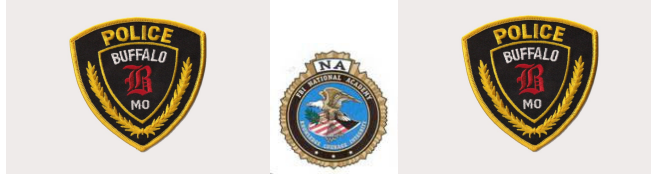


# *Buffalo Police Department*

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FBINAA 172<sup>nd</sup> SESSION

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## **WHY HAVE ALERT TRAFFIC OFFICERS?**

The Buffalo Police Department appreciates the patience of those that understand the job we are sworn to do. Yet, even though officers who perform traffic enforcement get little respect of the community, their work is critical to public safety. Traffic violators kill (speeders, intoxicated drivers, and etc.) more Americans each year than murderers. A traffic stop can open the doors to a legal search of a vehicle for illegal substances, stolen goods, and even dead bodies. Discoveries like these are all in a days work for many patrol officers. I want to emphasize that an individual's rights are a high priority. We respect your rights as it is our duty to protect them.

The following are examples of traffic stops that helped end careers of some of the most prolific murderers.

RANDY KRAFT was stopped for possible drunk driving on May 14, 1983. During the investigative stop the body of a strangled Marine soldier was in the front passenger seat. It was later learned that Kraft was the "Southern California Strangle," a prolific murderer who picked up young men—primarily Marines—drugged them, tortured them, strangled them, and pushed their bodies out of his car as he sped south on a California freeway. He was convicted of 16 murders, but authorities believe he may have been responsible for more than 67.

WILLIAM LESTER SUFF was stopped for making an illegal U-turn and expired vehicle registration on January 9, 1992. Further investigation of the stop resulted in an indictment of Suff on 12 counts of murder spanning a seven year period. He was convicted of rape, murder, and mutilation of bodies discovered at a dump site.

THEODORE "TED" BUNDY is one of the most infamous serial killer in American criminal history. On August 16, 1975, Bundy was stopped for driving with no headlights. He was arrested and convicted and upon escape resumed his hobby of terrorizing and murdering of young women by the use of stolen plates and vehicles.

DAVID BERKOWITZ, terrorized the city of New York as the "Son of Sam," killing six young men and women and wounding nine others during his bloody career. The first solid evidence police gathered against him was a parking ticket that was written the night of one of the murders.

JOEL RIFKIN was stopped for no license plate. His pickup vehicle was pursued and after a high speed-chase the suspect vehicle crashed into a telephone pole. It was discovered that the decomposed body of a woman was inside the bed of the truck. Rifkin was found guilty of 7 counts of murder, with 10 counts outstanding.

TIMOTHY McVEIGH'S vehicle was spotted cruising without a license plate. The traffic stop resulted in the finding of a loaded firearm in his vehicle. McVeigh was convicted of killing eight federal employees who were victims of the Oklahoma City bombing.

WAYNE WILLIAMS was cited for stopping on a bridge. The car was searched and found nothing, however two days later a body was pulled out of the river downstream from the bridge. Williams was arrested and convicted of the murder along with two other murders.

LARRY EYLER was parked along a highway with his pickup. He was observed by an officer walking the tree line. The officer investigated and discovered that Eyer's truck contained a blood-stained hunting knife. Forensic evidence of tire tracks and boot prints linked "The Interstate Killer" to the murder of 20 men and boys.