

St. Louis Police Officers Association



The Official Publication of the ST. LOUIS POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE - Lodge 68

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February 2025

Retirement of President Jay Schroeder

By Joe Steiger

s you may or may not know by now, our SLPOA President, Jay Schroeder, is retiring from the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. Jay will step down as SLPOA president because our by laws require the president to be an active member of the SLPOA. Vice President Martin Garcia will elevate to President going forward. Martin has been a long-time active member of the SLPOA and has held many important positions on the Executive Board. He has been the legal chairman for many years and has been a member of nearly every committee for SLPOA. Martin will be an excellent leader going forward and his new position will allow for a flawless transfer of power in order for SLPOA to continue to advance the mission of our organization without interruption.



Martin Garcia and Jay Schroeder

President Jay Schroeder has been

one of the most successful and longest tenured presidents to hold the position within the St. Louis Police Officers' Association. With over five consecutive years as president, Jay is the first person to hold that position for five consecutive years since 1997. He has also been doing double duty, serving as the Missouri State FOP President for a portion of that time. In addition to his work for our organization, Jay has been able to lead the State Lodge out of financial struggles and has grown membership throughout the state. Under Jay's leadership, we have achieved numerous objectives for SLPOA which are highlighted as follows.

Jay was president when the Law Enforcement Bill of Rights was passed in Jefferson City. He was president when the residency requirement was eliminated by the Missouri House and Senate. Jay was president when SLPOA was able to reengage with the City and acquire a new collective bargaining agreement after years at impasse without an agreement. Jay was president when SLPOA secured historic eight, ten and twelve percent pay increases for police officers and nine, eleven, and thirteen percent increases for Sergeants. Jay was president when the overreaching power of the City's Civilian Review Board was put in check by passing an amendment to the state statute governing Civilian Review Boards. He was president when a budget fix was made to the only remaining outstanding challenge to the LEOBOR lawsuit brought by the City of St. Louis. Jay was also able to navigate us through this latest wage increase effectively, securing anywhere from 14% to as much as 18% increase for police officers and sergeants over a

year and a half.

Jay was also president during some of the most tumultuous times our organization has ever He led us through a worldwide pandemic which put a massive strain on our resources. He was the leader of our organization during historic riots in 2020 of which he was front and center and directly in harm's way. Jay navigated three chiefs, including one that was hired from the outside, two interim chiefs and he even led SLPOA through some significant changes of personnel within our organization.

Jay has been a beacon of leadership in Jefferson City during his tenure. He has represented our organization with class and is a well-respected figure throughout the halls of the Capital. Jay forged an important

relationship with Governor Mike Kehoe years before Governor Kehoe won his election in a landslide. The benefits of that relationship will be felt by our organization for years to come. He has been a great leader, an incredibly compassionate advocate and a great friend. Jay comes from a long line of St. Louis City Police Officers as a member of his family has been active on this police department since 1891. He will be sorely missed but we wish him the best of luck and tremendous success as he moves on to the next chapter of his life.

On a personal note, I had the good fortune to work with Jay as a police officer back in the days of the old Crime Suppression Unit. He was a hardworking and fiercely loyal partner. We also worked together in our secondary jobs on Laclede's Landing which made for some memorable nights and some hilarious stories. We became great friends and shared a passion for the amazing work being done by the St. Louis Police Officers' Association. I was honored when he approached me nearly two and a half years ago and asked me to come back to SLPOA as your business manager. I am extremely grateful to him for the opportunity to do something that I love; to represent and advocate for St. Louis City Police Officers. I look forward to continuing to work with Jay in our legislative efforts as he will remain the President of the Missouri State FOP.

Best of Luck and Congratulations, Jay!

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"The objective of the Saint Louis Police Officers' Association shall be to advance the moral, social and material standing of the members of the Association by honorable and lawful means. As a labor organization the Association shall endeavor to achieve Collective Bargaining with Binding Arbitration."

(Preamble of the Association's Constitution and By-Laws)

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

February 26 March 26 6 p.m.

E-BOARD MEETING

February 26 March 26 4 p.m.

VETERAN'S MEETING

February 12 March 12 11:30 a.m.

FOP AUXILIARY MTG

February 18 March 18 7 p.m.

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MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

SLPOA UPDATE

SLPOA has completed our wage reopener negotiations with the city. We were able to take another small step toward moving your salaries closer to our brother and sister officers' salaries throughout the region. Upon approval from the Board of Alderman, Police Officers' starting salaries will be \$56,914 and top out just over \$80,000. Sergeants will start at over \$77,400 and top out at 91,400. Those figures are before any calculations are added for the education incentive which we were able to increase during the last raise. An online vote was held, and the amendment was approved at the conclusion of that vote by a total of 247 in favor and 100 against, which represented 54% membership participation. We also facilitated an in-person election for non-members of the bargaining unit and received five additional votes in favor and four additional votes against. The breakdown of these new wage increases are as follows:

For the rank of Police Officer and the rank of Sergeant, the steps in the matrix were reduced from thirty years to twenty years. After the compression of the steps, a 7% increase was added to the matrix. The negotiating team tried to get an even across the board raise first and then a compression of the pay matrix, but we were not successful. We were working within the city's fiscal year 2025 budget which had already been approved by the Board of Alderman back in July of last year, so the amount of money available was limited to what was already in the budget. This was not an ideal situation for us, but our intention was to get as much money as possible and put it into the current salaries of officers and sergeants as soon as possible.

In exchange for these increases, we agreed to a reduction in the manning table from 1,224 to 1,100 officers. Setting the manning table is a management right and is not a mandatory subject of

bargaining. Meaning, the city could change this whether we agreed to it or not, but we were able to use it as leverage to get this done. As of this writing, our commissioned strength is approximately 857 officers. We realized that the likelihood of getting to 1,100 anytime soon, much less to 1,224 before the end of this fiscal year was not just unlikely, but unrealistic. We opted to use the available money budgeted to secure a reduction to the matrix and an increase to the steps. We also agreed to reduce the maximum allowed vacation balance from six



Joe Steiger SLPOA Business Manager

hundred hours down to five hundred hours. Any officer or sergeant with a vacation balance above five hundred hours at the time of the conversion will receive a one-time monetary payment.

We realize this is not enough of an increase and the salary for our officers is still lagging far behind our counterparts in St. Louis County and the surrounding municipalities. However, leaving that money on the table only makes it that much harder for us to catch up during the next negotiation. Our current contract is set to expire in June of 2025 and we expect any successor agreement to contain additional steps to close the salary gap between our officers and others in the region. We won't get caught up in one fell swoop. It will take multiple steps to get there, and we are working to achieve that goal.

I understand officers and sergeants over the twenty-year threshold are disappointed to receive a lesser percentage than their

(Cont. on pg. 5)



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SLPOA UPDATE

(Cont. from pg. 4)

coworkers with twenty years or under. If you look at these most recent two raises as a whole, the total increase for most people is relatively close. The last raise we received was in July of 2023, which was just eighteen months ago. Those increases were 8, 10, or 12 percent for officers and 9, 11, or 13 percent for sergeants based on your position within the matrix. After this second round of increases, any officer in the zero-to-ten-year range has received a 15% increase over the past eighteen months. Any officer in the eleven-to-twenty-year range has received a 17% increase over the same time and any officer in the twenty-one-to-thirty-year range has received an increase anywhere from 16.8% to 14.2% percent depending on an officer's step in the matrix. Similarly, sergeants in the five-to-ten-year range have received a 16% increase, sergeants in the eleven-to-twenty year range have received an 18% increase and the sergeants in the twenty-one to thirty year range have received anywhere from 17.9% to 15.6% increase over the eighteen month life of this contract.

Although these increases will not immediately bring you in line with our colleagues from the St. Louis County Police Department, we do have the opportunity to continue to build on these increases when we begin negotiating a renewal to our full contract during the coming months. We are already scheduled to meet during the last week of January.

The goal from your labor committee will be to continue to make strides to bring your salaries into a competitive range with other area departments. There are multiple hurdles when dealing with these negotiations. The first and probably most difficult issue is the city charter amendment concerning pay parity with the St. Louis Fire Department. In addition, St. Louis City has less than three hundred thousand residents compared to St. Louis County whose population is closer to one million. That disparity does put us at a disadvantage when vying for tax dollars to properly compensate our officers. With that being said, we believe there is room within the current budget to make the necessary, and deserved pay increases for police officers in the near future and SLPOA will continue to push for those increases in the coming months.

Congratulations to the New County Prosecutor

As most of you are already aware, SLPOA is the exclusive bargaining representative for St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorneys and Investigators. This past fall, the current elected Prosecutor, Wesley Bell, defeated the incumbent Congresswoman for the United States 1st Congressional District in Missouri. His victory left a vacancy at the top spot in Prosecuting Attorney's Office. There was some disagreement about who had the authority to appoint the new County Prosecutor between the Governor of the State of Missouri and the County Executive. After a brief legal battle, initiated by Attorney General Andrew Bailey, the courts determined that the decision to appoint the next prosecutor was the sole authority of the Governor of the State of Missouri. On Friday, January 3rd, 2025, Melissa Price-Smith was sworn into office and will finish the remaining two years of Mr. Bell's term.

This is an historic appointment since Ms. Price-Smith is the first female to hold the position of Prosecuting Attorney in St. Louis County. Her appointment is also significant to SLPOA because she is a member of the St. Louis Police Officers' Association/Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 68. SLPOA was proud to back her candidacy for this position and we are thankful to the honorable Governor Mike Parson and Governor Elect Mike Kehoe for their support in choosing her as the next Prosecuting Attorney. We are also grateful to Attorney General Bailey for intervening in this appointment to make sure the law was followed correctly and appropriately.

Ms. Price-Smith is a veteran of the St. Louis Prosecuting Attorney's Office, having served for eighteen years and having tried nearly every type of case imaginable. She started her career with a short stint in the St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office before moving to the County Prosecutor's Office under Bob McCoullough and most

recently she led the Sex Crimes and Child Abuse unit. Ms. Price-Smith is a passionate advocate for victims, a tough on crime prosecutor and an effective leader among her peers. I had the honor of working with her several years ago after retiring from SLMPD and joining the County Prosecutor's office as an investigator. She is an excellent choice to lead the office for the remaining two years and beyond. Congratulations, Melissa!

Passing of the WEP and GPO

Recently the United States Congress righted a wrong and reversed the restrictions passed onto public employees like teachers, firefighters and police officers. The Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset bill was passed on the final day of session last year. Prior to this legislation passing, public employees were penalized by the federal government and had their social security benefits reduced. This was related to the State of Missouri opting out of social security payments for public sector employees who also receive a pension.

As you likely are aware, as St. Louis City Police Officers, you do not pay into social security and neither does our employer. Instead, each active officer pays 7% of their salary into the pension system. This is equal to the contribution you would pay into Social Security, therefore we are not eligible for social security benefits. However, if you work a secondary job or you retire and go on to work another job, and achieve your forty quarters paid into social security, your benefits were offset simply because you received a pension. Spousal survival benefits were also reduced due to these provisions.

Social Security is based off of a formula depending on what you pay into the system, and you qualify as long as you pay into the system for forty quarters or ten years. Most police officers qualify because of our tendency to work secondary employment or because of our work history before and after employment with the SLMPD. I have heard reports from retired officers who were only being paid 23% of the benefits they had earned. Not anymore. Much of the credit goes to the National FOP legislative team who have been pushing this fix for years and were finally able to get this over the finish line. Thanks to all of the active and retired members who contacted Missouri Senators Josh Hawley and Eric Schmitt; both voted to pass the bill. This is a massive win for our retired members who are social security eligible but also for all of us who will be there one day.

Reminder to Keep Beneficiaries Updated

SLPOA has had several unfortunate incidents this past year where our members have lost their lives. I want to use this opportunity to remind every member to keep your beneficiary information updated. I am not just speaking about your SLPOA and FOP beneficiary information but also your beneficiary information through the department and any personal accounts you may have. Relationships change over the years. It's unfortunate when someone fails to keep these benefits updated and when something tragic happens, someone other than their loved ones benefit from an untimely death. We would also encourage everyone to become a member of the Police Funeral organization. This death benefit can take the financial burden off of your family if something terrible happens to you. It only costs a few dollars per pay period but the benefit and peace of mind is unmeasurable. As morbid and uncomfortable as this may sound, it's an important step to take to ensure that your family is not burdened financially if a tragedy occurs.





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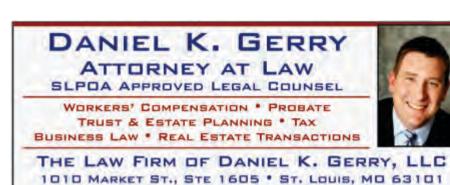
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Legislative Update

The legislative session is underway and things are moving fast. Mike Kehoe was sworn in as the 58th Governor of Missouri on Monday, January 13, 2025, which was a bitterly cold day, with attendees bundled up and enduring subfreezing weather. Other statewide officeholders also took the oath of office during the inaugural ceremony, including Lt. Governor David Wasinger, Secretary of State Denny Hoskins, Treasurer Vivek Malek, and Attorney General Andrew Bailey. In his nearly eight-minute address, Governor Kehoe outlined his key priorities, including enhancing public safety, improving education, fostering economic growth, and supporting agriculture. He committed to supporting law enforcement, broadening school choice, cutting taxes and red tape, and strengthening Missouri's agricultural foundation.

The inauguration festivities extended beyond the swearing-in ceremony, as the day kicked off with Kehoe giving special recognition to many first responders and veterans with a Salute to Heroes celebration. Other events included a promenade of the Budweiser Clydesdales to the Governor's Mansion, a reception with the Governor and First Lady, and finally the Legislative Ball, which lasted well into the evening. The event brought together legislators and their families from across the state to celebrate the beginning of the new administration.

Governor Kehoe's Initial Actions

Following his swearing-in, Governor Kehoe signed six executive orders to initiate his Safer Missouri public safety strategy. These directives aim to equip law enforcement agencies with the resources necessary to combat the increasing crime across the state

Overview of the Executive Orders:

<u>Executive Order 25-02:</u> Initiates Operation Relentless Pursuit, a collaborative anti-crime initiative focusing on intelligence-led policing and cross-agency efforts to apprehend dangerous offenders. Key elements include:

- o Deploying full-time MSHP Drug and Crime Control investigators in each of the nine troop regions.
- o Allocating funds to add one deputy sheriff per MSHP troop headquarters for task force operations targeting criminal activities.

Executive Order 25-03: Creates the Blue Shield Program to honor local governments committed to public safety and effective law enforcement practices. Blue Shield recipients gain access to state grants to further public safety initiatives and community partnerships.

<u>Executive Order 25-04</u>: Establishes a 287(g) agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), allowing state and local law enforcement to assist with immigration enforcement. The initiative prioritizes reducing illegal immigration, capturing criminal offenders, and addressing drug trafficking.

<u>Executive Order 25-05</u>: Directs the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and MSHP to integrate immigration status into the statewide crime reporting system for individuals charged with crimes.

<u>Executive Order 25-06</u>: Revises MSHP's salary structure by reducing the time required for officers to reach the highest pay tier from 15 years to 12 years.

Executive Order 25-07: Tasks the Department of Corrections and Missouri Parole Board with reviewing and updating parole guidelines and procedures. A working group will propose new rules by October 1, 2025, aimed at improving offender management and reducing recidivism.

These executive orders, as well as Kehoe's overall crime plan, were developed with input from the law enforcement community and represent the first step in the Governor's public safety agenda.

Bills of Interest:

Control of SLMPD

HB495 – This is a far-reaching crime and public safety bill, which among other provisions, modifies the offense of rioting and elevates the offense to a felony, establishes the Committee on School Safety, specifies that any vehicle involved in the commission of the offense of resisting an arrest, detention, or stop when the offense is a class E felony will be impounded and forfeited, adds the offense of endangering the welfare of a child in the first degree to the definition of "dangerous felony", creates the offense of stunt driving, and sets forth guidelines for the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department to be overseen by a board of police commissioners made up of local citizens and appointed by the Governor. The bill was referred to the House Crime and Public Safety Committee.

SB44 – This senate bill is similar to HB495 listed above. This bill was referred to the Senate Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety Committee.

SB52 — Returns control of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department to a board of police commissioners made up of local citizens and appointed by the Governor. This bill was referred to the Senate Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety Committee.

On Wednesday January 22, 2025, SLPOA President Jay Schroeder, Vice President Martin Garcia and Business Manager Joe Steiger traveled to Jefferson City. Both Senate bills and the House bill received a hearing in their respective committees on the same day. President Schroeder, Steiger and Ethical Society of Police President Donnie Walters all testified in favor of the bills in both hearings. We anticipate the bills will pass out of committee in the coming weeks.



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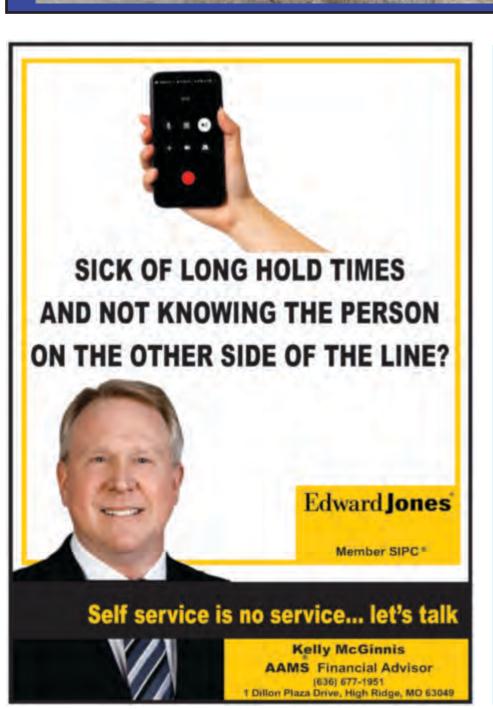
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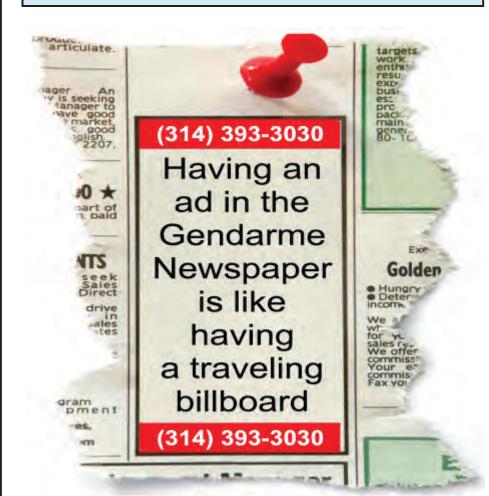
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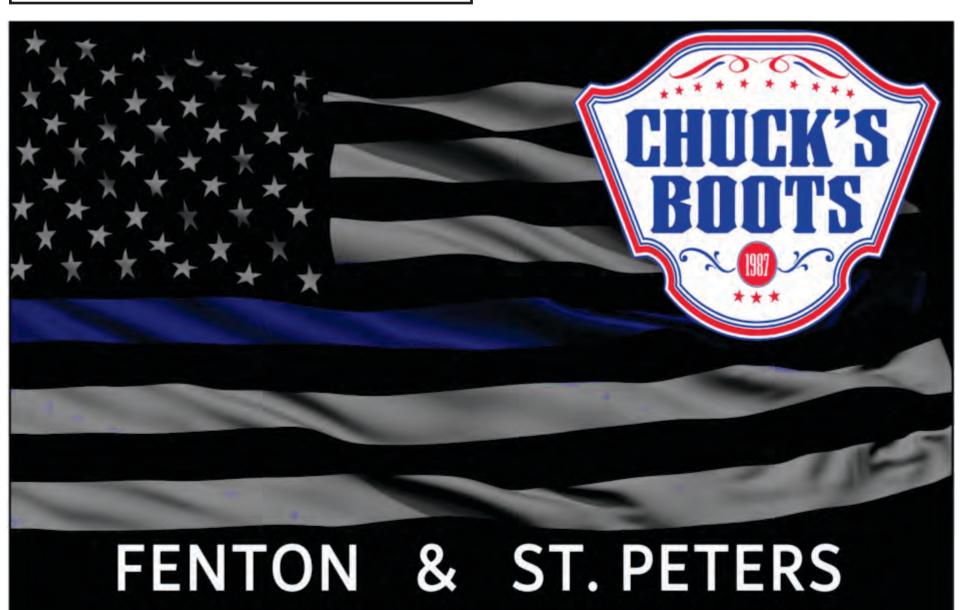
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P.O. Veronica R. Ruffin	302	10/06/24
P.O. Stacy P. Smith	322	10/06/24
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Retired Sergeant Michael D. O'Keeffe, **DSN: 0366**

Birth: 05/08/1955 Death: 10/28/2024

Date of Employment: 04/25/1977

Assignment Code 301

Funeral: Thursday, November 7 at 9:15 a.m. from Kutis Affton Chapel to St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church (4924 Bancroft

Ave) for 10:00 a.m. Mass

Interment Resurrection Cemetery (6901 MacKenzie Road)

Retired Lt. Col. **Everett E. Page DSN: 5480**

Birth: 06/30/1943 Death: 11/05/2024

Date of Employment: 12/21/1964 Date of Retirement: 11/03/2003

Assignment code at time of retirement:

300

Funeral services are pending.



Retired Police Officer Charles E. Dreppard **DSN: 4753**

SLPVA member

Birth: 03/30/1942 Death: 11/04/2024

Date of Employment: 05/13/1963 Date of Retirement: 08/30/1993

Assignment code at time of retirement: 6th

District

Arnold, MO Funeral services are pending.

Retired Police Officer Remo W. Beffa **DSN: 0928**

Birth: 09/10/1953 Death: 11/09/2024

Date of Employment: 04/25/1977 Date of Retirement: 09/04/2007

Assignment code at time of retirement: 451

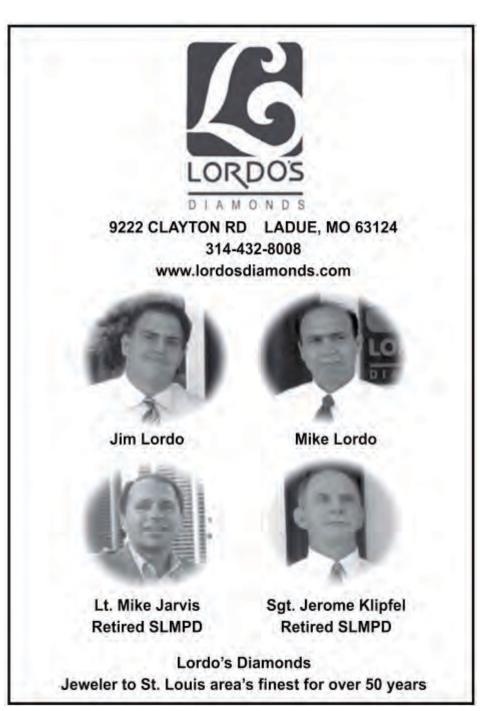
Surviving Spouse: Izana A. Beffa

Funeral services





(Cont. on pg. 11)





GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

We stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us

(Cont. from pg. 10)



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Remo William Beffa, age 71, of Lake Ozark, Missouri passed away on November 9, 2024. He was born on September 10, 1953 in St. Louis, Missouri. A full reflection of life and services will be posted soon.

Arrangements are under the direction of Hedges-Scott-Millard Funeral Homes, 514 Highway 42, Osage Beach, MO 65065 (573) 348-3232. Condolences may be left online for the family at www.hedgesscottmillard.com.

Retired Turnkey Olivia J. Hall DSN: No record

Birth: 06/13/1922 Death: 10/30/2024

Date of Employment: 06/30/1969 Date of Retirement: 06/13/1988

Assignment code at time of retirement: Prisoner

Processing

No funeral arrangements.



Retired Sergeant John E. Ruzicka DSN: 1674

Birth: 07/21/1958 Death: 11/20/2024

caw@gmwlawfirm.com

Date of Employment: 10/08/1979 Date of Retirement: 04/19/2015

Assignment code at time of retirement: 303



Surviving Spouse: Jeanne M. Ruzicka

Funeral services are as follows: Visitation Sunday, November 24, 4:00-8:00 PM, Kutis Afton 10151 Gravois Rd, St. Louis, MO 63123

Officer James A. Earheart

SLMPD Retired SLPVA Elder Member

DOB 9/9/1929 Died 11/28/2024 (95)

Retired 9/28/1984

Loving husband to Mary Gene Earheart (nee Cashion) for 70 years. Beloved father to Donivan (Diane) Earheart, Becky Davis and Donna (William) Arnold. Cherished grandfather to Lindsay Leetch, J.P. Davis and Brandon (Danielle) Earheart. Greatgrandfather to Avery and Emmersen Leetch.



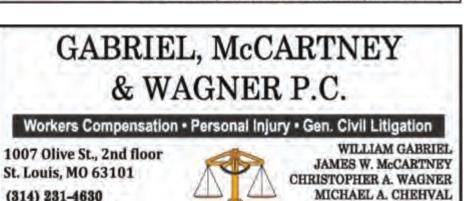
James (Jim) was born in Dover, TN, in 1929. He enlisted in the Army in his teens and later served in the Korean War. He was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific medal, the National Defense Service medal, the Korean Service medal, and the Sharpshooter and Rifle Badge. Several years after moving to Missouri, he joined the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department where he worked as a police officer for 30 years before retiring. Jim is a talented woodworker and has a knack for creating just about anything you could request.

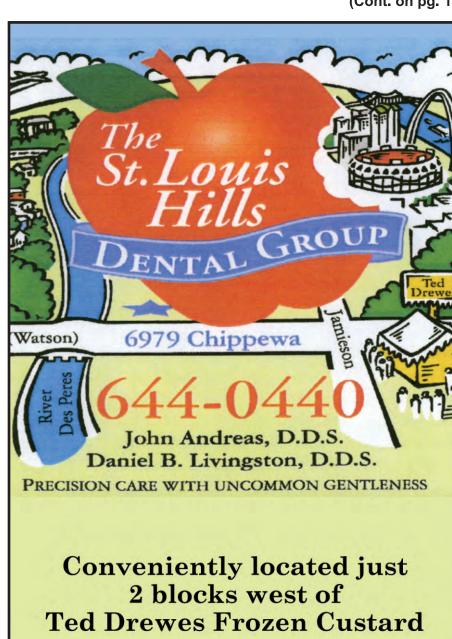
In lieu of flowers, donations to The Backstoppers

(Cont. on pg. 12)









GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

We stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us (Cont. from pg. 11)



February 2025

Gerald A. Maher Omaha, Nebraska

Birth: 3/21/1930 Death: 5/2022

Retired: 12/1/1961

On May 5, 2022 Gerald A. Maher passed away at age 92. Gerald (Gerry) was born on a farm near St. Albans, MO on March 21, 1930. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Harry and Mildred (Simon)

Maher. Gerry had two brothers and a sister who preceded him in death.

At age 16, Gerry ran away from home, and through some trickery, joined the Marine Corp. A year later his mother found him, and had him discharged. He was a model Marine and instead of punishment, the Commander gave him a Honorable Discharge crediting him 1 year of service, with and invitation to re-enlist when older. Gerry loved the Marines and did re-enlist. He was selected for training to become a Corsair fighter pilot. Near the end of his training, Gerry was misdiagnosed as having a heart condition, and returned to the infantry, which he didn't mind at all.

As the Korean War broke out, Gerry was the recipient of two Purple Hearts, having twice been wounded in combat. Gerry later became a Drill Sergeant, however, due to his war injuries, he eventually was medically discharged. Gerry then moved back to St. Louis, where he became a police officer. He worked nights as a rookie officer, and attended Law School during the day. After graduation he was hired by the FBI. Gerry had a storied career working for the FBI, DEA and ATF.

Gerry met is wife, Thelma in St. Louis, MO in 1964. They married in New York, NY in 1965, gaining a daughter, Barb (Von Tersch). He then worked as a New York police officer until he was promoted to head of the ATF in

Dave Sinclair Sr.

Former St. Louis City Police Officer



Omaha, NE. Barb married (Leo Von Tersch) and had two Grandchildren, Jason Von Terch (deceased) and Jennifer Von Tersch (Schultz). Jennifer later married (Chris Schultz) and had a Great Grand Child, Kaila Schultz.

Gerry was a member of the Mason Lodge for over 25 years and became a Grand Mason toward the end or his membership. After retirement Gerry renewed his pilot skills, flew charter flights, and became a flight instructor until age 70. He was a member, and held officer positions, in a variety of Military organizations. Most recently he was a member of the Millard VFW post 8334, and the Millard American Legion Post 374. He was also the former Judge Advocate of the Nebraska Purple Heart Society.

Gerry had an incredible life. Even with his commitment to the Military and his community, he still made time to spend with his family and never missed a Track Meet, Prom, Wedding, or any other significant event with his family. We are all blessed and grateful to have known Gerry as a husband, grandfather, great grandfather, friend, and fellow soldier.

Raymond Follis

SLPVA Elder Member

The following death was discovered while updating the SLPVA database.

Birth: 11/6/1932

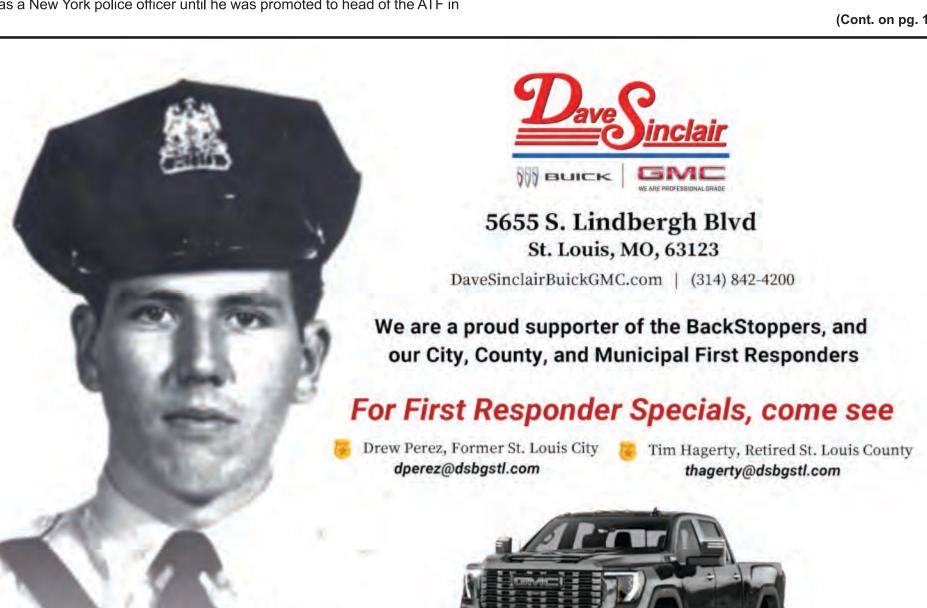
Joined SLPVA 1/13/2013

Follis, Raymond W. Sunday, June 14, 2015. Beloved husband of Caryl J. Follis (nee Arendes); loving father of Christopher (Chrissy) and Edward

Follis, Diana Roberts and Debbie (Larry) Davis; grandfather of Cora, Nathanial, Keith, Brandon and Jason; uncle of John (Linda) Follis; brother-in-law of Larry (Nancy) Arendes; uncle and friend.

(Cont. on pg. 14)





CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Police Dispatchers / 911 Call Takers

As you all know, police dispatchers / 911 call takers are a vital and invaluable part of the police department. Without them the police officer's job would be even more difficult. Like you officers I am grateful for the job that the dispatchers do.

What does it mean to be a police dispatcher / 911 call taker? It means:

You will never be bored.

You will often be frustrated.

You will be surrounded by challenges.

You will carry immense responsibility and very little authority

You will step into people's lives and will make a difference.

Some will bless you, and some will curse you.

You will learn from every experience.

You will speak with people who are experiencing painful and horrific situations.

You will laugh, and you will cry.

You will carry on more than four conversations simultaneously.

You will spell everything phonetically.

You will be a facilitator who supports a team effort without fanfare.

You will swear before keying up the microphone to talk to your officers.

You will put a caller on hold to laugh hysterically.

You will be a voice in the darkness that gives hope to those who really need it.

You will do precision guesswork based on unreliable data provided by those of questionable knowledge.

For most people a 911 call taker is nameless, faceless, and a calm voice in the dark. 911 call takers hear the voices of children, scared because Mom or Dad are not home. 911 call takers hear the voices of the elderly who are confused and do not know what to do. 911 call takers listen to the caller's voice and hear their pain, crying, screaming, and fear. 911 call takers attempt to calm the hysteria and obtain necessary information in order to pass this information to the responding officers. 911 call takers then assure the caller that assistance is on the way.

Police dispatchers contact the police officers and have to send them into the unknown. Is the call a life/death situation? Is the call hazardous or dangerous for the officer? Are weapons involved? Has the suspect been known to shoot at officers? Is the crime still in progress? Is the information that was given to the officer about the call accurate? Oftentimes there is only a few seconds in between calls that need to be dispatched, and the police dispatcher goes through the same process all over again and again and again.

Police dispatchers / 911 call takers took the job to help people in the community. At the end of their shift, police dispatchers / 911 call takers know that they have given assistance to someone that could be experiencing the worst day of their life. More importantly, however, police dispatchers / 911 call takers are thankful that all the officers made relief and went home safe.

Many, many years ago, I saw the following quotation on a sign that was buried on a bulletin board in a patrol station. I have never forgotten this piece of advice, because it is 100% accurate and true, and I am certain that you will agree.

You (the police officer) may know where you are and what you are doing...

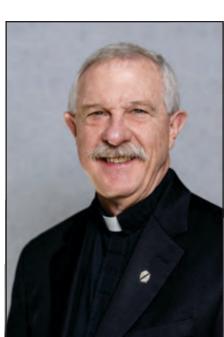
God may know where you are and what you are doing... but if the dispatcher does not know where you are and what you are doing, then I hope that YOU and GOD are on very good terms.

Here is a prayer for police dispatchers / 911 call takers:

Most loving God, I pray that you keep my ears healthy because that is my link to those who need help. Keep my voice clear and audible, my mind sharp and alert, and my fingers accurate, nimble, and

quick. Bless me with patience and the ability to do 10 things at once. Keep me calm with nerves of iron and never let me panic. I ask for guidance and wisdom in difficult and trying situations because my job is important, and I do make a difference. Be at my side, dear Lord, and give me the strength that I need to do my job. I am a Police Dispatcher / 911 Call Taker. Amen.

As we celebrate a new year. Please be assured that I will say some extra prayers for the police dispatchers / 911 call takers, you officers, your families, and your loved ones during this new year.



Chaplain John Fava

May God bless you.

"Policeman's Prayer"

When I start my tour of duty God,
Wherever crime may be,
as I walk the darkened streets alone, Let
me be close to thee.

Please give me understanding with both the young and old.

Let me listen with attention until their story's told.

Let me never make a judgment in a rash or callous way, but let me hold my patience let each man have his say.

Lord if some dark and dreary night,

I must give my life,

Lord, with your everlasting love
protect my children and my wife.

(Author Unknown)





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GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN We stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us

(Cont. from pg. 12)

Retired Police Officer Mark J. Lagermann DSN 0458

Birth: 12/28/1952 Death: 01/09/2025

Date of Employment: 10/14/1974 Date of Retirement: 06/30/2000

Assignment code at time of retirement: 302

Surviving Spouse: Shelly L. Lagermann





STEPHEN W. THURMER

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SLPOA Approved Legal Counsel

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Email: thurmer@sbcglobal.net



DEPUTY SHERIFF- CIVIL PROCESS

ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI CIRCUIT COURT DEPARTMENT OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

SHERIFF'S OFFICE 105 S. CENTRAL AVENUE CLAYTON, MISSOURI 63105

Civil Process Sheriff's Deputies serve court documents to businesses and individuals throughout St. Louis County using their personal vehicle. Hourly pay plus mileage reimbursed at 100% of the IRS reimbursement rate, currently \$.655/mi. Position is open continuously.

Apply anytime.

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- Plain clothes armed or unarmed position.
- Flexibility to set your own schedule.
- Work independently in the field.
- Camaraderie with other former police officers.

For additional details or questions, contact Kevin Pugh at Kevin.Pugh@courts.mo.gov or 314-615-4755

To apply, please visit governmentjobs.com/careers/stlouis and see "Deputy Sheriff Positions".







An unexpected package from an unknown sender arrives in your name. You open it and find a note that says it's a gift, but it doesn't say who sent it. The note also says to scan a QR code to find out who sent it — or to get instructions on how to return it. Did someone really send you a gift? Or is it an attempt to steal your personal information?

If you know it's really a gift, you can keep it. But know that the unexpected package could be a new twist on a brushing scam that could steal your personal information.

If you scan the QR code, it could take you to a phishing website that steals your personal information, like credit card numbers or usernames and passwords. It could also download malware onto your phone and give hackers access to your device.

If you scanned the QR code and entered your credentials, like your

Scam alert: QR code on an unxpected package

By Alvaro Puig - Consumer Education Specialist, FTC

username and password, into a website, change your password right away. Create a strong password that is hard to guess, and turn on two-factor authentication.

If you're concerned someone has your personal information, get your free credit report at AnnualCreditReport.com. Look for signs that someone is using your information, like accounts in your name you don't recognize. (You can get a free credit report every week.)

Also review your credit card bills and bank account statements and look for transactions you didn't make. And consider taking other steps to protect your identity, like freezing your credit or putting a fraud alert on your credit report.

If you think someone stole your identity, report it, and get a personal recovery plan at IdentityTheft.gov.

What else can you do to protect your personal information? Regularly update your computer software and your phone to get the latest security patches. And learn to recognize a phishing email or text message.

And what about the package? The law says you can keep it as a gift.

Phishing scams can be hard to spot

By Ari Lazarus - Consumer Education Specialist, FTC

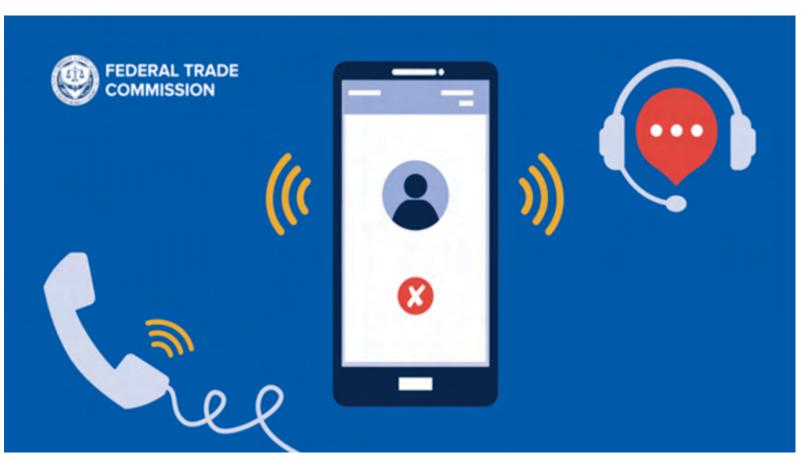
Scammers love a good disguise. One day they show up texting you about a delivery you missed, the next they say you need to sort an issue with your Netflix account. Here's how to avoid these phishing scams.

Phishing emails and text messages often tell a story to trick you into clicking on a link or opening an attachment. Maybe it's an unexpected email or text message pretending to be from a company you know or trust, like a utility company asking you to make a payment.

Or maybe it's an unexpected party invitation that looks like it's from a friend or family member.

Don't click on links or download attachments in these messages. It might lead to a request for personal information, like your Social Security, credit card, or bank account number — and identity theft. Or, the link or attachment could download harmful malware onto your device.

How can you spot these scams? If you get an email or text message that asks you to click on a link or open an attachment, ask yourself: **Do I have an account with the company or know the**



person who contacted me?

If the answer is "No," it's likely a phishing scam. While real companies might communicate with you by email, legitimate companies won't unexpectedly email or text with a link to update your payment or account information. For other signs of phishing, check out How to recognize phishing.

If the answer is "Yes," contact the company using a phone number or website you know is real — not the information in the email. Or contact your friend directly on a separate email or text string to confirm it's really them. They'll understand if you're suspicious about that unexpected invitation to click a link.



FEBRUARY 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			BLACK HISTORY MON	NTH		1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 SUPER BOWL	10	11	12 LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY VETERANS MTG 11:30	13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY PAYDAY	15
16	17 PRESIDENT'S DAY	18 FOP AUXILIARY MEETING 7PM	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 E-BOARD MTG 4 PM GENERAL MEMBERSHIP	27	28 PAYDAY	

MARCH 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5 ASH WEDNESDAY	6	7	8
Declads Aviage Time Begin	10	11	12 VETERANS MTG 11:30	13	14 PAYDAY	15
16	17 Halland	18 FOP AUXILIARY MEETING 7PM	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 E-BOARD MTG 4 PM GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MTG 6 PM	27	28 PAYDAY	29
30	31					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 VETERANS MTG 11:30	10	11 PAYDAY	12
13 MARIANDAY	14	15 FOP AUXILIARY MEETING 7PM	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 PAYDAY	26
27	28	29	30 E-BOARD MTG 4 PM GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MTG 6 PM			