



## Sheriff William "Bill" Farmer Jr

June 17, 1947 - September 15, 2025

Sheriff William "Bill" Farmer, Jr., 78, of Webster, passed away on September 15, 2025. Bill was born in Leesburg, Florida on June 17, 1947 to William "Oak" Farmer, Sr., and Ruby Farmer. He was a lifelong member of The Bridge at Linden Church of God. Bill was elected Sheriff of Sumter County in 1996 and served seven consecutive terms (28 years), the longest tenure in county history. He devoted 56 years to law enforcement, and beginning his career with the FBI in Washington DC in 1965, before joining the U.S. Army and Army Reserves. He later worked with the Florida Division of Corrections and several local police departments before joining the Sumter County Sheriff's Office in 1971. He is a graduate of St. Leo University, FBI National Academy (195th Session), Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute, National Sheriff's Institute Executive Development Program, and the Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute. Bill served on and contributed to many organizations, including: Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, The Children's Advocacy Board, Florida Risk Management Fund, chairman of the Florida Model Jail Standards Committee, Sumter Gideon Camp, Central Florida Crime Line, Florida and International Homicide Investigators Association, Florida Division of International Association for Identification, Sumter County Chamber of Commerce, The Lake-Sumter Community College, Central Florida Community College Criminal Justice Program, Emergency Planning Committee, Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council, Regional VI Criminal Justice Standards, Camp Harmony, Sumter County Citizen Academy, Habitat for

Humanity, The Salvation Army, The Linden Cemetery Association Board, former President of the Sumter County Fair Board, The American Correctional Association, Florida and Sumter Cattlemen's Associations, Sumter County Farmers Market, and The Community Relations Board for the Federal Bureau of Prisons. He was the only Sheriff to serve two terms as the President of the Florida Sheriffs Association where he also served as Chaplain. He was a proud supporter of youth programs, raising substantial funds, launching a children's bicycle initiative, supporting local 4-H, serving as a lifetime alumnus of the FFA, and contributing to The Lion's Club, VFW Post 101, and the Sumter County Youth Charity for over 20 years. Bill loved fishing, hunting, football and was a devoted UF Gators, and Tampa Bay Buccaneers fan. He loved being involved in church functions, serving on the Pastor's Council for over 50 years. He also enjoyed watching local and national news, vacationing in the mountains, caring for his pets and farm animals. Above all, he loved spending time with his family. In recognition of his lasting impact, the Public Safety Building in The Villages, Florida, was named in his honor. Bill had a very big heart, and those who knew him remember him for his strength, humility, and kindness. He leaves behind a legacy of visionary leadership, service, and integrity. He will be deeply missed by countless individuals. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Linda Farmer; sons: William Farmer III (Sandra) of Douglas, Georgia, Stephen Jay Farmer (Anna) of Ft. White, Florida; daughter: Kristen Ashley Boone (Andrew) of Newman, Georgia; grandchildren: Isabella and Ian Farmer, Elisha and Raina Farmer, Brexton, Savannah, and Levi (Michaela) Boone and Adrian (Joel) Demoran; great-grandchildren: Baylor & two more on the way; sister: Phyllis McDaniel (Jerry) of Webster, Florida. Bill is preceded in death by his parents, William "Oak" and Ruby Farmer, sister, Yvonne Marsh, and brother, James D. Farmer. In Lieu of flowers, the family ask donations be made to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches in his name by calling (800) 765-3797 or going online <https://www.youthranches.org/give-online/>. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.beyersfuneralhome.com](http://www.beyersfuneralhome.com). Arrangements have been entrusted to Beyers Funeral

Home- Purcell Chapel, Bushnell, Florida.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **20**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Sumter County Fairgrounds  
7620 State Rte 471  
Bushnell, FL 33513

## Service

SEP **20**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Sumter County Fairgrounds  
7620 State Rte 471  
Bushnell, FL 33513

# Tribute Wall

FB

“ Bill was one of the finest men I know. We were extremely sorry to hear of his passing, but thankful that we know he is with his Savior now. As a token of our love we made a donation to the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches in his memory. Bill was a great man. We will miss him.

*Fred and Shirley Brown*

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**Frederick Brown** - September 26, 2025 at 03:46 PM

OO

“ Please accept our deepest sympathy in the loss of Sheriff Farmer. There is little we can say to comfort you and your family during this time of bereavement, but take comfort in knowing that his contributions to this state will be long remembered. "Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted." May God's blessings and peace be with you. You, and your family, are in our thoughts and prayers. Sincerely Sheriff Eric Aden and the Men and Women of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office

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**Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office** - September 22, 2025 at 11:15 AM

JO

“ Jody purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Sheriff William "Bill" Farmer Jr.



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**Jody** - September 18, 2025 at 04:54 PM

MP

“ Sheriff Farmer was a man of great integrity with a true love of his community. No matter how busy he was, he found time to MC the SCARC Annual Banquet and volunteer for Special Olympics. Linda and family, my heart goes out to you. The likes of Sheriff Farmer may never again be seen in this county.

Marsha W. Perkins - September 18, 2025 at 11:03 AM

DF

“ Our family has always been proud of Bill and our thoughts and prayers are with Linda and the family. But we shall see Bill again. Duane and Betty Franklin

Duane Franklin - September 18, 2025 at 09:53 AM

JS

“ I always considered Bill a friend and was honored to have been asked to serve on his citizen advisory board during his first term in office. When he first ran for Sheriff, I was also running for a county office, and I can recall the day he and I stood outside the Lake Panasoffkee Post Office passing out flyers. He said, "do you think we are doing any good here"? I said, "we won't know until the polls close", and the rest is now a part of history. Not one time did my calls to him go unanswered and not one funeral did he not attend of those he grew up with. Peace and love to his family, RIP Sheriff Farmer!

James Guy Simmons - September 17, 2025 at 02:55 PM

BB

Praying for the family of Sheriff Bill Farmer that God comforts you through your loss and grieving of a beloved family member. 🙏🙏🙏🙏

Barbara B. - September 29, 2025 at 12:27 PM