



## Newport News Sheriff's Office

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: **IMMEDIATE**

DATE: **February 28, 2011**

### NN Sheriff Morgan Appeals to Citizens to Join the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute

Richmond, VA – February 28, 2011 -- In response to the need for improved, widespread public safety awareness and to assist local sheriffs protect the lives and property of citizens throughout Virginia, Sheriff Gabriel A. Morgan today announced a campaign that encourages Newport News residents to become Associate Members of the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute (VSI).

Membership appeals will be mailed week of March 1, 2011. Individuals choosing to join the voluntary program can do so for as little as \$20, while businesses can show their support with a \$40 contribution.

The tax-deductible contributions will assist VSI's ability to provide an immediate \$5,000 in-the-line-of-duty death benefit — during the time of greatest need — to the families of Sheriffs or deputies killed serving the Commonwealth.

In addition, VSI provides essential programs to improve the training of law enforcement officers, public safety and crime prevention outreach, and desperately needed scholarships to Virginia students to pursue Criminal Justice degrees.

“Considering the persistent economic crisis and vast budget cuts imposed by Virginia’s General Assembly, our Associate Membership drive has taken on greater importance than ever before,” said Sheriff Morgan. “The funding is vital to helping us carry out our mission of making our communities safer places to live, work and play.”

Residents wishing to become Associate Members can sign up for the program online at [www.vasheriffsinstitute.org](http://www.vasheriffsinstitute.org).



*About VSI:*

*Founded in 1981, the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute is a statewide law enforcement organization supported by Virginia's Sheriffs and is registered with the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The Virginia Sheriffs' Institute is a non-profit, professional and educational organization dedicated to the preservation of peace and the protection of the lives and property of the citizens of Virginia. If you would like more information about VSI or its Associate Membership program, please contact Mr. John W. Jones, Executive Director at (804) 225-7152 or email [vsavsi@virginiasheriffs.org](mailto:vsavsi@virginiasheriffs.org).*

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*For more information, contact Lt. Kathleen Carey at 757-926-8747 or 757-813-6139.*