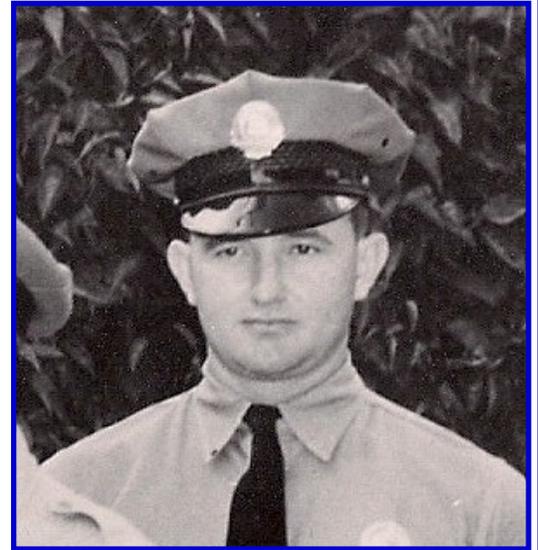


Chief of Police Roscoe Thornhill 1951-1957

Chief Thornhill, was born in 1918 in Eagle Lake Florida, the youngest of 11 children. He served in the Army during WWII stationed in Africa and Italy from 1941 to 1945.

While serving his country, Thornhill received various awards and medals including the Bronze Star and his most treasured, "Gold Brick".

Upon returning to civilian life, he married and began his career working in law enforcement as a police officer for the Bartow Police Department in 1946. In 1951 he was appointed Chief of Police.



Thornhill's resignation in 1956 followed the adoption of a new civic service regulation requiring Bartow city employees to reside within the city limits. A life-long resident of Eagle Lake, Thornhill preferred to remain at his present address rather than relocate to Bartow.

Thornhill left Bartow Police Department to work for the Polk County Sheriffs Office, and finished his law enforcement career as Head of Security at the Winter Haven Hospital.

Thornhill passed away in 2007 at the age of 88, he was survived by 2 sons.



Members of the Bartow Police Department in 1955, Chief Thornhill fourth from the right.