

## 2021 Hometown Heroes

### Carolyn A. Smith

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Carolyn Ann Crittendon was born December 21, 1954 in Dinwiddie County. She was the fourth of seven children born to Randolph and Betty Crittendon. Carolyn attended Dinwiddie County Public Schools and graduated from Dinwiddie High School in 1973.

Mrs. Smith began her career with Dinwiddie County Public Schools as a driver. In 1982, she was hired as a Dispatcher for Dinwiddie County. Carolyn worked closely with another dispatcher and was impressed by her professionalism and sincerity. She felt as though this was her calling, and had no interest, whatsoever, in becoming a Deputy Sheriff.

After three years on the job, Sheriff Bennie Heath believed Carolyn could make a difference on the road, and on July 1, 1985, promoted her to Deputy Sheriff. Carolyn Smith was the first, female deputy and the first African-American female deputy in Dinwiddie County's history.

Mrs. Smith graduated the 26<sup>th</sup> basic Crater Criminal Justice Law Enforcement Academy on May 23, 1986. She was the only female member of her graduating class.

While serving as a road Deputy, Mrs. Smith became interested in the civil process division and transitioned into that role, handling day-to-day service of all related court documents and papers. She continued her training and education by attending classes in child abuse, courtroom security, domestic violence, community policing, and supervisor development courses.

In September 2000, after extensive training, coursework and determination, Mrs. Smith achieved the distinction of Master Deputy. Her strong work ethic and dedication were recognized in January 2008 when she was promoted to the rank of Sergeant of the Civil Process Division. Mrs. Smith held this position until her retirement in December 2009.

During her career with the Dinwiddie County Sheriff's Office, Mrs. Smith worked under Sheriff Charles Lee Mitchell, Sheriff Bennie Heath, Sheriff Sam Shands, and Sheriff Dusty Rhodes.

While Mrs. Smith did not work under the current Sheriff D.T. "Duck" Adams, she did work with him, as he was the Lieutenant during her time with the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Adams nominated Mrs. Smith for this recognition and in his nomination stated, "Carolyn's passion to serve, her tireless work and compassion for the community never wavered. She helped pave the way for others to achieve opportunities in law enforcement and provide our great County with top law enforcement service. We salute her and have eternal gratitude for her service to the Citizens of Dinwiddie County."

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Mrs. Smith has been married to Harry Smith for 21 years. She has one daughter, Shelva Johnson who currently resides in Fairfax County with Mrs. Smith's three grandchildren, Edwin, Nyla, and Zoey. Mr. and Mrs. Smith stay busy and enjoy traveling to see their grandchildren as often as possible. This has not been possible during the pandemic, so they are staying close to home.

Mrs. Smith is a proud survivor of breast cancer and walks four miles per day, four days per week with three of her close friends. She is a member of Shiloh Baptist Church, and sings in the Adult Ensemble.