



GENDARME



St. Louis Police Officers Association

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

Vol. 51 No. 9

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November 2021

COPS, FIREFIGHTERS BATTLE TO A DRAW

2021 GUNS & HOSES ENDS WITH A SIX-TO-SIX SPLIT IN TWELVE DECISIONS

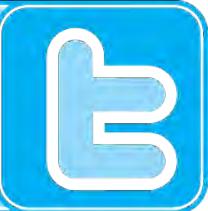


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See
 Calendar
 Page 20

More Gun's & Hoses
 Photos on Page 13

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“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



FRED BENZ
1924



ROBERT WOODY
1924



JOSEPH MCGOVERN
1928



JOSEPH THEOBALD JR.
1933



HARRY CANTON
1939



ALOYSIUS NELKE
1973



STEPHEN STREHL
1993

BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!

GENDARME

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Guidelines for Letters to the Editor: All letters to the editor must be signed and verifiable by phone or personal contact. Freedom of expression is guaranteed within the bounds of good taste and the limits of available space. Upon request the author's name may be withheld from publication and confidentiality assured. The Gendarme takes no responsibility for the content of the letters in this section.

The Gendarme newspaper is the official publication of the St. Louis Police Officers' Association and is published in St. Louis. However, opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the SLPOA or the St. Louis Police Department.

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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 23
December 29
6 p.m.

E-BOARD MEETING
November 23
December 29
4:00 p.m.

VETERAN'S MEETING
November 10
December 8
11:30 p.m.

POLICE WIVES MEETING
November 10
December 8
7 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

POLICE LEGEND BOBBY DWYER: ALWAYS A CROSSWORD, NEVER A CROSS WORD

By Jeff Roorda

I don't use the word "legend" loosely. In fact, when it comes to describing fellow police officers, I hardly use it at all.

Afterall, every copper is legendary in their own way. The sacrifices and the impact made by anyone who wears the badge with honor makes them worthy of a special place in the collective legend of American law enforcement.

But I'm quick to make an exception for legendary lawman Bobby Dwyer, who sadly, passed away on October 26 after battling Alzheimer's Disease for the last few years.



Connie Dwyer, Bob's wife, pins his new sergeant's badge on his uniform

I doubt that there are more than a handful of people on this department today who even know Bobby's name.

That's a shame.

This police department has become so young and so disconnected from its past that there really is almost no such thing as oral history or institutional memory anymore. The current administration has treated veteran officers terribly and made no effort to retain them or even to show a modicum of appreciation for them.

As go the old-heads, so goes the spoken history of the wild adventures of the many characters who wore the SLMPD badge, and so goes the lessons that we could all stand to learn from the forefathers of this department.

The story of Bobby Dwyer shouldn't be a casualty of history.

Bobby lost his father just a few days before his 10th birthday, which left his mother to raise him and his five siblings by herself. The family, shaken by the untimely death, was drawn closer by the loss yet was unwilling to let the tragedy define them. Bobby worked his way through high school and college and was eager to get a good paying job when he graduated so he could help his family.

In 1978, right out of college, Bobby was hired by the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department as a civilian and, just a few months later, he started the police academy.

Bobby very quickly showed an aptitude for investigations, particularly, complex drug investigations and was ultimately moved into vice/narcotics, where he spent most of his career with SLMPD. Bobby moved back-and-forth between the City Narcotics Unit and the DEA Task Force making a lot of notable dope pinches along the way, but his last case with the City would be his most famous case.

And one of the biggest busts in SLMPD's history.

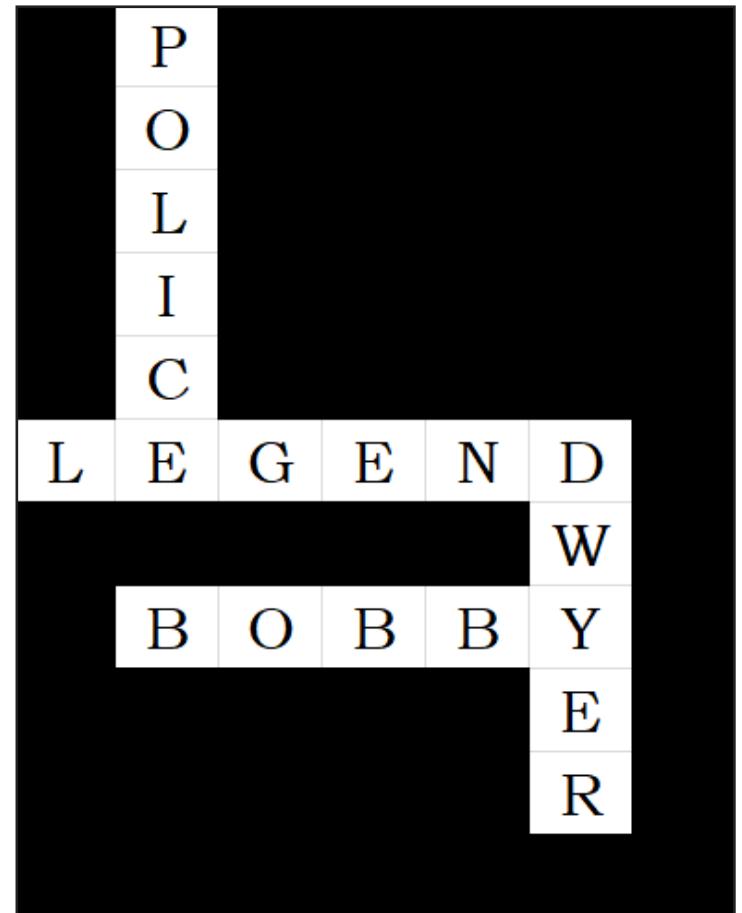
In the late 80's Bobby and his crew had developed drug informants and conducted a number of investigations that focused their attention on the criminal enterprises of the leader of the St. Louis Moorish Science Temple, Grand Sheik Jerry Lewis-Bey. As the probe into Lewis-Bey deepened, Dwyer and fellow investigators concluded that Lewis-Bey was atop a syndicate that was responsible for thirty-five to forty-five percent of the cocaine, heroin and talwin (commonly known in those days as "T's & Blues") being trafficked in St. Louis. Lewis-Bey was even suspected of ordering the killings of his competitors and rivals in order to expand his drug empire.

The net widened into the Lewis-Bey probe and the City's Intelligence and Homicide Units became involved in the investigation along with DEA and the United States Attorney's Office. Around that time, Bobby was promoted to Sergeant and moved to Homicide to concentrate on the Moorish Science Temple investigation. He was partnered up with equally legendary detective, Frank Banaszek, and the two of them were at the center of the investigation that led to the conviction of Lewis-Bey and six co-conspirators for gun charges, racketeering, trafficking 35 kilos of cocaine and committing ten murders (although some thought they were responsible for many more).

That was when I first met Bobby Dwyer. It was 1992 and I was a young policeman in Arnold, Missouri. The US Marshals Service used our jail to house prisoners that had to be sequestered for one reason or another. In this case, it was one of the Bey's who had turned state's evidence against his fellow Moorish Science Temple members. Dwyer and Banaszek, along with the AUSA on the case, Mike Fagan, would frequently come out to Arnold to question the informer, who was segregated from the other prisoners and under heavy security protocols. I affectionately dubbed it "Bey Watch."

Shortly after that, I made detective and was detached to the Jefferson County Drug Task Force where I would end-up working closely with St. Louis City Narcotics Unit on a number of drug cases over the years. But, around that same time, Bobby had been hired by the DEA and relocated to Springfield, Missouri.

It wasn't until about 1997 when I was tapped for my second tour of duty as a narc that I would get to know Bobby well. I ran into Tom Murph with



City Narcotics at a conference and told him that I had a really good snitch into "White Rob." I had done a search warrant at Rob's house in Arnold years before for Murph as a spinoff of a wiretap Murph was working but Rob had been arrested in the middle of the case on some minor beef and evaded any charges in the wiretap investigation. As a result, Rob was the last man standing after Murph took down the Mandina organization, so Rob had taken over their drug trafficking operation when he got out of jail.

Murph was hot-to-trot on opening a case on White Rob, who was a high-value target considered to be one of the biggest drug dealers in the St. Louis region at the time. Thanks to my informant, an opportunity to do a controlled delivery materialized and Murph pulled together a team that included me, City Narcotics Sgt. Sal Cira, Mike Fagan from the US Attorney's Office, and Kelly Kriegbaum and Bobby Dwyer from DEA. It was a great team and ultimately, there were lots of others who worked on the case.

We were able to put together enough evidence to go up on a wiretap on four of White Rob's phones/pagers. The case got approved for OCDETF designation and was dubbed "Operation Winnebago" because Rob's mules had once transported one-thousand pounds of marijuana to St. Louis in a motorhome (that we later seized). By the time we went up on the Title III on Rob, he was moving large amounts of cocaine and heroin.

As I got to know Bobby Dwyer better and better during that investigation, we became fast friends. He was whip-smart and had a wry, sardonic wit that I was instantly drawn to. To me, he was the DEA's version of Oscar Wilde. But, everything he did or said was in good fun. Bobby could be very serious and intensely focused on the investigation but he was also very good at keeping things light and instilling a sense of camaraderie among the rest of us working on the case.

And, no matter how many hours of tapes, notes and transcripts from the wire that we needed to go

POLICE LEGEND BOBBY DWYER: ALWAYS A CROSSWORD, NEVER A CROSS WORD

(Cont. from pg. 3)

through from the night before, Bobby always insisted that we start each morning by working the Post-Dispatch and New York Times crossword puzzles to completion. It was daunting watching him tear through a puzzle and he demanded participation, even when he didn't really seem to need any help. I suppose I got just enough clues right to join his little Algonquin Roundtable. He always seemed to have an appreciation for my intellect but, then again, Bobby was overly gracious. It's far more likely that he found my hangovers modestly entertaining. I drank a lot in those days.

By the end of Operation Winnebago, we executed thirty-two search warrants in five states and netted twenty-three federal indictments including a police officer who was providing classified intel to "White Rob" and a Mexican national with cartel ties. We seized about 9 kilos of cocaine and a cache of drug money and other assets.

After that, Bobby and Kelly were my go-to-guys at DEA. In one particularly memorable escapade, I wrote a search warrant for a dope crib in Lemay, just a couple blocks inside St. Louis County. It was a state search warrant but Bobby went along just in case we got a big hit of cash that might require a federal forfeiture. County SWAT had just instituted a new policy requiring that they execute all state search warrants in the County. But, they weren't going to be available for a while because they were hitting a house on the other side of the County. Bobby and I found that to be quite a pain in the ass so, when the target came out to get something out of his car, we did a jump-out and bum-rushed him in his driveway. We showed him the search warrant and he obligingly signed a consent to search so we wouldn't have to wait for County SWAT.

Problem solved.

That is, until the County SWAT Sergeant showed-up fuming from his Kevlar collar, chiding me for the gross transgression of his territorial sovereignty. I wasn't having any of it and we got into a screaming match in the poor mopes frontyard. And, all the while, Bobby stood on the front porch shouting, "kick his ass, Spivey" over and over and over again. The Sergeant got even madder when I began chuckling aloud at Bobby's devious instigations.

As an aside, Bobby frequently called me "Spivey," a reference that for a long time, eluded me. Then one day years later, I watched the movie *Dances With Wolves* and realized that he was referring to a character in the movie named "Corporal Spivey," an impish sort of secondary antagonist that could best be described as a "shit-disturber." How odd, I thought, that Bobby Dwyer would imply that somebody else was as a mischief-maker when he, himself, was so inclined to mischief.

To this day, I still occasionally interchangeably refer to each of my daughters as "Spivey," an homage to Bobby Dwyer that is as lost on them as the original reference was on me.

In 1999, Dwyer and the crew were getting ready to launch a spin-off investigation of the "White Rob" case into a target known as "Jelly." The OCDETF paperwork was all filled-out and we were getting ready to go up on his phone. Then, Arnold got a new police chief and suddenly, I was out of the Narcotics Unit.



Bobby Dwyer in his undercover days (Bob is 3rd from left)

The new chief called the DEA Special Agent in Charge and gave him the name of my intended replacement on the OCDETF task force. At Bobby's urging, the SAC told the chief, "The invitation was for Jeff Roorda to participate in the OCDETF case, not the Arnold Police Department. No thanks."

Classic Bobby Dwyer.

After that, Bobby encouraged me to apply with DEA. I did and I made it all the way to the very end of the process. All I had left was the interview panel and the polygraph. I called Bobby for moral support and he told me that he had just finished his polygraph training with the DEA and that, in fact, he was the only polygrapher for the entire St. Louis field office, which would assure that he would be conducting my polygraph, which boded well for me. I said, "What about the oral interview?" Bobby replied, "Don't sweat it."

When I walked into the conference room at DEA a few days later, I was greeted by an interview panel made up of Kelly Kriegbaum, Denny Wichern, and Paul Robinson – all of them agents who I had worked cases with and had great relationships with. They could barely contain their grins.

As it turned-out, I got promoted to Sergeant in Arnold shortly after that and withdrew my DEA application but, I stayed in touch with Bobby over the next several years. By then, the DEA was sending him all over the world doing polygraphs for the State Department. Bobby was always good at everything he did so it was no surprise that he excelled as a polygrapher. Bobby once told me that one of the great disappointments of his life was applying unsuccessfully for the CIA, so it was plainly clear to me that he was very much enjoying the cloak-and-dagger intrigue of his world travels on behalf of the State Department.

I remember calling him once around that time and hearing quite a ruckus in the background and I finally asked, "Where are you?" He answered, "The Kabul Airport."

I recall thinking, "Is it some sort of breach of international security that he just told me that?"

Once I got elected to the Missouri Legislature, I talked to Bobby far less frequently. But, as a result of my political career, I came to have a number of interactions with Bob's sister, Nancy, who was a powerful political consultant.

We didn't immediately make the family connection because Nancy went by her married name and some of my early interactions with her

were very, very tense. And then at some point, it came up in a conversation that I had worked undercover narcotics. Nancy asked, "Do you know my brother, Bobby Dwyer?"

From then on, it was like someone had turned the thermostat down in the room. Every time after that that we talked, it would always start with me asking "how's Bobby" or Nancy saying "Bobby says hi." Eventually, Nancy and I went from nemeses to friends.

Even from a distance, Bobby could bring people together.

Bobby retired from the DEA around 2011. I don't remember the date but I do remember the day. I'll always remember it.

It was a crazy, hectic day for me. I was in the heat of a political campaign and it was the day of my campaign golf tournament, my biggest fundraiser of the year. That night, I had tickets to see Colin Hay in concert at the Old Rock House. I was going with my buddy Gabe Crocker, who was with the County PD at the time. I told him, "We gotta go to this retirement party after the concert. I can't miss it."

I was trashed after a long day on the golf course and then the concert. But we made it to Bobby's retirement party at Leo Rice's bar. After making the rounds and catching-up with all the old narcs that were there to give him a sendoff, I finally got a chance to sit down with Bobby and share a beer.

Most of the agents who I had worked cases with at the St. Louis DEA office had either retired or transferred out to other field offices around the country by then so I asked Bobby, "Would I even know anybody there (at DEA) anymore?"

Bobby grimaced and arched his eyebrows, as he was so prone to do, and said, "I walk around that place and all these young kids look at me like 'who's that old mother f---er?'" Then he poked his finger in my chest and declared proudly, "But they don't know what you and I did."

It was a stunningly kind thing for Bobby to say – to include me and the policework I had done in the same sentence in which he was describing his own career. It was absolutely unearned praise to be included in the same breath with a guy who I saw as an absolute legend.

But, like I said before, that was Bobby, overly gracious; kind to a fault.

At Bobby's funeral, his daughter Cosette delivered a beautiful eulogy and one of the things she said that very much struck me was, "I hope people don't forget my dad."

I know I won't.

But really, nobody involved with the St. Louis Police Department should.

On this youthful, rudderless police department where young officers are desperately looking for leaders or role-models or even... legends, to learn from, they need look no further than Bobby Dwyer for the inspiration they crave.

And for those of us lucky enough to have known Bobby Dwyer, the thing we crave is one more misadventure; one more chat over a cold beer; one more rousing crossword session. But alas, the last clue has been answered and the page has sadly turned.

So long, Spivey.



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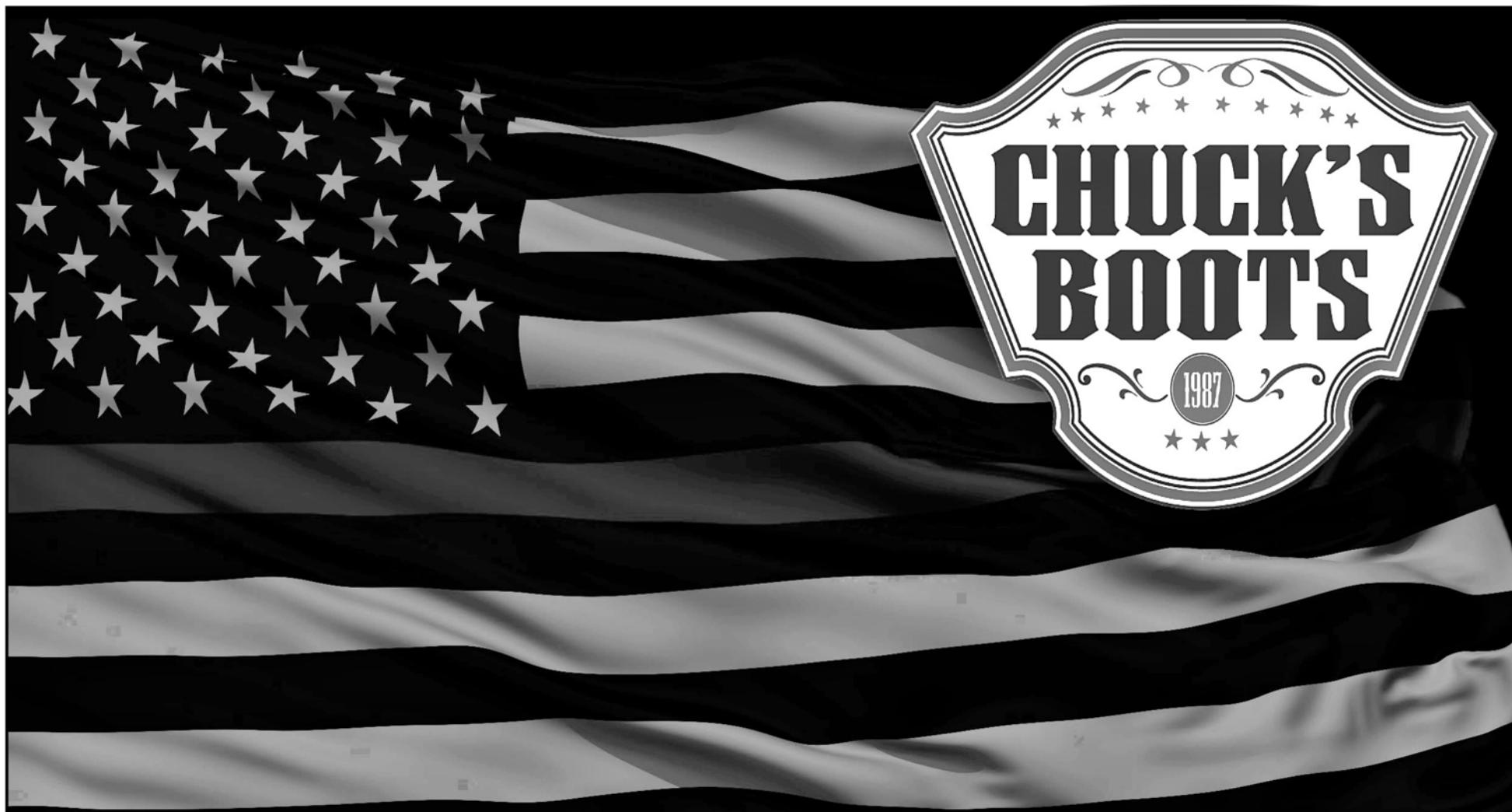


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PO Lori J Rebholz	05905	Intell. Div.	10/17/21	11/01/10
PO Brian K Davenport	05992	Crime Analy.	10/10/21	09/11/00
PO Keaton A DeWulf	11595	1 st Dist.	10/10/21	04/17/17
PO Kyle V Mueller	12131	1 st Dist.	10/10/21	10/14/19
PO Michael S Growe	02880	2 nd Dist.	10/10/21	04/04/88
PO Patricia A Vineyard	03403	2 nd Dist.	10/10/21	08/28/89
PO Matthew D Williams	12202	2 nd Dist.	10/23/21	12/09/19
SGT Kelly A Fisher	05421	4 th Dist.	10/17/21	08/11/97
PO Keith G Novara	03008	4 th Dist.	10/24/21	10/13/03
PO Anthony K Stoicheff	12138	4 th Dist.	10/24/21	10/14/19
PO Scott M Gruswitz	11150	5 th Dist.	10/17/21	06/23/13
PO Logan A Reams	11844	5 th Dist.	10/10/21	08/20/18
PPO Daniel L Bise	12285	6 th Dist.	10/24/21	09/28/20
PO Brian W Burgdorf	12171	6 th Dist.	10/10/21	12/09/19
PO Jonathan L Nettles	12085	6 th Dist.	10/10/21	07/22/19
PO Blake W Moe	11481	Mobile Res.	10/24/21	06/13/16
POT Crystal M Busby	12424	Trainee	10/29/21	10/11/21
POT Richard E Daugherty	11808	Trainee	10/23/21	07/23/18
POT Haley L Ellison	12150	Trainee	10/07/21	10/28/19
POT Meghan M Mark	12434	Trainee	10/11/21	10/11/21
PO Lavell A Bell	11002	Emerg. Mgmt.	10/30/21	06/06/11

Fade Outs – November 2021

Name	DSN	Dept.	Eff. Date	Hire Date
Lt. Scott A Aubuchon	04008	1 st Dist.	11/07/21	10/19/92
PPO Brendan J Griffin	12232	1 st Dist.	11/18/21	07/20/20
PO Darren L Hill	04287	1 st Dist.	11/21/21	01/10/94
PO Madeline G Riley	11903	1 st Dist.	11/21/21	11/26/18
PPO Joshua M Napier	11898	2 nd Dist.	11/18/21	11/08/21
PO Corbin D Burford	11641	3 rd Dist.	11/15/21	08/21/17
PO Ryan J Wood	11912	3 rd Dist.	11/21/21	11/26/18
PO Lucas W Sweitzer	11615	4 th Dist.	11/21/21	04/17/17
PO Albert B Recht	11020	5 th Dist.	11/13/21	06/06/11
PO Nicholas J McMurray	11395	6 th Dist.	11/05/21	06/11/18
PO Anna B Biondolillo	05529	SP Div.	11/07/21	03/02/98
PO Richard B Wooderson	05501	Aviation	11/07/21	11/17/97
PO Kenya W Burns	05282	Juvenile	11/07/21	03/24/97
POT Deavon O'Neal Fontes	12406	Trainee	11/24/21	06/21/21
POT Cody A Tucker	12442	Trainee	11/05/21	10/11/21
PO Brandon Freeman	11720		11/30/21	

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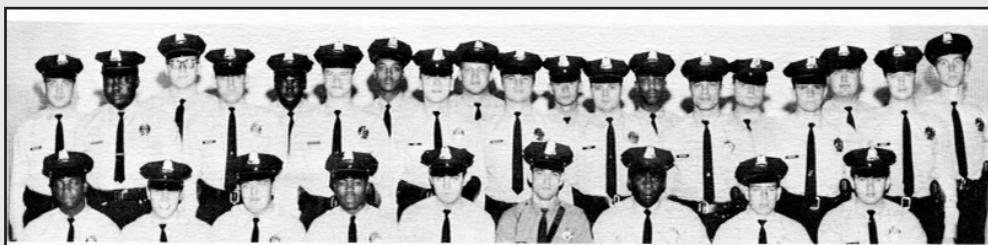
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LONG-TIME ATF AGENT AND FORMER CITY COP, DAVID TRUE, SEES BIG TURNOUT FOR BOOK SIGNING AT SLPOA HALL

"GANGSTERS, OUTLAWS & MOBSTERS" HITS BOOKSHELVES



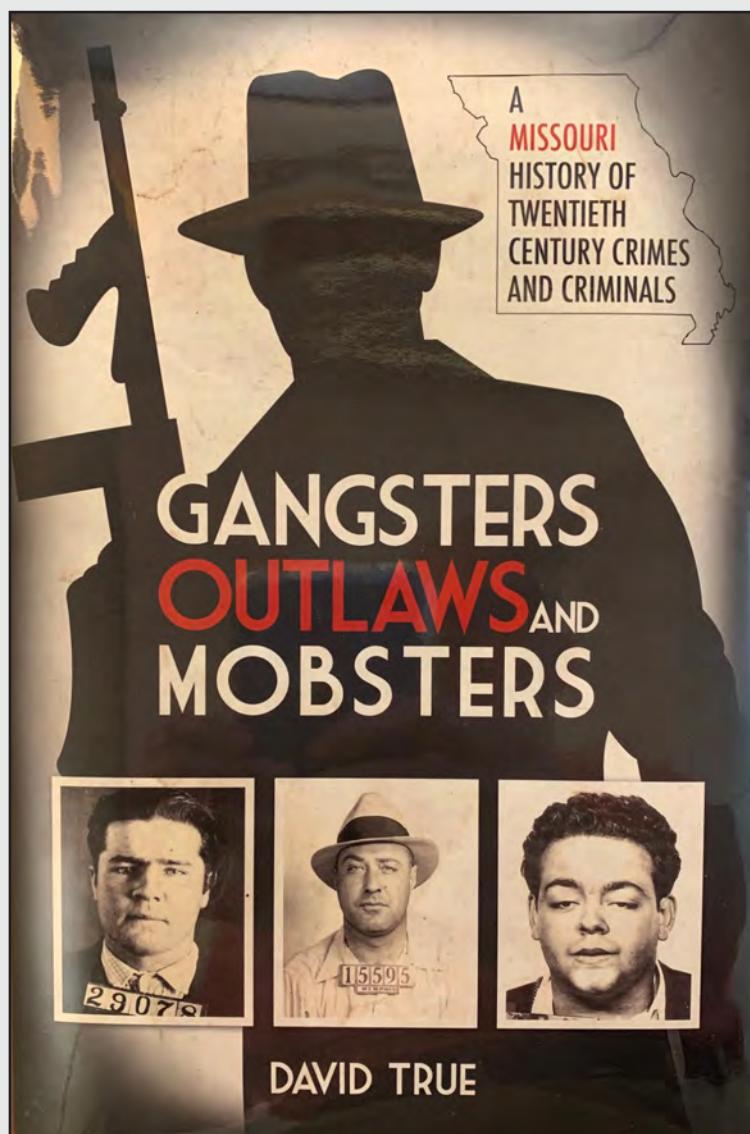
Graduated January 2 from the Police Academy was Recruit Class 106. Seated, from left, are Probationary Patrolmen Herbert Williams, Raymond Gibson, Jr., Kenneth Holt, Roosevelt Pittman, James Anderson, Robert Poe, Walter Jones, Freddy Dodson and Edward Delaney. Standing, from left, are Probationary Patrolmen Sam Rodgers, Jacob Morehouse, Ronald Schneider, Richard Gregorc, Gene A. Smith, Donald Boedicker, Rodger Townsend, Paul Lee, Milford Frankler, Richard Redeker, John Lange, David True, Tommy Franklin, Kenneth Graves, Marvin Vogel, James Perrot, Edward Baclavik, John Knight and Sam Ventimiglia. *Frontenac Police Department

April, 1969 9 POLICE JOURNAL

True pictured with his SLMPD classmates at 1969 Academy graduation



True talks about his book to crowd gathered at Police Hall



Front cover of David True's new book

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FOURTEEN SLMPD OFFICERS HONORED AT 2021 MOV AWARDS LUNCHEON



Cardinals President of Baseball Operations, John Mozeliak, delivers the keynote speech at the 2021 Medal of Valor awards luncheon



Gendarme Editor, Det. Adam Notch, receives medal at the ceremony



Jeff Roorda shares a laugh with 1973 MOV recipient, Larry Tinnell



Thank You For Your Service !

Detective Adam Notch

Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department



Detective Adam Notch located a vehicle matching the description of a vehicle wanted for a carjacking. Detective Notch pursued the vehicle until it became disabled. Two suspects fled on foot, one of whom was armed with a handgun. Detective Notch pursued them on foot as the gunman threw his gun over a fence and the two suspects climbed over. The gunman then retrieved his handgun and turned it on Detective Notch, who in defense of his life fired his service pistol striking the suspect. Detective Notch and assisting officers were able to capture both suspects without further incident.

Officer David Muehl and Officer Christopher Chambers

Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department



Officers David Muehl and Christopher Chambers responded to a call for a man with a rifle. The officers located the man, who charged at the officers and quickly took cover. The gunman then fled on foot, but the officers quickly located him. The officers took cover behind their vehicle when the gunman opened fire at the officers, who in defense of their lives returned fire striking the gunman, who then fled again on foot. Officers Muehl and Chambers, with the assistance of responding officers, were able to locate the gunman and take him into custody without further incident.



Officer Igor Kahrmanovic

Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department



Officer Igor Kahrmanovic and assisting officers responded to a call for a burglary. While searching the building Officer Kahrmanovic located the burglars inside the building and attempted to take them into custody. One of the suspects charged Officer Kahrmanovic with a screwdriver. Officer Kahrmanovic attempted to retreat backwards, but his progress was halted by a building wall. The armed man continued toward the officer, who in defense of his life fired his service weapon striking the man and ending the threat.

Officer Omar Aboubakr

Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department



Officer Omar Aboubakr responded to a call for a shooting. While enroute he located a man that matched the description of the suspect fleeing on foot away from the scene. Officer Aboubakr quickly exited his vehicle to detain the suspect, who turned and began firing gunshots at Officer Aboubakr. The gunman then fled on foot and Officer Aboubakr immediately gave chase. With the assistance of other officers, Officer Aboubakr was able to locate the gunman hiding and take him into custody without further incident.

Sergeant Joseph Marcantano, Sergeant Thomas Kitchell, Officer Jacqueline Ems and Officer Benjamin McAllister

Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department



Officer Jacqueline Ems and Officer Benjamin McAllister were patrolling when a man shot commercial grade fireworks at the officers blowing out the rear window, sending projectiles into the cabin, one of which struck Officer McAllister in the shoulder. The man then fled in his vehicle. The officers attempted to stop the man in his fleeing vehicle. The officers were assisted by Sergeants Joseph Marcantano and Thomas Kitchell, and as the group attempted to stop the vehicle the man began firing shots from a shotgun at the officers. The gunman drove into a parking lot, turned and rammed Sgt. Kitchell's patrol vehicle, trapping him inside. The officers were able to take the man into custody just after without further incident.

Officer Terrence Howard and Officer Christian Bates

Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department



Officers Terrence Howard and Christian Bates responded to call for a domestic disturbance and while speaking to the citizens a vehicle stopped and a gunman opened fire on the officers, fortunately missing them and the citizens. The vehicle fled and the officers quickly gave chase. The officers pursued the vehicle, and after a lengthy pursuit Officers Howard and Bates, with the assistance of responding officers from two districts, were able to stop the car and take the suspects into custody without further incident.



Officer Kyle Lyon and Officer Joe Kopfeinstener

Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department



Officers Kyle Lyon and Joe Kopfeinstener located a vehicle wanted for Robbery 1st. The officers pursued the vehicle, which fled from the officers. The vehicle suddenly slowed, and a gunman jumped out and open fire on the officers. One round grazed Officer Lyon's face while a second round struck him in the chest portion of his ballistic vest, saving his life. Officer Kopfeinstener was able to get out of their patrol vehicle and chase the gunman down, taking him into custody without further incident.



Sergeant Michael Pratt

Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department



Sergeant Michael Pratt responding to a local restaurant after a citizen advised him a man may be trying to rob the establishment. Sgt. Pratt quickly responded to the restaurant and immediately noticed a suspect inside through the buildings window. The suspect attempted to flee from the building, but Sgt. Pratt ran to the exit door blocking his path. The suspect took cover behind a trash can, pulled a handgun, and aimed it at Sgt. Pratt, who in defense of his life and the citizens inside the restaurant, fired his service pistol ending the threat.

2021 Medal of Valor Recipients

2021 Medal of Valor Recipients

MAKING THE POLITICAL ROUNDS



Business Manager Jeff Roorda and retired SLMPD Sergeant, Hal Stone, pose with FOP endorsed candidate for St. Charles County Judge, Rob Cornejo



SLPOA endorsed judicial applicant, Judge Thom Clark Jr. is sworn into office on the Eastern District Missouri Court of Appeals by Judge Thom Clark Sr. (Retired)



Roorda (R) and Gendarme Editor Adam Notch (L) share a moment with baseball Hall of Famer, Ozzie Smith, (middle) at a campaign event for police endorsed candidate for State Auditor, David Gregory



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Timothy M. Tumbrink

A special thank you to Retired Police Officer Timothy Tumbrink Who dedicates his time ensuring that the men and women of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department are properly honored on "findagrave.com."

Special Agent Robert Thomas "Bob" Dwyer

Birth 15 Nov 1955
Death 26 Oct 2021 (aged 65)

SLMPD-2021-63

Former Sergeant of Police Robert T. "Bob" Dwyer, DSN 1275, started his law enforcement career as a civilian working at the Fleet Services Division on 02/27/1978 as a Motor Service Attendant, and subsequently received a job classification reassignment as a Radio Clerk in the Communications Division on 06/13/1978. Sergeant Dwyer started the police academy on 08/28/1978. Upon completion of the academy Sergeant Dwyer served in the following district's and specialized division's through out his career. They were the 4th, Bureau of Investigation-4th District Bureau, Drug Enforcement Agency (detachment), Narcotic's Division, Intelligence Division, Vice-Narcotic's Division, Narcotic's Division, 4th, and finally the Homicide Section. Officer Dwyer was promoted to the command rank of Sergeant on 07/17/1989 and remained in the Homicide Section until he tendered his resignation on 06/27/1992 to accept a position as a Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Division. Sergeant Dwyer served a total of 14.33 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

Robert T. Dwyer, age 65, of O'Fallon, IL, born on November 15, 1955, in St. Louis, MO, died on Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at Joe's Place Caring Cottage, O'Fallon, IL.



He was preceded in death by his father, Robert J. Dwyer.

Robert is survived by his wife, Constance M. (nee Hewitt) Dwyer; his daughters, Rachael (Ben) Peterson, Cosette (Philip) Cressler, Nellie Dwyer (Blake Britton), and Bernadette Dwyer; his mother, Mary C. (nee Riley)Dwyer; his siblings, Nancy (Rich) Rice, Patricia (Rick) Will, Jack (Darlene) Dwyer, Edward (Sheryl) Dwyer, and Mary Helen (Glen) Drexl; his mother-in-law, Shirley Hewitt; and his sister-in-law, Sherry (Charlie) Stock. Robert is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Thomas M. Wheeler

Birth 14 Aug 1946
Death 29 Oct 2021 (aged 75)

SLMPD-2021-64

Officer Thomas W. Wheeler, DSN 7690, received his commission on 04/20/1970. Officer Wheeler served in the following district's and division's through out his career. They were the 2nd, 7th, 1st, Area 1 Desk, and lastly the Area 1 Desk/Holdover. Officer Wheeler retired on 07/30/1998, and served a total of 28.28 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department.



Officer Wheeler was a veteran on the United States Air Force and served from 08/01/1965 to 01/01/1969. He achieved the rank of Airman 1st Class which is an E-3.

Officer Wheeler is survived by his wife Mrs. Cathryn B. Wheeler of the home.

The family has chosen direct cremation and a memorial service will be held in the spring of 2022.

Raymond Harvey "Butch" Gibson Jr.

Birth 14 Apr 1946
Death 3 Nov 2021 (aged 75)

SLMPD-2021-65

Officer Raymond H. "Butch" Gibson Jr., DSN 7053, received his commission and entered the police academy on 09/09/1968. Officer Gibson served in the following district's and 1 specialized division through out his career. They were the 7th, 2nd, Gambling Section, 7th, and finally the 2nd. During his career Officer Gibson was the recipient of 1 Exceptional Performance of Duty Award on 03/01/1973, and 2 Chief Letters of Commendation on 06/01/1971, and 06/17/1977. The preceding awards were for police work above and beyond the call of duty. Officer Gibson was a veteran of the United States Army and achieved the rank of Specialist 4th Class, which is an E-4.



Dearest husband of Cheryl A. Gibson, Father of Raymond H. (Michelle) Gibson III, Dana A. (Timothy) Emert and Dawn Gibson. Grandfather, Great-Grandfather, brother, brother-in-law, uncle, nephew, cousin and friend.

Raymond was a retired Police Officer for the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

Services are private.

Charles Allen "Al" Pedrotti

Birth 3 Sep 1937
Death 4 Nov 2021 (aged 84)

SLMPD-2021-66

Officer Charles Alan "Al" Pedrotti, DSN 3669, received his commission on 10/19/1959 and entered the police academy. Officer Pedrotti served in the following districts and 1 specialized



(Cont. on pg. 11)



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(Cont. from pg. 10)

division through out his career. They were the 12th on 01/15/1960, the 7th on 01/01/1962, the 5th on 11/04/1963, and finally the Canine Division on 07/01/1964. Officer Pedrotti would remain in Canine Division until his retirement. Officer Pedrotti was the K-9 handler of 3 different partners during his career. They were his dog's Rebel, Ceaser, and Rory. Officer Pedrotti was the recipient of 3 Exceptional Performance of Duty Awards on 04/01/1966, 01/18/1980, and 09/03/1982. He was also awarded 1 Chief Letter of Commendation on 12/01/1963. All of the preceding awards were for police work above and beyond the call of duty. Officer Pedrotti retired from the Saint Louis Police Department on 10/24/1988, and served 29.02 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department. Officer Pedrotti was a veteran of the National Guard and achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant which is an E-6.

Officer Pedrotti is survived by his wife Mrs. Barbara Pedrotti of the home; and his daughter Mrs. Paula (nee Pedrotti) Womick of Florida.

Officer Pedrotti was predeceased by his daughter Mrs. Deborah L. (nee Pedrotti) Postle; his sister Mrs. Isabel (nee Pedrotti) McMichael; and his parents Mr. & Mrs. Lester and Nora (nee Conley) Pedrotti.

Officer Pedrotti willed his anatomical remains to Saint Louis University School of Medicine.

Ronald David "Ron" Landa

Birth 27 May 1944
Death 18 Nov 2021 (aged 77)

SLMPD-2021-67

Officer Ronald D. Landa, DSN 6446, received his commission on 03/13/1967. Upon completion of the academy Officer Landa served in the 9th district beginning on 07/03/1967, followed by other assignments in the 2nd, 7th, 9th, Bureau of Investigation-9th District Bureau on 09/11/1978, and finally the 4th on 10/14/1985. During his career he was the recipient of 5 Chief Letter's of Commendation on 12/01/1974, 08/16/1976, 12/21/1977, 01/17/1979, and 06/25/1980. All of these awards were for police work above and beyond the call of duty. Officer Landa retired on 03/20/1995, having served 28.02 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

Officer Landa was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and achieved the rank of Sergeant, which is an E-5.

Officer Ronald D. Landa is survived by his wife Mrs. Elizabeth A. "Betty" (nee Barron) Landa; and his sons Keith, Darren, and Patrick Landa.

The family has chosen direct cremation.

There will be a celebration of life which will be announced at a later date and time.

William Harold "Bill" Dannenberger Sr.

Birth 30 May 1954
Death 27 Oct 2021 (aged 67)

SLMPD-2021-Civ.-7

Mr. William H. "Bill" Dannenberger, DSN 0652, started his career as a Communication's Dispatcher on 09/02/1975, and retired as a Communications Supervisor on 12/31/2015.. Mr. Dannenberger served a total of 37.29 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

Beloved husband of Patricia (nee Jacob) Dannenberger; and loving father of the late William Dannenberger Jr.

Mr. Dannenberger was predeceased by his father Mr. Robert J. Dannenberger.

Honorary grandfather of Joey, Tina, Adam, Jessica, Nathan, Natalie, and Jacklyn.

Our Dear brother, uncle, great uncle, cousin and friend to many.

The family has chosen direct cremation and a private service will be held at a later date and time.



Gordon Joseph Smith

Birth 9 Dec 1922
Death 5 Nov 2021 (aged 98)

Machinist Mate 2nd Class Gordon J. Smith served proudly in the United States Navy. Mr. Smith, who was 98, served from September 3rd, 1940, until November 18th, 1945. Gordon's assignments included facilities in San Diego, San Francisco, Port Hueneme, Long Beach and Corona California, as well as Bremerton Washington. Gordon was Pearl Harbor attack survivor, he served on the USS Schley, and the USS Gambier Bay, while earning the rank of Machinist's Mate 2nd Class. The Gambier Bay was an escort carrier and engaged in several battles such as Saipan, Tinian Islands, Palau Islands, Mariana Islands, and New Guinea, as well as several other WW2 engagements and supported the fleet at sea, and the Marines who landed on many Islands in the Pacific. Gordon's carrier earned 4 battle stars and was launched on 12/28/1943. She was sunk on 10/25/1944 by the Japanese Naval surface ships off of the Island of Samar in the Philippines; in the Battle of Leyte Gulf. Over 800 men were able to abandon ship and tread water for 2 days in shark infested waters. Many of Gordon shipmates did not survive the encounter while they were in the water. After Gordon's rescue he spent 2 years in a Naval hospital recovering from tuberculosis.

He faithfully and honorably served our country. Few will leave a legacy like the men of the Gambier Bay. Please join his loved ones in tribute to this honorable American hero.

Mr. Smith is survived by his niece's and one nephew Mrs. Phyllis (nee Beech) Lane, and her husband Captain Lee Lane, Mr. Charles Beech, Mrs. Sheri (nee Smith) Kiel, and Mrs. Sharon Wadley, and many nieces and nephews and family members who loved him dearly.

Mr. Gordon Smith was preceded in death by his loving wife of 48 years, Mrs. Marian Ann (Dreste) Smith. Mr. Smith was also predeceased by siblings, Mrs. Virginia (nee Smith) Beech, and her husband Lieutenant Murray L. Beech, DSN 0127, SLMPD, his nephew Sergeant David Beech, DSN 7372, SLMPD, Mrs. Velma O'Sullivan, and Mr. Charles Smith Jr.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Backstoppers, or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital appreciated.

The family and friends who attended this funeral service wish to thank Major Angela Coonce, DSN 5544, Commander, North Patrol Division, Officer Chris Delp, DSN 11891, District 6, and Traffic Safety Division Solo Motorcycle Division Officer(s) Dave Tenorio, DSN 4180, Officer Scott Christian, DSN 5745, and the Commander of the Traffic Safety Unit Lieutenant Paul Lauer, DSN 3770, of the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department; former St. Louis County Police Officer/Helicopter Pilot Denny Klier, DSN 0682, of the "Patriot Guard" for their patriotic escort from Kutis South County to Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, and Detective Daniel Jackson, DSN 2841, St. Louis County Police Department, retired, for playing the bagpipes at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. Detective Jackson playing "Amazing Grace" and doing his "Walk-Off" at the end of the military rites for Machinist Mate 2nd Class Gordon J. Smith was over the top.

The family also wishes to thank the following Saint Louis County 4th Precinct Police Officers for their involvement and participation. They are Sergeant Zachary Sigler, DSN 3097, and Officer Amy Willenbrock, DSN 3329.

Judge Thad F. Niemira II ESQ

Birth 21 Oct 1936
Death 6 Nov 2021 (aged 85)

Honorable Thad F. Niemira played a vital role model for all of his children as a husband, father, and mentor. He led by example, and 3 of his children followed him into the field of Law Enforcement and became police officers with the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department. They are Officer Jennifer Niemira-Lawlor, DSN 5244, (who is now a Federal Agent); Sergeant Joseph Niemira, DSN 4987, and Lieutenant Robert Niemira, DSN 6137. Judge Niemira was a huge proponent of supporting police officers throughout all of Missouri and Illinois.



(Cont. on pg. 12)

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(Cont. from pg. 11)

Upon graduating from Law School Judge Niemira received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Air Force on 01/07/1961; and served as a Judge Advocate. He subsequently rose through the ranks very quickly and received a Honorable Discharge from active duty as Captain on 01/06/1964. After his separation from active duty he practiced Law in the Saint Louis area and was appointed as a Associate Circuit Court Judge in 1985, retiring from the bench in 2004, and returned to private practice.

Honorable Thad F. Niemira

Fortified with the sacraments of Holy Mother Church on Saturday, November 6, 2021, at the age of 85.

Beloved husband of 62 years to Helen Niemira; proud father of Thadeus (Lynn) Niemira, Christopher (Vicky) Niemira, James (Amy) Niemira, Helen (Bill) Conway, Monica Niemira, Joseph (Lisa) Niemira, Stephen (Gabriela) Niemira, Jonathan (Mary) Niemira, Brendan (Meegan) Niemira, Thomas Niemira, Jennifer (Tim) Lawlor, Jessica (Jeff) Sheley, Robert (Erica) Niemira, and Rebecca (Joe) Steinmetz; loving grandfather of Thadeus, Rebecca, Rachel, Robert, Nathan (Meghan), Christine (Solomon), Elizabeth, Lauren, Bryan, Terry, Scott, Will (Cherie), Sylvia (Miles), Amanda, Owen (Anna), Kelley, (the late) Jonathan, Julia, Megan, Emily, Maggie, Louie, Zachary, Andrew, Lois, Connor, Nick, Lucy, Beatrice, Jay, Felix, Ryan, Collin, Logan, Mira, Henry, Tennessee, Bradly, Elise, Liam, Joey, Naomi, and Lilly; adoring great grandfather of 8.

Thad began his life of service in 1961 as an Officer in the United States Air Force where he served as a Judge Advocate. He was a practicing attorney for over 25 years prior to being appointed as an Associate Circuit Court Judge in 1985. He retired from the bench in 2004 and returned to private practice for a few years. Thad was a devoted member of Church of the Magdalen Catholic Church for over 50 years, member of the Knights of Columbus, South Side Optimists, Missouri Bar Association, ITEST, and many other clubs and community organizations. He loved having his whole family together as often as possible and always made sure to give the grandchildren a few dollars each with instructions to "go to Ted Drewes." He was an avid reader, a giver of advice, a Cardinals Baseball fan, and was a teller of jokes, using his sense of humor as both a teaching tool, and a method to try to find the good in every situation. He was loved and respected by many, both personally and professionally, and will be dearly missed.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Respect Life Apostolate and/or Shriners Hospital for Children.

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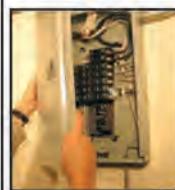
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COPS, FIREFIGHTERS BATTLE TO A DRAW

2021 GUNS & HOSES ENDS WITH A SIX-TO-SIX SPLIT IN TWELVE DECISIONS

(Cont. from front page)

Photos by Suzy Gorman Photography





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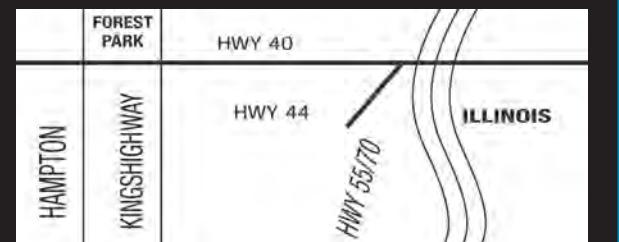
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NEXT STEP ON COVID: FILE WORK COMP CLAIM NOW!

By Jeff Roorda

On November 17, the City released its newest protocols related to COVID-19, specifically concentrating on the requirements on employees to utilize their own accrued leave time in cases of symptoms, exposure, quarantine or positive test results.

That same day, I wrote the below letter to the City formally protesting the new protocols as they applied to police officers and other members we represent. The Director of Personnel immediately directed his staff to review my objections. We await their findings.

In the meantime, it is important that you understand your rights. The below letter lays those rights out as I understand them but, remember, I'm not an attorney and this is not legal advice. The only way for you to fully understand your rights and to perfect your Workers Comp claim, is to hire an attorney and to file your claim through the appropriate process. There are a number of work comp attorneys who advertise in the Gendarme and specialize in police cases. We strongly recommend you contact one if you think you have a claim.

Also, as I say in the letter to the City, it is paramount to preserving your rights that you file an on-duty injury report if you suffer a work-related or unknown exposure, quarantine event, COVID symptoms or a positive test.

Here's the November 17 protest letter...

Thank you so much for sharing this new protocol

with our union.

We do feel it necessary though, to place the City on notice that we dissent and object to the stated protocol as it applies to our members.

It is well-established that public safety employees are at the highest risk of occupational exposure to Covid-19. Police Officers, for instance, are NINE TIMES more likely to die from Covid-19 than healthcare workers, who have been universally recognized as presumptively at risk for the occupational contraction of Covid-19. Governor Parson formally recognized that public safety workers were presumptively victims of an occupational exposure when contracting Covid-19 or its symptoms when he decreed, through Executive Order, that the Missouri Department of Labor & Industrial Relations promulgate an emergency rule establishing public safety Covid presumptions. Despite the fact that the statutory limitations of Emergency Rules has resulted in the expiration of that regulatory presumption, the prima facie presumption of public safety occupational exposure to Covid persists and there is no Work Comp judge on the planet who will buy the argument that the occupational risk to exposure for public safety workers existed one day and vanished the next. Particularly, when the employer has done little to mitigate public safety workers' exposure to this deadly virus.

Consequently, we have up until now and will continue hereafter to instruct our members to complete a line-of-duty injury report whenever: they test positive for Covid-19 as a result of a

workplace exposure or unknown exposure; suffer from Covid-19 symptoms as a result of a workplace exposure or unknown exposure; or, are quarantined as a result of a workplace exposure or unknown exposure. We have further instructed our members that the Employer is acting unlawfully by requiring them to utilize accrued earned leave time for such likely occupational exposures and that affected employees should pursue remuneration for forced use of earned leave time and any other compensation they are due by perfecting their claim and availing themselves of their legal rights under the Workers Compensation statutes.

The City is unnecessarily exposing itself to liability by insisting that public safety employees utilize earned leave time and should reconsider its position in this matter.

The City's position is tantamount to a coal company suddenly issuing a fiat that it no longer recognizes black lung disease as an occupational disease for its miners. It just doesn't square-up with reality.

Its a wrongheaded position for an employer that asks its police officers and other public safety workers to brave the perilous dangers of this epidemic to do so at their own risk.

Please reconsider.

*In service to our community,
Jeff Roorda*

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CHAPLAINS CORNER

Time to Laugh

by Chaplain John Fava

Laughter is a good way to help us escape from reality and assist us through some difficult situations. Here are some jokes and stories that I hope you will enjoy.

MARRIAGE

Boy (aged 4): Dad, I've decided to get married.

Dad: Wonderful. Do you have a girl in mind?

Boy: Yes... Grandma. She said she loves me, and I love her, too. She is also the best cook and story teller in the whole world!

Dad: That's nice, but we have a small problem there.

Boy: What's the problem?

Dad: She happens to be my Mom. How can you marry my Mom?

Boy: Why not? You married my Mom!

ANNIVERSARY

For our 10th year anniversary, I bought my wife a map of the world. I put the map, a dart, and a card in a box and wrapped everything up. On the card it said, "Throw the dart at the map.

Wherever it lands that is where I am taking you to celebrate our anniversary."

(I had been saving up money for four years because we never had a honeymoon.)

On our anniversary day, my wife opened her present, spread out the map, and took the dart in hand. She was very excited and nervous, and said that she hoped that the dart landed on Ireland.

She threw the dart, and I am happy to announce that this October my wife and I will be spending two wonderful weeks in the kitchen sink.

COUGH SYRUP

A pharmacist walked into his store to find a man leaning against the wall. "What's wrong with him," the pharmacist asked his assistant?

"He came in for some cough syrup," the assistant explained. "But I could not find any, so I sold him a bottle of laxatives instead."

"What," the horrified pharmacist replied! "You can't treat a cough with laxatives."

"Of course, you can," the assistant declared. "Look at him. He is way too afraid to cough."

JOB DESCRIPTION

Question: How would you write, "I changed a lightbulb." on your resume?

Answer: I single-handedly managed the successful upgrade and development of a new environmental illumination system with zero cost overruns and zero safety incidents.

BAR OWNER

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, I am not allowed to open my bar, but real estate agents are allowed to sell houses with viewings by potential buyers. So tomorrow I am officially putting my bar on the market. Viewings will be between the hours of 11:00 am and 11:00 pm, and no appointment is necessary. Beer, wine, and mixed drinks will be available for purchase while the potential buyers are viewing the establishment.

SAFETY MEETING AT WORK

The supervisor at work asked, "What steps would you take in the event of a fire?"

"Really big ones" was apparently not the correct answer.

ONE-LINERS

I had a really bad day. First, my ex got run over by a bus. Then I got fired from my job as a bus driver.

My wife made me coffee this morning and winked at me when she handed me the cup.

I have never been more afraid of a drink in all my life.

What happens if you get scared half to death twice?

Imagine if you will... An atheist stuck at a green light behind a car with a "Honk if You Love Jesus" bumper sticker.

I asked my wife if I was the only one she had ever been with. She said yes, "All the others were nines and tens."

As I watch this new generation try to rewrite our history, one thing I'm sure of... it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

I told my wife I wanted to be cremated. She made me an appointment for next Tuesday.

My wife said that I never listen to her, or something like that.

Don't be mad at lazy people. They didn't do anything.

I'm on two diets. I wasn't getting enough food on one.

My accountant always said, "Work until your bank account looks like a phone number."

Well, I did..... Available Balance: \$9.11

YARD WORK

We were outside cleaning up leaves, weeds, tree branches, etc. when my husband got stung on the forehead by a hornet. He's in the ER now... face all swollen and bruised. He almost died!! He was very lucky that I was close enough to swat off the hornet with my shovel.

GROCERY STORE

I was in the store and in the "15 items or less" checkout lane. The lady in front of me had about 30 items. So I smiled and said, "Math wasn't your strongest subject was it?"

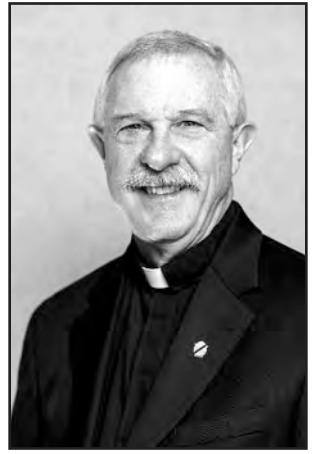
And that's how the fight started.

TEXTING

A wife, being the romantic sort, sent her husband a text: "If you are sleeping, send me your dreams. If you are laughing, send me your smile. If you are eating, send me a bite. If you are drinking, send me a sip. If you are crying, send me your tears. I love you."

The husband, typically unromantic, replied: "I am on the toilet. Please advise."

Please know that I pray for you officers and your family members every day. God bless you all. Be safe and stay healthy.

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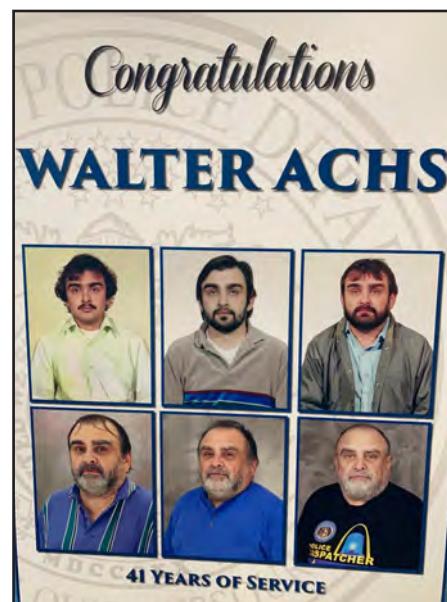
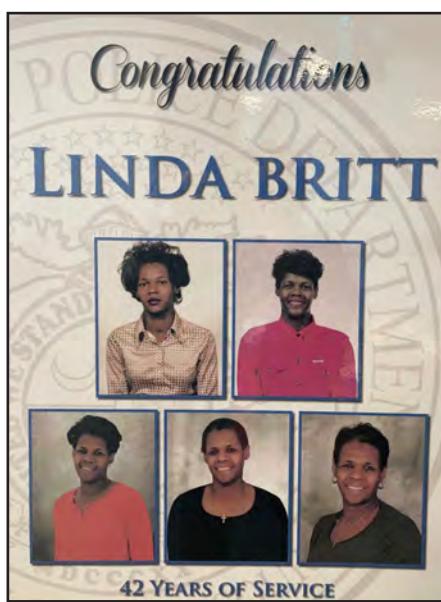
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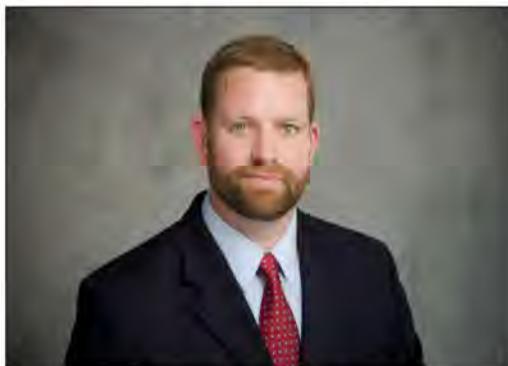
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GENDARME



St. Louis Police Officers Association

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

DECEMBER 2021						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 CPD MTG 7PM	2	3	4
5	6	7 National Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance	8 VETERANS MTG 11:30 AM POLICE WIVES 7 PM	9	10 PAYDAY	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24  PAYDAY	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS
26	27	28	29 E-BOARD MTG 4PM GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MTG 6 PM	30	31 	

JANUARY 2022						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 
2	3	4	5	6	7 PAYDAY	8
9	10	11	12 VETERANS MTG 11:30 AM POLICE WIVES 7 PM	13	14	15
16	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observed	18	19	20	21 PAYDAY	22
23	24	25	26 E-BOARD MTG 4:30 PM GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MTG 7 PM	27	28	29
30	31					

FEBRUARY 2022 Black History Month						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Black History Month Begins	2 Groundhog Day	3	4 Rosa Parks Day PAYDAY	5
6	7	8	9 VETERANS MTG 11:30 AM POLICE WIVES 7PM	10	11	12
13 	14 Happy Valentines Day	15	16	17	18 PAYDAY	19
20	21 	22	23 E-BOARD MTG 4:30 PM GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MTG 7 PM	24	25	26
27	28					