



NAT GLOVER

The First Black Sheriff in Florida's Deep South since the Reconstruction Era

Author of *Striving for Justice*



Nat Glover's *Striving for Justice* is the engrossing story of a young Black man who rose from the then segregated city of Jacksonville, Florida, to become one of the nation's most respected law enforcement professionals. I saw the impressive work Nat Glover did as an inspiring leader in his community, and his moving and important book is a powerful testament to one man's commitment to justice, crossing racial divides, and making the world a better place."

– PRESIDENT
BILL CLINTON



Born and raised amid poverty in Florida's segregated Deep South, Nathaniel (Nat) Glover defied the odds to become one of the nation's most respected law enforcement officials and one of Jacksonville's most esteemed civic leaders.

At seventeen, young Nat unknowingly headed into an angry white mob, including members of the Ku Klux Klan, attacking young black protestors staging a non-violent sit-in at a downtown whites-only lunch counter. Known as "Ax Handle Saturday," this harrowing encounter with racism cemented his lifelong commitment to fight for justice.

In 1995, Glover was elected the first Black sheriff in Jacksonville and the state of Florida in over 100 years. Following his groundbreaking tenure (His innovative advancements in policing garnered the praise of then President Bill Clinton and Attorney

General Janet Reno and reduced crime by 17.2% over his eight year term), Glover went on to serve as the 29th President of the oldest HBCU in the state of Florida, Edwards Waters University.

Glover is the author of *Striving for Justice: A Black Sheriff in the Deep South*, a memoir published by Frederick Douglas Books (Aug 22, 2023) that recounts his history-making years in police reformation, the values that fuel him as a leader and American citizen, and what he believes will move this country forward toward hope and healing just as he once rose again... against all odds. All proceeds from the sale of *Striving for Justice* will go to the "Where They Will Shine" scholarship fund established by Glover in conjunction with Florida State College at Jacksonville Foundation to endow college scholarships for need-based students in Jacksonville.

STRIVING FOR JUSTICE

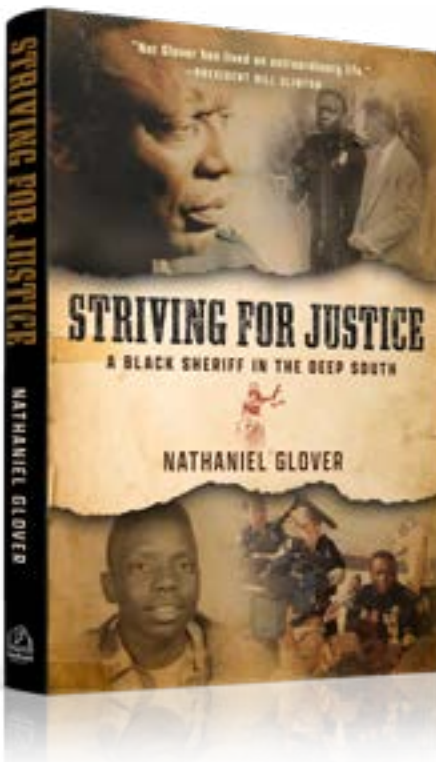
A BLACK SHERIFF IN THE DEEP SOUTH



Like so many of our nation's true patriots, Nathaniel Glover's unwavering commitment to public service was grounded in his struggles and triumphs while growing up in a segregated community. As you read his memoir *Striving for Justice* and learn about his amazing rise to becoming one of our nation's most respected and effective sheriffs, you will quickly realize that courage, true grit, and determination were at the center of it all. Sheriff Glover knows firsthand that America's greatness is not the product of fear or inaction, but the result of one's willingness to boldly go above and beyond the call of duty."

-VAL DEMINGS

Former US Representative of Florida's 10th Congressional District
and former Chief of the Orlando Police Department



"Striving for Justice: A Black Sheriff in the Deep South" is the story of a Black child born into the racist and profoundly underprivileged environment of the deep south.

A Black youth who dreamed with unlikely ambition to become a man of accomplishment and regard.

A champion of equal opportunity and racial harmony.

A beacon illuminating the way for others.

This dreamer would go on to become the first Black sheriff elected in the deep South since the Reconstruction era of the 1800s. His innovative approach to law enforcement would catch the eye of the President of the United States. As a nationally recognized and award-winning law enforcement officer, he would now stand appalled by the lack of progress in racial understanding, political divisions, deepening polarization, widening economic gaps and the unlawful behavior of some members of law enforcement.

AUTHOR

Sheriff Nat Glover

TITLE

Striving for Justice,
A Black Sheriff
in the Deep South

ASIN

1637631774

ISBN

9781637631775

PRICE

\$26.00

PUBLICATION DATE

August 22, 2023

GENRE

Non-Fiction
Leadership
Self-Management

PAGE COUNT

248

PUBLISHER

Forefront Books

LANGUAGE

English

BINDING

Softcover



STRIVING FOR JUSTICE

A BLACK SHERIFF IN THE DEEP SOUTH



NAT GLOVER

AN EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK

“ I was born into and grew up within what generously could be called an underprivileged environment, an area that many would call a ghetto. There were obstacles, to put it lightly.

Not every path I’ve taken has pushed me in the right direction. I have made mistakes, plenty of them, but I learned, and I overcame these errors, often with the assistance of remarkable people.

I believe that my most painful recollections will be informative and relatable, and that my most satisfying recollections will be inspiring and elevating.

In the end, it comes down to this: I have life experience and I know deeply that I have the responsibility to share it with others – with you – especially if you are young and impressionable, especially if you are galvanized by the newly emerging challenges confronting law enforcement and the people it serves, especially if you are considering a life in any challenging endeavor. It is incumbent upon us to leave the world a better place than we found it.

What life experience, you ask? This and more:

I’ve been locked behind bars and I’ve put people behind bars.

I’ve dropped out of college, earned four college degrees, and ran and revitalized a college.

I was victimized by a racist police department, and I reformed that same police department as the first elected Black sheriff in the deep South since the Reconstruction era.

My law-enforcement innovations were recognized by then-President Bill Clinton and U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno.

My name is Nat Glover, and I was there... for all of it.”

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? **WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO SHARE YOUR LIFE STORY?**

From surviving the notorious Ax Handle Saturday assault by the Ku Klux Klan on non-violent civil rights activists to realizing my youthful dream of joining and rising through the city's often blatantly racist police force of the 1960s, my struggles, achievements and hard-gained knowledge are powerfully relevant to issues now confronting our country. Therefore, I believe I have a responsibility to tell my story, particularly at this time.

? **WHAT IS YOUR BOOK ABOUT?**

I explore the values and methods I developed and applied to realize my bold dream of reforming a deep south police department and modeling for the entire nation a different, better way of life. Moreover, the structural changes I brought to Jacksonville's policing practices attracted the attention of then-President Bill Clinton and U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno. These reforms and transformations illustrate a smart way forward for today's police departments

? **WHAT IS THE MAIN MESSAGE YOU WANT YOUR READERS TO TAKE**

A message of hope and inspiration. As I open up my life, I expect and trust that my revelations and recollections will prove to be relatable, inspiring, and informative to wide segments of the reading public - particularly during this difficult phase of American history.

? **WHAT WAS IT LIKE HAVING A CAREER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT AS A BLACK MAN IN THE SOUTH?**

When I was a rookie, another officer said, "If I had a machine gun, I would have just mowed them down," when talking about the black community. I was furious and did not hold back my anger. Later one of our training officers came up to me and said, "You know, Glover, most of the people in the room agreed with you. But what you said and how you said it prevented some of the people who agreed with you from saying anything." It was then I learned that rage is not the answer. We must find other techniques if we truly want to make a meaningful connection and impact."

? **WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHEN YOU SAY POLICE OFFICERS HAVE A "LICENSE TO KILL"?**

Unlike most professionals, police officers are licensed to carry a lethal weapon. With that license comes a weighty responsibility, one that should fall to individuals best equipped mentally and emotionally to handle that responsibility. Every day, police officers face the possibility of having to decide, often within highly stressful seconds, whether or not to shoot their weapon and possibly end someone's life. If an officer does decide to shoot, he or she will face a review to determine whether or not their action was warranted, as is fitting and proper. However, that review should be purely objective. I am concerned that the death of George Floyd by veteran officer Derek Chauvin has put all of law enforcement under unprecedented and potentially unwarranted scrutiny. As a result, the atmosphere has changed, and law enforcement is no longer receiving the benefit of the doubt in cases where an officer's weapon was fired. There is now an automatic level of suspicion and scrutiny from the public in any deadly encounter. There are and will continue to be situations where an officer may have used poor judgment, yet in this current climate I fear that an officer may be charged for a crime when he was just trying to do his job.

? IN YOUR EDITORIAL, YOU SAY THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF POLICE OFFICERS TAKE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROTECT AND SERVE SERIOUSLY. HAVE YOU EVER WORKED BESIDE A "BAD COP"?

I have never worked with a bad cop, but I have worked with a police officer who got emotional and used poor judgment. When I was a patrol officer, my partner was, in my opinion, being too aggressive with a suspect. I felt my job was to lower the temperature to ensure neither my partner nor the suspect was injured.

I have fired bad cops, only to have them exercise their rights to an appeal and be reinstated. It is not the individual we need to change but the whole system that continually allows bad cops back onto the police force.

? DID YOU EVER USE A CHOKEHOLD OR DRAW YOUR GUN ON A SUSPECT?

I have neither had to use a chokehold nor draw my weapon with the intent to shoot someone. Sometimes it takes perseverance, but I am convinced there are many options available other than a deadly restraining technique to control an individual. Hostage negotiation school helped my persuasion skills to change very dangerous situations into safe, secure circumstances.

? WHAT ARE THE MAIN IMPLICIT BIASES IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM?

While the notion of implicit bias has been frequently attributed to police actions and conduct, on the prosecution and court side of the criminal justice system there is also a pattern of disparate treatment and sentencing of African Americans indicating some bias. There have been studies and reports that clearly indicate African Americans are generally sentenced to longer terms of incarceration than white defendants when the conditions of those sentences are the same. These disparities have been reported under the heading of "implicit biases". If the biases are in fact implicit, meaning that the bias is unconscious, then the whole notion of the pursuit of justice in our criminal justice system will need new, creative, and innovative approaches to the prosecution and sentencing process. In the absence of such reform the results will be clear: justice is for whites only and a mere myth for others.

? WHAT POLICE REFORMS WOULD BE MOST IMPACTFUL, IN YOUR OPINION?

For too long, too many sheriffs, police chiefs, and police commissioners have tolerated bad, violent, and otherwise unworthy officers for the sake of fraternity. Rogue officers must be terminated.

Furthermore, to help ensure that the best candidates are hired on the force, all officers should be required to have at least a four year college degree.

Investigations of deadly encounters with police should be conducted not by local prosecutors, as generally is the case, but rather by a higher authority—an entity at the state or even the federal level.

Governors who appoint judges to serve out the terms of elected judges must consider the proper balance of racial and other communities

Involve the community. There is tremendous redeeming value in the resurrection of community trust in the system.

? WHAT CHANGE DO YOU HOPE TO CREATE WITH YOUR BOOK?

In my youth, I listened to detective programs on my family's sole, near-luxury item, a weathered tabletop radio, and developed the unlikely ambition for a Black youth in the deep south- to become a police detective. I wanted to write a book, a tool, an education manual so that our next generation of police officers won't have to rely solely on police shows as an inspiration for joining law enforcement. I also hope to inspire a way forward for law enforcement and the communities they serve during these divisive and challenging times.

? HOW DOES YOUR SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY ALIGN WITH THIS BOOK?

I have dedicated my life to sending people to jail. Everyday our taxes are used to pay approximately \$70 a day to keep people in jails. I believe that adds up to about \$25,000 a year, \$1 million for most criminals over a lifetime. And that's what we get for our money, lifetime criminals. Young people with a college education are LESS likely to go to jail, and a bachelor's degree is worth an average of \$2.8 million to them over a lifetime. So I plan on dedicating the rest of my life to sending our youth to college so they can become productive members of our society

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WHERE THEY WILL SHINE

SCHOLARSHIP

Glover has exhibited a lifelong passion for education. Throughout his career, he was a devoted mentor, coach and role model who provided valuable service on numerous civic and nonprofit boards. In his first term as Sheriff, he donated \$240,000 of his pension benefits to a college scholarship fund for low-income children in the Jacksonville community.

Glover would like his legacy to be the opportunities he has provided to young people to keep them from ending up where he saw so many – in the criminal justice system. He would like to prove to them that having an education pays real dividends, as much as \$2.8 million in dividends over a lifetime.

In November 2006, Glover served as a roving ambassador for higher education in Jacksonville, focusing on college recruitment and drop-out prevention. He also served as Special Advisor to University of North Florida President John Delaney.

In conjunction with the Florida State College at Jacksonville Foundation, Glover will spearhead the

funding of scholarships for need-based students. Funds for the Where They Will Shine Scholarship Fund will be raised in part from the proceeds of his upcoming biography, "Striving for Justice: A Black Sheriff in the Deep South". He recalls the many people who intervened in his life at critical times to provide him the opportunity to help reach his dreams, and wants to provide those similar opportunities to Jacksonville's youth, starting with education.

The Florida State College at Jacksonville Foundation will make disbursements to students who qualify for the Federal Pell Grant, awarded to undergraduate students who display exceptional financial need and have not earned a bachelor, graduate, or professional degree. Students must begin the qualification process by submitting a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to attend college at Florida State College at Jacksonville, Edward Waters College, University of North Florida or Jacksonville University.

“ I made a career in law enforcement, arresting and putting young people in jail. Later, I had an opportunity to become president of my alma mater, and I had the chance to educate and graduate young men and women as our friends, neighbors that we love rather than fear. Seeing young people walk across the stage and get their degrees, and me being responsible for their education, has been the embodiment of happiness for me. It has been one of my greatest blessings.

– NAT GLOVER JR.