



WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

News Release

Sergeant David Thompson
Public Information Officer
Phone: (503) 209-5613

Released: Thursday, January 12, 2012
Case No.: N/A

Sheriff's Office Newest Deputy Turns 100-Years-Old

Summary of Event

On Friday, Sheriff Pat Garrett will commission Barbara White as an honorary Washington County Sheriff's Deputy on her 100th birthday. Mrs. White has been a key person in educating citizens about elder abuse by sharing her own heroic story.

Full Details

On Friday, January 13, 2012, Sheriff Pat Garrett will attend the 100th birthday party for Barbara White, where he will commission her as an honorary Deputy Sheriff for her work in educating the nation about elder abuse. Mrs. White is herself a victim of elder abuse and has bravely shared her story so that others can learn from it.

Mrs. White was 87-years-old, when she was kidnapped, robbed and burglarized in her own home by a man who was the husband of her boyfriend's daughter. The man tied her up with duct tape and assaulted her, then threatened to kill her if she did not give him all her money. He drove her to a bank where she emptied her account and gave him the money. He drove her to a crack house in north Portland where he released her and went to buy drugs with Mrs. White's stolen money.

Mrs. White went immediately to the nearest police station and reported the crime. The suspect was eventually arrested, but Barbara was haunted by the crime. Her children, fearing for her safety, moved her into an assisted living facility. During the year that followed the attack, Mrs. White became depressed and nearly died. She eventually pulled through and became an advocate for educating the public and law enforcement about elder abuse.

At the request of the State Elder Abuse Board, Mrs. White agreed to share her ordeal on video. The video was made into an educational documentary that has been used throughout the United States in elder abuse training for professionals in the adult protective and law enforcement fields. In 2002, Mrs. White was invited to the United States Senate to help introduce the Elder Abuse Act where her documentary was presented.

215 SW Adams Ave MS-32 • Hillsboro, OR 97123-3874 • (503) 846-2700

www.co.washington.or.us/sheriff

www.facebook.com/pages/Washington-County-Sheriffs-Office/52494926935



Page 2

Washington County Sheriff's Office
Media Release

Due in large part to her story, the Washington County Board of Commissioners, in conjunction with Governor John Kitzhaber, proclaimed October 16 as the annual "Elder Abuse and Vulnerable Adult Awareness Day."

In celebration of Mrs. White's 100th birthday, her bravery and contributions to elder abuse awareness, Sheriff Garrett will commission Mrs. White as an honorary Washington County Sheriff's Deputy.

The media is invited to attend and requested to call the PIO for the time and location of the celebration.