

Macon County Sheriff Thomas Schneider Retires; Undersheriff Howard G. Buffett Installed as Sheriff

Decatur, IL (September 15, 2017) Macon County Sheriff Thomas Schneider announced today that he is retiring effective immediately, and Undersheriff Howard G. Buffett will assume the role of Sheriff.

Sheriff Schneider has worked in Macon County law enforcement since 1988 and has served as Sheriff since 2008. In April 2017, Schneider announced he would not be seeking re-election. Sheriff Schneider recently made the decision to retire prior to the end of his term. “Knowing that Howard will occupy my vacancy in a professional and competent manner makes the decision to leave this position less difficult,” said Schneider. “With three internal candidates running in the upcoming election, appointing Howard to my vacancy will ensure a fair and balanced election. Howard has served our community in a number of capacities, and as Undersheriff he has provided leadership and new insights into some of our challenges in law enforcement.”

Mr. Buffett has served as Undersheriff in Macon County since September 2014. He was certified by the Central Illinois Regional Commission for Law Enforcement as an Auxiliary Deputy Sheriff in August 2012.

Buffett has completed over 3,300 hours of patrol and training, and has seventy-six weapons qualifications, including Taser, handgun, rifle, and shotgun under the direction of four sheriff offices and one police agency in Illinois and Arizona, meeting both states’ certifications requirements.

In 2015, Buffett was presented the National Sheriffs’ Association Medal of Merit for his support to the Field of Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice, and in 2016 was made an honorary member of the National Sheriffs’ Association. In 2017, he received the High Sheriff Award, the highest award presented by the Illinois Sheriffs’ Association.

“It has been an honor for me to serve our community as an Auxiliary Deputy Sheriff and as Undersheriff,” said Buffett. “I look forward to serving our citizens and our Sheriff’s Office employees in a broader capacity.”

In addition to his law enforcement experience, Buffett brings an extensive background in business, elected public office, and government service to the administrative role of Sheriff. Mr. Buffett has held senior corporate executive positions at several publicly traded companies, including Archer Daniels Midland, and has served on a number of public and private corporate boards. He has a depth of expertise in operations, risk management, regulatory issues and geo-political issues. He currently serves on the corporate board of Berkshire Hathaway, Inc. and previously served on the publicly-traded boards of Archer Daniels Midland; Coca-Cola Enterprises, Inc.; The Coca Cola Company; ConAgra Foods; and The Lindsay Corporation. He was elected as a Commissioner of the Douglas County Board (Nebraska) in 1988. He has served on two United States Trade Representative Advisory Committees, as Chairman of the Nebraska Ethanol Board, and as a director of the Omaha-Douglas City Council Building Commission and the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency. Mr. Buffett served on the Commission on Presidential Debates for two decades beginning in 1997, and as a United Nations Goodwill Ambassador Against Hunger on behalf of the World Food Programme for nearly ten years.

“Following Sheriff Schneider’s departure from office, it is important to have an individual with a combination of administrative experience and law enforcement experience,” said Decatur Park Police Chief Ed Culp. “Howard’s career in business and government has provided a vast amount of administrative experience, and his last five years working closely with the Sheriff and the officers in the Sheriff’s Office have prepared him for this responsibility. More importantly, Howard will maintain a neutral environment through the upcoming election, something that is critical to maintaining the balance and impartiality that is required to ensure the continued performance and commitment of all of the Sheriff’s Office personnel.”

Mr. Buffett will be sworn into office today at 4pm and will immediately begin full-time office hours as the Sheriff of Macon County.

For further information, please contact Macon County Sheriff’s office at (217) 424-0865