NSA President 2021-2022

Sheriff Vernon Stanforth

Fayette County (OH) Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Vernon Stanforth was sworn in as the 80th President of the National Sheriffs' Association on May 8, 2021.

The election of 1996 brought Vernon Stanforth into the Fayette County Sheriff's Office after a 15-year career with the Washington Court House, Ohio, Police Department. Sheriff Stanforth has been reelected seven times and began his 25th year as Sheriff in 2021. During his tenure with the city police, he served as a jailor, dispatcher, patrol officer, and jail administrator. As an active member of the Ohio Crime Prevention Association, Vernon was involved with the development and introduction of the DARE program into Ohio, ultimately teaching DARE within his own community for many years prior to being elected Sheriff. As one of the advisors to the Scouts of America Law Enforcement Explorer program, he guided many high school age students as they began their quest towards a career in law enforcement. One of his former Explorers eventually followed his career path all the way to serving as Sheriff Stanforth's chief deputy.

Sheriff Stanforth graduated from the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy, the FBI National Academy (Session 205), the National Sheriffs' Institute, the National Correctional Institute, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and the command training held at Auburn University, Ft. McClellan, Alabama. Sheriff Stanforth also completed course work at Morehead State University, the University of Louisville, and the University of Virginia.

Currently, he serves on the Ohio Peace Officers Training Commission as chair, the Ohio Jail Advisory Board as vice chair, and the Ohio Crime Victims Compensation Board. Previously, the Sheriff has served as a member of the Ohio Supreme Court's Court Futures Commission, the Ohio Homeland Security Advisory Council as chair for six years, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 5 Advisory Council. Locally, Sheriff Stanforth served as President of the Washington Court House Jaycees and the Washington Court House Kiwanis, as well as the chair of the county life squad board. He is also a member in the Farm Bureau, the Ohio Townships Association, the Ohio Chiefs of Police Association, and the Ohio Crime Prevention Association.

Sheriff Stanforth received the following awards:

* Ohio Attorney General's Lifetime Distinguished Service Award
* Life member award of the Ohio Crime Prevention Association
* Distinguished service award from the Ohio Concern of Police Survivors
* Gold Star Award by the Ohio Department of Corrections and Adult Parole Authority
* Exemplary Service to Victims of Crime Award
* AAA Community Traffic Safety Award
* National Child Safety Council Award

Sheriff Stanforth has served on NSA's Board of Directors since 2007 and is a Past President of the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association.

Vernon and Joy, his wife of 43 years, have three children and one grandchild.