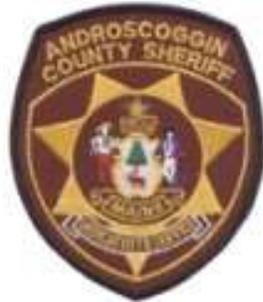


**11-04-2006 - Androscoggin CO – David Rancourt – LEO PSD Heart Attack – Evidence Recovery**



**OFFICER DOWN MEMORIAL PAGE**

REMEMBERING ALL OF LAW ENFORCEMENT'S HEROES



**Deputy Sheriff  
David Jerome Rancourt**  
Androscoggin County Sheriff's Office, Maine

<b>Bio &amp; Incident Details</b>
<b>Age: 40</b>
<b>Tour: 10 years</b>
<b>Badge # 15</b>
<b>Military veteran</b>
<b>Cause: Heart attack</b>

**End of Watch: Saturday, November 4, 2006**

Deputy David Rancourt suffered a fatal heart attack while diving in the Androscoggin River. He was searching for evidence in a criminal case.

He resurfaced during the dive and indicated that he needed assistance. He was transported to Central Maine Medical Center where he was pronounced dead a short time later.

Deputy Rancourt was a US Army Reserve veteran of the Gulf War and the War on Terrorism. He had served with the Androscoggin County Sheriff's Office for 10 years and was a member of the agency's Dive Team and Hazardous Materials Response Team. He is survived by his expectant wife and young son.

**Androscoggin Deputy Dies During Dive**

<http://www.wmtw.com/news/10242884/detail.html>

November 4, 2006

**AUBURN, Maine --** The Androscoggin County Sheriff's Department is mourning a member of its dive team. Officials said Deputy David Rancourt and other members of the dive team were looking for criminal evidence in the Androscoggin River near the Veteran's Bridge when Rancourt got into trouble Saturday morning.

Emergency medical technicians performed CPR after Rancourt signaled that he needed help, but he died at Central Maine Medical Center.

Rancourt, 40, of Leeds, served on the dive team for five years. He left behind a wife and an 8-year-old son.

The department's Capt. Raymond LaFrance said Rancourt had served during Operation Desert Storm and more recently in Iraq. He said he had just retired from the Army Reserves last week.

The state medical examiner's office on Monday said that Rancourt appeared to have died of natural causes, but more tests were needed to determine the exact cause of death

## **Deputy dies in river tragedy**

[http://www.sunjournal.com/story/183705-3/MaineNews/Deputy\\_dies\\_in\\_river\\_tragedy/](http://www.sunjournal.com/story/183705-3/MaineNews/Deputy_dies_in_river_tragedy/)  
**November 5, 2006** By Lindsay Tice and Justin Pelletier , *Staff Writers*

AUBURN - Deputy David Rancourt, head of the Androscoggin County Sheriff's dive team, died Saturday morning while diving for evidence off the Veterans Bridge.

The dive, around 10 a.m., was part of a joint operation with the Sheriff's Department and the Auburn Police Department. Officials refused to say what case they were investigating, or what the divers were seeking.

Rancourt, 40, was one of six divers searching the Androscoggin River. He was in cardiac arrest when members of his dive team took him from the water, according to a Sheriff's Department news release Saturday night.

"He signaled that he needed some assistance," Sheriff's Capt. Ray LaFrance said during a news conference a few hours earlier. "They pulled him into the boat and started CPR."

Rancourt was pronounced dead at Central Maine Medical Center.

The Maine Warden's Service is investigating, and the sheriff's department is conducting its own internal inquiry. Officials refused to speculate whether Rancourt died from natural causes, an accident or something else.

Rancourt served with the Sheriff's Department for 10 years and was a rescue diver for five.

He was also a member of the Army Reserve's 619th Transportation Company and served two tours in Iraq, one in each of the conflicts in the last 15 years. He returned from his most recent tour within the last year. He could have come home sooner, but he remained behind to help the troops who stayed to

deal with equipment.

"As a leader, he chose to stay," his wife, Dawn, told the Sun Journal in 2005. "That's the kind of person he is."

Rancourt retired from the Army a week ago, LaFrance said.

A popular member of the Sheriff's Department, Rancourt's death rocked the close-knit police community.

"We're a small, family department," LaFrance said. "Right now we're all grieving. Including myself."

All sheriff's deputies were pulled from patrol duty Saturday, and counselors met with the divers, deputies and officers who were at the bridge during the incident. Auburn, Lewiston and state police officers planned to take over patrols through today, though all emergency calls will be handled normally.

Counseling will continue for any police officer who needs it.

"He was a very dedicated individual. Dedicated to his country, dedicated to the department. He was a very good officer. One of the best," LaFrance said as he welled up with tears. "He was also a personal friend of mine, and I'll miss him dearly."

Rancourt lived in Leeds with his wife and 8-year-old son. His wife, a former member of the Lewiston Police Department, is pregnant with their second child, friends said.

//Staff writer Mark LaFlamme contributed to this report.//

## **Maine Deputy Dies Diving for Evidence**

### **Funeral Information Below**

<http://www.officer.com/article/article.jsp?siteSection=2&id=33383>

**Posted:** November 7th, 2006 02:15 PM EDT



**Deputy David Rancourt**

#### **Officer.Com News**

Officer Down Memorial Page has reported that Androscoggin County, Maine Deputy David Rancourt suffered a fatal heart attack Nov. 4 while diving in the Androscoggin River in search of evidence in a criminal case.

He resurfaced during the dive and indicated that he needed assistance, according to ODMP. He was then

transported to Central Maine Medical Center where he was later pronounced dead.

Rancourt was a U.S. Army Reserve veteran of the Gulf War and the War on Terrorism.

He served with the Androscoggin County Sheriff's Office for 10 years as a member of the agency's Dive Team and HAZMAT team.

He is survived by his wife and son.

*Officer.com will provide more information on this story as it becomes available.*

### **Funeral Information**

**Visitation for Deputy Rancourt will be Tuesday, Nov. 7 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Wednesday, Nov. 8 from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. at Dillingham and Son Funeral Home, 62 Spring Street, Auburn, Maine. Funeral services will be held Nov. 9 at 11 a.m. at the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Lewiston, Maine.**

## **Androscoggin Deputy Dies During Dive**

<http://www.wmtw.com/news/10242884/detail.html>

November 4, 2006

**UPDATED: 11:24 am EST November 6, 2006 WMTW.com**

**AUBURN, Maine --** The Androscoggin County Sheriff's Department is mourning a member of its dive team.

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Rancourt, 40, of Leeds, served on the dive team for five years. He left behind a wife and an 8-year-old son.

### **Related To Story**



**Video:** [Deputy Dies During Diving Exercise](#)

The department's Capt. Raymond LaFrance said Rancourt had served during Operation Desert Storm and more recently in Iraq. He said he had just retired from the Army Reserves last week.

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## David J. Rancourt

### Obituary

<http://obituaries.centralmaine.com/obituaries/mainetoday-centralmaine/obituary.aspx?n=david-j-rancourt&pid=19882202&fhid=4944>

LEWISTON -- David J. Rancourt, 40, of Leeds died on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2006, at Central Maine Medical Center as the result of a diving accident.

He was born in Augusta on July 23, 1966, the son of Erlon and Lorette (Labbe) Rancourt, and was raised in Augusta, attending St. Augustine's and Cony High School. He also attended Central Maine Community College for graphic arts and Southern Maine Community College for law enforcement.

For the last 10 years, David was a deputy sheriff for the Androscoggin County Sheriff's Department. While with the sheriff's department, he became the captain of the dive team, a member of the Cobra Team, and he was a defensive tactics instructor.

David was also a member of the 619th Transportation Co. of the Army Reserves. He retired after 20 years of service, serving in both Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He also received a Bronze Star during his last tour.

David is survived by his wife of 11 years, Dawn (Dube) Rancourt, of Leeds; his son and best buddy, Jeremy Rancourt of Leeds; and was anxiously awaiting the arrival of his second child. He also leaves his parents, of Augusta; three sisters, Diane Wiley and her husband, Allan, of Naples, Susan Ainslie and her husband, Boye, of Vassalboro, and Sandra Fontaine and her husband, Charles, of Augusta; nieces and nephews Alyssa and her husband, John Greene, Cain Ainslie, Vanessa Fontaine, Luke Fontaine and Keagan Bickford; and countless aunts, uncles and friends. If David had one fault, it was his generous heart. He is a hero to us all.

A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated 11 a.m. Thursday at Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul with the Rev. Lionel Chouinard, celebrant. Interment at St. Peter's Cemetery.

Donations preferred to the David J. Rancourt family fund, c/o Community Credit Union, 40 Stanley St., Auburn, ME 04210.

Visitation will be held 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Wednesday at the family-owned Dillingham & Son Memorial Chapel and Tribute Center, 62 Spring St., Auburn; 784-6449. - See more at:

<http://obituaries.centralmaine.com/obituaries/mainetoday-centralmaine/obituary.aspx?n=david-j-rancourt&pid=19882202&fhid=4944#sthash.LK4k7FUT.dpuf>

## David Rancourt River Preserve

<http://androscogginlandtrust.org/land-projects/david-rancourt-river-preserve/>

Acres: 14 | Ownership: Public | Owner: | Public Access: Yes |

This 14-acre preserve is owned by the Androscoggin Land Trust and is a component of the Androscoggin Greenway. The property was purchased from the City of Lewiston with Land for Maine's Future water access funds in 2007. The property contains a walking trail, a hand-carry boat launch, two beautiful sand beaches and a scenic overlook. In 2008 the property was dedicated in the name of Deputy Sheriff David Rancourt who tragically lost his life in the line of duty in the Androscoggin River.



**Directions:** From downtown Lewiston, follow Main Street (Route 202) north until you go past Mollison Way on the right and then under the railroad bridge. Take a left at Northwoods Road (just before Marden's).

Follow Northwoods Road a short distance until the road changes to Tall Pines Drive at a 90 degree turn to the left. Follow Tall Pines Drive a short distance past two townhouses. Park along Tall Pines Drive along the wooded section immediately across from a private parking lot of the second townhouse at 20 Tall Pines Drive. The trailhead is on the same side of the street where you have parked. Look for the kiosk and the trailhead.

## Rancourt's Run/Walk 5K June 20th – Benefit's Special Olympics

<http://wjbq.com/rancourts-runwalk-5k-june-20th-benefits-special-olympics/>

June 16, 2015 By [Lori Voornas](#)

Rancourt's Run/Walk 5K is to benefit Special Olympics Maine, in honor of [Androscoggin County Sheriff's](#) Deputy David J. Rancourt.

This is a Law Enforcement Torch Run Event, at Central Maine Community College 1250 Turner St. Auburn, ME on Saturday, June 20th 2015 at 8 am. Plenty of parking on site. Race day registration table and t-shirt/bib pickup open at 6:30. Awards will be given to top finishers in all



**Androscoggin County Sheriff Dept Facebook**

age groups, and **TONS OF FREE GIVE-AWAYS**. Non-registered participants allowed (*timing bibs and event shirts not provided*)