**Brian Harris**

Brian Harris has been in law enforcement for 33 years and is now a retired Houston Police Department Homicide Sergeant. He was a murder cop for 22 years working a large volume of homicide investigations. He holds a Master’s degree in Strategic Leadership from Mountain State University with an undergraduate degree in Law Enforcement and Police Science from Sam Houston State University. He has been featured in Time magazine, ABC’s 20/20 and Primetime, Forensic Files, 48 Hours, Killer Couples, Killer Confessions, Killer Couples, For my Man on Own, the Interrogator, Ganglands on the History channel and is the Homicide host on Inside the Mind of a Serial Killer season 2 on Netflix. Harris has trained hundreds of law enforcement officers nationally and internationally in Interviewing and Interrogations, Homicide Investigation, and a variety of other courses. He developed the Houston Police department’s Interview and Interrogation training, Advanced Interviewing, The Basic Investigator’s School. Harris has taught at the F.B.I. Training Academy and is the training coordinator for the Homicide Investigators of Texas. Brian retired in 2016 but in 2017 he accepted the Chief deputy Position for Pct. 5 Harris County Constable Ted Heap. This is a department of 426 sworn deputies.

**Connie Spence**

Connie Spence brings a wealth of experience as a former Prosecutor, Judge and now legal advisor for Harris County Pct. 5. For over twenty years she served as a prosecutor as a Harris County Division Chief – Crimes Against Children, working concurrently with the Section Chief of Human Trafficking section and actively engaged in the investigation and prosecution of offenses involving the human trafficking related cases. She has served as a Bureau Chief – Special Crimes Bureau overseeing cases in the Major Fraud Division, Major Narcotics Division, Consumer Fraud Section, and Major Offenders Division. Despite her promotions her most rewarding part of her career was when she was a Chief in the Major Offenders Division, working hand in hand with law enforcement in pro-active investigations as well as providing 24/7 assistance during major investigations involving homicides, robberies and sexual assaults.

Currently Connie Serves as the legal liaison for Pct. 5 providing legal guidance for investigators and deputies during the investigatory stage, Draft search and arrest warrants, Review offense reports, Research and provide legal opinions for internal matters and policies and is one of the Pct. 5 instructors on a variety of topics.

**Dena Marks**

 Dena Marks is the **Senior** Associate Director of the Anti-Defamation League’s Southwest Regional Office. Her main responsibility at ADL is publicity, but she also serves as a liaison with law enforcement, facilitates various training sessions, coordinates regional fact finding, handles some discrimination complaints, staffs ADL’s International Affairs Committee, Security Committee and coordinates interfaith security issues for the region. Before joining the ADL in April of 1999, she spent 21 years in television news. She also has worked as a group exercise instructor, personal trainer, freelance writer, waitress, janitor, and for the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. She is a native Houstonian.

**Sergeant Charles Jantzen**

Sergeant Charles Jantzen is currently assigned to the Office of Ted Heap, Harris County Precinct 5 Constables Office, Animal Crimes Unit.  Sergeant Jantzen has spent over 15 years investigating crimes perpetrated against the animals in our area.  During this time period, Sergeant Jantzen has investigated thousands of cruelty cases, involving a range of animals from companion animals, farm animals to exotics. Sergeant Jantzen has worked tirelessly to help the animals within our community.  Sergeant Jantzen regularly works with governmental, animal agencies and the citizens of our area to enforce the laws of Texas.  Due to his investigative efforts, Sergeant Jantzen has rescued countless numbers of animals from inhumane conditions and held the responsible parties accountable, by filed hundreds of criminal charges against the perpetrators of these illegal acts.

**Sergeant Michael J. Miller**

Sergeant Michael J. Miller has 27 years of law enforcement. He has been in Homicide since 1996. Sergeant Miller has presented homicide case analysis to aspiring homicide investigators at the Houston Police Academy and provided Texas Medical Center employees threat prevention training following the Medical Center murder of one of their surgeons, Dr. Mark Hausknecht. Additionally, Sergeant Miller has briefed the Hausknecht case study to The Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (A.T.A.P) for two consecutive years following the Medical Center murder.

Prior to police work Sergeant Miller proudly served in the armed forces after enlisting in the United States Army in May of 1986 and serving till February 1993. With completion of two tours in Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia during Desert Shield / Desert Storm, he left the military for a career in law enforcement.

Michael J. Miller, Sergeant of Police

Houston Police Department, Homicide Division

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Bio for Vi Hummel Shaffer

Vi Hummel Shaffer is a veteran Forensic K9 Human Remains Detection Handler; Instructor, speaker and Consultant who has been assisting law enforcement and fire departments for over 28 years in all types of death investigation circumstances and scenarios. She and her K9s have been requested throughout Texas and in other states and have assisted in hundreds of searches with almost every *branch* of law enforcement including: being part of the FBI’s “Operation Noble Eagle” the K9 victim recovery team at the Pentagon in the aftermath of 9-11; the multiple searches and recovery of the buried remains of Madalyn Murray O’Hair; the Shuttle Columbia Tragedy and numerous mass fatality disasters. Although not a member of Law Enforcement, she was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Homicide Investigators of Texas where she served for four years and is now on their Conference Committee. In 2002 Vi was appointed the National Chairperson for the federal Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (DMORT) Mass Fatality K9 Standards and Requirements Committee by the Director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Office of Emergency Preparedness/National Disaster Medical Systems and her dog “Mercy,” was recognized by the federal government as the first Mass Fatality K9 in the United States in 2003. A Court-Qualified Subject Matter Expert Witness, Vi has lectured at Death Investigation Seminars, Law Enforcement Conferences and Fire Protection Schools. Vi is currently an associate with Texas Forensic Associates and is the author of the book “K9 Teams: Beyond the Basics of Search and Rescue and Recovery” published by Brush Education as a part of their K9 Professional Training Series.

**Tim Miller – Founder and Director**

Tim Miller started Texas EquuSearch Mounted Search and Recovery Team in August 2000 with the purpose to provide Volunteer Horse Mounted Search and Recovery for Lost and Missing persons.  The team’s existence and purpose is dedicated to the memory of Laura Miller, the daughter of our founding director, Tim Miller. Laura was abducted and murdered in north Galveston County in 1984. Our team is composed of volunteers of various experiences, with many being experienced horse owners.

Texas EquuSearch has been involved in 1,860+ searches in approximately 42 states in the United States, Aruba, Sri Lanka, Mexico, Jamaica, Dominican Republic and Nicaragua.  Our efforts have proven successful with returning over 400 missing people home to their families safely, many of which would have been deceased.  Texas EquuSearch is responsible for recovering the remains of 238 missing loved ones, bringing closure to many families.  Many of the 238 cases have resulted in criminal cases.  At no time during any of the searches was evidence compromised by Texas EquuSearch.  Therefore, the suspect(s) were brought to justice resulting in convictions.  Additionally, Mr. Miller has been involved in several murder trials.

Our director, Tim Miller, has been featured on CourtTV’s Crime Library “*A Profile of Tim Miller and Texas EquuSearch*” by Dr. Katherine Ramsland.  Dr. Ramsland has published twenty-seven books and currently teaches forensic psychology at DeSales University in Pennsylvania.  Dr. Katherine Ramsland has written a truly tremendous and comprehensive article on Tim Miller and Texas EquuSearch in addition to a detailed account of Tim, the volunteers and the searches for missing persons in an attempt to provide closure for the many grieving families.  Closure is so very important so at least the healing process can begin.

Additionally, Geraldo At Large, Larry King Live, Fox News National, Greta Van Susteren, CNN, HLN, Nancy Grace, Glenn Beck, People Magazine, News Week, Evidence Technology, Dateline, 20/20, Texas Horse Talk and all the local news stations have all featured the works of Texas EquuSearch and Tim Miller’s experiences in the searches of lost loved ones.

Tim Miller is also the recipient of the “*Point of Light*” award by George W. Bush.  He received the Jefferson award from the City of Houston, the foundation for the improvement of justice in Atlanta, Georgia. Additionally, the Texas Daughters of the American Revolution Community Service Award, the National Daughters of the American Revolution Community Service Award, Crime Stoppers of Houston and countless other awards from all over the nation.  Mr. Miller was invited by George H.W. Bush, Jr., and attended, the first conference for the National Missing and Exploited Children in Washington, D.C., and also the signing of the National Amber Alert in Washington, D.C.  He has also been the keynote speaker for the national conference for Parents of Murdered Children, along with being a keynote speaker for many law enforcement conferences across the country.  Mr. Miller has received countless other awards from across the nation.