

Longtime Sheriff's Volunteer Ron Hermo died in his home after a protracted illness this morning. The family is planning a celebration of life in the Clatskanie area on June 29. Sheriff Jeff Dickerson prepared the following tribute to Ron's memory:

On Tuesday, June 17, longtime sheriff's office volunteer Ron Hermo passed away in his home in the Clatskanie area after a prolonged illness. His passing is a tremendous loss to his family, to his community and to the sheriff's office, as well.

When I took office in 2009, Ron had had been a leader within the sheriff's posse for a number of years, but he was particularly adept in his role as a search and rescue volunteer. His energy and commitment to search and rescue principles quickly established him as one of our most reliable volunteers.

Ron became our volunteer search and rescue coordinator, reporting directly to the undersheriff.

He

not only became increasingly skilled within the command post at various search and rescue (SAR) incidents, but he also kept track of all the hours and training put in by search and rescue members, and he filed all required SAR reports with the State of Oregon.

As a volunteer, Ron represented the Columbia County Sheriff's Office at state sheriff's association Search and Rescue Command Council meetings. In 2008, the Oregon State

Sheriff's Association recognized Ron

for his "outstanding contributions and support in the coordination of the Lost But Found Program." He brought back to us the latest innovations and best practices from around the state and held his own as a search and rescue leader among SAR representatives (many of them sworn deputies and supervisors) from sheriff's offices around Oregon.

Ron helped carry the Search and Rescue team in Columbia County to new heights in professionalism, recruitment, and training. Our team has developed within the region as part of the overall mix in Northwest Oregon SAR resources, training regularly with other SAR teams and hosting regional training with those teams, as well.

He leaves behind a team of dedicated search and rescue team members who will undoubtedly perpetuate his commitment to excellence that the team has come to embrace. The entire sheriff's office mourns his passing with his family, and wishes them peace and

comfort in this time of loss.