

UCF's Veterans Legacy Program



VA



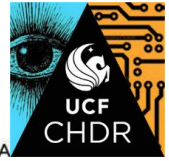
U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration



UCF

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Department
of History



Jesse Peter Madsen

1975 – 2021

Corporal: US Marine Corps

Corporal: US Army

Persian Gulf, Afghanistan

*Please note that news articles published online often exist behind paywalls and require a subscription to access digitally. We have provided links, but have not reproduced them here. Similarly, many families have created remembrance pages. Again, we have provided links, but have not reproduced any images without express written permission from the family.

Tony Marerro, “For a Lifesaver, a Final Sacrifice,” *Tampa Bay Times*, March 10, 2021, A1 (accessed July 24, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/719869125/?terms=Jesse%20P.%20Madsen>

The above article describes the wrong-way car crash that killed Jesse Peter Madsen. It includes the detail that witnesses to the crash witnessed Madsen swerve into oncoming traffic in an attempt to stop the speeding vehicle that was traveling on the wrong side of the highway. The article also includes a photograph of Madsen’s car after the crash, which was badly mangled.

---, “For a Lifesaver, a Final Sacrifice,” *Tampa Bay Times*, March 10, 2021, A6 (accessed July 24, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/719869217/?terms=Jesse%20P.%20Madsen&match=1>

This article continues the above article’s content from page A-one of the same edition.

Chris Tisch, “Wrong-Way Crashes Too Common Locally,” *Tampa Bay Times*, March 10, 2021, A6 (accessed July 24, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/719869217/?terms=Jesse%20P.%20Madsen&match=1>

Published just a day after Madsen’s death, this article from the *Tampa Bay Times* highlights the alarmingly high number of wrong-way crashes that had occurred in the Tampa Bay area since 2014. Madsen died after his police cruiser was struck head-on by a wrong-way driver. Madsen’s death is mentioned in the article.

Anastasia Dawson, “Did Warning Sensor Fail at I-275 Busch Boulevard Exit?” *Tampa Bay Times*, March 10, 2021, A6 (accessed July 24, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/719869217/?terms=Jesse%20P.%20Madsen&match=1>

An article detailing Jesse Peter Madsen’s death in a wrong-way car crash, which questions whether warning sensors failed to alarm when the driver who killed Madsen entered Interstate 275 at the Busch Boulevard Exit. The article reports that just weeks earlier, officials had vowed to install additional sensors at highway exits around FL.

Anastasia Dawson and Tony Marrero, “To Serve and Protect, Even to the Ultimate,” *Tampa Bay Times*, March 11, 2021, A1 (accessed July 24, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/720216034/?terms=Jesse%20P.%20Madsen&match=1>

An article published two days after Madsen’s death, which remembers him as a selfless hero always willing to put others’ safety over his own. The article includes quotations from his colleagues at the Tampa Bay Police Department. One of them makes the tragic point that despite all the dangerous situations Madsen found himself in as a soldier in Iraq and Afghanistan, he ultimately died at home driving on the Interstate.

Tony Marrero, “Funeral Service Set Tuesday for Officer Madsen,” *Tampa Bay Times*, March 12, 2021, A4 (accessed July 24, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/720272819/?terms=Jesse%20Peter%20Madsen&match=1>

A *Tampa Bay Times* article announcing funeral services for Madsen, this piece also mentions Madsen’s service in the Marines and his service as a police officer for twenty years. He left behind three young children and a wife, and was posthumously awarded the Police Purple Shield by the Tampa Bay Police Department, which is given to officers who are killed or severely injured in the line of duty.

Tony Marrero and Josh Fiallo, “Complete Tragedy for both Families,” *Tampa Bay Times*, March 12, 2021, A1 (accessed July 24, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/720272790/?terms=Jesse%20Peter%20Madsen>

This article details the circumstances of Madsen’s death, when he was struck head-on by a wrong-way driver on Interstate 275 in Tampa going over one hundred mph. It also provides information about a memorial service for Madsen held at the Tampa Bay Police Department headquarters just two days after his death, and includes a photograph of his grieving family at the memorial service.

---, “Madsen,” *Tampa Bay Times*, March 12, 2021, A4 (accessed July 24, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/720272819/?terms=Jesse%20Peter%20Madsen>

This article continues the above article’s content from page A-one of the same edition.

“Obituaries,” *Tampa Bay Times*, March 14, 2021, A11 (accessed July 24, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/720589225/?terms=Jesse%20Peter%20Madsen&match=1>

An obituary for Jesse Peter Madsen published in the *Tampa Bay Times*, this article includes a photograph of Madsen in his police uniform, as well as information about his early life, education, and service in the US Marines, where he sustained major injuries after his Humvee drove over a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. It also lists surviving family members and mentions that his funeral service will be held at Florida National Cemetery.

“Jesse Madsen,” *Legacy*, March 14, 2021 (accessed July 24, 2023).

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/tampabaytimes/name/jesse-madsen-obituary?id=6885570>

The above link navigates to an obituary for Jesse Peter Madsen published on Legacy.com. The page provides information on Madsen’s birth and death dates, his educational history, and his service in both the US Marines and as part of the Tampa Bay Police Department. It also includes a photograph of Madsen in his police uniform and lists his surviving family members.

Dennis Joyce, “Funeral Details Released for Tampa Police Officer,” *Tampa Bay Times*, March 15, 2021, A9 (accessed July 24, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/720942339/?terms=Jesse%20P.%20Madsen&match=1>

An article, published in the *Tampa Bay Times*, which announces funeral details for Jesse Peter Madsen’s service. This article also includes a picture of the Tampa Police Memorial Monument, which stands outside the Tampa Bay Police Department, to which Madsen’s name was added shortly after his death. The monument includes the names of the thirty-two officers in the department who died in the line of duty since 1895.

Anastasia Dawson, “Florida Cop, Marine and Army Reserve Veteran Haired at Funeral for Seeing Everyone as Family,” *Marine Corps Times*, March 16, 2021, (accessed July 24, 2023).

<https://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/your-marine-corps/2021/03/16/florida-cop-marine-corps-and-army-reserve-veteran-haired-at-funeral-for-seeing-everyone-as-family/>

This article, published online in the *Marine Corps Times*, describes Madsen's funeral and remembers him as someone who lived his life in the service of others.

Anastasia Dawson, "The Hero who Loved 'Fiercely,'" *Tampa Bay Times*, March 17, 2021, A1 (accessed July 24, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/721682776/?terms=Jesse%20P.%20Madsen&match=1>

This article details Jesse Peter Madsen's funeral service, which was attended by thousands of his family members, friends, colleagues, and members of the public. The article describes the circumstances of Madsen's death in a wrong-way traffic collision, and includes both a photograph of his wife speaking at his memorial service and a photograph of his casket as it is carried to his funeral service.

---, "Madsen," *Tampa Bay Times*, March 17, 2021, A7 (accessed July 24, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/721682555/?terms=Jesse%20P.%20Madsen>

This article continues the above article's content from page A-one of the same edition.

"Obituary: Jesse Peter Madsen," *Dignity Memorial*, March, 2021 (accessed July 24, 2023).

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/tampa-fl/jesse-madsen-10090688>

An obituary for Jesse Peter Madsen published on DignityMemorial.com, the above page includes a photograph of Madsen in his police uniform, as well as a few paragraphs of biographical information detailing Madsen's life, military service, service in the Tampa Bay Police Department, and death.

"Welcome to the Tampa Police Memorial," *Tampa Police Memorial* (accessed July 24, 2023).

<https://tampapolicememorial.org>

The above link navigates to the official page for the Tampa Police Memorial, which commemorates and remembers the thirty-two Tampa Bay Police Officers who have died in the line of duty since 1895, including Jesse Peter Madsen. This memorial page includes the images of each of the thirty-two officers, along with brief descriptions of the circumstances of their deaths.

“Tampa Police Memorial,” *Tampa.gov* (accessed July 24, 2023).

<https://www.tampa.gov/police/info/honoring-our-heroes>

The Tampa Police Memorial commemorates the thirty-two Tampa Bay police officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty since 1895. As of August 2023, Madsen remains the most recent name on this list. The above source lists all thirty-two of these fallen officers, and includes a photograph of each as well as the date they died.

“Officer Jesse Peter Madsen,” *Officer Down Memorial Page* (accessed July 24, 2023).

<https://www.odmp.org/officer/25185-officer-jesse-peter-madsen>

The Officer Down Memorial Page, which serves to remember law enforcement heroes who die in the line of duty, published this online memorial to Madsen. It includes information like the location of Madsen’s death, his age when he died, his military service, and three photographs of Madsen in his police uniform. The page also includes a comments section, where members of the public have left comments remembering Madsen and his sacrifice.

ABC Action News, “Fallen TPD Officer Veered into Path of Wrong-Way Driver to Protect Others, Chief Says,” uploaded on March 9, 2021, YouTube video, 02:48.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9AGWLHQ8IM>

This YouTube video, published the day that Madsen died in a traffic collision, includes interviews with Tampa Bay police chief Brian Dugan, Tampa Bay mayor Jane Castor, and some of Madsen’s colleagues who all remember Madsen as a selfless individual who sacrificed his life for the safety of others.

---, “‘Highly Decorated’ Tampa Police Officer Killed in Crash on I-275 with Wrong-Way Driver,” uploaded on March 9, 2021, YouTube video, 02:35.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jiok5b4kua8>

Published the day of the crash that killed Madsen, this news report announces Madsen's death and includes footage of both his police cruiser and the car of the driver who hit him following the crash.

---, "Wrong-Way Driver Was Going over 100mph, Under the Influence, Tampa Police Chief Says," uploaded on March 11, 2021, YouTube video, 10:12.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMgUzsdscH0>

The above link navigates to a YouTube video published by ABC Action News and depicts a press conference held by Tampa Bay Police Chief Brian Dugan regarding the wrong-way crash that killed Jesse Peter Madsen.

WFLA News Channel 8, "Crash that Killed Officer: Wrong Way Driver Speeding at More than 100 Mph," uploaded on March 11, 2021, YouTube video, 02:39.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OJ3qKowPYjs>

A news report from WFLA News Channel 8 in Tampa Bay which details the traffic crash that killed Jesse Peter Madsen and the wrong-way driver who hit him.

10 Tampa Bay, "Who Was Fallen Tampa Police Officer Jesse Madsen?" uploaded on March 16, 2021, YouTube Video, 03:05.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uE3dk-07os>

A brief news report, published by a local news station in Tampa Bay, FL, which profiles Madsen. It details his death in a wrong-way traffic collision, and includes images of Madsen and his family, as well as footage from a memorial service held for him at Tampa Bay Police Department headquarters shortly after his death.

---, "Funeral Service for Fallen Tampa Police Officer Jesse Madsen," streamed live on March 16, 2021, YouTube video, 03:51:50.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTY5dWP8_H4

The YouTube video above depicts Jesse Peter Madsen's funeral service, and runs just under four hours long. It shows his family, friends, and colleagues speaking at his funeral, as well as his casket as it is escorted to the service.

"Jesse Peter Madsen," *FindAGrave*, March 9, 2021 (accessed July 24, 2023).

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/224073153/jesse-peter-madsen/photo>

Jesse Peter Madsen's page on findagrave.com includes information on his birth and death dates, military service, and burial location. It includes a paragraph detailing the circumstances of his death, in which he was struck head on by an oncoming car while on duty with the Tampa Police Department. The page also includes a selection of photographs published by friends and loved ones, which depict Madsen on his wedding day, while serving with the police force, and several images of his headstone at Florida National Cemetery. As of July 2023, twenty-one people had left digital flowers on his page, which honor Madsen's memory and service to both his community and country.



Jesse Madsen's Headstone in Florida National Cemetery

UCF Veterans Legacy Program, *Headstone for Jesse Madsen*, photograph, 2023, Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL.