



Making a difference

9-11 Memorial Car Show serves as a living tribute and fund raiser for those who served and made the ultimate sacrifice



Master Deputies Rebecca Ruszala (left) and Noel Beary have been the driving forces behind the agency's 9-11 Memorial Car Shows. In just five years they have turned the event into one of the most anticipated car shows in Central Florida

If you have a car show, they will come. Judging by the 150 or so Central Florida gear heads who drove their classic and collectable cars to the Central Florida Fairgrounds on September 20th to enter



D/S Mike Wagganer puts a little more shine on his already pristine 2007 Shelby Ford Mustang before the judging begins.

them in the Orange County Sheriff's Office 9-11 Memorial Car Show it would appear as though there is some truth to that adage.

This was the fifth installment for the increasingly popular event and, judging by the assortment and quality of entries and the impressive number of spectators who came by to enjoy them, this year's show would have to be deemed an overwhelming success.



As more and more agency's consider downsizing their cars to ease the cost of fuel, Sgt. Jamie Sykes ponders what life would be like behind the wheel of a 1967 Goggomobile.

officers and firefighters reached unthinkable proportions in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attack on America.

Noel, Rebecca, and a host of people from inside and outside the agency hatched the idea of the 9-11 Memorial Car Show as a tribute to the countless men and women who died during that dark day in New York City, Washington DC, Pennsylvania, and the unsung heroes who wear a star, or badge, or the hat of a firefighter whose lives were taken from them while they served their communities.

"We came up with the idea of a car show to honor the memory of the many, many heroes who responded to the unthinkable events of September 11, 2001 and made the ultimate sacrifice," said M/D Ruszala. "And not just those who lost their lives on that day. Few people stop to realize that the many of the first responders to the attack on the World Trade Towers are still dying from repertory-related illnesses from inhaling the tremendous amounts of dust and airborne particles that resulted from the destruction of those buildings. And sadly, people, to this day are still getting sick or dying."

The shows have been money makers from the inaugural event in 2003. In addition to providing funds for a myriad of memorial endeavors proceeds from the show are, in fact equally distributed to the Orange County Law Enforcement Memorial Fund, the Orange County Firefighter's Memorial Fund, and the Orange County Children's Safety Village. The car show is, in fact, one of the agency primary fundraising events that continue to benefit a number of agency programs and law enforcement personnel.



Officer Mark Messeguer and his 5.0 litre Mustang were regular fixtures on Winter Springs roadwas until a medical issue claimed his life. Mark's brother, Manny wanted to do something special to keep the memory of his brother alive. He bought the Mustang, restored it to mint condition and takes great pride in displaying it at area car shows. Nice job, Manny!