



# VALENCE PASCAL

## Memorial Scholarship

**1967-1993**



**T**he Valence Pascal Memorial Scholarship was established by a joint action of the Benson County Commission, the Lake Region Law Enforcement Center, and the Pascal family to honor the memory of Val who was struck down on August 16, 1993, while performing his duty as a deputy sheriff in Benson County, North Dakota.

Valence Leewayne Pascal was born on August 22, 1967, in Williston, North Dakota, to a family whose North Dakota roots go back to 1907. A military dependent, Val lived throughout the United States and attended schools in San Bernardino, California; Dover, Delaware; and Las Vegas, Nevada as well as Williston, North Dakota. He graduated from high school in Altus, Oklahoma. Val was active in sports and in the Boy Scouts of America, earning the Order of the Arrow at camp in Oklahoma. Still, he maintained a deep love for North Dakota. *"This is where he wanted to be ... and where he was content,"* said Darcie Pascal, Val's mother.

He entered the United States Army at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in August of 1987 and completed a tour of duty in Korea, serving in the Demilitarized Zone during the Seoul Olympics. He then returned to the United States and served at Fort Carson, Colorado, until his discharge in July of 1990. Val then came back to North Dakota.

He enrolled in the Peace Officer Training Program at Lake Region State College and graduated in December of 1990. Three weeks later, Valence Pascal was assigned as deputy sheriff in Benson County. Val was on the job only two weeks when he was reactivated by the Army to serve in Operation Desert Storm. After performing his duty in the Persian Gulf, Val came home to the Lake Region and was reinstated to his position with the Benson County Sheriff's Office.

Valence Pascal was active in the life of his community. He was a member of the Lake Region Optimists Club and was elected by his fellow members to serve on the club's board of directors. He participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Run for three years. Val told his special friend, Jackie Marquart, *"You can't tell people, 'Respect me because of the uniform.'"* Val believed that one can gain the respect and trust of a community only "by working with people and proving your dedication to their safety."

On August 26, 1993, Valence Pascal executed an arrest warrant in Leeds, North Dakota, taking into custody a man who had failed to appear in court to face a charge of driving under the influence of alcohol. Deputy Pascal had placed the man into the back of his patrol car and taken his own place behind the wheel when he was shot in the right temple with a homemade .22-caliber pistol by his prisoner who then took his own life with the same weapon. Valence Pascal died on August 27, 1993, in St. Luke's Hospital in Fargo, North Dakota, and lies at rest in his hometown of Williston.

Val's family received the *Police Medal of Honor* on their son's behalf, and his name has been entered in the National Police Hall of Fame and the North Dakota Peace Officers Memorial. His officer friends at the Bureau of Indian Affairs have added to those remembrances a Star Quilt.

Lake Region State College takes great pride in honoring its fallen alumnus by presenting the Valence Pascal Memorial Scholarship to students enrolled in the Peace Officer Training Program. ★