

# The African-American Legacy of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office

1794-2014

Franklin County, Kentucky



MICROSOFT

February 28, 2014

Authored by: Shaka-Tauhid Bridges

Sponsored by: Sheriff Pat Melton

# *The African-American Legacy of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office*

## *Preface*

Franklin County is located in the central bluegrass region of Kentucky, was named in honor of Benjamin Franklin. It serves as county seat and the State Capital. Franklin County was formed in 1795 from part of Woodford, Shelby, and Mercer Counties. In 1799 a portion of Franklin County was removed to form Gallatin County and in 1819 a portion was again taken to form Owen County. In 1827, the third and last time, a portion of Franklin County was taken to form Anderson.

Kentucky State University, A historically black college located in Franklin County was founded in 1886 to train African American teachers, and opened in 1887 as the State Normal School for Colored Persons. In 1890, the U.S. Government made the school a land grant institution. In 1938, the school became known as the Kentucky State College for Negroes (the "for Negroes" was dropped in 1952). The college became a full-fledged university in 1972, shortly after which the African-American citizens of Franklin County began serving its constitutionally elected office of sheriff.

KSU has always had a rather unique but integral partnership with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. Nearly all of the African-American deputies both past and present have worked, attended, and or graduated from the university. There are currently four deputies serving on the Sheriff's Office that were officers previously with the university's police department.

Present day sheriff, Pat Melton has continued to nurture that integral partnership with the historically black university by instituting a college internship program that allows the students to earn college credit for their participation with the Sheriff's Office.

This is dedicated to those men and women who have proudly worn the "tin star" of the Franklin County Sheriff's office.



## Paul V. Graham

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***Rank: Special Deputy (Volunteer)***

***Service Dates: Circa 1978***

***Sheriff(s): Ted Collins***

### ***Profile***

Paul Vernon Graham, a Frankfort native, was a WW II and Korean Navy veteran, a 46 year employee of Stagg Distillery now Buffalo Trace and a retired Ky. Department of Transportation employee. Paul was a dedicated member of the Grad club, VFW Post 9235, American Legion Post 176 and a life member of First Baptist Church. Mr. Graham was made a special deputy by Ted Collins in the late seventies. Mr. Graham passed away in February of 2011.



## Jefferson Walker

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***Rank: Deputy / Special Deputy (Volunteer)***

***Service Dates: Circa 1982***

***Sheriff(s): Sam Harrod***

### ***Profile***

Jefferson Walker held a master's degree and was named the youngest Security Chief of Tuskegee University a post which he held for five years before being named as Kentucky State University's Police Chief at 33. Mr. Walker was instrumental in getting KSU officers to attend the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training. It is unclear whether or not Mr. Walker served as a deputy or a special deputy.



## Shaka-Tauhid Bridges

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**Rank:** *Sergeant*

**Service Dates:** *July 1997 to Present*

**Sheriff(s):** *Ted Collin /Steve Clark/Pat Melton*

### **Profile**

Shaka is the first African-American to serve as a full time deputy, hired by Ted Collins in 1997. He has both an Associate's and a Bachelor's in Liberal Studies from Kentucky State University. He is also a veteran of the Kentucky Air National Guard. Shaka holds certifications from the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council as an advanced officer, deputy and supervisor. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2008 by Steve Clark.

Shaka is also the first African-American deputy sheriff in Kentucky to attend Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training's elite Criminal Justice Executive Development program.



## John L. Grevious Jr.

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**Rank:** *Deputy*

**Service Dates:** *March 2004 to March 2005*

**Sheriff(s):** *Ted Collins*

### **Profile**

John studied Criminal Justice at Kentucky State University and Jefferson Community and Technical College. He was second full time African-American deputy hired by Ted Collins. John now serves as a lieutenant for the Kentucky Department of Corrections.



## Rachel Raquel Blunt

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**Rank:** *Court Security Officer*

**Service Dates:** *Jan 2014 to Present*

**Sheriff(s):** *Pat Melton*

### **Profile**

Rachel, a Chicago native has a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Kentucky State University. Hired by Pat Melton, she is the first African-American female in the county's history to work for the Sheriff's Office.



## Allison Oliver

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**Rank:** *Intern*

**Service Dates:** *2014*

**Sheriff(s):** *Pat Melton*

### **Profile**

A KSU graduating senior from Dayton, Ohio, majoring in social work.



## Bijon Franklin

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**Rank:** *Intern*

**Service Dates:** *2013*

**Sheriff(s):** *Pat Melton*

### **Profile**

A California native who graduated from KSU in 2013 with a degree in criminal justice.



## Tyler Crosby

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**Rank:** *Intern*

**Service Dates:** *2013*

**Sheriff(s):** *Pat Melton*

### **Profile**

A Cincinnati native who graduated from KSU in 2013 with a degree in criminal justice.

*The African-American Legacy of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office*



*Ted Collins*  
*Served as Sheriff from 1978-82 & 1985-2007*



*Pat Melton*  
*Elected Sheriff in 2010*

To Sheriffs: Ted Collins and Pat Melton, those who dared to break barriers we say

***"Thank You"***

***"If we forget, who will remember?"***

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