

# **Frank R. Reyes**

**SC Alumni, High School Athlete, Law Enforcement Administrator**

**Inducted into the SC Hall of Fame September 9, 2011**

Frank R. Reyes, known to all as "Sheriff Reyes", was born and raised in Picacho, Arizona. He graduated from Santa Cruz Valley Union High School in 1957.

While at Santa Cruz, Frank lettered in football, basketball, and track and served as Vice-President of the Lettermen's Club.

After graduation, Frank enlisted in the United States Army and was stationed in Germany for most of his tour. This military experience led to his desire to dedicate his life to law enforcement.

Upon returning home Frank began his career as a guard for the Arizona Department of Corrections. Later, he became an officer with the Coolidge Police Department, the El Mirage Police Department, and the Pinal County Sheriff's Department.

He was accepted into the Arizona Department of Public Safety Training Academy and upon graduation, served the people of Picacho and Eloy as a Highway Patrol Officer. It was during his tenure with DPS that he decided to run the Pinal County Sheriff.

He won election in 1977, reelected to six subsequent terms, serving a total of 24 years before his retirement. During his time at the Pinal County Sheriff's Office, Frank protected the people of Pinal County by constructing an efficient system for ultimate response in emergency situations. He also modernized the Pinal County Jail and expanded the services offered by the Pinal County Sheriff's Office.

Although busy as the top law enforcement officer for Pinal County, Frank always made himself available to organizations needing assistance or direction. He saw the need and took it upon himself to organize the first Little League team from Picacho, the Picacho Chiefs. He served the Little League organization throughout the years, often taking on the responsibility of president when needed.

Santa Cruz benefitted from Frank's generosity and loyalty as he brought in diversion programs such as "Scared Straight" to set the right example for the area youth. Frank served Picacho as President of the Picacho Elementary Governing Board and was one of its most visible volunteers.

Sheriff Reyes served on the Santa Cruz Valley Union High School Hall of Fame Committee during its inception, helping to form the guidelines for honoring Santa Cruz graduates.

In his retirement, Frank has taken on the huge undertaking of establishing a nonprofit foundation to build a memorial for all military veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for American freedom, the Pinal County Veterans Memorial Foundation.

Frank continues to reside in Pinal County with his wife, Thelma Jean. They have five children; four who serve in law enforcement, three in Pinal County.