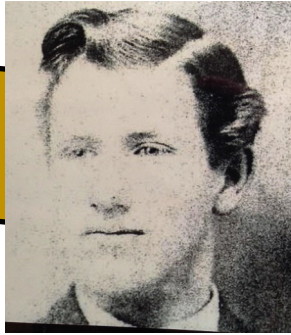


## ~ Line of Duty Death—Never Forgotten ~

Since the formation of the Delaware County Sheriff's Office in 1808, there has only been one deputy known to be killed in the line of duty.

39-year-old  
Rea Christian Horlocker



Born in 1885  
End of Watch 1924

*On 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 Horlocker into a ditch. He was thrown nearly 30 feet. Sheriff Fred Harter found Horlocker lying unconscious.*

*On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Horlocker succumbed to his injuries.*

*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.*

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, Ohio or on the Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, D.C.

These two 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; plus 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.

There is a lot of truth when we say law enforcement is one big family!