TO: Area Media

DATE: January 16, 2018

FROM: Pat Heinert, Sheriff

RE: Announcement

After 39 years (this year) in law enforcement for Burleigh County, the last twelve (this year) as Sheriff, I have decided that it is time to move onto new adventures in my life. With this I will not be seeking re-election to the office of Sheriff, Burleigh County this fall.

It has been a great pleasure to serve the people of Burleigh County.

During these past twelve years we have seen many improvements here at the Sheriff's Department. We have moved our patrol staff and all police cars to the old County Shop building, we have built a new combined Burleigh and Morton County Detention Center, we have diligently worked to make sure we have staffing to protect our communities. We have seen our community grow and prosper. We have fought floods, fires, and solved many crimes over these past years.

But, one summer remains on my mind every day. That is the summer of 2011, when we lost a Bismarck Police Sergeant Steve Kenner (EOW 7-8-11) in a line of duty shooting death and we lost Deputy Bryan Sleeper (EOW 9-28-11) to a heart attack during a high stress arrest. These incidents were dark days for our community. Many still mourn the loss of these two fine law enforcement officers, we will never forget.

I want to say "Thank You" to all of the members of the Burleigh County Sheriff's Department as well as the Bismarck Police Department and the Lincoln Police Department for all of your support and encouragement over the years. Burleigh County can be very proud of all of our law enforcement officers and staff, as they are well trained and have a great deal of respect for all of the citizen's who we serve.

As I finish my last year as your Sheriff, I will continue to put forth my energy to make sure we continue to respect and protect the communities we serve.

Thank You!