

Chief Mel Gideon President's Award

The Texas Chief Deputies Association traditionally awards a Past President plaque to the outgoing President each year at the annual conference. In December of 2005, at a regular quarterly meeting, the Officers and Directors of the Texas Chief Deputies Association voted unanimously to name the Past President Award after one of the most distinguished Chief Deputy's in the Great State of Texas, Chief Deputy Mel Gideon of Gillespie County.

Chief Deputy Mel Gideon grew up in Houston, Texas, where he attended Jeff Davis High School. After serving a three (3) year enlistment in the U.S. Army, Chief Gideon was accepted and then graduated from Class # 32 of the Houston Police Academy in February 1966. Like most Peace Officers who begin their career, Chief Gideon's first assignment with the Houston Police Department was in the Radio Patrol Division working midnights. While working midnights, Chief Gideon attended Sam Houston State University during the day and in May of 1974, graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. In 1977, Chief Gideon transferred to the Planning & Research Division of the Houston Police Department where he spent three (3) years developing and writing policy and procedures, testing new police equipment and writing equipment grants for the department. Chief Gideon promoted out of Planning & Research to the position of Staff Supervisor in the East Patrol Division and ended his career of twenty three (23) years with the Houston Police Department assigned to the Field Operations Command in 1988. Upon moving to the small ranching community of Doss in Gillespie County, newly elected Sheriff Milton Jung hired Chief Gideon as Chief Deputy in January 1989, where he is still employed today. With no break in his law enforcement career as indicated by Chief Gideon's retirement from the Houston Police Department on December 31st, 1988 and his subsequent hiring by the Gillespie County Sheriff's Office on January 1st, 1989, Chief Deputy Mel Gideon has just completed his 40th year as a Texas Peace Officer. Chief Gideon has earned a Master Peace Officer License, an Instructor's License, and a Telecommunication License from TCLEOSE.

While serving in the U.S. Army in Numberg, Germany, Chief Gideon met and married his wife of forty-three (43) years, Birgit. Chief Gideon and his wife Birgit have raised four (4) sons and they are Henry, born in 1963, Raimund, born in 1965, Jeffery, born in 1970, and Matthew, born in 1972. All are now married and they have blessed Chief Gideon and Birgit with nine (9) grandchildren, six (6) granddaughters and three (3) grandsons. They range in age from sixteen (16) years old to seven (7) months.

Chief Gideon joined the Texas Chief Deputies Association in February 1989 and has missed only one conference to this date. Chief Gideon is currently serving on the Board as a Director, a position he has been elected to several times. Chief Gideon has held numerous offices in the Association including Secretary, Treasurer, and he was President of the Association from 1991-1992. Chief Gideon hosted the Texas Chief Deputies Association Conference in Fredericksburg, Texas in 1994, and he currently serves on the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee for the Alamo Area Council of Governments and the Technology Committee for the Sheriff's Association of Texas.

For his dedicated service to the Great State of Texas as a Texas Peace Officer, the Texas Chief Deputies Association is privileged to name the Texas Chief Deputies Association Past President Award in honor of Chief Deputy Mel Gideon of Gillespie County. From this date forward the Texas Chief Deputies Association Past President award will be known as The Chief Mel Gideon President Award. God Bless Texas



Chief Gideon presenting a plaque to Chief Garmon



Chief Gideon giving Chief Garmon the Kimber .45 and the framed letter of appreciation

