, we responded in a professional manner."

"I believe the most difficult issue faced during my time as Chief of Police was finding ways to provide the highest level of public safety services to our citizens during one of the worst economic conditions in recent memory. Programs started in the past two years such as the Report Unit's 'Call-In Reporting' initiative and the 'Volunteers In Policing' has saved the City of Liberty thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours in officers' time, allowing the patrol officers to remain on duty instead of responding to minor reports. The Liberty Landlord Project has resulted in a very successful city/landlord initiative in helping each entity in dealing with tenants who cause problems within their neighborhoods," the Chief comments.

Despite the challenges, the Liberty Police Department was rated by the Kansas City Star as one of the best departments in the Metro Area and public safety was also mentioned as one of the reasons Liberty was rated by Money Magazine as one of the top cities in the country in which to live. "I am proud of the part I was able to play in achieving these changes."

Chief Knouse stated, "I have been told by many good men and women who have held this position, you will know when the time has come. The time has come for me to step down and make way for new leadership. I look forward to the next phase of my life and having more time with my grandchildren, friends, family and church."

Chief Knouse's retirement will be effective March 21, 2011.