

05-31-2013 Y City AR – Joel Lee Campora – GM LEO – Attempted Rescue Flood Boat



OFFICER DOWN MEMORIAL PAGE

REMEMBERING ALL OF LAW ENFORCEMENT'S HEROES

<http://www.odmp.org/officer/21792-wildlife-officer-joel-lee-campora>



Bio & Incident Details

Age: 32

Tour: Not available

Badge #: Not available

Cause: Drowned

Wildlife Officer

Joel Lee Campora

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas

End of Watch: Friday, May 31, 2013

Wildlife Officer Joel Campora and Sheriff Cody Carpenter, of the Scott County Sheriff's Office, drowned while assisting victims of an overnight flash flood along the Fourche Lefave River near Y City, Arkansas.

They had responded by boat to a 911 call at a home in the flooded area along the river. They both exited the boat and entered the home to assist two female victims who were trapped inside. At some point the officers, victims, and boat were swept away by the rising water. Sheriff Carpenter's body was located the following morning while Officer Campora's body was recovered three days later one mile downstream.

UPDATED: Scott County sheriff and 1 other dead, 3 missing in flooding

<http://www.odmp.org/officer/21792-wildlife-officer-joel-lee-campora>

May 31, 2013 By Max Brantley Channel 4 and Fox 16 Arkansas Blog

The Department of Emergency Management is reporting a search is on for a sheriff and Game and Fish officer in a flooded portion of **Scott County**. The National Guard is sending people to help in water rescues.

SHERIFF CODY CARPENTER: Dies during flooding.



UPDATE: No identities as yet, but the State Police is reporting that there have been fatalities as a result of the storm and flooding in Scott County.

Flash flooding early this morning in the Waldron area trapped people in homes and prompted rescue efforts, **Channel 4 says.**

UPDATE II: The news grows far worse [in this updated from KFSM](#): The body of **Scott County Sheriff Cody Carpenter** has been found, but a Game and Fish officer and others are still missing. He apparently drowned attempting to rescue others.

Highway 71 South from Y City to Mena remains closed Friday morning after heavy rain and severe weather Thursday night.

Eyewitnesses said families are displaced and Scott County dispatchers said swift water rescues have taken place throughout the night.

At mid-morning, officials were fearing at least three fatalities — the sheriff, the missing officer, Joel Campora, and one other unidentified body, a woman already found. Questions remain about those living in low-lying areas that led authorities there in the first place.

UPDATE: At an afternoon news conference, officials said that, in addition to the two dead and one missing officer, two women who lived in a house that was flooded also haven't been located.

The officer, Joel Campora, may have been swept away in attempting to rescue the two women. They had made a 911 call about midnight saying they were trapped.



MISSING: Wildlife Officer Joel Campora, missing after being swept away in flood rescue effort.

A National Guard helicopter worked through the day on rescues of people trapped by floodwaters.

Channel 4 put together a good video segment that shows how 3-7 inches of rain filled a valley in Scott County where the worst flooding occurred, near Y City.

Also, from Keith Stephens at the Game and Fish Commission on officer Joel Campora:

He is 32 years old and lives in Waldron with his wife and two children. He's been with the AGFC since 2007. He started his enforcement career with the Mena PD in 2003. At this point, it looks like the Sheriff and Joel were attempting a rescue in a house that was being flooded. It appears that they two fell in the water and were swept away. The sheriff was found about 1.5 miles downstream from Y City where the house was located. We are currently searching the area on foot and by vehicle. A helicopter has been brought in as well. The two people they were trying to rescue from the house are missing as well.

ALSO: Great story by Gavin Lesnick [on the free portion of the Democrat-Gazette website](#) about a Oden couple whose home was washed away with them in it and then hit a tree and split apart. They hung onto a tree until being rescued.

UPDATE: Gov. Mike Beebe has declared six counties disaster areas as a result of a variety of weather events — Cross, Montgomery, Poinsett, Polk, Scott and Van Buren

Search Resumes for Missing Game Warden, Scott County Woman

[HTTP://5NEWS.COM/2013/05/31/SCOTT-COUNTY-SHERIFF-GAME-WARDEN-MISSING-AFTER-MAJOR-FLOODING/](http://5news.com/2013/05/31/scott-county-sheriff-game-warden-missing-after-major-flooding/)

MAY 31, 2013, BY [LEAH SEITER](#), [ALICIA AGENT](#) AND [MEREDITH BALDWIN](#), *UPDATED AT JUNE 1, 2013*

The search has resumed for Joel Campora, an Arkansas Game and Fish Commission wildlife officer, and an unidentified women who went missing Friday (May 31) during [severe flooding in the Y City area of Scott County](#), after heavy rain forced the search to stop earlier Saturday.

12 teams have been formed to search the land around the swollen Fourche River, Sebastian County Investigation Phillip Pevehouse said in an update on the [Sheriff's Department Facebook page](#) Saturday around noon. K-9's have been brought in to help with the search effort.

Boats are on standby to assist with the search, but they will not be deployed until river conditions allow, Pevehouse said. Aircrafts are also on standby. Pevehouse



said a Blackhawk helicopter, provided by the Arkansas National Guard, will be deployed as conditions permit.

Heavy equipment, such as back-hoes and bulldozers have also been brought in to begin searching piles of debris, Pevehouse said.

"Area bridges have (been) assigned monitors to visually keep watch on the downstream flow," Pevehouse said on Facebook.

According to the Sheriff's Department Facebook page, Scott County residents are providing support to the search efforts providing law enforcement with food and drinks. Red Cross Arkansas chapter is also on scene.

The search was delayed early Saturday more (June 1) as rain continued to pour in Scott County. Pevehouse said conditions were unsafe for searching for the missing at the time.

"Fort Smith Fire Department Swift Water Rescue Unit, Sebastian County Sheriff's Office, and the Scott County Road Department have been deployed in rescue operations for stranded motorist," Pevehouse said. "This area is about 20 miles from the Y City area."

Officials said they believe Wildlife Officer Campora was with Scott County Sheriff Cody Carpenter attempting to rescue two stranded women when high waters became too much.

[Sheriff Carpenter's body was found early Friday morning](#) about a mile downstream from a home where they received a 911 call about rising waters, according Hollenbeck.

Saturday, a property owner found the body of a white female on his land about a half-mile south of the Fourche River Bridge and called 911 at approximately 3:30 p.m., said an official with the Sebastian County Sheriff's office.

Authorities are not releasing the identity of the woman.

More than 100 officials searched the flood waters and swollen (Fourche) river Campora's boat was also found Friday afternoon. Hollenbeck said there is still hope, even though Campora's status is undetermined.

"He was the epitome of what a wildlife officer should be and he was doing what he was trained to do last night," said Mike Knoedl with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

Officials believe Campora and Scott County Sheriff Cody Carpenter were working together on rescue efforts as storms moved in overnight.

“As they approached the residence, they noticed that flooding waters were rising rapidly and other deputies on scene heard a loud crash,” Hollenbeck said.

Hollenbeck said the house imploded due to rising flood waters in Mill Creek.

Sebastian County search and rescue crews, Logan County search and rescue crews, Arkansas Game and Fish, Arkansas State Police, area police and deputies are assisting in the search for Campora and the other missing woman in the Y City area.

Early Friday, Scott County Judge James Forbes said the woman missing is believed to be the woman who was in the home that Sheriff Carpenter and Campora attempted to respond to.

Lt. Col. Keith Moore with the Arkansas National Guard said a Blackhawk helicopter was deployed around 8 a.m. from Robinson Air Force Base in North Little Rock to Scott County to assist in the rescue mission.

Sebastian County Sheriff Bill Hollenbeck, whose office is helping with rescue efforts, said Friday during an afternoon news conference that the [body of one woman was found in her car](#). She has not been identified.

Friday evening, Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department officials announced Highway 28 is closed to traffic from Parks to the Yell County line. Highways 270 and 71 were reopened to traffic near Y City earlier that afternoon. Eyewitnesses said families have been displaced and Scott County dispatchers said swift water rescues have taken place throughout the night.

Searchers Recover Bodies of Wildlife Officer, Second Woman

[HTTP://5NEWS.COM/2013/06/02/SEARCHERS-RECOVER-BODIES-OF-WILDLIFE-OFFICER-SECOND-WOMAN/](http://5news.com/2013/06/02/searchers-recover-bodies-of-wildlife-officer-second-woman/)

JUNE 2, 2013, BY [MARTY COOK](#) AND [KATIE KORMANN](#), *UPDATED JUNE 3, 2013*

Search and rescue teams recovered the last two bodies missing since a flash flood Friday morning in Scott County.

Sebastian County Sheriff Bill Hollenbeck confirmed the body of a second woman was found at approximately 2:44 p.m. Sunday in a wooded area next to Mill Creek. The body of Arkansas Game and Fish wildlife officer Joel Campora had been recovered at 9:30 a.m. on a fence line about 500 yards from where the woman's body was found.

Hollenbeck said receding water gave search and rescue teams access to areas they had not been able to get to. Both bodies were recovered in such areas Sunday.

Campora, 32, and Scott County Sheriff Cody Carpenter, 41, were attempting to rescue the two women from a flooded home off Highway 71 early Friday morning in Scott County. As the two men approached the home in a boat, other deputies at the scene heard a loud noise, which Hollenbeck said was the structure collapsing from the pressure of the raging water.



"Never forget he was a hero," said Mike Knodel, Director of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, of Campora. "He was a true hero the other night, him and Sheriff Carpenter."

Campora's battered boat was found, and Carpenter's body was recovered Friday about a mile downstream from the destroyed home. The first woman's body was discovered in a field near the Fourche River bridge by a property owner Saturday afternoon.

"We were hopeful all along that we were doing a rescue mission, but we've seen the damage, we've seen the destruction that this flood caused," said Colonel Jeff Crow, Chief of the Enforcement Division of the AGFC.

Family friend John Scantling identified the women as sisters-in-law Vivian Reimer and Regina "Kay" Shearn.

Authorities confirmed the identities of the women on the Sebastian County Facebook page Monday (June 3.)

"Even though they weren't blood sisters, they went out like sisters," said Scantling. "You never leave family behind."

More than 200 officers from local, state and federal agencies are involved in the search. Hollenbeck said more than 50 agencies responded to help with the search. "Officers responded heroically," Hollenbeck said. "They stayed until the job was done and all the officers and citizens were found. I'm very proud of the response."

Knodel said the AGFC is like a family, and its their mission to care for Campora's wife and children like family.

"Joel gave his life serving the state of Arkansas and representing the Arkansas Game and Fish," he said. "It's only fitting that we're going to take care of his family now that he's not here."

Scott County residents lined the streets Sunday evening to honor Campora as his body was given a police escort from the recovery site.

Carpenter's memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. at Waldron High School. Hollenbeck said Campora's service will be Friday in Waldron but an exact time had not been determined.

County Mourning Loss of Two Law Enforcement Officers

<http://mypulsenews.com/county-mourning-loss-of-two-law-enforcement-officers/>

June 5, 2013 BY LEANN DILBECK -

The loss of two Scott County law enforcement officers is being felt heavily in Polk County. The three-day search ended Sunday when the body of 32-year old Arkansas Game & Fish wildlife officer, Joel Campora, a Mena native, was found around 9:30 a.m. almost two miles from where he and Sheriff Cody Carpenter attempted to help two women trapped in their home in rapidly rising flood waters near Y-City in the early morning hours of Friday. Carpenter's body had been recovered around 8 a.m. on Friday.



"It is with profound sadness that we announce the recovery of our wildlife officer Joel Campora," read the post on the AGFC's Facebook page Sunday morning. He was found earlier today near Y-City where he attempted to do what he was trained to do...save lives."

Campora's body was discovered by fellow AGFC and U.S. Forest Service officers, who searched relentlessly to recover their fallen comrade for his family. "We were grateful that we were the ones that were able to recover him and return him to his family," said Jeff Crow, chief of law enforcement for the AGFC.

The two womens' bodies have been recovered and identified as Kay Shearn and Vivian Reimar.

Polk County Sheriff Mike Godfrey, who assisted with the search, was deeply saddened at the loss. Godfrey said Campora was just getting ready to be transferred back to Polk County and he was looking forward to having him 'back home.' "I don't know what to say that could bring a shed of light to what good guys they were. There were both so dedicated to what they do. A lot of people don't realize what all law enforcement officers do and what is sacrificed. Going out and rescuing people isn't really part of the job requirement, it's just what they do. It's who they were. I think if they had it to do again and knew the outcome...they'd still do it."



Their acts of valor are not just being recognized in Scott County but statewide. Congressman Tom Cotton issued the following statement after news circulated Sunday that his body had been recovered, ““Today, I join my fellow Arkansans in mourning the loss of Wildlife Officer Joel Campora and extend my deepest condolences to his loves ones. Officer Campora lost his life bravely serving his community and protecting his fellow citizens— courageously exemplifying a Wildlife Officer’s commitment to serve both nature and man. I am grateful to all those who have been involved with the rescue and recovery efforts over the last several days.

I continue to keep those affected by the recent severe weather in my thoughts and prayers.”

Over 200 officers and 50 agencies assisted with the search. Hwy 71 was lined with people showing their respect and giving honor as both Carpenter’s and Campora’s bodies were being returned to Waldron from the recovery sites by police escort. Both were beloved by their communities.

Polk County Emergency Management Coordinator James Reeves was among many from Polk County who also assisted in the search. He said as difficult as the Albert Pike flood was several years ago, this was even more difficult, knowing both of the men as he did. All that knew Campora will tell you of his Godly character and willingness to always invest in the lives of children and teens.

Officials have said it will forever remain a mystery as to exactly what happened in the darkness of that stormy night. Carpenter accompanied Campora in the his boat and officers nearby said that shortly after they were able to navigate the turbulent waters and get to the house they heard a loud noise they believe to be the house as it imploded from force of the flood waters.

Flash flood warnings had been issued and the Fourche La Fave River is characteristically known to flood but AGFC officials said it happened so quickly you could literally watch the waters rising and swelling beyond levels that anyone has seen in recent memory.

Approximately, a dozen homes were destroyed in Y-City or damaged by the flood and additional houses are 50 percent damaged but still livable said officials. The American Red Cross responded. Communications Information Officer Brigette Williams told the The Times Record that although the number is not definite, they believe there is an approximate 100 people that have been displaced by this deadly flash flood.

An account has been established to assist storm victims. Contributions may be made to the "Disaster Relief Fund" at Community National Bank in Waldron or mailed to: P. O. Box 788, Waldron, AR 72958.

Another woman lost her life when her car became stranded in floodwaters on Hwy 71. She had attempted to get out of her car and was immediately swept under her vehicle. Her identity had still not been released as of press time.

The Ink Fire Department is planning a fundraiser for the Campora family this Saturday at the Lum & Abner Festival. They will be serving BBQ pork sandwiches beginning at 11 a.m. until they run out for \$2 per sandwich with all proceeds going to Campora's family, his wife Rebecca and two daughters.

Services for both Carpenter and Campora will be held at the Waldron High School football stadium.

Carpenter's memorial is planned for 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 5. Carpenter leaves behind a wife and four children.

Campora's service will be at 1:00 p.m. Friday, June 7, 2013 with Dr. Ken Overturf, Dr. David Birdsong, and Matt Bell officiating. Arrangements and cremation are being entrusted to: Heritage Memorial Funeral Home & Crematory in Waldron, Arkansas.



Facebook

[Arkansas Game and Fish Commission shared their album.](https://www.facebook.com/ARGameandFish/posts/10151672558093234)
<https://www.facebook.com/ARGameandFish/posts/10151672558093234>
June 6, 2013 ·

Wildlife Officer 1st Class Joel Campora was a hero in the truest sense of the word. His body was recovered June 2 near the location where flood waters took the lives of Scott County Sheriff Cody Carpenter and two women. Campora and Carpenter were attempting to rescue the two Y City women when flood waters collapsed the women's home.

Campora had been a wildlife officer with the AGFC since 2007. He was assigned to Scott County and lived in Waldron with his wife and two children.



As a cadet, Campora wrote in his personal biography that he knew from an early age what he wanted to do with his life. "From the time I was in fourth grade in school, I have always had the dream of being a game warden. I remember seeing those officers and thinking how there could not be a better job out there," Campora wrote. "Being able to have a job that allowed you to



work with and preserve nature was only a dream to me. Now it is a reality and I will be proud to put on the uniform every day of my career," he added.

Torrential rains in the area began May 30 and continued through June 1 causing area rivers and creeks to swell. The National Weather Service reported that nearly eight inches of rain fell in that area over a 12-hour period May 30-31.

Campora and Carpenter got into the wildlife officer's boat just after midnight on May 31 to answer a 911 call that the two Y City women were in their house and were in danger from the flood waters of Mill Creek. The swollen creek caused the home to collapse while Campora, Carpenter and the two women were inside.

Campora's funeral will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, June 7 at the Waldron High School football field. There will be a fundraiser at the Lum and Abner Festival in Mena on Saturday. Donations may be made to the Wildlife Officer Joel Campora Memorial Fund at:

First Community National Bank
934 West 2nd St.
Waldron, AR 72958
479-637-3470

HalfStaff.us

AR – Officer Joel Campora

<http://halfstaff.us/details/3542/>

Friday, Jun 7, 2013

Arkansas State Flag at Half Staff for Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Wildlife Officer Joel Campora

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME - GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Wildlife Officer Joel Lee Campora, born on July 23, 1980, in Bend, Oregon, growing up in Mena, Arkansas, was deeply loved by his family and many friends. Joel was a dedicated and conscientious wildlife officer and member of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission for the past five years, and he gave his life protecting others on May 31, 2013, serving his State in the line of duty in Scott County; and

WHEREAS: Joel Campora was the beloved son of George Campora and Lyla Jean Campora, both of Clinton; the devoted husband of Rebecca Campora of Waldron; the proud father of Dacie Jayden and Bethany Faith; the loving brother of Shiela Farmer of Clinton; and the cherished grandson of Emily Campora of Lebanon, Oregon; as well as a valued friend and respected public servant to scores of people

from across the State; and

WHEREAS: After attending the Mena public schools and Henderson State University, Joel began a career in law enforcement, serving with the Mena Police Department, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, and attending ALETA. Just five years ago, he fulfilled his lifelong dream of becoming a Wildlife Officer First Class with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and a member of its Dive Team and Disaster Response Team; and

WHEREAS: Officer Campora was always the consummate professional and dedicated public servant, proud of the vital role he played in protecting our citizens and our natural heritage; and

WHEREAS: Joel was a loyal friend to those who served with him, an active participant in his community and his church, known as a man of faith and for his love of his job; and

WHEREAS: All Arkansas citizens owe Joel Campora a lasting debt of gratitude for performing his job with integrity and enthusiasm and should pay tribute to his faithful service; and

WHEREAS: Citizens of this State extend deepest sympathy to the family and loved ones of Wildlife Officer Joel Campora;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE BEEBE, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, in tribute to the memory of Officer Joel Campora and as an expression of public sorrow, do hereby direct that all State flags be flown at half-staff on Friday, June 7, 2013

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 5th day of June, in the year of our Lord 2013.

Joel Lee Campora

<https://naweo.org/FallenOfficers-V2/detail.php?primarykey=105>



Wildlife Officer Joel Campora and Sheriff Cody Carpenter, of the Scott County Sheriff's Office, drowned while assisting victims of an overnight flash flood along the Fourche Lefave River near Y City, Arkansas.

They had responded by boat to a 911 call at a home in the flooded area along the river. They both exited the boat and entered the home to assist two female victims who were trapped inside. At some point the officers, victims, and boat were swept away by the rising water. Sheriff Carpenter's

body was located the following morning while Officer Campora's body was recovered three days later one mile downstream.

As a child, Joel attended Mena Public Schools and graduated from Mena High School. He then attended Rich Mountain Community College and later attended Henderson State University in Arkadelphia. He began his law enforcement career as a reserve for the Mena Police Department. He entered full time law enforcement with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office as a county deputy and attended ALETA (Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy.)



His dream career with the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission as a wildlife officer, 1st class began five years ago. Joel was a member of AGFC Dive Team and the Disaster Response Team. He also was a defensive tactics instructor and defensive driving instructor.

Memorial Held For Scott County Women

[HTTP://5NEWS.COM/2013/06/14/MEMORIAL-HELD-FOR-SCOTT-COUNTY-WOMEN/](http://5news.com/2013/06/14/memorial-held-for-scott-county-women/)

JUNE 14, 2013, BY MEREDITH BALDWIN, UPDATED AT 05:49PM, JUNE 14, 2013

A memorial ceremony was held Friday (June 14) for two YCity women who died two weeks ago when flash flooding swamped Scott County.

The two women, Vivian Reimer and Regina "Kay" Shearn died along with Scott County Sheriff Cody Carpenter and Arkansas Game & Fish



Officer Joel Campora on May 31. Carpenter and Campora were attempting to rescue Reimer and Shearn from their home along Mill Creek in the rising flood waters. "The shock has been the hardest hardest thing because no one expected this," Jan Stephens, Reimer's niece, said.

Reimer and Shearn had put their house up on concrete blocks in case of flooding, Stephens explained. However, Stephens said the two women had lived in the same house for 15 years and never had floodwaters even get close.

"Our family has been devastated over the commitment of [Carpenter and Campora] and that they risked everything they did to save our family members," Stephens said. "We hope at some point to be able to visit with [their families] and just be able to tell them that we love them and that they'll be in our prayers always."

The memorial service was held at 2 p.m. at the Heritage Memorial Chapel located on W. Highway 80.

A fifth person, Cathy Byers, was also killed in the flooding. All of the bodies have been recovered.

Campora to be Inducted into Outdoor Hall of Fame

<http://mypulsenews.com/campora-to-be-inducted-into-outdoor-hall-of-fame/>

July 8, 2015 BY MELANIE BUCK –

Joel Campora, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Wildlife Officer First Class, has been chosen to be inducted into the 2015 Arkansas Outdoor Hall of Fame. The Arkansas Outdoor Hall of Fame began in 1992 as a project of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and the Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation to recognize Arkansans' achievements in outdoor fields, promote



conservation education and to protect wildlife habitat.

Campora died in the line of duty on May 31, 2013, along with fellow law enforcement officer, Scott County Sheriff Cody Carpenter while the two were attempting to rescue two women trapped in their home that was consumed by overnight floodwaters near Y-City.

Campora was a native of Polk County and had been serving AGFC since 2007. He resided in Scott County with his wife, Rebecca, and two daughters at the time of the incident.



Since his passing, Campora has been honored by many agencies including receiving AGFC Wildlife Officer of the Year in 2013, nominated to be honored as the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency Officer of the Year 2013, and a billboard in Waldron serves as a reminder of the tremendous sacrifice that he and Carpenter made that treacherous night. In an interview earlier this year, Rebecca Campora said, "The year after he died was so busy. I attended so many events that recognized or honored him. I have 3 totes of awards he received, I've traveled all over, Brinkley, Oklahoma City, Nashville, Tennessee. Very active in multiple organizations, she now spends her time as an advocate for families of law enforcement.

Campora considered his life as a game warden his dream job and had been a game warden since 2007. He was also a member of the AGFC Dive Team and the Disaster Response Team.

Joel Campora will be honored with fellow nominees, Steve Bowman, George Dunklin Jr., Jerry Fisk, and Jim Gaston (Legacy Award Winner), in a banquet and auction on August 21 in Little Rock. To purchase tickets to the event or for more information, contact the Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation office at 501-223-6468 or email Lori.lynch@agff.org.

Fallen Game & Fish Wildlife Warden Joel Campora To Receive Posthumous Honor

<http://www.swtimes.com/news/fallen-game-fish-wildlife-warden-joel-campora-receive-posthumous-honor>

Aug 16, 2015

A fallen [Arkansas Game and Fish](#) wildlife officer will receive a posthumous honor from the agency in a ceremony this week.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation will induct the late [Joel Campora](#) into the Arkansas Outdoor Hall of Fame during the Foundation's annual banquet Friday.

Campora, 32, Game and Fish Wildlife Officer first class, died along with Scott County Sheriff [Cody Carpenter](#) and three others during the [May 31, 2013](#), flooding in Scott County.

Campora and Carpenter died in the line of duty while trying to save two Y City women, Regina Kay Shearn and Vivian Sue Reimer, who also lost their lives in the floodwaters.

Cathy Ann Holder of Dallas also died as a result of the flooding.

Campora was missing in the floodwaters for [three days](#) before being found [June 2, 2013](#), the day the search ended.



Chuck Dicus, president of the Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation said the organization is pleased to bestow the honor upon Campora and praised his work commitment to the agency.

“The thing people should know is that these wildlife officers put their lives on the line and this is the tragic realization of the commitment they make to uphold the regulations of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission,” Dicus said. “In Joel’s case, he was doing what a lot of people wouldn’t do — he was trying to save someone and in the course of those events he lost his life and that is just a realization of what law enforcement officers go through each and every day. There is not a greater sacrifice he could have made.”

Campora’s wife, Rebecca Campora, said her husband was “living the dream,” noting he had aspired to be a game warden since he was in the fourth grade.

“To me, this is the most honorable thing he can get, to be recognized for his conservation work and his devotion to the state of Arkansas and keeping it true to its nickname ‘the Natural State,’” she said. “This was his dream job and it was his passion — being outside, enjoying nature and enjoying Arkansas.”

Rebecca Campora described her husband as a humble man who would have said he was just doing his job, but said he would be honored to be recognized.

She said she will accept her husband’s induction on his behalf, as well on the behalf of the other 180 game wardens in the state.

“They all do what he did, that’s what they are there for,” she said. “It takes a special person to do that.”

Rebecca Campora said since her husband’s death she has become involved with Arkansas C.O.P.S., Concerns of Police Survivors, a statewide nonprofit organization that is an advocate for survivors of fallen law enforcement officers.

Rebecca Campora serves as the secretary for the organization, which she said provides support, education and other benefits for a fallen officer’s family.

“It was an organization that was very dear to him, that in the event an officer in the line of duty dies, they step in to help rebuild shattered lives,” she said. “They stepped in and helped me, so to me, this is what I’m doing to keep his legacy alive. I’m helping other people heal.”

Campora, was originally from Mena and became a wildlife officer in 2007. He was a member of the Game and Fish Commission’s Dive Team and its Disaster Response Team.

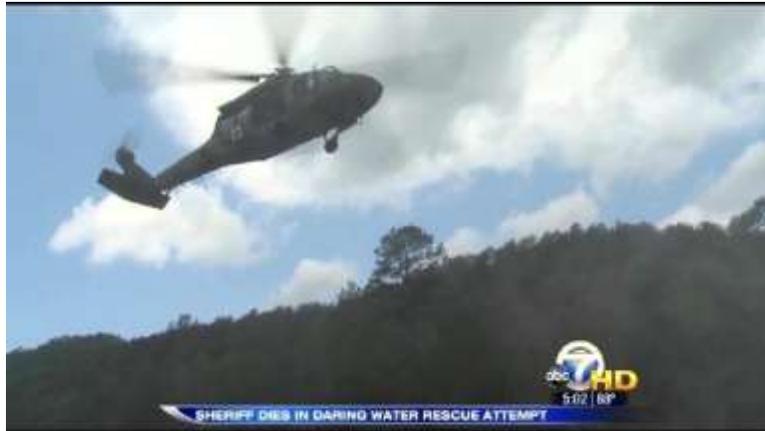
He is survived by his wife and their two daughters.

UPDATE: Scott County Sheriff drowns during rescue, 3 others still missing

<http://katv.com/archive/update-scott-county-sheriff-drowns-during-rescue-3-others-still-missing>
September 11th 2015 by Jason Pederson, Evan Hoffmeyer

Y CITY (KATV) - A daring rescue attempt left four dead, including Scott County Sheriff Cody Carpenter.

According to Keith Stevens with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Sheriff Carpenter drowned during a rescue at Fouché Lafaye River. A wildlife officer who accompanied Carpenter on the boat during the rescue is still missing and feared dead as well.



The rescue started Thursday night after the two women made a frantic 911 call around midnight saying rising waters had trapped them in a home near the intersection of Highways 71 and 270. That home is no longer there.

"Other deputies on scene heard a loud crash," said Sebastian County Sheriff Bill Hollenbeck. "They thought that the bridge had actually crashed. Looking into it further, they discovered the house had imploded as a direct result of rising water from Mell Creek."



As waters receded throughout the day Friday, Sheriff Carpenter's body was found about a mile downstream from where the rescue attempt took place. Rescuers also found the motor, some debris, and contents from the boat but Wildlife Officer Joel Campora and the two women they were trying to save are still missing.



MISSING: Wildlife Officer Joel Campora, missing after being swept away in flood rescue effort.

"All I can say is to ask everyone for their thoughts and prayers to be with the wildlife officer and his family," said Game & Fish Director Mike Knoedl. "He was the epitome of what a wildlife officer should be and he was doing what he was trained to do [Thursday] night."

More than 200 volunteers and rescue workers from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Scott County Sheriff's Office, Arkansas State Police and Arkansas National Guard are helping with the search. A helicopter and cadaver dogs were also called in to help the search effort.

UPDATE: At an afternoon news conference, officials said that, in addition to the two dead and one missing officer, two women who lived in a house that was flooded also haven't been located.

The officer, Joel Campora, may have been swept away in attempting to rescue the two women. They had made a 911 call about midnight saying they were trapped.



A National Guard helicopter worked through the day on rescues of people trapped by floodwaters.

Channel 4 put together a good video segment that shows how 3-7 inches of rain filled a valley in Scott County where the worst flooding occurred, near Y City.

Also, from Keith Stephens at the Game and Fish Commission on officer Joel Campora:

He is 32 years old and lives in Waldron with his wife and two children. He's been with the AGFC since 2007. He started his enforcement career with the Mena PD in 2003. At this point, it looks like the Sheriff and Joel were attempting a rescue in a house that was being flooded. It appears that they two fell in the water and were swept away. The sheriff was found about 1.5 miles downstream from Y City where the house was located. We are currently searching the area on foot and by vehicle. A helicopter has been brought in as well. The two people they were trying to rescue from the house are missing as well.

ALSO: Great story by Gavin Lesnick [on the free portion of the Democrat-Gazette website](#) about a Oden couple whose home was washed away with them in it and then hit a tree and split apart. They hung onto a tree until being rescued.

UPDATE: Gov. Mike Beebe has declared six counties disaster areas as a result of a variety of weather events — Cross, Montgomery, Poinsett, Polk, Scott and Van Buren

Scott County sheriff, wildlife officer who died in flood to be honored

<http://www.swtimes.com/news/20161215/scott-county-sheriff-wildlife-officer-who-died-in-flood-to-be-honored>

Dec 15, 2016 By Special to the Times Record

Wildlife Officer Joel Campora and Scott County Sheriff Cody Carpenter will be honored with two memorial mile signs in an unveiling ceremony at 11 a.m. Saturday at Chant Pentecostal Church in Y City.

The two men died during a swift-water rescue attempt in western Arkansas on May 31, 2013. The two women they were trying to rescue also perished in the flood.



Scott County sheriff Cody Carpenter, left, and Arkansas Wildlife Officer Joel Campora

Campora had been a wildlife officer with the AGFC since 2007. He was assigned to Scott County and lived in Waldron with his wife and two children. He worked closely with city, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies in Scott County. He was instrumental in developing information that assisted the Federal Bureau of Investigation in arrests of people involved in a large international drug distribution network that was operating within the state.

“Joel was much more than a model officer, he was part of the AGFC family,” said Col. Pat Fitts, chief of the AGFC’s Enforcement Division. “The single selfless act that cost him his life was only one of many times when he put himself in harm’s way for the people of Arkansas.”

Carpenter began serving in the Scott County Sheriff’s Office in 1996 and became sheriff in 2004. He had been re-elected to his fifth term in November 2012. Then-Arkansas Attorney General Dustin McDaniel said in a news conference that Carpenter was a friend and that he “Demonstrated his professionalism, courtesy and dedication to the people of Scott County every day.”

Highway Dedicated to Fallen Officers – Joel Campora & Cody Carpenter

<http://mypulsenews.com/highway-dedicated-to-fallen-officers-joel-campora-cody-carpenter/>

December 22, 2016 BY MELANIE BUCK

Two signs have been placed along Highway 71 North near Y City to honor two officers that perished in the May 31, 2013 floods.

Wildlife Officer Joel Campora and Scott County Sheriff Cody Carpenter both lost their lives in route to save others from rapidly rising and swift floodwaters. Both were beloved by their communities.



In the years since, both men have been honored on many levels by their local communities and statewide. The signs that now bear their names will serve as a reminder to all of the ultimate sacrifice they made in the line of duty.

The signs say, “Sheriff Cody Carpenter Memorial Highway” and “Wildlife Officer Joel Campora Memorial Highway” and were dedicated in a ceremony on Saturday, December 17th at Chant Pentecostal Church in Y City. The event was attended by former Polk County Sheriff Mike Godfrey and Sheriff-Elect Scott Sawyer, who both assisted in the three-day search for Campora.



Sawyer said, "It was very touching to watch our community come together to honor these two heroes. Cody and Joel dedicated their lives to serving others. They made the ultimate sacrifice to save two people they didn't really know. Renaming that stretch of highway is a great way to honor these men."