



Lt. John Murrell
Manatee County Sheriff's Office

John E. Murrell Sr. is currently a Recruiter and Community Deputy for the Manatee County Sheriff's Office. He is a retired Lieutenant from the same department, having dedicated 31 years of service, including 20 years in the School Resource Officers Program. During his tenure, he spent 11 years supervising the School Resource Officers and School Crossing Guards, ensuring the safety and well-being of students and the community.

Born in Manatee County and raised in Rubonia, Florida, John attended Manatee County Schools and graduated from Palmetto High School. He continued his education at Manatee Community College, attended the Police Academy, and further honed his leadership skills at Officer Command School.

John has been married to his wife, Gracie Murrell, for 41 years, and together they have three children—John Jr., Janae, and Jordon—as well as a son, Dakarai Matthew (DJ). Committed to youth mentorship and community development, he actively participates in several organizations. He serves as a mentor in the Take Stock in Children Program and Big Brother Big Sister of America. Additionally, he is a board member of Manatee Bridging the Gap and the D.L. Randall Foundation. He is also the founder of the Manatee County Schools Take Stock Mentoring Program and serves as a mentor for the Palmetto Youth Center B.L.A.S.T (Boys Life After School Training) Program. His dedication extends to the 13th Avenue Dream Center, where he also serves as a board member.

John is a devoted member of St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church in Parrish, Florida. In his free time, he enjoys weightlifting, running, and spending quality time with his family. His life's purpose is deeply rooted in serving and uplifting the youth, ensuring they have the support and guidance needed to succeed.

He firmly believes that a person's material possessions will not define their legacy. Instead, the impact they have on the lives of others, particularly children, will shape the future. As he states, "One hundred years from now, it will not matter what kind of car I drove, what kind of house I lived in, how much I had in my bank account, nor what my clothes looked like. But the world may be a little better because I was important in the life of a child."