



## **Sheriff Rick Wells**

**Manatee County Sheriff's Office**

Sheriff Wells was sworn in as Sheriff of Manatee County January 3, 2017. He was Palmetto Police Department's Police Chief from 2010-2015; and spent 21 years at Florida Highway Patrol and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. He has spent over 31 years in law enforcement.

Sheriff Wells moved to Manatee County in 1978. He graduated from Manatee High School in 1982, attended Manatee Junior College and has an Associate of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Columbia Southern University. He is a graduate of Saint Leo University, Command Officer Management Program.

Sheriff Wells was named the Manatee County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year in 1991, received the Manatee County Whitey Knutsen Award in 1991, Unidos Now Visionary Award in 2012, the NAACP Humanitarian Award in 2014 and Edgar H. Price, Jr. Humanitarian Award in 2016.

He has taught law enforcement to governmental, educational and community organizations throughout Florida. He is currently Executive Director of Manatee County Police League, Chairperson of the Manatee County Law Enforcement Council, Board member of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Board member Law Enforcement Advisory Board Council for the Manatee Technical College, as well as many other community organizations.