

02-10-2000 Louisiana – John Garlington – GW LEO – Drowned



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<http://www.odmp.org/officer/15362-captain-john-m-garlington>



Bio & Incident Details
Age: 53
Tour: 14 years
Badge # Not available
Cause: Drowned

Captain John M. Garlington

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana

End of Watch: Thursday, February 10, 2000

Captain John Garlington drowned while investigating a report of illegal gill net fishing near his home on the Mill Creek Reservoir in Bienville Parish.

He responded to the report at approximately 0300 hours, approximately 100 yards from his home. Other officers became concerned after not hearing back from him for several hours.

They began a search of the area and located his body four days later, approximately 150 yards from his home.

Before beginning his career in law enforcement, Captain Garlington played professional football for the Cleveland Browns.

He had been employed with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for 14 years.

Game warden Still Missing at Reservoir

<https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/220540084/>

FEBRUARY 12, 2000 By Melody Brumble The Times

Agent left Thursday morning to investigate a tip 100 yards from home.

State Wildlife and Fisheries agent Capt John Garlington was investigating a report of illegal gill net fishing virtually in his back yard when he disappeared Thursday.

A dive team and volunteers Friday unsuccessfully sought Garlington's body in Mill Creek Reservoir, a 640-acre manmade lake just west of Saline in extreme southern

Bienville Parish. They will continue searching around the clock, said Col. Winton Vidrine, head of the Wildlife and Fisheries enforcement division.

"Karon, his wife, she's sitting out there in her lawn chair, watching with binoculars," Vidrine said. "That's how close it is." Garlington headed for a spot on the lake about 100 yards from his home between 4 a.m. and 5 a.m. Thursday.

Officials became concerned when they didn't hear from him by 3:30 p.m.

Searchers found Garlington's personal barge against the bank. They think he may have had trouble with the motor on the barge. The former pro football player and All-American at LSU joined the Wildlife and Fisheries Department in 1986, Vidrine said.

Garlington spent most of his career working the state's intercoastal parishes. Vidrine promoted him to captain about 18 months ago and made him head of the Region I office in Minden. Vidrine classed Garlington among the top 10 agents in the department's 250-member enforcement division. "He's one of the top wildlife and fisheries agents in the area," said Webster Sheriff Ted Riser. "He's a great guy to work with, a real gentleman proud of his uniform, proud of his job."

Garlington and his wife, who lived on Mill Creek Reservoir; throughout Garlington's career, supported efforts to improve the lake's image. Karon Garlington is a member of the lake commission, which has worked to make Mill Creek Lake Park attractive to families and tourists instead of drinkers and drug users.

Saline, a small, close-knit community just east of the lake, has pitched in to ease "a bad situation," said Rowina Matthews, who works with Karon Garlington on commission activities. "Everybody's bringing food, the restaurants are fixing food.

The community unites for things like this," Matthews said. "You couldn't find a finer, better person than John."

Capt. John Garlington Louisiana Wildlife Officer Killed In The Line Of Duty

<http://www.southeasternoutdoors.com/outdoors/hunting/game-warden/john-garlington.html>

February 10, 2000, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Capt. John Garlington died in the line of duty in Bienville Parish. He was 53.

Garlington left his home on Mill Creek Reservoir in Saline at 5 a.m. on Feb 10 to investigate reports of illegal gill net activity and never returned. His body was recovered on Feb. 13 after an extensive search.

Garlington, former LSU All-American and Cleveland Browns' defensive linebacker, began training as an LDWF enforcement cadet in December 1986. In May 1998, he was promoted to captain and supervisor of the LDWF Region 1 office in Minden.

Col. Winton Vidrine, LDWF Enforcement Division administrator, said Garlington was an excellent agent and supervisor who enjoyed his job tremendously.

He is survived by his wife, Karen and a son, Seth. He is preceded in death by a son, Moses. Funeral arrangements are being handled by Southern Funeral Home in Jonesboro. Tentative plans include visitation at Southern Funeral Home on Feb. 15 from 6 - 10 p.m. and Feb. 16 from 8 a.m. - 12 noon. Funeral services will be held Feb. 16 at 2 p.m. at the Jonesboro High School football stadium.

John Garlington

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Garlington

John Garlington



Born

June 5, 1946

Jonesboro, LA, United States

Other names

Big John

Police career

Department

Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries - Enforcement Division

Years of service

1986 - February 10, 2000

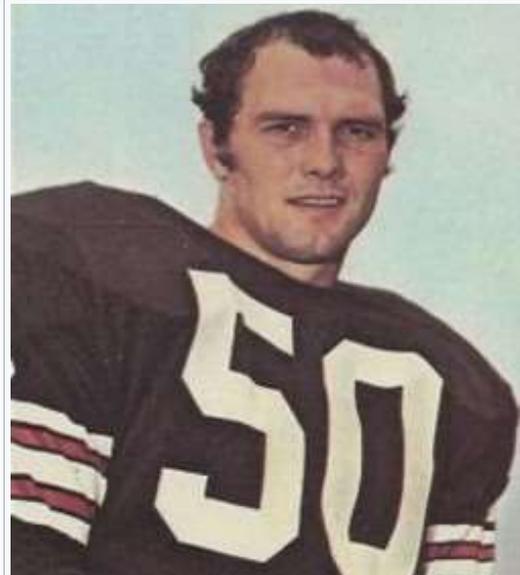
Rank

1986 - commissioned as [Wildlife Agent](#)

1998 - promoted to Captain

John Garlington

No. 50



Date of birth

June 5, 1946

Place of birth

Jonesboro, Jackson Parish

Louisiana, USA

Date of death

February 10, 2000 (aged 53)

Ebenezer Cemetery in [Bienville Parish](#)

John M. Garlington (June 5, 1946 – February 10, 2000) was an American football linebacker who played in the National Football League (NFL). He played professionally for the Cleveland Browns.

Contents

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Early life [[edit](#)]

Garlington was born in Jonesboro, Louisiana and graduated from Jonesboro-Hodge High School in Jonesboro. in 1964.^[1] He was a star college athlete at Louisiana State University. At LSU, he was a 1967 Kodak/American Football Coaches Association pick. He was also a First-Team All-SEC pick in 1966 by the Associated Press and in 1967 by both the AP and United Press International. He was described as an "Incredible athlete whose talents typified his play and teamwork. Had excellent speed and lateral pursuit. Opponents were timid when it came to attacking his side of the defensive line. Even with his size, he was a speed merchant. In the 1966 Rice encounter, John picked off an errant pass and returned it 42 yards for a touchdown."^[2]

Professional career [[edit](#)]

Garlington was drafted by the Cleveland Browns in the 2nd round (47th overall) of the 1968 NFL Draft.^[3] He played ten seasons with the Cleveland Browns, from 1968 until 1977.

Law enforcement career [[edit](#)]

After leaving professional football, Garlington worked, from 1986, as a Wildlife Enforcement Agent ([game warden](#)) with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries - Enforcement Division. He was promoted to the rank of Captain, in 1998, and was the commander of the department's Region 1 office near Shreveport, Louisiana. Prior to assuming command of Region 1, Garlington held the rank of Sergeant, and was assigned to the department's Statewide Strike Force. Garlington died in the line of duty, from [drowning](#), while investigating a poaching complaint near his home on the Mill Creek Reservoir near Saline, LA in Bienville Parish. He had been on the force for 14 years.^[4] Garlington was survived by his wife Karon Garlington.

He is buried at the Ebenezer Cemetery off Louisiana Highway 508 in Bienville Parish. His son, Jonesboro police officer John Moses Garlington, was interred at this same cemetery in the spring of 1994.

Career information	
Position(s)	Linebacker
College	Louisiana State
NFL draft	1968 / Round: 2 / Pick: 47
Career history	
As player	
1968–1977	Cleveland Browns
Career stats	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playing stats at DatabaseFootball.com 	

References[[edit](#)]

Jump up[^] *"John Garlington". Database Football.com. Retrieved November 26, 2012.*

Jump up[^] LesMiles.net: All-Americans

Jump up[^] *"John Garlington". Pro-Football-Reference.com. Retrieved November 26, 2012.*

Jump up[^] Captain John M. Garlington, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

External links[[edit](#)]



Wikimedia Commons has media related to ***John Garlington***.

[Cleveland Browns Jersey Numbers](#)
[Officer Down Memorial Page](#)
[Pro-Football-Reference.Com](#)
[databaseFootball.com](#)

DWF Fallen

<http://www.wafb.com/story/21877949/dwf-fallen>

By Albert Burford | LSU Student

Since the agency's founding in 1872, seven Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (DWF) agents have lost their lives in the line of duty – all but one since 1991. These fallen agents have died from drowning, automobile accidents and gunfire.



Major Peter Oliver, who has worked as a DWF enforcement agents 21 years, said the nature the job places officers in potentially dangerous situations. (Credit: DWF)

DWF Public Information Officer Adam Einck said duties of the agency's approximately 200 enforcement officers entail dangerous situations.

"A wildlife and fisheries agent tackles a lot of things in a day to day patrol shift. They could be three miles out in the gulf in rough water and a storm will kick up... Or they could be patrolling at night on an ATV in woods. They're also by themselves a lot."

According to Major Peter Oliver, who has worked as a DWF enforcement agent for 21 years, there is no way around sometimes being the lone agent in a given situation. Agents are subject to call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Einck said DWF agents train for six months to help mitigate risk and are versed in the wide variety of scenarios they may find themselves.

Frank Fagot Jr., 31, the first DWF agent to die in the field, was shot and killed by a poacher he was attempting to arrest in 1927. He is the only agent to die from intended gunfire.

Situations like this are few and far between, as Oliver said it's rare that shots are fired at agents. He says that is because most people apprehend are hunters committing minor violations.

However, Oliver said DWF agents must take special precautions because nearly every person with whom they make contact in a hunting environment is armed.

"When [agents] are on duty, they are armed, full-fledged police officers. In addition to 45-caliber sidearm, they are issued Remington 870 shotguns, SIG Sauer rifles. A lot of them elect to arm themselves with backup weapons."

After Fagot, the next DWF officer to lose his life in action was Kenneth Aycock, 35, who drowned in 1991. Aycock was working boat patrol on the Ouachita River near the Louisiana-Arkansas state line at the time of the accident. The drowning was believed to have happen around 2 p.m. His body was recovered some six hours later.

A year later, Ricky Dodge died when his ATV flipped as he was driving up the embankment of a ditch while responding to a game violation. Dodge was 37 years old.

Oliver said he was in the academy at the time of Dodge's death, which occurred just about a mile and a half away from his home.

"He was out there by himself, as agents are more times than not. He's out there at night, trying to apprehend violators in difficult terrain. It's just the environment itself. It all adds to a very dangerous workplace."



A monument lists the names of fallen Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries agents outside the DWF Building in Baton Rouge. (Credit: Albert Burford)

Senior Agent Leon Henderson Jr., 36, was killed in a 1996 automobile accident while responding to a report of a drowning. Henderson's truck was struck by a large farm vehicle. Henderson was transported to a hospital where he died two weeks later. He was 36 years old and had worked for the department for 15 years.

Capt. John Garlington drowned in 2000 while investigating a report of illegal gill net fishing near his home in Bienville Parish. Garlington responded to the report in the early morning and wasn't heard from for several hours. He was 53 and had worked for DWF for 14 years.

Senior Agent Jim Matkin, 30, a six-year veteran, was killed in 2005 when his automobile struck a tree in the early morning hours while patrolling Highway 565 near Wildsville in Concordia Parish.

Sgt. Paul Stuckey is the most recent officer to die. Stuckey was responding to a report of night hunting in West Feliciana Parish on Sept. 30, 201, at approximately 2:15 a.m. Police investigators believe Stuckey's shotgun may have accidentally discharged and shot him in the chest. Stuckey was 37 years old and served for 18 years.

The DWF is constructing a monument to its fallen officers outside of the building headquarters in Baton Rouge.