

Scott Walton
Sheriff



Jon Sappington
Undersheriff

June 21, 2021

To whom it may concern:

Pawnee County Sheriff Dwight Woodrell was a hero, in the truest, purest form of the word.

While protecting his citizens and investigating a burglary, he was ambushed and assassinated, shot 6 times (5 times in the back) and left to die, nearly 20 years ago.

He took his oath of office to serve his community with his life, if need be, to heart and that is exactly what he did.

The current Sheriff, Darrin Varnell, wants to honor Sheriff Woodrell by naming the jail after him.

That gesture would acknowledge and pay tribute to Dwight's sacrifice and the sacrifice of his family.

It is the right thing to do.

But, some people have spoken out against this idea, by asking things like, "What about law enforcement who die in car wrecks?" Or, "How is this different than a county road worker getting killed at work?"

While those deaths are tragic and sad for their families, they are not the same as a man murdered in cold blood, in the line of duty.

It is cowardly and wrong for County Commissioners to deny this simple yet, meaningful step to honor a man who served his community with distinction, who was gunned down by the lowest form of criminals.

In the name of decency, I hope the citizens of Pawnee County and from around Oklahoma, rally in support of and put pressure on the County Commissioners to step up and make this change.

It frankly, should've been done long before now.

It is the right thing to do.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Scott Walton', written over a horizontal line.

Scott Walton, Rogers County Sheriff