



In loving
MEMORY

MIKE FOREMAN
1954-2026



Remembering

MIKE FOREMAN:

Reflections on a Friend and Foundational NTOA Leader

BY PHIL HANSEN

On Jan. 16, 2026, NTOA directors and staff were shocked and deeply saddened at the sudden passing of our dear friend, mentor and emeritus director, Mike Foreman. Few men in the history of tactical law enforcement have matched the levels of dedication, contribution and compassion for others that were the hallmarks of Mike's life and career. He was a vibrant 71-year-old at the time of his passing, which brought an end to over 50 years of devotion to our profession that began in 1974, when he joined the Miami Police Department at age 19.

A history of service and excellence

Mike's individual achievements as a sworn member of law enforcement are extensive and well-documented. After joining the Miami P.D., he was quickly recognized for his intelligence, drive and strength of character. In short order, he earned positions as a K9 officer, SWAT team member and, eventually, an assistant team leader for Miami P.D., before transferring to the Orange County (FL) Sheriff's Office (OCSO). There, he continued to excel, working several high-profile assignments, founding the department's K9 unit, and serving for over 15 years as a member of OCSO SWAT as an operator, team leader and, finally, the team commander.

While assigned to OCSO SWAT, Mike became a charter member of the Florida SWAT Association, eventually serving as the association's president, and beginning his unwavering 40-year commitment to the SWAT Round-up International. It was also during this period that Mike first became involved with the NTOA. An obvious leader and strong representative for his region, he soon was elected to

the NTOA board of directors. He served for many years as an elected board member and then as a highly engaged director emeritus. Mike retired from the OCSO in 2004 at the executive level of chief deputy, culminating 30 years of sworn service.

The object of this short memorial message, however, is not to chronicle Mike's resume and individual achievements in law enforcement, but to convey a glimpse of the warm and generous man he was to the rest of us. Mike was our friend, a leader amongst leaders, and a remarkable contributor to our collective safety and success.

Leader, mentor and contributor

I got to know Mike when he was first elected to the NTOA board in 1996. It was immediately apparent to the rest of us that, along with his extensive tactical background, Mike had an eye for detail and a flair for administration. In those early years, we (the board) were, for the most part, a bunch of well-meaning, like-minded SWAT guys, grappling with the intricacies of profit and loss statements, balance sheets and budgeting considerations for a rapidly grow-

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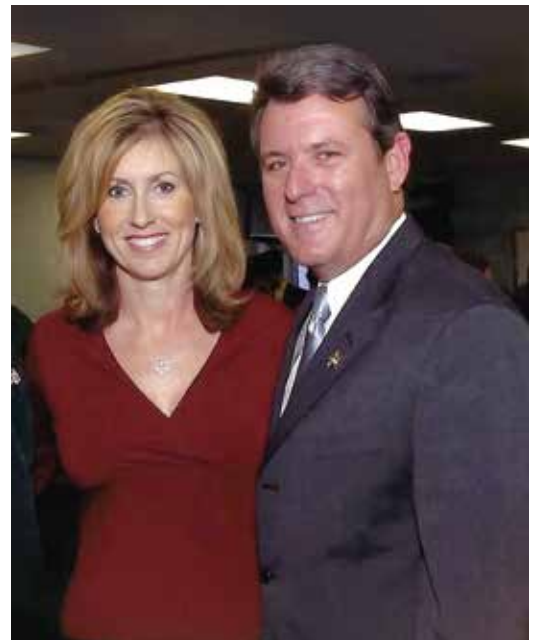
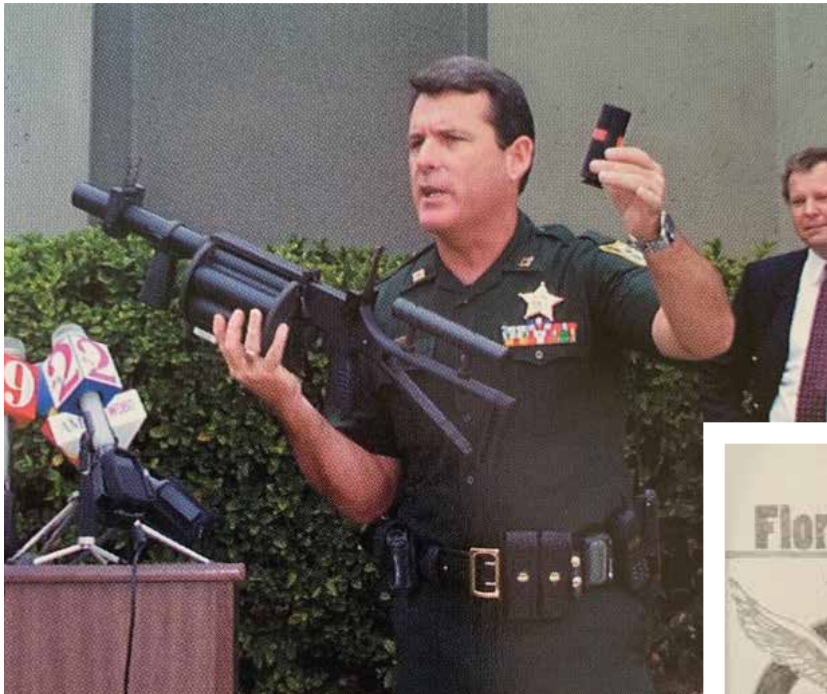
ing nonprofit organization. At times, we faced personnel upheavals and flirtations with financial ruin, but throughout it all, we maintained a steadfast belief that what we were doing was critical to our profession, and the NTOA's success would advance the overarching mission of SWAT: to save lives. Unlike most of us who were still at an operational level in our law enforcement careers, Mike had achieved executive status and was well-versed in administrative, personnel and budgeting issues. From the time he joined the board to his untimely passing, Mike was a stabilizing influence on us and a backstop for the best interests of our membership.

When Mike retired from OCSO in 2004, he joined Point Blank Body Armor. Mike's financial insights and business acumen continued to sharpen as he rose in the executive ranks of Point Blank to become a vice president of marketing. He never failed to ask pertinent, probing questions of fellow NTOA board members and executive staff during our meetings. He was committed to protecting the NTOA's integrity, securing our association's financial position and advancing the best interests of our membership. Mike also

worked tirelessly to facilitate Point Blank's collaboration with the NTOA through advertising, sponsorships and a myriad of support roles.

Here's the key point: Mike didn't view his success at Point Blank as an individual accomplishment and means of personal enrichment. Profit was important, but it was a secondary motive. He truly saw each step forward in his business career as an opportunity to collaborate with others and enhance the safety of individual officers in the field. Through his work with Point Blank, his unwavering support of the NTOA, and countless acts of kindness and generosity to agencies, associations and individual officers, Mike Foreman set the standard for integrating private-sector resources with sworn law enforcement in pursuit of our collective safety and mission success.

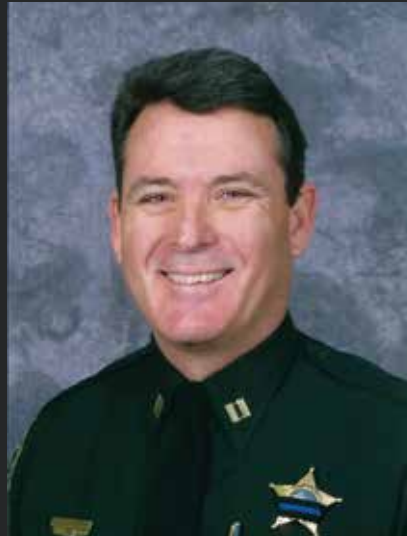
Mike and Kathy Foreman



Portrait by Dick Kramer

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Fortunately, our discipline has been blessed with passionate, supportive collaborators in private industry such as Len Light, Jon Becker and others, who like Mike Foreman give freely of themselves and their fortunes to support our safety and well-being.

A little boy's story and a closing memory

The year 2015 will always remind me of Mike. Our annual NTOA conference and trade show was held in Salt Lake City, and we had been made aware of a little boy with a terminal disease whose greatest wish had always been to be a police officer and spend time with a SWAT team.

Timothy “Danger” Miles was just 8 years old and had already undergone 28 surgeries in his short life. Timothy was invited to our opening ceremony, where, in front of hundreds of law enforcement personnel, he was designated as our newest NTOA member.

Mike presented Timothy with his own, custom-made Point Blank entry vest, which Mike had commissioned in preparation for the event. The glow on Timothy's face was priceless, and I doubt that there was a dry eye in the entire auditorium. I often recount this story during leadership presentations to demonstrate the power of acknowledging our shared values, such as God, country and our mission to protect others. That day, nearly a thousand individuals entered the conference hall, but after participating in our invocation, our Pledge of Allegiance, and our recognition of young Timothy, we left as brothers and sisters in arms, eager to begin our work. A few months later, little Timothy lost his battle in this life, but he took a cherished memory with him.

I have never seen Mike Foreman happier than on that day he spent with Timothy wearing his new vest and greeting officers in the vendor hall. Mike's face was radiant, a visual display of his core and character shining through. Mike Foreman was, above all, a compassionate and caring man.



“Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for such is the kingdom of God.” – Mark 10:14 KJV

In recognition of his lifelong commitment and innumerable contributions to our discipline, Mike was inducted into the NTOA Hall of Honor at last year's NTOA Law Enforcement Operations Conference in Washington, D.C. It was a blessing that Mike's dear wife, Kathy, and their beautiful family joined him in celebrating his induction.

We all hold our own hopes and beliefs as to what will become of us when this life has passed. I believe that we'll be reunited with Mike someday in the presence of our Creator. But in the meantime, I'd like to think that there's a place where heroes of all ages gather, and where Mike Foreman and young Timothy “Danger” Miles are reminiscing about that special day in Salt Lake City while patiently awaiting the rest of us to join them. Goodspeed, my friend.

Phil Hansen is Director Emeritus of the NTOA. For more on Mike Foreman's exemplary career and contributions, please visit the Hall of Honor page on NTOA's website.

