



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact:
Amanda Gorsche Miller
Communications Director | City of Waukeee
515.978.7905
cell 515.240.5039
amanda@waukeee.org

Waukeee Mourns Death of its First Police Chief, Larry Phillips

Waukeee, Iowa—Waukeee's first police chief and lifelong resident Larry Phillips passed away on Saturday, February 28. A visitation will be held on Tuesday, March 3 at Ernst Funeral Home in Waukeee from 4:00–8:00 p.m. Phillips' funeral will be held on Wednesday, March 4 at 11:00 a.m. at Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines.

Phillips retired in March 2014 after serving as the City of Waukeee's police chief for more than 34 years. Phillips started his career in Waukeee in 1979 as a patrol officer. Two months after he accepted the job, he was put in charge of the Waukeee Police Department. Shortly thereafter in 1980, he became the police chief.

In an interview with the *Des Moines Register* before his retirement, Phillips expressed pride in how the Waukeee Police Department had managed the rapid growth of the city.

"We've been able to maintain a good department and keep the citizens as safe as possible," Phillips told the *Des Moines Register*. "We've done an excellent job in that respect, but I still like a small-town atmosphere."

Phillips' legacy continues today as Waukeee has been named the "Safest City in Iowa" for the past two years by real estate blog, Movoto.

Waukeee Mayor Bill Peard expressed sadness at Phillips' passing.

"Larry did a great job as the chief in Waukeee," Peard said. "It's hard to imagine the impact he had on the city as a resident and public servant. Our hearts are heavy as we think of his wife, children and grandchildren."

Waukee Police Chief John Quinn said the police department has been hit hard by the loss.

“The members of the Waukee Police Department are saddened by the passing of former Chief of Police Larry Phillips,” said Quinn. “Chief Phillips proudly served the men and women of Waukee for over 35 years. He was a man who had great passion for the profession of law enforcement and believed that above all, family always came first. Larry will be deeply missed.”

Peard said Phillips was a champion of Waukee’s history and heritage and was proud to serve the city he grew up in.

“Larry’s dedication and commitment helped to make Waukee the vibrant community it is today,” said Peard.

Phillips is survived by his wife, Mary, three grown children, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

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The City of Waukee is recognized as the fastest growing city within the state of Iowa and is located in Dallas County—one of the fastest growing counties within the United States. The official Census estimate based on July 2013 data is 17,077. Waukee offers a family-friendly environment featuring quality parks, schools and trails. The City is also dedicated to economic development and expanding business opportunities, including the creation of its future mixed-use development, Kettlestone. For more information, visit www.waukee.org.