



GENDARME

St. Louis Police Officers Association



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

Vol. 53 No. 3

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October 2024

OFFICER DAVID LEE



End of Watch 9/22/2024

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SLPOA
Calendar
See pg. 16

Officer
David Lee
Cont. on pg. 3



“In memory of the
Saint Louis Police Officers
who have made the
Ultimate Sacrifice”

DURING THE MONTH OF
NOVEMBER



No Picture Available
JOHN WHITE
1877



No Picture Available
PATRICK DORAN
1881



NICHOLAS HUNT
1897



ARTHUR HUDDLESTON
1912



CHARLES BARMEIER
1915



JOHN FLAHERTY
1923



EDWARD KUEHNER
1923



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1924



ROBERT WOODY
1924



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1928



JOSEPH THEOBALD JR.
1933



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1939



ALOYSIUS NELKE
1973



STEPHEN STREHL
1993

BE
CAREFUL
OUT
THERE!

GENDARME

Quarterly

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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

November and
December dates not set.
Watch for email

E-BOARD MEETING

November and
December dates not set.
Watch for email

VETERAN’S MEETING

November 13
December 11
11:30 a.m.

FOP AUXILIARY MTG

November 19
December 17
7 p.m.

IN MEMORY OF OFFICER DAVID LEE

Tragedy struck the SLMPD again on September 22, 2024, when one of our brothers was taken from us. Police Officer David Lee was struck and killed by an alleged drunk driver while assisting another motorist on Interstate 70. David is the 174th St. Louis Metropolitan Police Officer killed in the line of duty. Although David Lee's death was tragic, he died a hero. That, I'm sure, is little solace to his family who just want their husband and father back. The most tragic part of this incident is that his death was avoidable. Our hearts and prayers go out to his wife, his children and the entire the Lee family. Please remember them in the coming days as the funeral events subside and they try to get back to normal, that's when they will need our support the most. David Lee will never be forgotten. He is forever enshrined in a place of honor on the SLPOA wall of fallen heroes. Unfortunately, his will not be the last name added to that memorial. Sadly, the police officer line of duty memorial will never be complete.

David's family, friends, the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department as well as police departments throughout the area and the entire St. Louis community celebrated David's life on October 5, 2024. The beautiful service included some powerful songs, empowering scripture and some kind words from multiple people including David's closet friends, Chief Tracy and his commanding officer Paul Lauer. A fitting tribute for an exceptional person. The service was followed by a repass at the St. Louis Police Officers' Association. The hall was filled to capacity with family,

friends and loved ones all of whom gathered as a show of support for the family and in memory of a truly special man.

SLPOA wants to commend the courage and character of the officers from the Traffic Safety Division. These officers were able to process the scene of this incident in order to ensure justice was done for Daivd Lee despite the emotions they must have been experiencing having just lost a friend and colleague. These officers could have easily punted their responsibilities to another agency, but they didn't. They remained focused so they could make sure everything was thoroughly investigated and in honor of their fallen friend. It was a true act of respect in the face of immense grief.





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Dave Sinclair Sr.

Former St. Louis City Police Officer

FADE OUTS

PO Bruno Carter	451	7-28-24
PO David L Cornell	955	8-11-24
SGT Robert J Weast	302	8-11-24
PO Andre J Spear	301	9-8-24
PO Michael P Wuellner	432	10-6-24

VETERANS DAY



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- Work independently in the field.
- Camaraderie with other former police officers.

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MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

SLPOA UPDATE

I would like to start by offering my sincere condolences to the family of Officer David Lee. I cannot imagine the pain they are dealing with and I want them to know that they are constantly in my thoughts and prayers. I hope God will give them the strength to persevere and move forward with their lives despite the massive void left by his absence. I know they will continue to honor David's memory as we will here at SLPOA. David was an excellent police officer, but more importantly, he was an incredible human being. You would be hard pressed to find anyone that would say an ill word about David Lee. He was admired and beloved by all of his coworkers and friends. He will be sorely missed.

Labor Update

The SLPOA negotiating team has been continuing to push the City and the Police Department to secure a meaningful and well-deserved raise for our membership. Any gains we made in salary during the last contract have been impacted by rising inflation and the cost of living. In addition, other area police departments have increased salaries which moved SLMPD from the middle of the pack, back down toward the bottom. We need another substantial pay increase for SLMPD to stay competitive in the market for talented police officer candidates.

SLPOA was initially told that the city would not be able to commit to any raises until after the first quarter of the fiscal year, after September 30, 2024. We were told the city was waiting to gauge the impact of the lawsuit over the earnings tax for remote workers and to see the final numbers from revenue for the first quarter. We continued to meet with the city and the department although not as frequently as we would have liked. Members of our committee continued to have conversations with leadership trying to encourage the city back to the table with the intent of securing a reasonable offer in October.

In the meantime, SLPOA received an area police salary and compensation study from the Missouri Police Chief's Association. This information was shared with the City and the Police Department which led to our original proposal being updated to bring our salaries more in line with the other area departments. We provided this proposal in advance of our next meeting, which was scheduled in October, after the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year. We fully anticipated a robust session to hash out this wage negotiation.

To say our latest meeting was a disappointment would be an understatement. The City was not prepared to make any counteroffers or to have any substantive discussions about police officer and sergeant salaries. Several factors played a role but the charter provision involving firefighter parity continues to be an obstacle for our organization. In addition, the talks around eleven-hour days have changed from what we initially believed. The new payroll system is not yet equipped to support these changes so any chance of switching to a new schedule is likely not going to be feasible until after this upcoming year. The meetings with the City are ongoing, but make no mistake about it, hours of work are a mandatory subject of bargaining. Any changes to hours will have to be negotiated with the union. At the conclusion of our meeting, the SLPOA bargaining committee begrudgingly granted an extension, and we are scheduled to meet again on November 13, 2024. If the City is not

prepared to negotiate at that time, we will look toward other options to move these conversations forward.

2024 Election

Although the presidential election has taken center stage in almost every facet of the political world, SLPOA has some very important races here locally that could have a huge impact on our organization. Obviously, the Governor and Attorney General races are of the upmost importance for our organization. Mike Kehoe and Andrew Bailey have been staunch supporters of our organization and for police officers in general. Both Mike Kehoe and Andrew Bailey have a proven track record of supporting police officers and St. Louis City police officers in particular. Mike Kehoe has been involved in nearly all of the pieces of legislation with positive impact on our organization for years as a Senator prior and while serving as Lt. Governor most recently. If not for Andrew Bailey, we may still have Kim Gardner as the Circuit Attorney in St. Louis City. We encourage all of our members to support these candidates who support our officers.

Another race that could impact our organization involves friend of the SLPOA, Representative Brad Christ from the 96th District. Brad is in a very close race in a district that trends purple more than it does red or blue. His district covers parts of Crestwood, Sunset Hills, Sappington, Fenton and the surrounding areas. Brad has carried nearly every piece of legislation important to SLPOA in the House over the last two years. He is on pace to ascend to a leadership position within the House of Representative if he is successful in his reelection bid. If you are a resident of the 96th District, please consider voting for Brad. SLPOA needs your help in getting a strong supporter of our organization reelected to the State Legislature.

Don't forget, no excuse early voting began on Tuesday, October 22, 2024. Skip the lines and the hectic rush on Election Day and get your vote done early. For all of the SLPOA election recommendations please see our expanded list at www.slpoa.org.

2nd Annual Golf Tournament

The 2nd Annual SLPOA Golf Tournament, presented by QuikTrip, was a huge success. The tournament was moved to the Stone Wolf Golf Club in Fairview Heights, IL. It is a beautiful course, the staff were amazing and the weather was perfect. Thank you to everyone who participated and a special thank you to all of our hole sponsors and our friends at QuikTrip, the title sponsor for the tournament. The money raised at this year's tournament will help fund our Member Relief, Community Outreach and Donation fund for the coming year. These funds have helped SLPOA to assist members, engage with the community and to support many worthwhile causes throughout the St. Louis area. Without the money raised from this tournament, we would be dipping into our reserves in order to participate in these undertakings and many of these extracurricular events would not likely be funded. Please consider playing in the tournament next year. A list of our donors and supporters is included in this issue of the Gendarme. Please consider supporting those businesses that support us.



SLPOA BUSINESS MANAGER
JOE STEIGER



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Retired Police Officer
Alfred C. Jones
DSN: 02678

Birth: 02/17/1956
Death: 08/23/2024

Date of Employment: 02/23/1987
Date of Retirement: 03/05/2007

Assignment code at time of retirement: 360

Surviving Spouse: None

No funeral services will be held.



Funeral services are pending.
The Spiess family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Retired Police Officer
Robert J. Kukuljan
DSN: 7368

DOB: 09/19/1946
Date of Death: 08/13/2024

Date of Employment: 06/30/1969
Date of Retirement: 03/09/1992

Assignment code at time of retirement: 1st District

Surviving Spouse: Dolores Kukuljan
Funeral services are pending.



Retired Captain
Joseph L. Spiess, Sr.
DSN: 2186

Birth: 08/16/1930
Death: 08/26/2024

Date of Employment: 07/26/1954
(Commissioned)
Date of Retirement: 03/02/1989

Assignment code at time of retirement: 2nd District

Surviving Spouse: Juanita Spiess

Father of Retired Major Joseph Spiess, Jr and SLMPD employee Kathryn Rosteck, Secretary, Bureau of Operations.



Retired Police Officer Frank Stubits
DSN: 4644

SLPVA Member and former Vice-President

Birth: 03/19/1944
Death: 09/01/2024

Date of Employment: 05/10/1965
Date of Retirement: 09/25/1989

Assignment code at time of retirement: Lab
Surviving Spouse: Dianna R. Stubits



(Cont. on pg. 7)



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(Cont. from pg. 6)



Retired Police Officer
James P. Strantz
DSN: 5721

DOB: 01/07/1945
Date of Death: 09/01/2024

Date of Employment: 07/26/1965
Date of Retirement: 01/22/1996

Assignment code at time of retirement: 5th

Surviving Spouse: None

Funeral services are pending.



father, a savior, and a caregiver to all.

George was a caregiver in the purest sense. He extended his compassion to those around him—family, friends, strangers in need. His quiet acts of kindness, often unnoticed, rippled through the lives of countless people. He was the kind of man who listened without judgment (most of the time), offered help without expectation, and showed up when others needed him most.

He was a man of few words unless you were trying to get out the door; a firm believer that duct tape will fix ANYthing; and a collector of all the things.

His memory will live on in the stories he shared, the lessons he taught, and the memories he made with his family.

Memorial donations may be made to Shriners Hospital for Children, 4400 Clayton Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110. Ways to Give | Shriners Children's St. Louis (shrinerschildrens.org)

George Perry Leuckel Jr.

Leuckel, George, of O'Fallon, Missouri, was born to George Perry Leuckel Sr and Theda Sue Seabaugh on August 4, 1935. He was Fortified with the Sacraments of the Holy Mother Church at the age of 89.

He is preceded in death by his parents, sisters, Mae Lynch and Donna Leuckel, wife, Barbara Leuckel, and daughter, Toni Leuckel.

George was the beloved husband of wife Barbara for 63 years; devoted father of Karen (Dave) Hollman, Robin Beerman, Diane Piazza and Nikki Korte; cherished grampa of Lindsey Piazza, Griffin Piazza, George Hollman, Camryn Korte, Kendall Korte and Reece Korte; adored great-grampa of Jackson Piazza Cleary; many other relatives and friends.

Words can never fully capture the depth of George's character, the impact he had on those fortunate enough to know him, and the legacy he leaves behind. George was many things: an orphan, a brother, a veteran, a



Retired Police Officer
John C. Clobes
DSN: 8121
SLPVA Member

DOB: 11/15/1947
Date of Death: 09/24/2024

Date of Employment: 07/26/1971
Date of Retirement: 11/12/2012
Assignment code at time of retirement: 690

Brother of the late Lt. George E. Clobes




(Cont. on pg. 8)



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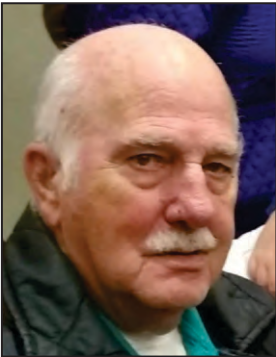
(Cont. from pg. 7)

Retired Police Officer Donald E. Bowling DSN: 5028

Birth: 01/20/1936
Death: 10/17/2024

Date of Employment: 02/10/1964
Date of Retirement: 01/05/1995

Assignment code at time of retirement: 540



Donald Earl Bowling, Sr., known affectionately to all as Don, passed away peacefully at his residence on October 17, 2024. Born on January 20, 1936, in Yount, Missouri, Don's life was marked by devotion to his family, a distinguished career in law enforcement, and a passion for life's simple pleasures.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Eleanor Bowling nee Toohig, with whom he shared a loving marriage since their wedding on May 18, 1957, in New York. Don's legacy is carried on by his son, Donald (Nancy) Bowling Jr. of Foristell, MO, and his daughter, Lynn (Kevin) McMahon of Ballwin, MO. His brother, Jay (Bonnie) Bowling of Perryville, MO, and his sister, Viola King of Barnhart, MO, five grandchildren, Curie Lohrman (Mark), Stacy Bowling (Jeremy Cummings), Bradford Bowling (Brenda), Craig Cutting (Becca Crutcher), Abbey Huskey (Drew); ten great-grandchildren, Lindsay, Mark, Jr., Donovan, Kamden, Maxx, Pierson, Calihan, Harper, Jaxon, and Livy; two great-great-grandchildren, Riley and Gianni; and several nieces and nephews.

Don was preceded in death by his father, Terry Bowling, his mother, Juanita Bowling nee Mullins, his brothers Delmar and Teddie Bowling, his brother-in-law Floyd King and Bill Eugas, and his sisters Betty Eugas and Norma Capone.

For 30 years, Don served as a police officer for St. Louis City, dedicating the last 15 years of his career as a detective. His involvement with the Policeman's Association was a testament to his dedication to his colleagues and the law enforcement community.

Beyond his work, Don was a man of many interests and talents. He was an avid deer hunter. His adventurous spirit was also evident in his love for driving stock cars. Don's enthusiasm for speed translated into a love for watching NASCAR racing, and he found joy in following the St. Louis Cardinals Baseball team through every season. For a time, he owned a Phillips 66 Station, which was yet another chapter in his diverse and engaging life story.

Family gatherings were the highlight of Don's life. He cherished the time spent with friends and family.

Memorial donations may be made to the charity of your choice.

Retired Police Officer Chester Gross DSN: 7487

Birth: 10/24/1943
Death: 10/17/2024

Date of Employment: 09/22/1969
Date of Retirement: 05/17/2004

Assignment code at time of retirement: 304

Surviving Spouse: Linda Gross

Burial at Jefferson Barracks



THE LONG GOODBYE TO CAPTAIN JOSEPH L. SPIESS SR.

By: William Leahy

Words fail me when it comes to parting company with a man who was so many things to so many. It was a pleasure to play but a small part in this man's life, driving him to the monthly Police Veteran's meetings and cook outs...I drove and he paid at the door...that was once he was able to get past the door what with greetings from all the old timers he had worked with over the years. Those present in that hall represented hundreds of years of service in the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department and thousands of stories about what happens while one is wearing that simple piece of tin.

Captain Joe was called into the big guy's office back on August 26th 2024 at 94 years of age...he had a good run at life and judging from the comments on Cop Talk, and at the gatherings that follow one's parting, he left a lasting impression on his followers...some of the comments follow:

“If the holdup alarm were to sound at the bank, he would beat you out the door.”

“He was a blast to work with...chasing calls like a young eager copper.”

“I enjoyed every minute working with him...and thoroughly admired him...so sad to hear the bad news...he will be greatly missed...they don't come any better.”

Then there was this comment from Joe's son by the same name: simply put:
“He was my best friend.”

Joe Sr. lived by something he often said:
“If you can't say something nice, best not say anything at all.”

As for me...that says it all.

Respectfully;

Bill Leahy
a/k/a Really old ex-cop



SLPVA Cookout 2024



The 2nd Annual – St. Louis Police Officers' Association Golf Tournament

Presented by QuikTrip

The second annual St. Louis Police Officers' Association golf tournament, presented by QuikTrip was another great success. Thank you to all our sponsors and golfers. We were able to raise a substantial amount of money to replenish our Member Relief, Community Outreach and Donation Fund. The SLPOA Executive Board has already sent a significant donation from the fund to the family of David Lee to help with immediate expenses. Tragic events like this are exactly why this annual fundraiser was started and we look forward to being able to support additional worthy causes with the money raised for this fund.

The golf tournament was won by the team of SLPOA's very own Mike Cohen & Matt Burle along with teammates Brett Havland and Dave Humphrey with a score of 59! The second flight was won by a team led by SLMPD Sergeant Todd Ross and the third flight was won by a team led by former SLMPD member Chris Rumpsa and former SLMPD sergeant Sam Monti. The men's longest drive was won by former SLMPD officer Mike Biggs, and the women's longest drive was won by SLPOA supporter Brooke Richars. The two closets to the pins were won by retiree John Walsh and current SLMPD member Reggie Davis. Congratulations to all of our winners! Thank you to everyone who participated and supported this event.

A special thank you is in order for our Title Sponsor, QuikTrip. Our friends at QuikTrip have demonstrated once again their strong support for SLPOA, our members and our causes. We are so appreciative of their efforts and are proud to partner with them on this event.

We are also very appreciative of all of our hole sponsors for this year's event. These sponsors included businesses, individuals, and organizations; all listed below. SLPOA thanks you for your support. SLPOA encourages everyone to support those that support us.

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We look forward to next year's event and hope to see you all there!



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(Cont. from pg. 10)



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Veto Session Update

The annual veto session is in the books as lawmakers returned to Jefferson City the week of September 9th for the opportunity to override any gubernatorial vetoes as mandated by the constitution. The week started on Monday with numerous fundraisers in downtown Jefferson City, which has become the norm for members of the General Assembly as they use the opportunity to raise funds for the upcoming general election. Those events continued into Tuesday and Wednesday, with over 25 fundraisers taking place over the early part of the week.

FOP Executive Vice President Brad Lemon from the KCPD spent the day in Jefferson City on Tuesday with our lobbyists, they had productive meetings with members of House and Senate leadership, including incoming Speaker of the House Jon Patterson. We also met with Lt. Governor Kehoe's campaign director as well as Attorney General Andrew Bailey to discuss priorities for the upcoming legislative session, including control of the SLMPD.

On Wednesday, the House and Senate gavelled into session at noon, and much time was devoted for outgoing and retiring members to give their farewell speeches. Other than speeches and housekeeping items, very little legislative activity took place. Only one lawmaker made an attempt at a veto override, as Representative Deb Lavender put forth a motion to restore \$2.5 million to the long-term care ombudsman program. Her motion ultimately failed by a vote of 56-81. Although Governor Mike Parson had issued 170 line-item vetoes in the FY2025 budget, Lavender was the only lawmaker to attempt a veto override.

While lawmakers were in the Capitol, the Joint Committee on Transportation met on Wednesday to hear an update on I-44 construction and recent delays in the project. MoDOT's acting director appeared before the committee to explain the details of the delay and has agreed to keep the committee apprised of any new information regarding the project. In other MoDOT news, Jay Wunderlich, who has been the face of MoDOT for many years in the Capitol, announced his upcoming retirement at the end of the year. He will be missed, as he was well-liked and respected throughout the political world.

Lawmakers will now return to their home districts to gear up for the November election and prepare legislation for the next session, as prefilng of bills begins on December 1st.

Upcoming dates of interest:

Tuesday, November 5 – General Election

Sunday, December 1 – First day to prefile legislation for the 2025 legislative session

Wednesday, January 8, 2025 – First day of 2025 legislative session

January 13, 2025 – Inauguration Day



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Scholarships Awarded




The Central Patrol Business Association recently awarded six scholarships totaling \$4500 to officers and their children! Captain Angela Dickerson, Lt. Derrick Frye, and Sgt. Sheila Phillips each received a scholarship of \$1000. Cory Perry (son of PO Karl Brown), Amber Wright (Stepdaughter of Sgt. Chrissy Wright), and Erin Treis (Daughter of Det. Anton Treis) each received a scholarship of \$500.

These scholarships were made possible by the generous donations from the Ron Dempsey Memorial Scholarship Fund and the Mike Caruso Memorial Scholarship fund along with the Central Patrol Business Association.




We are honored to work with the Central Patrol Business Association and appreciate all of the donors for this great cause!

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Come see Elda or JoAnn to get started on that loan.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

OFFICER DOWN

Recently we were saddened as another SLMPD officer was killed in the line of duty. The funeral was a wonderful tribute to a quiet but dedicated officer, and the laudatory and comforting words that were spoken that day helped to ease some of the pain that everyone was feeling.

It is strange how things happen. Earlier that same Sunday morning, I was at Central Patrol honoring and thanking a retiring officer for 30+ years of dedicated service to the SLMPD. It was a small celebration with officers, family members, and friends, complimented by heartfelt, congratulatory words. At the end of roll call, the police dispatcher made a city-wide broadcast which honored the retiring officer. Needless to say, there was also a good supply of donuts after roll call!

Little did we know at the time of the celebration, that in just a couple of hours, tragedy would strike, and the SLMPD would be changed forever. A broadcast from the police dispatcher pierced the airwaves with the words that every officer hates to hear, "Officer in need of aid. Officer down."

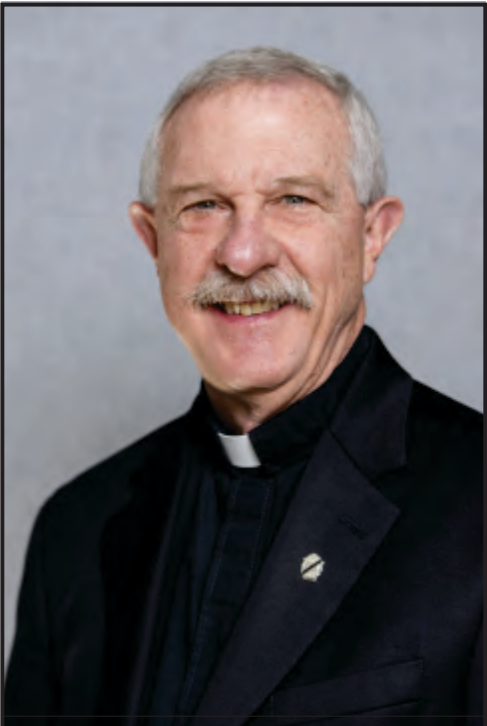
Immediately, officers who were not handling other calls responded to the aid call. Adrenalin was rushing. Officers asked themselves, "Who is the injured officer? How bad is he/she hurt? What do I need to do when I arrive on the scene? How can I help?"

Some officers transported or escorted the injured officer to the hospital. Some officers blocked traffic in the area. Some officers began to process the scene and gather evidence. Some officers got witness statements. Some officers transported and interrogated the suspect, etc. The remaining officers returned to their patrol areas, handled calls, and anxiously awaited for updates on the condition of the injured officer.

Then the word got around that the injured officer had died from his injuries. Now more emotions kicked in: anger, sadness, sympathy for the family, hopelessness, and disgust for the suspect.

"An officer down" is an attack on every officer. You know that the injured officer could also be you because you face the possibility of unexpected danger and life-threatening situations every day that you go to work. Even though you have melancholy and disgruntled feelings when an officer dies on duty, you know that you have a job to do; and you do your work. You cannot let your thoughts about the deceased officer interfere with your work. You have to stay focused.

You answer your calls for service, write your reports, and complete all your paperwork. Your dedication to duty is remarkable and commendable. Thank you and God bless you for that.



Chaplain John Fava

You officers are needed and appreciated. God has made a promise to you. As it says in Matthew's Gospel (Matt. 5: 9-10) "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Please know that you are in my prayers every day, and when there is a line of duty death, I say extra prayers for all of you.



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OCTOBER 2024						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 VETERANS MTG 11:30AM	10	11 PAYDAY	12
13	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 4:00PM GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MTG 6PM	31 		

NOVEMBER 2024						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5 	6	7	8 PAYDAY	9
10	11 	12	13 VETERANS MTG 11:30 AM	14	15	16
17	18	19 FOP AUXILIARY MEETING 7PM	20	21	22 PAYDAY	23
24	25	26	27	28 	29	30

DECEMBER 2024						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6 PAYDAY	7
8	9	10	11 VETERANS MTG 11:30 AM	12	13	14
15	16	17 FOP AUXILIARY MEETING 7PM	18	19	20 PAYDAY	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 	26	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve				