

Master Police Officer David Nieves

David Nieves was hired by the Virginia Beach Police Department on July 10, 1995. Prior to joining the VBPD, he proudly served our country as a member of the US Navy.

Dave spent most of his early career assigned to the Fourth Precinct where he served as a Field Training Officer. In 2009, MPO Nieves was transferred to the Community Engagement Unit (CEU), a position where he truly excelled. While assigned to the CEU, Dave oversaw numerous community engagement programs to include the Police Explorer Program, Citizen Police Academies, College Intern Program, and the Citizen Defense Class – Run, Hide, Fight. Throughout his 26-year career Dave received 30 Letters of Appreciation, 9 Departmental Class Act Awards, and earned the Department's Public Service Medal, Humanitarian Ribbon, Special Commendation, and Medal of Merit.

Dave was a tireless advocate for the Hispanic Community of Virginia Beach. He started the Hispanic Citizens Police Academy, which was a real passion project aimed at educating Hispanic citizens on all topics related to public safety. In the past several months Dave organized multiple community events to provide opportunities for members of the VBPD to meaningfully connect with Hispanic residents of the City of Virginia Beach. Perhaps one of his most successful events, one that truly demonstrated Dave's commitment to the community, was the Hispanic Fall Festival that was held in October 2021. Nearly 1000 citizens attended the event, held in the Second Precinct to receive flu vaccines, vision screenings, hearing checks and overall health screenings. While at the event, citizens enjoyed pony rides, free food, a petting zoo and were provided a free Halloween costume.

Dave will also be remembered for all that he did to improve the lives of juveniles. Dave took over a football program named TUFF – The Ultimate Family Foundation, which provided children resources to address anger, low self-esteem, autism, hunger and domestic abuse. Dave provided camping trips, tutoring sessions and community service opportunities to the members of TUFF to broaden their horizons and give them hope for a better life.

Dave will be remembered for many things and has undoubtedly left a legacy in the VBPD and the City of Virginia Beach. He had a true passion for engaging the community. He had an infectious smile and a laugh that could fill any room. He was so FULL of life that it makes it hard to believe he is gone.