

Since being appointed to Sheriff, things have been a whirlwind. I thought it important, however, to take a moment to introduce myself.

I often get a lot of questions about my last name. It is Dutch, meaning New House. The pronunciation is difficult for most people. It is pronounced "NEEN-Hice" and rhymes with Lean and Ice.

I was born and raised here in the Tampa Bay area. I truly believe this is a great place to live, work, play, and raise a family. Back in the mid 1980's I volunteered and later worked part time for the Florida Marine Patrol, patrolling the waters in and around Tampa Bay. I decided, in 1989, to make law enforcement my career. I was hired by the Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco and worked in Clearwater, Sarasota and Fort Myers, going through the ranks from Special Agent to Captain. Late in 2000, when Sheriff White won his first term as Sheriff of Pasco County, he asked me to move north from Ft. Myers to Pasco and be his second-in-command. I accepted his kind offer and ran the daily operations of the Pasco Sheriff's office until being appointed Sheriff of Hernando by Governor Charlie Crist effective January 1, 2011.

My wife of over 20 years, Rhonda, is still the love of my life. Together we have three wonderful daughters, 11, 15, and 18. All three girls are beautiful young ladies and have given Rhonda and I a lot to be proud of.

The thought of being able to serve the citizens of Hernando has excited me since the day I decided to apply for the appointment. I wake up every day excited that I have been given this great honor. The men and women of the Hernando Sheriff's Office are some of the most honorable law enforcement professionals I have had the pleasure to work with. They approach their service to the citizens with the same amount of gravity as I place on my responsibility as their leader. I can promise we will all work hard to exceed your expectations and strive to maintain the high level of trust you have placed in us.