



## **SOLANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**Thomas A. Ferrara, Sheriff-Coroner**

---

530 Union Avenue, Ste. 100, Fairfield, CA 94533  
(707) 784-7000

January 22, 2018

Solano County Board of Supervisors,

The Solano County Sheriff's Office is currently overseeing the construction of a vocational training center at the Clay Bank campus that will include two buildings, a 10,000 square foot classroom facility and a 30,000 square foot facility with eight bays to be used for vocational training of various trades, including automotive maintenance, building trades and truck/bus driving. The vocational training center is financed by Senate Bill 1022, the Adult Local Criminal Justice Facilities Construction Program (SB 1022) and will exponentially expand the inmate programming offered to adult offenders in Solano County, providing them more opportunities to gain valuable skills that can be utilized upon reentry into society.


The Sheriff's Office is requesting the Solano County Board of Supervisors name the new SB 1022 Vocational Training Center the "Rourk Vocational Training Center." The possibility of naming the new center in honor of Lieutenant Margaret L. (Peggy) Rourk is incredibly appropriate and exciting to the Sheriff's Office, the programs and service providers in our community, and those families whose lives were forever changed by her efforts. I worked with Lieutenant Rourk for 17 years, and I cannot think of a more deserving or inspiring person in our County to recognize.

Peggy was bright, street smart, dedicated to the Solano County Sheriff's Office, and a beacon of inspiration to so many of us who worked with her. She always demanded excellence from her staff and never failed to reward that excellence with praise and encouragement. Peggy gave her staff the freedom to make their own choices and the tools and processes to make those choices effectively and productively. All of the lessons and values that Lt. Rourk instilled in her staff were, in turn, shared with the incarcerated population passing through our jails. As a result, the culture of our facilities was forever changed for the better.

I know that many of us took the lessons that Peggy shared with us to heart. As the Custody Division Commander, working with Peggy opened my eyes to the value of inmate programs. Individuals who return to our community after attending parenting programs, or who connect to services and reunite with their families afterward, go on to become contributing members of our community.

Peggy Rourk enabled and empowered so many people to "pay it forward." I feel it is a fitting honor to her memory to "pay it back" by attaching her name to a center specifically committed to helping others re-enter society with the life skills necessary to be successful and with the hope that those individuals will also pay it forward for years to come.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Ferrara  
Sheriff-Coroner

*Dedicated to Community Service*





## SOLANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Thomas A. Ferrara, Sheriff-Coroner

---

530 Union Avenue, Ste. 100, Fairfield, CA 94533  
(707) 784-7000

January 19, 2018

To Who It May Concern,

It is an honor to write this letter as a testimony to Lt. Peggy Rourk's vision for and support of jail-based treatment programs.

Prior to Lt. Rourk's role as the Program's Lieutenant and later as a facility commander, outreach to the jail population and delivery of jail-based substance abuse treatment and reentry services were few and often seen as disruptions to the routine inside the jails. The Lieutenant had a belief that those incarcerated could change old behaviors with guidance while in custody (both from officers and programs) but also could successfully reenter the community when linked with appropriate resources.

Lt. Rourk paid close attention to what programs were offered and how those services were delivered. She had high standards that program staff had to meet, especially as it related to program staff understanding and adhering to the safety and security of the institution. She developed better relationships between officers and program staff through trainings and individual dialogue.

The Lieutenant was an advocate for the then existing programs but also championed new opportunities for incarcerated persons to learn new skills. One such opportunity was through the kitten foster care program for women in the jail-based parenting groups that begun in 2005. This was a collaborative effort between the jail and the Animal Shelter and received newspaper and television coverage. She supported special projects for the men and women participating in jail parenting programs to write and illustrate books for children of incarcerated parents. These books were printed and distributed to local libraries by Solano Community College.

Lt. Rourk had vision; she had enthusiasm; she was a leader. All those working in programs on her watch were enriched by her spirit and her professionalism. She laid the cornerstone for the array of jail-based programs that are accepted and supported by the Sheriff's Office today.

She was amazing as a person and as a professional. On behalf of the Youth and Family Services' jail-based program staff that provided services under the watchful eye of Lt. Rourk, let it be known that she was our hero!

Sincerely,

Pat Nicodemus  
Solano County Sheriff's Office  
Women's Reentry Achievement Program

*Dedicated to Community Service*



# SOLANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S CUSTODY ASSOCIATION

3336 N. Texas Street, Ste. J, Box 161, Fairfield, CA 94533

**PRESIDENT**  
Jared Riley

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Jesse Tanner

**SECRETARY**  
Melissa Guglielminetti



**DIRECTORS**  
Armando Espinoza  
Jaleesa Bradshaw  
Daniel Azevedo  
Matthew Meinke

To: Solano County Board of Supervisors  
From: Solano County Sheriff's Custody Association  
Subject: Naming of the SB1022 Classroom and Vocational Training Center  
Date: 24 January 2018

The Solano County Sheriff's Custody Association would like to highly endorse the naming of the SB1022 Classroom and Vocational Training center in honor of Lieutenant Margaret L. Rourk (Peggy).

It is important for those making the decision to know Lt. Rourk's favorite saying was to "think outside the box." Lt. Rourk practiced what she preached. Lt. Rourk was a decade ahead of SB1022 when she instituted programs as a Correctional Lieutenant, and Jail Commander, with little to no funding. Lt. Rourk believed in extending the custody division's mission to include facilitating custody programs. These programs, she believed, would arm inmates with the tools they needed to help them on their road to rehabilitation.

Programs for inmate rehabilitation was only part of her efforts. Lt. Rourk invited inmates' families to the Claybank facility to celebrate the holidays. Lt. Rourk wanted to be sure the children of program inmates were not forgotten during this time. She wanted to ensure those children would have an opportunity to enjoy the holiday season. Lt. Rourk often spent her own personal funds to accomplish these events.

At Lt. Rourk's retirement celebration, Sheriff Gary Stanton said, "I was not a fan of the programs at first. However, Peggy made a believer out of me."

No one can measure the level of professionalism, dedication, and groundbreaking effort put forward by Lt. Rourk to make Solano County a safer place for us all.

Jared Riley, 1C156  
SCSCA President

Cathleen Bidou, 1C35  
Correctional Officer