

**Since the formation of the Delaware County Sheriff's Office in 1808, there is only 1 deputy known to be killed in the line of duty ... 39-year-old *Rea Christian Horlocker*. Born in 1885. End of Watch in 1924.**

**Nearly one century later, two Delaware County Sheriff's Office staff – a curious deputy and a creative dispatcher – stumbled upon this story and the glaring fact that Deputy Horlocker never received the proper state or national commendation by having his name memorialized at the Ohio Peace Officers Memorial Wall (in London, OH) or on the Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, D.C.**

**These 2 long-time staffers at the Sheriff's Office – Deputy Mox and Dispatcher Buco – began a journey back in time.**

**They spent hours upon hours of their spare time, and over many months they:**

- **researched records from the Delaware County Historical Society;**
- **poured through hundreds of court documents;**
- **perused dozens of news files;**
- **and anything else they could get their hands on to pull together information to submit Horlocker's name and story for consideration on these sacred Memorial Walls in Ohio and in our Nation's capital.**

**Buco and Mox felt a deep desire for this Office to do its part in paying the utmost respect and honor to Horlocker's name. And in the course of their journey into Deputy Horlocker's story, not only did they succeed in getting his name added to these Memorial Walls, but along the way they made new friends – some of the descendants of the Horlocker family.**

**So there's a lot of truth when we say law enforcement is one big family.**

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### ***The fatal line-of-duty accident ...***

**On the evening of July 2, 1924, a Dodge Roadster had been spotted speeding south along Route 23 towards Columbus. Deputy Horlocker gave pursuit on a motorcycle, trading shots with the men in the car. As Horlocker pulled up alongside them, the suspect swerved into the motorcycle, which forced him into a fence. Horlocker was thrown nearly 30 feet. Sheriff Fred Harter found Horlocker lying unconscious. He succumbed to his injuries on July 3.**

**Citizens of Delaware in 1924 were quoted as remembering Horlocker for the kindness and fairness he used when dealing with lawbreakers.**

**Horlocker had served as a deputy for less than one year.**

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