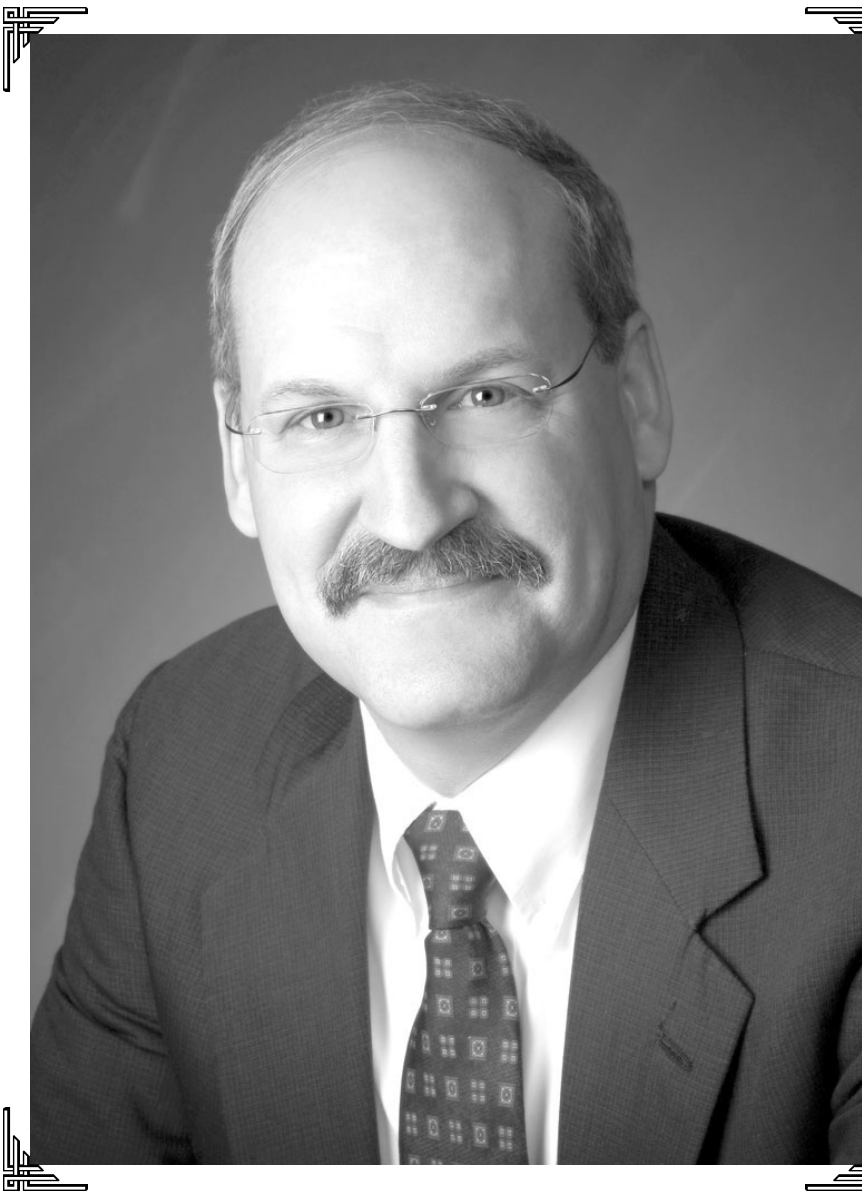




a Proud Salute to our community Guardians

Introducing Jim Valahakis



My name is Jim Valahakis

I was born and raised in Yankton, and after graduation from Yankton High School I began a full time job as an Emergency Medical Technician for the Yankton County Ambulance Service in 1978.

In November of 1978 I took a civil service exam in Norfolk, Neb., and was hired as a patrol officer with the Norfolk Police Department. In the State of Nebraska, at that time, you could be a law enforcement officer at the age of 19 while in South Dakota the minimum age was 21.

After reaching the age of 21 I was offered a job with the Yankton Police Department and returned to my hometown. A short time later I was offered a job with the Yankton County Sheriff's Office where I worked for the next 9-1/2 years and served as the Chief Deputy Sheriff. While working full time at the Sheriff's Office I became a non-traditional student attending college at the University of South Dakota and Mount Marty College.

In 1989 I began a 20 year career with the South Dakota Attorney General's Office Division of Criminal Investigation. As a special agent I worked the majority of my career out of the Yankton Field Office covering the counties in Southeast South Dakota assigned to the investigation of felony crimes.

I held several positions with DCI over the years including Special Agent, Supervisory Special Agent, Assistant Director for Field Operations and then was appointed by the Attorney General as Director of the Division of Criminal Investigation. I retired from DCI in 2008. I continued working part time for the Attorney General's Office assisting in the management and implementation of the statewide 24/7 program for the next two years.

I was elected Sheriff of Yankton County in November of 2010 and took office in January of 2011. It continues to be an honor and privilege to serve as your Sheriff in the county that has been home for my wife Joyce and I our entire lives.

I am fortunate to have a dedicated and professional staff that works hard to keep our communities safe. I encourage any citizens with questions or concerns about their Sheriff's Office to feel free to contact me at anytime.

Office: 605-668-3567
Home: 605-665-8312
sheriff@yanktonlaw.com

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