

## **STATEMENT OF PUTNAM COUNTY SHERIFF**

**Donald B. Smith**

**Post-Absentee Ballot Counting**

**November 15, 2017**

- Mr. Langley will be the next Sheriff of Putnam County and I congratulate him and wish him well. I know we both agree that all the votes need to be counted and we both will respect the final tally. I am very proud of the positive, clean campaign that we conducted and, I believe, our campaign upheld the honor and integrity of the Office of Sheriff.
- I am very proud of my hard working and dedicated campaign team which worked with great heart throughout an incredibly long and tedious race. I thank them and ask them to hold their heads up high and be proud of their efforts in support of the People of Putnam County, the Office of Sheriff and our great democracy.
- I take this opportunity to thank my Command Staff, our Leadership Team and all the hard working men and women of the Putnam County Sheriff's Office and Correctional Facility for working so hard in serving the People and helping keep Putnam County one of the safest counties in America. You are truly "the best" and it has been my great honor and privilege to serve as your leader for these past incredible 16 years. Your allegiance is not to any one person, but is to our great Constitution and the People of Putnam County who we are honored to serve. I know you will continue in this same spirit under your new Sheriff.
- I thank the People of Putnam County for giving me the privilege of serving you these past 16 years as your Sheriff. It has truly been one of the greatest honors and privileges of my entire life. I feel very honored and blessed to have dedicated my life in serving in two of the most noble professions, the United States Military and law enforcement.
- I thank my family for their love and support. Tonight, I remember and thank my late parents, my brothers and sisters, my children, Christopher and Cherilynne, and their spouses, Mary and Jesse, my grandchildren, and of course, my late wife, and the love of my life, My Lady Jane for supporting me, loving me, and allowing me to serve.
- May God bless you all. May God bless Putnam County and May God continue to bless the United States of America.