W. Donald Chaffin
27th Sheriff

1982

William Donald Chaffin served as Sheriff from 1982 – 2008. He currently holds the honor of being the longest serving Sheriff in Henry County history.

Donald, as he preferred to be called, was born May 31, 1938 and is a life-long resident of Henry County. He attended Henry County Schools and graduated from Henry County High School in 1956.

Sheriff Chaffin married Evelyn Camille Hagerty on December 26, 1958. Donald and Camille had three children: Donnie, Tammy and Dan.

Upon his retirement in 2008 Sheriff Chaffin completed a 46 year career in law enforcement. He joined the Atlanta Police Department on September 1, 1959. He worked in the Uniform Traffic Division for 10 years. He was then promoted to the Detective Division where he worked in the Gambling Squad, Burglary Squad and Robbery Squad until June 21, 1982.

On June 21, 1982, Sheriff Chaffin was appointed Sheriff by Governor George Busbee to complete the term vacated by Jimmy Glass. He completed the remainder of that term and was elected to serve an additional six full terms.

When taking office, Sheriff Chaffin was responsibility for a full service law enforcement agency providing the constitutional and court duties required of the Sheriff's Office as well as the county police duties. In 1991, the Henry County Commissioners voted to create a separate Police Department. On July 1, 1991 the police duties were transferred to the new 84 man Bureau of Police Services to serve the unincorporated areas of Henry County.

Sheriff Chaffin placed an emphasis on Youth Education Programs in Henry County Schools. Each school day county children were exposed to education in the areas of Safety, Drug Prevention and Crime Avoidance.

Sheriff Chaffin was budget conscious and looked after the taxpayers' money. His brother James "Bo" Chaffin served as his Chief Deputy until his retirement February 28, 2007.

If you have photographs or additional information about past Sheriff's of Henry County that you would like to share for this display, please contact Lt. Jack Oakman at 770-288-7034.