



Chief William L. Tokajer

Holmes Beach Police Department

William L. Tokajer was born on February 11, 1961, in Newark, New Jersey. He has been married to Thea Tokajer since December 14, 1981. Thea dedicated 45 years to the medical profession before retiring in 2020. Together, they reside in Palmetto, Florida. They have two daughters: Christina, born on July 24, 1982, who lives in Ellenton, Florida, and Valerie, born on April 27, 1987, who resides in Parrish, Florida.

Tokajer has an extensive educational background. He earned a bachelor's degree in theology from Life Christian University (2003-2007) and has completed 75 credits toward a bachelor's in criminal justice at Andrew Jackson University. Additionally, he has attended prestigious law enforcement training programs, including the FBI National Academy (Session 230), the Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute's Future Chiefs Seminar, the Southern Police Institute's Command Officers Development Course, and numerous executive leadership programs. His commitment to continuing education is evident in the more than 3,000 hours of advanced training he has completed throughout his career.

His law enforcement career spans decades. Since 2013, he has served as the Chief of Police for the Holmes Beach Police Department. Prior to this role, he held various leadership positions, including Captain at the Longboat Key Police Department and Deputy Chief at the Bradenton Police Department, where he managed numerous divisions such as Detectives, Crime Scene Investigations, Narcotics, and Training. His responsibilities also included overseeing emergency operations, legal issues, discipline coordination, and federal grant applications. Throughout his career, he has played a pivotal role in accreditation processes and policy development, ensuring professional standards within the departments he has served.

Before transitioning into civilian law enforcement, Tokajer served in the U.S. Army as a Military Police Officer from 1979 to 1982, achieving the rank of E-4 and earning several commendations, including the Good Conduct Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal. His dedication to law enforcement training has led him to become a certified instructor, teaching subjects such as Defensive Tactics and Firearms at multiple police academies and law enforcement agencies.

Tokajer is actively involved in professional organizations, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Florida Police Chiefs Association, and the FBI National Academy Association. He has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Purple Heart for being wounded in the line of duty, the Medal of Valor for saving a fellow officer's life, and the Officer of the Year award from the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons.

Beyond his law enforcement career, Tokajer is deeply committed to community service. He has served for over 30 years on the Board of Directors for Manatee Children's Services, where he is the current president. He is also a board member of the Florida League of Cities Law Enforcement Advisory Panel, Manatee Technical College Law Enforcement Advisory Panel, and Fight Crime: Invest in Kids. Additionally, he has been involved with organizations such as Kiwanis of Manatee and the Public Safety Coordinating Council.

With a distinguished career in law enforcement, a passion for education and training, and a lifelong commitment to community service, Chief William L. Tokajer continues to make a significant impact in both his profession and the communities he serves.