

09-06-2018 Springfield MO - Aaron Paul Roberts – LEO Flood Vehicle**Deputy Sheriff Aaron Paul Roberts**

<https://www.odmp.org/officer/23755-deputy-sheriff-aaron-paul-roberts>



Greene County Sheriff's Office, Missouri
End of Watch Friday, September 7, 2018

**AARON PAUL ROBERTS**

Deputy Sheriff Aaron Roberts drowned after his patrol car was swept into the swollen Pomme de Terre River in the area of Cabin Creek Road and Farm Road 2 at 8:30 pm.

He had responded to a 911 hangup call in the area and was returning into service when he made an emergency radio broadcast stating his vehicle had been swept off of the road in floodwaters. After an intensive search, rescue crews located his vehicle approximately 50 yards downstream and recovered Deputy Roberts' body from inside.

Deputy Roberts had served with the Greene County Sheriff's Office for one year and had previously served with the Willard Police Department. He is survived by his wife, 7-year-old daughter, and parents.

BIO

- **Age** 35
- **Tour** 4 years
- **Badge** 1255

INCIDENT DETAILS

- **Cause** Drowned
911 Hangup

Greene County Deputy Dies After Patrol Car Swept Away By High Water

<http://www.ky3.com/content/news/Crews-search-for-driver-swept-away-by-flooding-near-Fair-Grove-Mo-492745181.html>

Sep 07, 2018

NEAR FAIR GROVE, Mo. -- The Greene County Sheriff's Department reports a deputy whose patrol car was swept downstream by fast rising water in Fair Grove, Mo. Friday night has died.

The sheriff's office identified him as Deputy Aaron Paul Roberts.

The fast-rising water in the Fair Grove area swept his car off the road into the Pomme de Terre River off of Highway AA. He had returned to service after a 911



call when the car was swept off the road. Searchers found his body a short time later, inside his patrol car, about 100 feet off the roadway.

Deputy Roberts was 36-years-old and worked for the Greene County Sheriff's Office for a little more than a year. He previously worked as a police officer in Willard. Greene County Sheriff Jim Arnott said everyone is grieving the loss.

"We're one large family, and then as you know law enforcement is a even larger family, and so we've got a lot of support, not only from each other, but from agencies around the state that have already reached out, and across the nation, and we're glad that we have that, because we'll need that," he said.

The sheriff says Deputy Roberts was energetic and loved his job, and says he was the type of guy who looked forward to coming to work everyday.

Deputies will be doing some counseling and some critical incident debriefing. Nearly five inches of rain fell on eastern Greene County Friday night. The heavy rain led to many flooded low-water crossings in the area.

The Greene County Sheriff's Office asks you to keep the Roberts' family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

He leaves behind a wife and child.

What We Know About The Greene County Deputy Who Died Friday Night

<https://www.news-leader.com/story/news/local/2018/09/08/what-we-know-greene-county-deputy-who-died-friday-night/1238060002/>

Sept. 8, 2018 Harrison Keegan, Springfield News-Leader

Crews search for missing deputy in flood waters

Officials say a Greene County sheriff's deputy drowned Friday night when his patrol car was washed off the roadway by rushing water during a storm.

After an extensive search involving multiple departments, Deputy Aaron Paul Roberts, 35, was found dead in his patrol car just north of Fair Grove, according to Sheriff Jim Arnott.

Arnott told reporters that Roberts had just cleared a call, which was a 911 hang-up, when he radioed in that his car had been washed off the roadway.

"We ask you to keep Deputy Roberts' family in your prayers, and the entire Greene County Sheriff's Office as we are grieving this loss," Arnott said.

The 911 call was from the 9500 block of East Farm Road 2, near the Greene County-Dallas County line. Arnott said the deputy's vehicle was washed off the roadway at a low-water crossing on nearby Cabin Creek Road.

Arnott said the patrol car was taken a couple of hundred feet off the roadway, but the water was so deep that the car was submerged for a time.

First responders lined Cabin Creek Road near the water crossing throughout Friday night, into Saturday morning.

Arnott said it was a group of deputies and firefighters walking along the banks that located Roberts more than an hour after he went missing.



**County Sheriff's deputy believed to have been swept away by high water in northern Greene County on Friday, Sep. 7, 2018.
Andrew Jansen/News-Leader**

Greene County Sheriff Jim Arnott gives reporters on update on the death of Deputy Aaron Roberts.

Roberts had been with the Greene County Sheriff's Office for about a year, Arnott said. He previously worked with the Willard Police Department.

Arnott said Roberts was an energetic man who brought a great attitude to work.

"He was really happy to work here," Arnott said. "Even though he had been here a little over a year, everybody had kind of grown attached to him. He's got lots of friends here. Very good deputy."



(Photo: Willard Police Department)

Arnott said the other deputies were in a state of shock early Saturday morning, but they would lean on each other and on the support from other law enforcement agencies in the state. Roberts leaves behind a wife and daughter. Colleagues describe him as a dedicated family man.

Willard Police Chief Tom McClain said Roberts worked at his department from October 2013 to June 2017.

McClain said Roberts was a consummate professional who also had a knack for working with electronics and tinkering with the department's patrol cars.

"He was compassionate, caring," McClain said. "He was thorough in his investigations. He was the kind of officer that any agency would be blessed to have."

McClain said Roberts had a background in the automotive industry but felt called to law enforcement in his late 20s.

"He served hardily and with all his might," McClain said.

Roberts graduated first in his class from the Drury University Law Enforcement Academy, according to McClain.

McClain said it has been a difficult 24 hours for his officers and his prayers are with Roberts' family and friends.

Cpl. Haynes with the Greene County Sheriff's Office said Roberts often talked about the love he had for his family.

"Deputy Roberts was such a family man," Haynes said. "He was always talking about his wife and his daughter. I remember him, on more than one occasion, saying, 'I just love my wife.' This statement would often come after a brief phone conversation with her.

"I remember sitting in a parking lot one day and he was typing reports. A car pulled up next to us and I didn't know who it was. Deputy Roberts immediately lit up when he saw it was his wife and his child. Deputy Roberts was very excited to come to work everyday, but the highlight of his day was always his family."

Citizens who wish to donate money to Roberts' family can do so at Great Southern Bank locations across Missouri. The sheriff's office has started a [Gofundme campaign](#) for Roberts' family.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol is investigating the drowning.

The National Weather Service in Springfield reported heavy rainfall and flooding across the area on Friday night.

The last Greene County Sheriff's deputy to be killed in the line of duty was Gary McCormack who died in a crash on Oct. 6, 2007.

More: [Greene County deputy dies after being swept away in high water, department says](#)

Greene County Deputy Dies After Being Swept Away In High Water, Department Says

<https://www.ksdk.com/article/news/local/greene-county-officer-dies-after-patrol-car-swept-away/63-592141755>

September 9, 2018 Harrison Keegan / Giacomo Bologna (Springfield News-Leader)

Numerous emergency personnel from multiple agencies responded to an area north of Fair Grove to search for the deputy.

GREENE COUNTY, Mo. — A Greene County Sheriff's deputy died Friday night after he was swept away by high water in northern Greene County, according to a post from the Greene County Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Aaron Paul Roberts cleared a 911 call in the 9500 block of Farm Road 2. He was returning to service and moments later radioed that his car was washed off of the road. Several agencies assisted in rescue efforts.

A short time later, Deputy Roberts was found near his patrol car deceased, the post said.



"We ask that you please keep Deputy Roberts' family in your prayers during this difficult time," the post said.

Numerous emergency personnel from multiple agencies responded to an area north of Fair Grove to search for the deputy.

Emergency vehicles were parked up and down Cabin Creek Road, which is just off Highway AA and north of Fair Grove.

There was water rushing over a roadway. That's where first responders were congregating, waiting for information.

Just after midnight, a line of emergency vehicles, including an ambulance with its lights on could be seen leaving the scene.

The National Weather Service in Springfield has reported heavy rainfall and flooding across the area this evening. Flash flood warnings for the Springfield area remain in effect until 2:15 a.m.

A [GoFundMe](#) has been set up for Roberts' memorial.

Group Gives \$25K to Family Of Deputy Killed In Flooding

<https://krcqtv.com/news/local/group-gives-25k-to-family-of-deputy-killed-in-flooding-09-11-2018>

September 11th 2018 by The Associated Press

FAIR GROVE, Mo. (AP) — A southwest Missouri group has given \$25,000 to the family of a sheriff's deputy who died when his patrol car was swept away by floodwaters.

The Springfield News-Leader reported that the Greene County 100 Club gave a \$25,000 check over the weekend to the widow of 35-year-old Greene County Deputy Aaron Paul Roberts.



Fallen Deputy Roberts (Photo: GoFundMe)

He was killed Friday night when his car was washed into the Pomme de Terre River in Fair Grove.

Separate [fundraising efforts](#) are also underway. But 100 Club chairman, Bob Cirtin, said the group wanted to do something to provide for the immediate needs of Roberts' wife and daughter. Cirtin is also Green County's presiding commissioner.

The club relies on donations from individuals and corporate partners.

Law Enforcement Line School Entrance to Welcome Back Daughter Of Fallen Deputy

<https://www.wivb.com/news/national/law-enforcement-line-school-entrance-to-welcome-back-daughter-of-fallen-deputy/>

Aug 13, 2019 / Updated: Aug 13, 2019



SPRINGFIELD, Mo.(KSN16) — Several Greene County Sheriff's deputies line the entrance to Fremont Elementary School in Springfield Tuesday morning.

They were there to welcome Lydia Roberts back to school.

She is the daughter of Greene County Sheriff's Deputy Aaron Roberts who [died in the line of duty last fall](#).

Today, Deputies lined the entrance to Fremont Elementary School, as Lydia Roberts, daughter to, Kim and Deputy Aaron Roberts, started her first day of the 2019 - 2020 school year. As you recall, Deputy Roberts died in the line of duty on September 7, 2018

**GREENE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

On September 7, 2018, Deputy Aaron Paul Roberts responded to a 911 call near Fair Grove. As he was returning to service, he radioed that his car was washed off of the road.

A short time later, Deputy Roberts was found dead near his patrol car.

Roberts joined the department in 2017.

He was 35 years old.



Lydia Roberts and her mom Kim