



Ronnie Lee Belser **Class of 2026**

A 1988 graduate of Las Plumas High School, Ron Belser has devoted more than three decades to public service, earning a reputation as one of Butte County's most respected law enforcement professionals, educators, and youth advocates. His life and career have been defined by service, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to protecting children and strengthening communities.

While attending Las Plumas High School, Ron excelled academically and athletically. He earned a Block LP and participated in baseball, basketball, and cross country. The discipline, teamwork, and determination he developed as a student-athlete would become hallmarks of his professional career. After graduation, he continued his education at Butte College, earning honors recognition while studying Criminal Justice and Behavioral Science, and later completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice Management at Union Institute University.

Ron's commitment to helping others began long before he entered law enforcement. As a teenager working at his family's gas station in south Oroville, he witnessed firsthand the devastating effects of drugs and alcohol on families and children. Those experiences shaped the course of his life and inspired a deep desire to protect vulnerable youth and improve the community he called home.

In the late 1990s, Ron and his family opened their home to foster children who had been removed from dangerous living situations during narcotics investigations and social services interventions. Seeing the challenges faced by these children strengthened his resolve to dedicate his career to helping those affected by addiction, neglect, and abuse.

Ron began his law enforcement career with the Oroville Police Department in 2001 as a Community Services Officer. He quickly became known for his work educating children about the dangers of drugs and for his efforts to protect young people living in unsafe environments. After graduating from the 110th Police Academy with top honors in crime scene investigation and high rankings in academic and physical performance, he joined the Paradise Police Department in 2002.

Over the next twenty-four years, Ron built an exceptional career as a patrol officer, field training officer, narcotics investigator, detective, and task force member. His work focused not only on enforcing the law but on protecting children endangered by addiction and criminal activity. Through his assignments with the Butte Interagency Narcotics Task Force, he worked alongside the DEA, FBI, Homeland Security, and other agencies on complex investigations throughout the region.

Ron became a recognized leader in Drug Endangered Children initiatives, combining professional expertise with personal experience as a foster parent. Since 2010, he has served as a contract instructor for the California Drug Endangered Children Training and Advocacy Center, providing training to thousands of law enforcement officers, social workers, medical professionals, and first responders throughout California and beyond.

Ron's dedication and professionalism earned widespread recognition. He was named Officer of the Year by the Paradise Police Department in 2005 and 2006 and again received Officer of the Year honors while serving with the Oroville Police Department in 2012. Throughout his career, he received numerous commendations and awards recognizing his leadership, investigative expertise, and commitment to public safety.

Beyond his own service, Ron has devoted countless hours to mentoring others. From 2006 through 2017, he served the Butte Law Enforcement Academy as an instructor, supervisor, evaluator, and Recruit Training Officer, helping prepare future law enforcement professionals for careers built on integrity, accountability, and service.

Ron's commitment to youth extends well beyond his profession. For more than thirty years, he has coached baseball, softball, basketball, and other youth sports programs, positively influencing generations of young athletes. He has also spoken regularly to schools, civic organizations, and community groups about drug prevention, safety, and personal responsibility. During major regional disasters, including the Camp, Carr, Wall, and Bear Fires, he assisted with emergency evacuations and public safety efforts.

Following his retirement from sworn law enforcement service in 2025, Ron continued serving the community as Director of Code Enforcement for the City of Oroville, where he established and now leads a new city division focused on improving neighborhoods and enhancing quality of life.

Ron's accomplishments are impressive, but his greatest legacy is his compassion for children and his dedication to helping others. Through public service, community leadership, mentoring, and advocacy, he has improved countless lives throughout Oroville, Butte County, and California. His career reflects the highest ideals of service, character, and commitment.

Ron's family includes daughters Hannah and Kyra, son Tanner, and grandson Everett. Ron and his wife, Becky, make their home in Oroville.