

BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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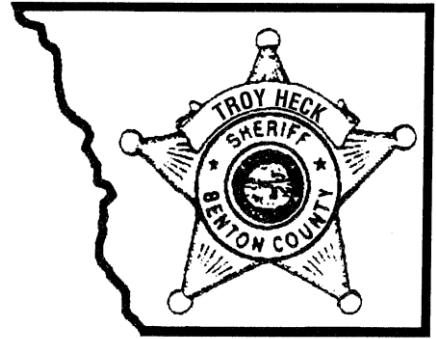
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Troy Heck, Sheriff
Neal Jacobson, Chief Deputy

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: 09-10-18

AUTHORITY OF SHERIFF TROY HECK

On 09-09-18 the Benton County Sheriff's Office responded to an address in Minden Township concerning a person in crisis threatening to harm himself and others with a firearm. After making prolonged efforts to contact the person in crisis, this person was eventually found deceased within a home in the 7300 block of Hwy 95 NE with what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The victim's name in this incident is Rodolfo Alberto Gomez, Jr. (age 44 of Sauk Rapids).

Gomez was a military veteran and, according to those closest to him, appeared to fall victim to an acute mental health crisis in the days and hours preceding his death. Gomez's family hopes that his passing serves as a reminder of the importance of mental health services for veterans experiencing crisis so that future tragedies may be prevented.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Troy Heck'.

Troy Heck
Benton County Sheriff