



NEWS RELEASE

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OC Sheriff Public Affairs, 714-904-7042

Tragic Loss of an Orange County Deputy Sheriff

SANTA ANA, Ca. (February 9, 2023): Today, Thursday, February 9, 2023, at about 6:30 a.m., the Orange County Sheriff's Department was notified by the Riverside County Sheriff's Department of a tragic traffic collision in the city of Lake Elsinore involving one of our own deputies. Our deputy sustained traumatic injuries due to the single vehicle collision and was later pronounced deceased at the scene.

Please refer to the following statements from the Orange County Sheriff Don Barnes, and San Juan Capistrano Mayor Howard Hart for further information:

Statement from Sheriff Barnes:

"Our hearts break with the news of the death of our fallen brother, Deputy Brian Haney. On behalf of the entire family at the Orange County Sheriff's Department, our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends in recognition and honor of Brian.

"Brian was hired by the Orange County Sheriff's Department on August 19, 2016. He served courageously with us for six years. Brian performed his duties at the Theo Lacy Facility and San Juan Capistrano Police Services, where he was a member of the Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT). His brothers and sisters in our department described him as a quick learner, hard worker, and team player. He was known for his infectious smile, humorous and timely wit, and love for his peers.

"Most importantly, Brian was a beloved husband to his wife, Leslee, and new father to their one-month-old son, Cole.

"Brian earned a bachelor's and master's degree in Criminal Justice. Brian also was a member of the Air Force Reserve as a Senior Airman.

"Our focus will be on Brian's loved ones who lost a husband, a father, a brother, and a son this morning. We are also focused on our department family who are recovering from our loss of a partner."

Statement from Mayor Howard Hart:

"On behalf of both my family and the Council, I'm both shocked and deeply saddened to learn of the loss of one of our finest, Deputy Brian Haney, this morning. I am especially devastated to learn that he leaves behind a loving wife and a newborn baby to whom he was returning home when this terrible accident occurred. I know my San Juan Capistrano neighbors will join me in prayers of comfort and support for Deputy Haney's family and loved ones."