



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. 8

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October 2021

KEHOE KEYNOTE

LT. GOVERNOR HEADLINES SLPOA SEPTEMBER MEETING

For the first time in recent memory, a statewide office-holder was on-hand to address our membership at a monthly SLPOA meeting.

And, it wasn't just any old elected official. It was one of our Association's best friends in the Missouri Capital, Lt. Governor Mike Kehoe (R - Jefferson City).

Kehoe, who was joined by the Second Lady, Claudia Kehoe, was the featured speaker at the September 29 general membership meeting.

Nearly one hundred SLPOA members were on hand to take-in the inspiring words from the second highest officeholder in the state of Missouri.

Kehoe talked about his lifelong connections to the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department and fondly remembered his mentor, Dave Sinclair Sr., a former City police officer, in his remarks.

The Lt. Governor talked about the successes we had in the Legislature this past session and the challenges law enforcement faces politically in the coming years. SLPOA President Jay Schroeder and Business Manager Jeff Roorda chimed-in to remind the membership that Kehoe was being modest in highlighting our long-fought victory in passing the *Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights* without mentioning his own critical, indispensable role in passing the signature legislation this year. Both of them assured the

crowd that the bill would not have passed but for Kehoe's unprecedented efforts.

Kehoe shared with the membership that he plans to run for Governor in 2024 when incumbent Mike Parson is termed-out.

At Schroeder's urging, a motion was brought forward from the floor for the SLPOA to support an early endorsement of Kehoe for Governor at the next Missouri Fraternal Order of Police state trustees meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Mike and Claudia mingled with the membership after the meeting, interacting with many of the officers in attendance.



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SLPOA Calendar
Page 16

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See pg. 6



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

DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER



PELETIAH JENKS
1883



JAMES BRADY
1890



MICHAEL REEDY
1902



FRANK AHERN
1904



THOMAS DWYER
1904



JAMES MCCLUSKY
1904



JOHN SHEA
1904



EDWARD DELLMORE
1908



EDWARD O'BRIEN
1916



PRESTON ANSLYN
1920



GEORGE GEISLER
1920



WILLIAM MOLLER
1920



FRANK REESE
1920



DOUGLAS CHAMBLIN
1927



WALTER BINGHAM
1937



LOUIS SEBOLD
1975



JEFFRY KOWALSKI
2008



JULIUS MOORE
2009

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
October 27
November 23
6 p.m.

E-BOARD MEETING
October 27
November 23
4:00 p.m.

VETERAN'S MEETING
October 13
November 10
11:30 p.m.

POLICE WIVES MEETING
October 13
November 10
7 p.m.

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)

MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

PASSING OF JIM FITZGERALD, FIRST SLPOA PREZ, SHOULD REMIND US OF OUR ROOTS; RE-DOUBLE OUR RESOLVE

By Jeff Roorda

He didn't have wooden teeth or a powdered wig but, Jim Fitzgerald was most certainly the George Washington of the St. Louis Police Officers Association.

As you can imagine – perhaps better than any other generation of police officers before or since – the civil unrest and counter-culture that characterized the era, made the 1960's a very tough time to be a cop.

During the height of the US involvement in Viet Nam, from 1963 to 1973, fourteen SLMPD officers died in the line of duty, ten of them by gunfire.

Then, as now, police were vilified by certain segments of society, which often made them the target of antipathy and, frequently, the target of unprovoked violence.

And, then, as now, instead of standing alongside their officers, the police administration seized on the opportunity to intensely scrutinize their own in the hopes of diverting attention and answerability from themselves to a rank-and-file that bore the brunt of negative public opinion while the policymakers wagged their blaming fingers at front-line officers instead of taking stock of their own shortcomings.

Enter Jim Fitzgerald, a feisty copper's cop who, like so many of his brethren, had grown weary of the persistent blame-game and mistreatment of street officers coming out of 1200 Clark in the late 1960's.

Cops were treated very badly by the administration in those times. Terms like "goon squad" and "headhunters" as characterizations of IAD investigators emerged during that era.

The notion of police officers unionizing in those days was considered heresy against the papal institution of the Chief of Police.

While police unions were common along the Eastern Seaboard, the idea of organizing among Midwestern police departments was still somewhat fanciful in the Sixties. Police unions, then, as now, were oft maligned by politicians eager to make headlines.

Historically, unionizing police on the East Coast was itself, highly politicized. Two future US Presidents – Theodore Roosevelt and Calvin Coolidge – made names for themselves and political hay as union-busting "police-reformers" in New York City and Boston, respectively, at the turn of the Twentieth Century.

So it was that an attempt in October of 1945 for St. Louis City officers to organize under the banner of the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME) was crushed by the police administration with several of the would-be organizers jettisoned by the department.

Jim Fitzgerald knew that a similar fate lurked in the shadows for him or anyone else who initiated a labor movement within the police department.



Major Joseph Craft, IAD, takes names at an SLPOA meeting on Dec. 19, 1968



Joe Burgoon (left) listens on as Jim Fitzgerald (standing) addresses the police retirees' luncheon in 2018

Jim Fitzgerald (right) poses with his brother at the SLPOA Hall in 2018

Jim Fitzgerald circa 1968

He did it anyway.

In 1968, Jim Fitzgerald along with other detractors of the police administration held exploratory meetings about unionizing the SLMPD at Tower Grove Park and – when the crowds started to swell – at the old VFW Hall on Kossuth.

The Police Chief and his cronies saw the dissidents the same way King George saw the American Colonists: As insurrectionists; as treasonous rebels.

And their response was Georgian as well: Crush the revolution at all costs!

The Inspector of Police at the time, Major Joseph Craft, was dispatched along with his "goon squad" to put down the rebellion. Craft and his stooges would very overtly stand on the parking lot of formational meetings of the union snapping pictures of parked cars and their license plates. Then they strode into the gatherings as if they owned the joint and literally began "taking names" in the most visible manner possible.

A deep line was furrowed in the sand between the pro-labor agitators and the pro-management sycophants. It was reminiscent of the line in the Harlan Coal Wars-inspired Pete Seger folk classic, *Which Side Are You On*, that goes, "They say in Harlan County there are no neutrals there, you'll either be a union man or a thug for J. H. Blair."

Just imagine the pressure on Fitzgerald and his comrades to relent.

Even if the department leadership was smart enough not to act conspicuously on their McCarthy-esque list-making, those whose name made it into their dossier were certain to have an indelible blot on their record that would follow them around for the entirety of their career.

I recently chatted with retired Homicide Unit legend, Joe Burgoon, who was Fitzgerald's partner in Mobile Reserve from 1963 to 1969. He said of the early days of the Association, "It was a big risk. Guys like Jim knew they would have a black mark next to their name."

In the case of the nascent days of the SLPOA it was more like a scarlet letter than a black mark and the scarlet letter was a "U" for unionizer.

Fitzgerald wore that letter proudly on his chest.

He wasn't alone. Fitzgerald's brother, Kevin, who was also in Mobile, was actively involved in the early organizing efforts. Kevin actually designed the SLPOA logo we still use to this day.

Likewise, Bob Nichols, who went onto retire as a Captain from the Maryland Heights Police Department after his time with SLMPD, served as the first vice-president of the SLPOA.

Nichols spoke with me about Fitzgerald and the early days of the Association. "We were young and we thought we could take on the whole world. It was a very different time," Nichols reminisced.

Perhaps not so different as we wage war with the police administration today to force them to honor our union contract and return to the bargaining table.

But, then, as now, the administration knew only one way to deal with labor unions: Complete annihilation.

Unable to resist their impulse to abuse their power, on December 18, 1968, at the Chief's urging, the Board of Police Commissioners suspended the five elected officers of the newly created St. Louis Police Officers Association and decreed that, "all members of the association were joining at the risk of suspension," according to a UPI news

report at the time.

The use of overwhelming, excessive force to crush an uprising is what military historians would refer to as "asymmetrical warfare."

The problem with asymmetrical warfare is, it creates martyrs.

And martyrs inspire the masses.

In his martyrdom, that's exactly what Jim Fitzgerald did. He inspired the masses.

You can't help but look at the bleached-out, old sepia tone photo of the meeting of the Association at the VFW Hall the day after Fitzgerald and the others were suspended and not be struck by the way the crowd seemingly goes on into oblivion as Major Craft struggles futilely to scribe the names of all of the attendees. As I revel at that photo, I chuckle to myself, "better get another pad of paper, asshole."

Jim Fitzgerald died on October 7.

He died a hero.

He served his country in the United States Army during the Korean War.

He worked as a police officer with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department for nearly a decade until he was squeezed-out for his organizing efforts. He served the police department with distinction and acclaim, even once having to fatally shoot a stick-up man who tried to rob Fitzgerald when he was working on the old "decoy squad."

After leaving policework, Jim made a good living selling cars and was born again in Christ, devoting his later years to ministering to the pale and downtrodden.

He raised a loving family who he leaves behind better for his presence in their lives.

Jim's legacy though, is memorialized in that vintage photo of his fellow officers rallying around him and the other suspended leaders of our fledgling union. They were all on notice. The heads were on the pikes.

Join the Association, the police administration menaced, and you'll be decapitated too.

And what did Fitzgerald and almost every officer in the St. Louis Police Metropolitan Department do? They all showed-up at that pivotal meeting and said, "You'll have to take all of our heads."

That was the birth of our union.

That is your birthright.

Now, it's Jim Fitzgerald's epitaph.

Joe Burgoon said fondly of Fitzgerald, "He had my back and I had his and neither one of us ever got hurt."

Perhaps we should make that our union motto.

It was certainly Jim Fitzgerald's.

Nancy Trares-DuMeyer

(Officer Jeff Trares Mom)

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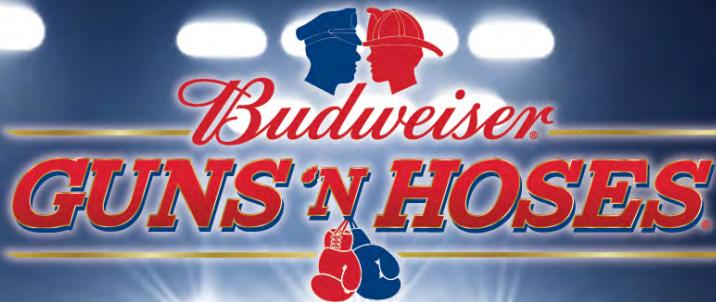
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EOW 8-30-2020



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EOW 6-2-2020



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EOW 12-5-2020



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Pension Board Results

After tabulation of the Retiree Trustee special election ballots received by 4pm on October 1, 2021, the System's auditor, Sikich LLP, reported the following returns:

Retiree Trustee:

- Michael Anderson 219
- Jim Whyte 117
- George Weindel 445

Congratulations to George Weindel who was elected to the Pension Board as Retiree Trustee for the unexpired term of office ending September 30, 2022 and will begin his term of office following the presentation of his credentials to the Board of Trustees.

CORRECTION

There was a story in the September Gendarme that omitted the name of one of our members who participated in the FOP Disaster Relief Effort in Louisiana in the wake of Hurricane Ida. Member Chris Lovelady-Armstrong also participated in the Ida deployment. Our apologies to Officer Lovelady-Armstrong.



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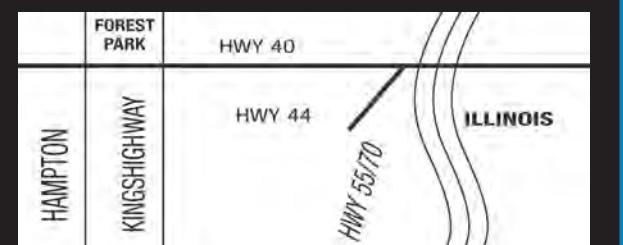
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R.I.P. LILLY

Airport Police Canine "Lilly" recently passed away. Her handler was SLPOA member Tony Nelson, who is assigned to the Lambert International Airport Police Department. Lilly was an explosives sniffing canine and she was named after a 9/11 victim.

She will be missed by all who knew her.

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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."

Derwin D. Dodson

Birth 14 Nov 1937
Death 6 Sep 2021 (aged 83)

SLMPD-2021-53

Officer Derwin D. Dodson, DSN 6855, received his commission on 02/12/1968. Upon completion of the academy he served in the 4th district from 06/03/1968 to 04/04/1976. Officer Dodson was transferred to the 6th on 04/05/1976, and remained in that assignment until he retired on 03/01/1980. Officer Dodson faithfully served 12.38 years of dedicated service to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

Officer Dodson was a veteran on the United States Air Force and achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant which is an E-5.



11/02/1970. Officer Keys retired on 06/05/1993, having faithfully served 30.01 years of dedicated service to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department. Officer Keys was a veteran of the United States Navy Reserve and served from 06/18/1958 to 06/17/1964. He served as a ABF-3, Aviation Boatswain's Mate-Fuels, which is a Petty Officer 3rd Class, which is an E-4.

Beloved partner and friend of 38 years to Janet Heichelbech. Dear father of George (Rebecca) Keys Jr, Phillip (Mary Kay Sander) Keys and David Heichelbeck; dear grandfather of Jonathan Keys, Ryan Keys and Angel Pate; father figure to Stephanie Maravich, Michael Maravich and Jennifer Guss; grandfather figure to Aaron Guss and Miranda Guss; dear brother of Ellen Jean Fears; our dear uncle cousin and friend.

George served in the U.S. Navy, and retired from the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department after 30 years of Service.

After retiring, he took on a part time job with Bethesda working in the Pharmacy and transportation departments. He enjoys tennis, Shuffleboard and chess.

He was a long time member of the Elks.

Dearest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Roger & Ella (nee McDaniel) Keys.

George Leon Keys Sr.

Birth 13 Mar 1937
Death 18 Sep 2021 (aged 84)

SLMPD-2021-54

Officer George L. Keys, DSN 4772, received his commission on 06/03/1963. Officer Keys served in the 8th district starting on 09/23/1963, and was subsequently transferred to the 1st district on



KEYS, GEORGE LEON SR
Rank & Branch: ABF3 U.S. NAVY

Date of Birth: 03/13/1937
Date of Death: 09/18/2021

Buried: SECTION 1GI SITE 637
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Ronald Eugene Bell Sr.

Birth 27 Feb 1941
Death 21 Sep 2021 (aged 80)

SLMPD-2021-55

Officer Ronald E. Bell Sr., DSN 7092, received his commission on 10/21/1968. Upon completion of the academy he served in the following districts and one specialized division. They were the 9th, Bureau of Investigation-9th District Bureau, 6th, and finally the 8th district. Officer Bell retired on 8/28/1989, having faithfully served 20.85 years of dedicated service to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

Officer Bell was a veteran of the United States Army and achieved the rank of Private, which is an E-2. Officer Bell served on active duty from 03/30/1959 to 04/16/1962, and was honorably discharged.

Officer Bell is survived by his wife Mrs. Brenda Bell, and his 2 son's Mr. Michael D. Bell, and Mr. Ronald E. Bell II, his grandchildren Josiah R. Bell and Olivet F. Bell, and one sister Miss Lorna Bell.

Dearest son of the late Mr. & Mrs. George W. and Esther R. (nee Moss) Bell. In addition to his parents Officer Bell was also predeceased by his brother's Mr. George W. Bell, Jr., Mr. Charles A. Bell, and his wife Doris, Mr. William A. Bell, and his wife Deloris, and Mr. Sanford K. Bell, and his wife Joan.

Homegoing services for Mr. Ronald Eugene Bell, Sr.
Thursday September 30, 2021

BELL, RONALD EUGENE SR.
PVT U.S. ARMY

Date of Birth: 02/27/1941
Date of Death: 09/21/2021

Section Number 1TT Grave Plot Number 310
JEFFERSON BARRACKS NATIONAL CEMETERY
2900 SHERIDAN ROAD
St. Louis, Mo. 63125



5566 W Florissant Ave, Saint Louis, MO 63120

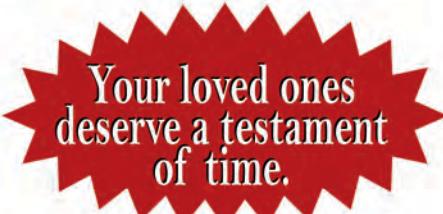
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(Cont. on pg. 11)

GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

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

(Cont. from pg. 10)

Winona "Jean" Colley Schrieber

Birth 25 Sep 1926
Death 22 Sep 2021 (aged 94)

SLMPD-2021-56

Former St. Louis Police Officer Winona J. "Jean" Schrieber, entered the St. Louis Police Academy in 1951, a time when the department had no female officers. After 4 1/2 years with the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department Jean changed departments and became the first female officer in the St. Louis County Police Department in 1957. Her assigned DSN with the Saint Louis County Police Department was DSN 203. Attempts to locate her SLMPD DSN, and any photo's with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department were to no avail after an extensive search.

Dearest daughter of the late Mr. & Mrs. Edward C. and Helen (nee Bergman) Colley.

A lifetime resident and servant to St. Louis, Winona "Jean" Schrieber began her formative years as an orphan residing at the St. Louis Girls Home. The loving care and giving spirit of the Protestant women who ran the St. Louis Girl's Home were the example of service to community that inspired Jean to give back.

Both the County of St. Louis and the State of Missouri have honored Winona "Jean" Schrieber with Proclamations for her community service and her trailblazing role in the St. Louis Police Community.

Jean retired from the county police after 22 years of service, but her service to her community didn't stop after retirement. She continued to dedicate her life to serving the St. Louis Metropolitan area and the state of Missouri through volunteering.

Here are just a few of the volunteer "jobs" Jean held after retirement:

- For 20 years Schrieber volunteered at the Veteran's Administration.
- She delivered Meals on Wheels for 20 years before she had to give up driving. (even while using her walker!)
- She volunteered at the riverfront in the St. Louis Visitor Center greeting visitors and promoting the city's offerings.

Anthony Craig "Tony" Miller

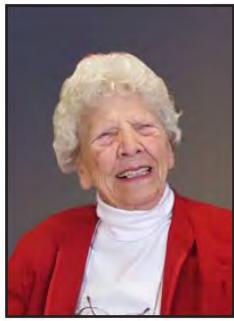
Birth 7 Dec 1961
Death 24 Sep 2021 (aged 59)

SLMPD-2021-57

Officer Anthony C. Miller, DSN 3175, received his commission on 01/03/1989. Officer Miller served in the following districts and specialized divisions through out his career. They were the 3rd, Area 1 Desk/Holdover, 3rd District-Crimes Against Persons, 3rd District, Bureau of Investigation-3rd District Bureau, Area 1 Detectives-Bureau of Investigation, South Patrol Detective Bureau, South Patrol Detective Bureau-Crimes Against Persons, 3rd District, and finally the 4th District. During his career Officer Miller was awarded 1 Chief Letter of Commendation on 04/28/1988, and 1 Exceptional Performance of Duty Award on 08/21/2006. Both of these awards were for police work above and beyond the call of duty. Officer Miller retired from the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department on 10/13/2019, having faithfully served 30.75 years of dedicated service to the Saint Louis metropolitan Police Department.

Detective Anthony Miller, DSN 3175, followed in the footsteps of his father Sergeant Richard A. "Rich" Miller, DSN 1494, and was a 2nd generation Law Enforcement Officer in the family to join the ranks of the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department. Both father and son served with distinction.

Anthony "Tony" C Miller, 59, died at home on September 24, 2021 after an extended illness. Born on December 7, 1961, Tony was raised in Ferguson, Missouri. He graduated from McCluer High School in 1981. Following in his father's footsteps, Tony joined the St Louis Police Department in January 1989. Throughout his 31 years as a police officer, he faithfully served the citizens of St Louis Police Officer as a patrolman, and detective in the South



Precinct, a detective in the Homicide Unit, and retired his career in the Downtown Bike Unit in 2019. He served on the Major Case Squad for 20 years also. Tony was also a musician and a lover of literature.

Anthony was preceded in death by his parents, Richard and Joan Miller. He is survived by his wife, Samantha and his children; Krista Porzelt-Morris, Natalie, Luke, and Mara Miller. He is also survived by his grandsons, Collin and Crosby and his siblings, Richard Miller, Mark Frischman, and Evelyn Rehg along with cousins, nieces, nephews, and stepchildren.

ARRANGEMENTS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MICHEL FUNERAL HOME.

Samuel Elmer "Sam" Brooks Jr.

Birth 16 Jul 1945
Death 3 Oct 2021 (aged 76)

SLMPD-2021-58

Officer Samuel E. "Sam" Brooks Sr.; DSN 6442, received his commission and was appointed to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department on 03/13/1967. Upon completion of the academy Officer Brooks started his career in the 6th district on 08/14/1967. Officer Brooks remained in this assignment until he was subsequently transferred to the 3rd district on 09/30/1991. During his career Officer Brooks was the recipient of 2 Exceptional Performance of Duty awards on 08/05/1983, and 02/21/1986 for police work above and beyond the call of duty. Officer Brooks retired on 12/18/1993, and faithfully served a total of 26.77 years of dedicated service to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

Officer Brooks was a veteran of the United States Army and achieved the rank of S/Sergeant which is an E-6.

Retired St. Louis Police Officer Samuel Elmer Brooks Jr, 76, of Salem, Missouri departed this life Sunday, October 3, 2021 at Phelps Heath Rolla, Missouri.

Samuel Elmer Brooks Jr. was born July 16, 1945 in Lepanto, Arkansas to Samuel Elmer Sr. and Gladys Mae (Reeves) Brooks. He grew up and attended school in Lepanto, Arkansas. Samuel entered the United States Army on August 27, 1962 and served his country faithfully until his honorable discharge. Samuel was united in marriage to his sweetheart, Donna Jean (nee Mckernon) Brooks, on July 16, 1993 in St. Louis, Missouri and together they shared twenty-eight wonderful years of marriage. He was blessed with five children: Frank, Debbie, Michael, Ricky, and Samantha.

Samuel was a devoted husband and loving father to his children. Samuel entered the Police Academy in 1967 and upon completion started his career with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. During his career, Samuel received several awards for police work beyond the call of duty. Samuel retired in 1993 after twenty-six years of dedicated service to the community.

After retirement, Samuel was owner/operator of a Security Corporation in St. Louis for many years. He was known to the Baden Community as "Sheriff of Baden". Samuel later started doing some construction and remodeling work, he was a jack of all trades. In his spare time, Samuel enjoyed a good game of poker with his fellow officers. He was an avid outdoorsman and often found fishing or horseback riding. Samuel was a lover of nature and liked watching the deer in his yard. Most of all, Samuel treasured the time spent with his family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, they were his pride and joy. Samuel departed this life October 3, 2021 in Rolla, Missouri at the age of seventy-six years.

He leaves behind to cherish his memories, loving wife Mrs. Donna Brooks of the home; children: Samantha Brooks-Haye and Richard Haye of Illinois, Frank Brooks of St. Louis, MO, Debbie Brooks-Rauch of Washington, and Michael Brooks; special nephews: George Mckernon and Keenan Marshall; brother: David Brooks of Washington; sister: Jackie Herpolsheimer of South Carolina; half-sisters: Louise Brooks and Debbie Ulmer; grandchildren: Alanna, Alyssa, Alexis, Addison, and Aiden; as well as a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and dear friends.

Preceding him in death, son: Ricky Brooks; parents Samuel E. Sr. and Gladys Brooks; stepparents: Jack and Laura Holmes, brother: Douglas Brooks; brother-in-law Herp Herpolsheimer, and great-nephew Nathan Reid.

(Cont. on pg. 12)



GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

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

(Cont. from pg. 11)

Samuel leaves behind a great legacy.

He will be forever missed by all who knew and loved him

Burial:

Cedar Grove Cemetery
Dent County, Missouri

All arrangements are under the direction and care of Wilson Mortuary of Salem, Missouri.

Memorial Contributions may be made in memory of Samuel Brooks Jr. to BackStoppers Inc. and left at Wilson Mortuary.

Online Condolences may be entered at www.wilsonmortuary.com

Donald Eugene "Don" Koehne

Birth 1 Apr 1951
Death 4 Oct 2021 (aged 70)

SLMPD-2021-59



Officer Donald E. Koehne, DSN 4797, started the police academy as a civilian recruit in training on 06/19/1995. Officer Koehne received his commission on 10/12/1995. Officer Koehne was sent to the 1st district on 10/16/1995. During his career he was awarded 2 Exceptional Performance of Duty awards on 09/26/1996, and on 11/01/2001 for police work above the call of duty. Officer Koehne remained in the 1st district until 04/03/2006 when he retired on a non-work related disability. Officer Koehne served 10.79 years of faithful and dedicated service to the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

Officer Koehne was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and served in the Vietnam War. Officer Koehne served from 06/01/1969 to 10/01/1970. He achieved the rank of Lance Corporal which is an E-3.

Officer Koehne is survived by his wife Mrs. Sharon (nee Jones) Koehne, DSN 7256, formerly of the Communication's Division. Brother-in-law of Captain Robert W. Jones, DSN 8394.

Dearest son of the late Mr. & Mrs. Edward G. and Ruth R. Koehne. Officer Koehne was also predeceased by his brother Steven T. Koehne, and his sister Mrs. Janet (nee Koehne) Anderson.

Koehne, Donald E. "Don" entered into rest, on Monday, October 4, 2021. Beloved husband of Sharon K. Koehne (nee Jones) for over 47 years. Loving father of Melissa Pongracz, Jennifer (Jacob Kitchener) Koehne, Tiffany (fiance' Jon Bequette) Koehne; cherished "Papaw" of Kenzie, Spencer, Samantha, Aiden, Parker, Sam, Emelia-Rose and his favorite granddogs Winnie, Shadow, Kamara, Godiva and ZuZu; dearest brother-in-law of Bob Jones and Mike (Arlene) Jones and brother of the late Janet Anderson and Steven (surviving Becky) Koehne; our dear nephew, uncle, great-uncle, cousin and friend to many.

Don was a proud retiree of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Backstoppers greatly appreciated.

KOEHNE, DONALD EUGENE
Rank & Branch: LCPL U.S. MARINE CORPS
War Period: VIETNAM

Date of Birth: 04/01/1951
Date of Death: 10/04/2021

Buried At: SECTION Z SITE 14
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2900 SHERIDAN ROAD
ST. LOUIS, MO.
63125

Fred D. Bunch

Birth 9 Dec 1938
Death 4 Oct 2021 (aged 82)

SLMPD-2021-60

Officer Fred D. Bunch, DSN 4647, received his commission on 02/18/1963. After the academy he served in the 4th, Training Division, 8th, 1st, and



finally the 3rd district. During his career he was the recipient of 1 Exceptional Performance of Duty award on 06/01/1964 for police work above the call of duty. Officer Bunch retired on 02/18/1988 and served a total of 24.39 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

Officer Bunch was a veteran of the United States Army and achieved the rank of a Specialist 4th Class, which is an E-4.

Attempts to locate any further information on this officer was to no avail. Gravesite Details

Harry Joseph Stubbs

Birth 30 Mar 1949
Death 5 Oct 2021 (aged 72)

SLMPD-2021-61

Former Officer Harry J. Stubbs, DSN 8186, received his commission on 10/18/1971, and entered the police academy. Upon completion of the academy he started his career in the 1st district on 02/07/1972. Officer Stubbs was subsequently transferred to the 8th district on 09/05/1972. During his career he was the recipient of 1 Chief Letter of Commendation on 02/01/1975, for police work above and beyond the call of duty. Officer Stubbs tendered his resignation to seek gainful employment with the Houston, Texas Police Department on 05/19/1977. Officer Stubbs served a total of 5.59 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

Officer Stubbs received his commission and was sworn in as a Houston Texas Police Officer on 9/10/1977, and graduated from Class #78. Officer Stubbs left Houston Police Department on 6/14/1987, due to health reasons and was just short of ten years of commissioned service.

A special note of thanks to Mr. Anthony Kivela, Executive Director of the Houston Police Retired Officers Association (H.P.R.O.A.) for his assistance in supplying the supplemental information needed on Officer Stubbs.

Further attempts to locate an obituary on Officer Stubbs were to no avail. Gravesite Details

James Daniel "Jim" Fitzgerald

Birth 25 Dec 1934
Death 7 Oct 2021 (aged 86)

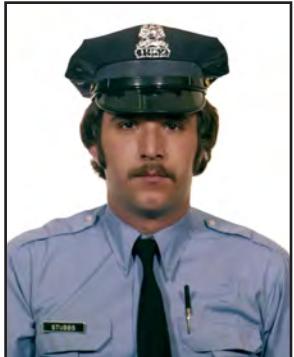
SLMPD-2021-62

Former Officer James D. Fitzgerald, DSN 3663, was appointed to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department on 10/19/1959. Officer Fitzgerald started in the 9th district on 01/25/1960, followed by other assignments in the Mobile Reserve Section on 02/15/1962, and finally the Radar Section on 11/01/1966. Officer Fitzgerald resigned his commission on 02/03/1969 to seek gainful employment in the private sector. During his career he was awarded 2 Chief Letters of Commendation on the same date of 05/13/1963. Both of these awards were for police work above and beyond the call of duty. Officer Fitzgerald served a total of 9 years, 1 month, and 9 days of faithful and dedicated service to the department. Officer Fitzgerald was one of the founding members of the Saint Louis Police Officers Association and became its 1st president in 1968. Officer Fitzgerald's younger brother Officer Edward "Kevin" Fitzgerald, DSN 4099, also served on the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. Both served with distinction.

Officer Fitzgerald was a veteran of the United States Army and served from 06/07/1954 to 06/06/1956. He achieved the rank of Specialist 3rd Class which is an E-3.

Beloved Husband of Lorraine M. (nee Bazzetti) Fitzgerald. Devoted father of 7 children; Robert (Barbara) Fitzgerald, Kevin (Cindy) Fitzgerald, Danny (Cori) Fitzgerald, Michelle (Kurt) Stiles, Patrick (Becky) Fitzgerald, Mary (Jim) Wade and Jim Jr Fitzgerald. Cherished grandfather of 29 and great-grandfather of 31. I have no greater joy than to know my children walk in truth (3 John 4).

In lieu of flowers memorial donations can be made to:
Set Free Ministries
P.O. Box 22006
Saint Louis, MO. 63126



TIM TUMBRINK TOUCHED BY TOKEN



At the October 13 meeting of the St. Louis Police Veterans Association, retired officer Tim Tumbrink was honored with the presentation of a hand-crafted, personalized blueline flag by his fellow retirees for his work as the obituary page editor for the Gendarme.

Tumbrink was very clearly touched by the recognition. "I am so very humbled to have been chosen to receive this beautiful plaque. Thanks to all of you for this beautiful gesture," Tumbrink said.

The presentation was followed by the regularly scheduled monthly police retirees luncheon of the SLPVA at the Police Hall.

STEPHEN W. THURMER

Attorney at Law

SLPOA Approved Legal Counsel

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CONTRACT CORNER

911 (CONSOLIDATION) IS A JOKE

By Jeff Roorda

In recent years, I sometimes find myself harkening back to the gangsta rap songs of my generation with an odd sort of, I don't know... nostalgia I guess I'd call it.

I know, I know. Some of those songs were just awful. They promoted, and even, glorified violence against the police.

But at least the anti-police protest songs of that era were couched in reality.

The social commentary common to lyrics in songs like NWA's "F---k The Police" or LL Cool J's "Illegal Search" were embellished for sure, but were, for want of a better term, reality-adjacent.

That's a far cry from the false-narrative-inspired, hyper-skewed social commentary we see in today's music, books, movies and television shows.

The 1990 hip hop ditty I find myself humming frequently these days is *Public Enemy's* "911 Is A Joke."

I suppose 911 is on my mind a lot these days with all of Tishaura Jones blustering about her plans to merge the now distinct Police, Fire and EMS dispatching into a single operation.

Part of the reason that my reverie takes me back to *PE's* titular indictment of the 911 system 30 some odd years ago is that I started my police career as a dispatcher in SLMPD's Communications Division in 1986 so, I feel a special connection not only to that era but to our police dispatchers and all of the challenging work they are required to do.

The song written mostly by front-man Flavor Flav laments the failings of the 911 system in the midst of the crack wars of the 80's when drive-bys and other gang violence were commonplace. The lyrics are chiding, with gigs like, "They only come and they come when they wanna, so get the morgue truck and embalm the goner."

The tune gave pause to public safety officials across the country, particularly in urban centers. "Is this how they see us? Can we do better," they wondered.

It was a legit gripe. When you pick up the phone and dial 911, they better answer now and they better come now, not "when they wanna."

Consider the contrast with today's world where the de-funders and our other enemies in the public, don't wanna see us come at all.

It's striking really. Just 30 years ago, the deafening complaint was 911 responders don't come fast enough when poor people call. Now the woke mob – the self-appointed spokespeople for impoverished inner-city dwellers – say the problem is that 911 responders do come.

How outlandish.

The absurdity is that despite the media's coronation of the professional activists in the woke mob as the lone voice for the urban underprivileged, people who actually live in the poorest neighborhoods in our City are screaming for more police and for more police dispatchers. They're tired of their 911 calls being placed on long holds followed by long response times once the police are finally dispatched, due to the critical understaffing and uncompetitive wages St. Louis pays to its cops and police dispatchers.

The dissonance hurts my ears.

Apparently, it hurts the mayor's ears too.

So, the vacationer-in-chief, Tishaura Jones, winged her way back to St. Louis in August to do a press tour of the Police 911 Center. There she unexpectedly announced that she had launched a plan to consolidate the dispatch operations.

Our union, which also represents police civilians like dispatchers, said, "not so fast." The Firefighters union, Local 73, which represents Fire & EMS dispatchers said the same thing. We communicated our concerns to the City that merging the operations was absolutely a mandatory subject of bargaining and we demanded to see the consolidation plan and to meet with the City to discuss it.

Both the Department of Personnel and the Department of Public Safety said, "you're right, this is a mandatory subject of bargaining." They promised to get us the plan right away.

Guess what?

More than two months later and, still, no plan.

I don't believe there ever was a plan. Well, not a consolidation plan. Just a public relations plan where the mayor would show-up for a quick press hit and promise action knowing that the administration had no inkling as to how they would accomplish such an endeavor.

And, do you know how I know there wasn't a plan. Because it's impossible to undertake that sort of consolidation without talking to the people who do the job.

Our people.

That's what bargaining is about. Hearing from the people who do the work.

In this case, the very important work of answering the phone when a citizen in distress calls or answering the radio when an officer in need of aid hollers.

Yes, I suppose all these years later, *Public Enemy* is finally right...

911 is a joke.

But its not the devoted 911 operators who answer the phones and the radios or the courageous police officers, firefighters, and EMS workers who they send on the call.

It's the politicians who've neglected our members and the vulnerable people they serve. They're the joke.

And the joke is on the people who elected them.

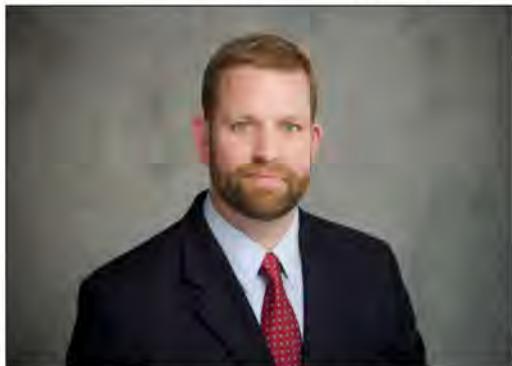
**Former SLMPD Officer
SLPOA Co-General Counsel**



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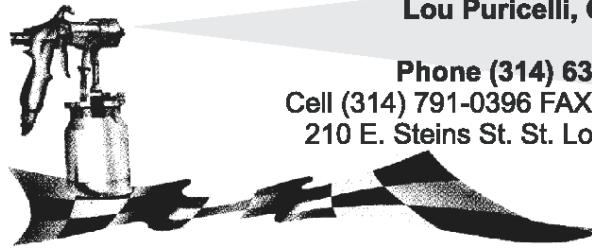
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St. Louis Police Officers Association

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

| NOVEMBER 2021 | | | | | | |
|--|--------|--|---|---|--------|----------|
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 CPD MTG 7PM | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7  | 8 | 9 | 10 VETERANS MTG 11:30 AM POLICE WIVES 7PM | 11  | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MTG 6 PM E-BOARD MTG 4:00 PM | 24 GUNS 'N HOSES | 25  | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |

| 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  | |

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