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Media Release



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Date: July 12, 2011

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BERNARD L. GARMIRE, FORMER TUCSON CHIEF OF POLICE, DIES AT AGE 96

Bernard L. Garmire, a nationally recognized and dedicated law enforcement leader, passed away in Phoenix, Arizona on July 8, 2011 at 96 years of age. Garmire leaves behind a half-century legacy strengthening community-police relations.

In 1968, Garmire, then serving as Tucson's Chief of Police, was described in Life Magazine as a "career lawman ... who... followed his badge from city to city like the town-tamers of the Earp era...". At the time, Garmire was locked in a very public battle to rid Tucson of an influx of members of organized crime families from the East Coast. His targets: criminals who, according to Garmire, had brought gangland violence to the quiet, dusty streets of Tucson. It was a battle Garmire would win, thanks in large part to community engagement. According to Reader's Digest, "in the true tradition of the West [Tucson] had organized the good men to drive the bad men out."

"A police department always exemplifies the true character of the community it serves," said Garmire, addressing an audience in Chicago in 1955. Chief Garmire believed that communities deserved the highest caliber of service from their police. Though at times controversial, Garmire was a stalwart professional, dedicated to serving the community and upholding the rule of law. His tenure in law enforcement was marked with significant gains against organized crime, most notably in Tucson, AZ and Miami, FL. He was a forceful advocate for justice; his contributions to the field of community-police relations continue to be recognized today.

Since his recruitment as a trooper to the Indiana State Police in 1937, Garmire steadily rose through the ranks of law enforcement. He would become the Assistant Chief of Police of Fort Wayne, IN, where he began as a patrolman in 1940, and later serve as Chief of Police in Eau Claire, WI (1950-57); **Tucson, AZ (1957-69)**; Miami, FL (1969-1975); and interim Chief of Police of Paradise Valley, AZ in 1986.

Chief Garmire was a leader in creating community relations programs and training for police forces. He is credited with the introduction and implementation of fluid and team policing. Garmire was also instrumental in creating the Police Campus, accredited as a branch of the

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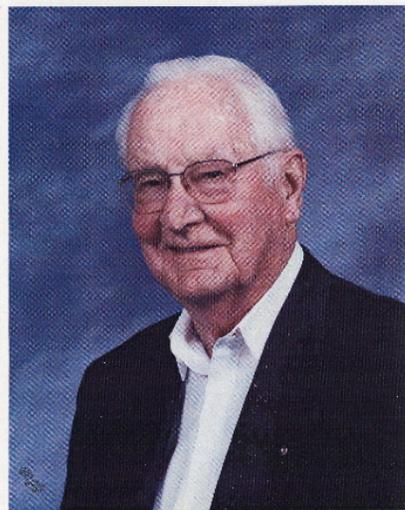
University of Arizona, making college-level education available to all Tucson Police Department officers. A dedicated educator himself, he served as specialized faculty at the F.B.I. National Academy, the Universities of Arizona, California, Minnesota, Washington and Nevada, Michigan State University, Texas A & M, Indiana University, Wisconsin University and Florida International University.

Chief Garmire served as a law enforcement consultant to United States Attorneys General; he also served as a Police Management Consultant to numerous police agencies at the state, tribal and local levels. At the national level, he was a member of the President's Commission on Campus Unrest and the White House Conference on Youth. Through his work with the F.B.I., he developed a close professional relationship with former Director J. Edgar Hoover.

Funeral arrangements for Chief Garmire are pending and will be announced at a later date.



Chief Garmire – 1957



Chief Garmire - Retired

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