

Officer Tom Rink began his career on February 16, 1982 as a patrol officer. Tom was an outstanding employee as a patrol officer but is best known for his 13-plus years of service as the “police librarian.”

During the course of his career, Tom returned to college to attain his Master’s Degree as he entertained the possibility of a career change. After he attained the degree in Library Science, Tom was assigned as a policy writer for the Department. During this time, Tom came up with the idea for a departmental library, which he was tasked to develop in his spare time. Tom developed an operational budget, completed a space planning analysis, and inventoried the existing materials and resources. With many lists created (author, title, subject), an electronic catalog of sorts began to take shape. After nearly a year of being told that no money was available, Tom discovered some drug forfeiture money that had not been earmarked. With a quick and persuasive letter outlining his proposal for drug funds to launch the Resource Center, the initial funding was approved.

Since 1994, the Resource Center’s mission has remained the same: “to serve the management of the Tulsa Police Department by providing library, information, and support services that meet the professional, educational, and research needs of the Department.” During the recent accreditation process, CALEA representatives described Tom’s work as “an enviable resource center for all police department employees.”

Tom retired from the Tulsa Police Department after 25 years of service on April 30, 2007, leaving behind a legacy of dedication, hard work, creativity, and excellence.