

07-22-2018 Huntsville AL - Hugh O'Connor – LEO Helping Accident

ATF Special Agent Hugh O'Connor Drowns Trying To Assist Boater

<http://texaspolice.com/news/2018/07/22/atf-special-agent-hugh-oconnor-drowns-trying-to-assist-boater/>

July 22, 2018 by Sandy Malone

Huntsville, AL - Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Special Agent Hugh O'Connor drowned off duty while trying to assist a woman in the Tennessee River in northern Alabama.

Marine patrol units told **WAFF** that Agent O'Connor jumped off of a boat and into the river at about 5:40 p.m. on July 22 to help a woman retrieve some items that had blown off of her boat.



ATF Special Agent Hugh O'Connor drowned off duty while trying to assist a woman in northern Alabama on July 22.

The special agent failed to surface again after he dove in, and his body was later recovered about 100 yards downstream from where he drowned, near Painted Bluff at the Madison and Marshall County lines, WAFF reported.

Agent O'Connor was a Certified Explosive Specialist Bomb Technician at the National Center for Explosives Training and Research at Redstone Arsenal, [AL.com](#) reported.

ATF is saddened to report the death of one of our own. We mourn the loss of Special Agent/ Certified Explosive Specialist Bomb Technician (CESBT) Hugh A. O'Connor. Our thoughts are with the O'Connor family and NCETR. [#EOW](#)
— ATF HQ (@ATFHQ) [8:11 AM - Jul 25, 2018](#)

Memorial Service to Celebrate the Life of Hugh O'Connor, ATF Senior Special Agent, Thursday, August 2, 2018 at 11:00 am CST at Huntsville Botanical Garden (4747 Bob Wallace Avenue, Huntsville, AL)

Traditional Irish Wake will immediately follow at Keegan's Public House
— Redstone Arsenal (@TeamRedstone) [8:33 AM - Jul 27, 2018](#)
[@ATFHQ #RIP #ATF #EOD #bombtech #SABT](#) RIP ATF Special Agent Hugh O'Connor. You will be Forever Missed.
— J.Hall (@jhallaso) [8:51 AM - Jul 25, 2018](#)

"It is with deep sorrow that the IABTI has learned that over the weekend Hugh O'Connor passed away. Hugh was a great friend and asset to many in the EOD community. Our deepest condolences to Hugh's family, friends, ATF and all those who worked with Hugh around the world," the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators (IABTI) wrote on its official [Facebook](#) page.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of ATF Special Agent Hugh O'Connor, both blood and blue. Thank you for your service.

Rest easy, hero. We'll hold the line from here.

Federal Agent Drowns On Tennessee River In Northern Alabama

<https://yellowhammernews.com/federal-agent-drowns-on-tennessee-river-in-northern-alabama/>
July 27, 2018 By Yellowhammer News

Authorities say a federal agent drowned in a northern Alabama river during a weekend outing.

Marine patrol troopers tell WAFF-TV that he died after jumping into the water from a boat to help a woman retrieve items that blew away from a boat on Sunday. The station reports that he failed to surface, and his body was later found about 100 yards downstream.



(ATF/Facebook)

In a statement, the Bureau of Alcohol Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives identified him as Special Agent Hugh O'Connor, who was a certified explosive specialist bomb technician.

Hugh O'CONNOR 1969-2018

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/palmbeachpost/name/hugh-o-connor-obituary?id=10278199>

Hugh Anthony O'Connor, formerly of West Palm Beach, a Sr. Special Agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms for 19 years, died unexpectedly at age 49 on July 22, 2018. The son of the late Hugh J. O'Connor, Jr. and Pamela M. O'Connor, he was born in Holyoke, MA on April 12, 1969.

Hugh began his career as a public servant volunteering for the Highland Mills Fire Co. while he attended Monroe-Woodbury High School in NY; he continued with the South

Daytona and Volusia Co. Fire services during college at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Throughout his distinguished career in law enforcement, he served with the Holly Hill PD, Daytona Beach PD, US Border Patrol, INS, DOJ-OIG, and then joined the ATF in 1999. He was a Certified Explosives Specialist / Bomb Tech, SRT Medic, Certified Fire Inv, National Response Team Member and a firearms Instructor. Hugh volunteered for multiple tours in Iraq & Afghanistan for ATF as part of the Multinational Corps' Forensic Lab for analyzing IEDs. Until his passing, Hugh was the ATF Certified Explosives Specialist Program Manager & Bomb Squad Commander.



He earned a MS in Forensic Science, Arson and Explosive Investigation at Oklahoma State Univ. and a MS in Explosives Technology from Missouri University S&T.

Huey was a beloved son, brother, and stepfather. He was an avid motorcyclist, loved boating and enjoyed flying airplanes and helicopters. Hugh is survived by his mother, Pamela, siblings Bridget and Matthew, former wife Anita Williams and two stepdaughters, Samantha and Victoria. The family will hold a private memorial service following cremation. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to (bombtechmemorial.org).

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