

## *Distinguished Public Service*

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### **Stan Sniff**

He may be one of the only philosopher sheriffs in the country...at least by education as well as inclination.

Riverside County Sheriff Stan Sniff doesn't shy away from the fact that he was a philosophy major in college. In fact, he believes it is that academic training that helped make him an effective deputy on the streets and a successful candidate for sheriff. Many parallels exist between law enforcement and philosophy. Which perhaps is not surprising when one considers that Aristotle once said, "Philosophy is the science which considers the truth."



Truth be told, Sniff was not born with these twin futures in mind. Son of one of the pioneer date farming families in the Coachella Valley, he was just as likely to throw together a date shake in the family's roadside market as he was to toss out "philosophical seeds of wisdom."

Everyone assumed he would grow up to take over the family business. A stint at San Diego State and in the Army changed that. When the young veteran came home, he found himself drawn to police cars rather than tractors and soon was spending evenings on ride-alongs.

That experience led him to apply to the Coachella Police Department and to enter the San Bernardino Sheriff's Academy. And this was the beginning of a distinguished career that would include jobs in one police department and two sheriff's departments. His assignments in the Riverside County Sheriff's Department have included nearly every rank, every area of authority, and every region of the county.

Today, Sniff occupies the top job in a department that covers a 50-mile by 200-mile area in which more than two million people live. In addition to patrol and jail functions, the department also operates the Ben Clark Public Safety Training programs and partners with Riverside Community College District in offering law enforcement academies and advanced training programs.

As Sheriff-Coroner, Sniff has made it evident that providing leadership training, increasing diversity in the department, and enhancing educational opportunities for deputies are among his top priorities. By doing so, he believes that the department can better respond to the needs of the community and accomplish its core mission: to serve and protect.