

February 17, 1938

(Los Angeles City Municipal Court)

Deputy Marshal Crittenden and Deputy Marshal Leon W. Romer were shot and killed while attempting to serve an eviction warrant at a home on East 23rd Street. The suspect opened fire on the two deputy marshals when he was told he would have to leave the home.

Deputy Marshal Romer was able to stumble outside, where he collapsed in the front yard. The suspect then shot Deputy Marshal Crittenden in the back as he retreated into the street to seek cover.

Responding officers engaged the suspect in an hour-long gun battle until wounding him four times. The man was eventually convicted of two counts of manslaughter and sentenced to 10 to 20 years in prison.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is now the policing agency for the Los Angeles City Marshal's Office. The Sheriff's Department would like to recognize Deputy Marshal T. Dwight Crittenden & Deputy Marshal Leon William Romer for their sacrifice in serving the Los Angeles City Marshal's Office.