

It is with great sorrow that we announce the death of River Bend Police Chief, Ryland E. Matthews, Jr.

Chief Matthews died on Sunday, April 16, 2017 around 10 p.m. of natural causes. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. Chief Matthews was 57 years old.

Chief Matthews served as Police Chief from March 2012 until his passing. Prior to his service with the Town of River Bend, he served for 13 years with the New Bern Police Department. While with the New Bern PD, he rose to the rank of Lieutenant. Chief Matthews also served his country in the United States Marine Corps for 10 years. He achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant and served as an aviation mechanic before beginning his career in law enforcement.

“Chief Matthews loved his job, his department and the Town of River Bend. He was loyal, dedicated, responsible and dependable,” said Town Manager Delane Jackson. “We will miss his leadership and contributions to the Town of River Bend.” Mayor John Kirkland said, “I agree with the Manager’s comments related to the Chief’s dedicated service. In this town of 3,000 there is a close bond between citizens and their Police Department. Chief Matthews valued that bond and worked tirelessly to maintain that trust.”

Chief Matthews is survived by his wife and his two adult sons. At this time, we do not have any details about his funeral services. The Town of River Bend will be mindful of the family’s wishes regarding funeral and/or memorial services and will make the appropriate announcement(s) in accordance with their requests.

Sergeant Sean Joll has been appointed acting-Chief until such time that a new Chief is appointed.