

## Brevard County Sheriff's Office Sheriff J.R. "Jack" Parker

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www.BrevardSheriff.com

## **News Release**



Date: March 6, 2012 Released By: Cmdr. Doug Waller NR # 12-12

## BREVARD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE DEPUTY BARBARA PILL

The Brevard County Sheriff's Office mourns the loss of Deputy Barbara Pill, who died in the line of duty today, March 6, 2012.

At 10:53 a.m., the Brevard County Sheriff's Office received an emergency call for service at the Econo Lodge located at 4455 West New Haven, Melbourne. The call related to a theft of property from the business. Suspect and vehicle descriptions were provided as the vehicle fled from the scene.

Deputies immediately responded to the scene, at which time Deputy Barbara Pill observed the suspect vehicle. Deputy Pill conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle at the intersection of Elena Way and John Rodes Boulevard, Melbourne. The vehicle driver was later identified as **22-year-old Brandon L. Bradley**. As Deputy Pill requested for him to exit the vehicle, he opened fire on Deputy Pill, using a weapon he had concealed. Deputy Pill was struck multiple times and was transported in critical condition to the Holmes Regional Medical Center, where she later died in trauma surgery.

The suspect vehicle fled the shooting scene and was later stopped as it collided with a sign and crashed into a ditch at the intersection of Turtlemound Road and Parkway Drive, Melbourne. The driver, Bradley, and the passenger, 19-year-old Andria Michelle Kerchner, were removed from the vehicle.

Deputy Pill proudly served in law enforcement for the past 30 years. She was previously employed with the Miami Dade County Police Department and began her career with the Brevard County Sheriff's Office in 1997. Deputy Pill was highly decorated, being previously presented the Merit Award (twice), Commendable Service Award and multiple Letters of Appreciation for outstanding actions. Deputy Pill is survived by a loving family, three of which are in law enforcement and continue protect the citizens of Brevard.

Brandon Bradley was charged with First Degree Premeditated Murder, Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon, Robbery with a Deadly Weapon, and Failure to Appear Warrants for the Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon, Sale of Cocaine, Carrying a Concealed Firearm, Resisting Arrest and Violation of Probation Warrants for Robbery, Possession of Cocaine, Burglary and Grand Theft. Kerchner was charged with Robbery with a Deadly Weapon, First Degree Felony Murder and a Warrant for the Sale of a Controlled Substance. Both Bradley and Kerchner were transported to the Brevard County Jail under a No-Bond Status.

**Sheriff Jack Parker stated**, "Our heroes are those who risk their lives every day to protect us and make our communities a better place, Deputy Pill is a sterling example of one of these heroes. Deputy Pill was beloved by all who knew her. She dedicated her entire life to helping others, working more than 30 years in law enforcement. Barbara will be forever remembered as a Deputy Sheriff who gave everything she had to make Brevard a safer place. She was a blessing to our agency and to all who had the honor of knowing her."

Attached to the news release is a photograph of Deputy Barbara Pill.

For any additional information related to this investigation please contact Lt. Tod Goodyear through the Sheriff's Office Communications Center at 321-633-7162. For additional information concerning the career of Deputy Barbara Pill, Please contact Cmdr. Steve Salvo at 321-264-5212.

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