

**OUR CITY WILL SOON INSTALL A PERMANENT BLUE BENCH TO ACCOMPANY OUR WALL OF BLUE ALONG WILBERT GRUBB LANE BESIDE OUR PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX BEARING THE INSCRIPTION & LEGEND:**

**“THE WEBB GRUBB BENCH ON WILBERT GRUBB LANE DEDICATED IN HONOR & MEMORY OF WILBERT H. “WEBB” GRUBB & FURTHER IN LASTING TRIBUTE TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE EXCELLENCE OF OUR BUCKHANNON-UPSHUR LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY”**



**THANK YOU ALL FOR ATTENDING TODAY’S CEREMONY, & PLEASE ENJOY ALL OF OUR 78TH STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL EVENTS! SEE YOU ALL NEXT YEAR AS WE CONTINUE OUR TRADITION!**

## **CITY OF BUCKHANNON’S THIRD ANNUAL, WEBB GRUBB POLICE OFFICER RECOGNITION DAY**



**IN MEMORY OF  
CHIEF FRED M. GAUDET**

**BUCKHANNON REMEMBERS POLICE OFFICER  
WILBERT H. “WEBB” GRUBB & HONORS OUR LATE  
POLICE CHIEF, FREDERIC MATTHEW “FRED”  
GAUDET & DEDICATES OUR NEW WALL OF BLUE**

**3:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2019  
BUCKHANNON’S PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX  
AT ONE FRIENDLY WAY**

## CHIEF FREDERIC MATTHEW "FRED" GAUDET BIOGRAPHY

\*BORN IN BUCKHANNON, WV 4/17/1949, SON OF MABEL & STANLEY GAUDET; SIBLINGS MARY, LARRY, JIM, & JAKE (dec); FATHER OF BRIAN (WIFE, CHRISTY) & ERICA GAUDET OLIVER (HUSBAND, JONATHAN), GRANDKIDS DILLON, McKINLEY, & AUDREY; WIFE DEBORAH, + STEPCHILDREN, JOHN NILAND, JACQUELINE NILAND (dec), & NATALIE LINT; STEPGRANDCHILDREN LIAM, GRACIE, & LUCY

\*BUHS ALUM, CLASS OF 1968, MEMBER OF 1966 B-U STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL TEAM & ATTENDED MARSHALL UNIVERSITY ON FOOTBALL SCHOLARSHIP

\*GRADUATED FROM RICHMOND BUREAU OF THE POLICE ACADEMY & BEGAN LONG CAREER AS POLICE OFFICER IN RICHMOND, VA., RISING TO RANK OF HOMICIDE DETECTIVE

\*RETURNED HOME TO UPSHUR COUNTY SERVING AS SHERIFF, MAGISTRATE, & COUNTY COMMISSIONER

\*GRADUATED WVWC, DEGREE IN CRIM. JUSTICE & GOVT.

\*PRESIDENT OF WV SHERIFFS' ASSN. IN 1987; RECIPIENT OF MANY AWARDS INCLUDING EXCELLENT POLICE DUTY MEDAL; COMMITMENT TO DUTY AWARD; B-U CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UPSHUR COUNTY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR; & CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP AWARD BY WV PROSECUTORS' ASSN.

\*APPOINTED BUCKHANNON POLICE CHIEF, INTRODUCING POLICY MANUAL & MANY PROFESSIONALLY ORIENTED TRAININGS FOR ENTIRE BPD

\*DIED NOV. 2, 1999 SERVING AS BELOVED CHIEF OF BPD

NOTE: IN ADDITION TO ALL HONOREES' PLACARDS BEING MOUNTED ON OUR NEW "WALL OF BLUE," ALL HONOREES' NAMES WILL BE ADDED TO A NEW PLAQUE TO BE DISPLAYED IN THE LOBBY AT CITY HALL BEARING THE NAMES OF ALL PAST & FUTURE WEBB GRUBB POLICE OFFICER DAY HONOREES!

**FLAGS' RAISING + INVOCATION - Lieutenant Mark Davis, Upshur County Sheriff's Department**

**GREETINGS & INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS – Mayor McCauley & BPD Chief Gregory**

**REMARKS – Police Chief Matt Gregory**

**READING OF WEBB GRUBB BIO – Mayor McCauley**

**INTRODUCTION OF WEBB GRUBB FAMILY MEMBERS – Chief Gregory**

**INTRO OF CHIEF FRED GAUDET'S FAMILY – Brian Gaudet, Fred's son & Upshur County Circuit Clerk**

**PRESENTATION OF CITY PROCLAMATION TO CHIEF GAUDET'S FAMILY – Mayor McCauley**

**REMARKS – Family members of Chief Fred Gaudet**

**CEREMONY – UPS. CO. COMBINED HONOR GUARD**

**UNVEILING OF BPD WALL OF BLUE – Families of Webb Grubb & Fred Gaudet**

**CLOSING REMARKS – Chief Matt Gregory**

**BENEDICTION – Lieutenant Mark Davis**

\*Special thanks to our BPD members + Jerry Arnold, Brad Hawkins & City Streets & Parks crew for the fabrication & installation of our Wall of Blue, new flagpole, & landscaping. Also thanks to Tim at The Sign Guy!

**CHIEF GAUDET WILL BE REMEMBERED BY OUR BPD DURING FRIDAY'S STRAWBERRY FIREFIGHTERS' PARADE!**

## **\*\*WILBERT H. “WEBB” GRUBB & THE STORY OF “WILBERT GRUBB LANE” \*\***

Wilbert H. Grubb is the only City of Buckhannon police officer ever killed in the line of duty. Officer Grubb was born in Upshur County on February 19, 1894, the son of Columbus Lee & Malinda Elizabeth Zickefoose Grubb. Officer Grubb was a proud military veteran who served as a private in the U.S. Army during World War I. He further served as Buckhannon’s American Legion Post Commander for 15 years. He further had served as a Buckhannon police officer for two & a half years.

On the evening of April 21, 1940, Officer Grubb was summoned to a home on Camden Avenue in response to a reported attempted rape by a suspect upon his own mother. As Officer Grubb, then aged 46, approached the front door of the suspect’s house- Byzantine Hartman fired a shotgun blast through the door striking Officer Grubb in the left shoulder knocking him to the ground. While Officer Grubb lay wounded, Hartman executed him by placing his shotgun into Officer Grubb’s ear & firing again at point-blank range. These facts were recounted by the murderer’s neighbor, eye witness Ben Thompson, who also was shot & seriously wounded during this attack. The murderer then stole the city police cruiser fleeing the scene. Moments later, Hartman wrecked the cruiser as he turned from the Florida Street Bridge on to Island Avenue, striking a tree & rolling the cruiser down the river bank only three blocks from this very site. The murderer then fled afoot proceeding through downtown shouting for police while making his way to the county jail. Hartman then confronted the jail keeper, Mrs. Grace Miller Grubb, demanding a gun & a knife. Bizarrely, the jail keeper was the wife of Officer Grubb, & she & the murderer apparently then were strangers unto each other. Mrs. Grubb was unaware that the man shouting for weapons had just murdered her beloved husband. Mrs. Grubb hid at the jail. Hartman was apprehended on Franklin Street by West Virginia State Police troopers shortly thereafter.

Hartman who had previously been convicted of attempted rape & jail break, & had served sentences at the State Penitentiary, was promptly charged with & tried for murder. Circuit Court Judge John H. Brown appointed attorney J.D. Jennings to represent Hartman. The prosecuting attorney was A. Jerome Dailey. Following his apprehension & while

awaiting trial, the murderer twice attempted to set fire to the Buckhannon jail. Hartman subsequently was moved to the Lewis County jail in Weston since Mrs. Grubb was the sole Buckhannon jail keeper, & community sentiment weighed heavily against the murderer while awaiting trial. During his incarceration, Hartman reportedly taunted police telling them that if he hadn’t run out of shells he would have killed all of them, too. Dr. I.F. Hartman testified at trial that the second shotgun blast was the one that took the life of Officer Grubb. Justice was swift in 1940, as Hartman was tried on May 6, 1940. Hartman was convicted of first degree murder & during sentencing Judge Brown described the murder as “one of the most brutal in the annals of West Virginia history,” before pronouncing the death sentence. Hartman was hanged at the Moundsville State Penitentiary on June 28, 1940, being the first Upshur County resident ever executed.

In addition to his wife, Grace (1901-86), Officer Grubb was survived by his six year-old son, Charles Ray (1933-72), his parents, four brothers, & three sisters. Officer Grubb’s service was conducted at the Whitescarver Funeral Home before one of the largest funeral congregations in Buckhannon’s history. The Reverend E.L. Arnold, pastor of the Central Methodist Church, was in charge of the services, & Dr. W.H. Barlow, pastor of the Baptist Church also spoke. Members of the Frank B. Bartlett Post No. 7 of the American Legion assisted with the funeral. Officer Grubb’s six pallbearers were all past commanders of the American Legion. Wilbert H. Grubb’s remains were interred at the Lorentz United Methodist Church Cemetery atop the hill to the left of U.S. Route 33 as one drives east toward Buckhannon, where he continues to rest in peace beside his wife & son. Our community will always remember Officer Grubb’s supreme sacrifice, & the Lane around our City’s Public Safety Complex shall forever be dedicated in his honor & to his memory.

Wilbert Grubb Lane serves as our community’s permanent testament & reminder to us all of the perils confronted by our first responders, & the uncertainty they are subjected to during each call to which they respond as they serve & protect us. This “Lane” is established as a lasting tribute to & in appreciation of each of them as well.

**DEDICATED BY THE CITY OF BUCKHANNON DURING OUR  
COMMUNITY’S INAUGURAL POLICE OFFICER RECOGNITION  
DAY CELEBRATION - MAY 17, 2017**