Written by Aaron Miller, BRPD
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I am writing the brief sheet this morning as we prepare to officially say goodbye to Police Chief Retired Owen Tolbert. As I am sure most of you know, Owen passed away last Friday. Owen, as I am sure he would want me to call him served as a police officer at the Blowing Rock Police Department from March 1980 until his retirement in December 2006.

Owen became Police Chief in May of 1991 and led our police department for the next 15 years. As a police chief, Owen was well respected by his officers and staff as well as the folks in our community.

Owen was far more than a police officer and police chief. Owen was a husband, father, uncle, cousin and to most of us friend. Owen was our friend. Those of you who knew him knew that he was always upbeat, always friendly and someone you could count on. Owen liked to have fun and was someone you enjoyed seeing out in Town.

For those who worked under Owen and who served as law enforcement officers during his tenure, Owen was a mentor. Owen set an example as to how we should live good Christian life, how we should conduct ourselves as law enforcement officers and how we should related to our fellow man. I very much appreciate the example Owen set.

Today I don’t have any statistics or briefings of the latest stories. Today we are focused on honoring our friend Owen and lending our support to his family.