



Fraternal Order of Police

CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine June 2022



Top Notch

Carlos Yanez Jr. and Joshua Blas highlight eight CPD officers honored as Top Cops during National Police Week



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NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2022



A memorable National Police Week for Chicago Police Officers began with Josh Blas and Carlos Yanez Jr. being named Top Cops. That started four days of Lodge 7 members going above and beyond to honor and remember their beloved sister Ella French. Read all about it in this special report on National Police Week, which features:

At the Top: The greatness of Chicago Police Officers was front and center at the Top Cops Awards.

For Elizabeth: Members turned Police Week into a special tribute to Ella's mom, Elizabeth.

Peace Time: Members brought out their best at The National Peace Officers Memorial Service.

Ride Along: Following two members on the Law Enforcement United Road to Hope Ride.

On Guard: The CPD Honor Guard honored Ella with an incredible presentation.

The Beats Go On: The CPD Pipes and Drums once again played songs of remembrance.

18 pages of special Police Week reports begins on page 36



Your Vote Counts

Lodge 7 reveals its Democratic and Republican endorsements for the June 28 primary election **Page 19**

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CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine
President's Report



The power of National Police Week hits home



**JOHN
CATANZARA
JR.**

Experiencing National Police Week in Washington, D.C. with Lodge 7 First Vice President Mike Mette, Third Vice President Fernando Flores, Trustees Monica Ortiz, David DiSanti and Steve Olsen, so many of our members – and Carlos Yanez Jr., Joshua Blas and Elizabeth French – turned out to be a culmination of all the tributes and consoling since Aug. 7, 2021, when we lost Ella Grace French.

The experience started on a high note with Carlos and Josh being honored as Top Cops, an award given to 10 of the most courageous responses in law enforcement throughout the country in 2021. Elizabeth being there to hug and praise Ella's partners on that night certainly escalated the emotion. Six other Chicago Police Officers, who you see pictured on the cover of this issue, were also recognized at this awards banquet sponsored by the National Association of Police Organizations. (Read all about what made them Top Cops beginning on page 36 of this issue.)

It was four days of non-stop events remembering our sisters and brothers who made the ultimate sacrifice. The first of those actually included Mike and Monica joining with more than 500 other officers in the Law Enforcement United Ride biking from Chesapeake, Virginia to D.C. Props to them, as well as the members of the CPD Pipes and Drums and the Honor Guard who displayed their brilliance with their tributes to Ella. And to all our officers who attended – many at their own expense – the National Peace Officers Memorial Service to honor the Gold Star families.

Certainly, we were there for Ella and her family, and we saw how Ella was a national story in many ways because of it being Chicago and a female officer. Many other factors probably highlighted it more than other police murders across the country. And for Elizabeth, this was almost the end of a chapter that had to be read, so to speak.

Now, it's time for the second half of the book. I think there was a sense of relief, in some sense, added to the sense of loss. It definitely was a unique situation culminating in D.C.

Another memorable aspect of Police Week is experiencing the camaraderie and respect between the CPD and LAPD, specifically, at the Peace Officers Memorial, where we honor each other's fallen officers and Gold Star families at the end of the ceremony. After the past two years, I think it was much needed for all of those in attendance to be with like-minded people and say a thank you to the fallen and their families.

And I have to reiterate that the Top Cops awards was one of the most, I don't know, inspirational is probably the best word I can use, memories that I have in life. Just to see all the trauma revved up in the amazing police work and the damage left behind. I mean, there's so many different components to it that it was unique, to say the least.

We saw many officers recognized who were seriously wounded yet didn't give up the fight. They showed just how strong, resilient and dedicated they are. It captured the highs and lows of police work, the best not only of humankind, but specifically, the men and women who wear the uniform.

Carlos absolutely received powerful support from all across the country for his continued fight to recover and get better. And we were elated to see Josh honored as well. I always fear that Josh is the forgotten one, and I think the honor may have meant even more to Josh that he got to see and be recognized by his peers and appreciated for the heroic effort that he put forth that night to save Carlos's life and doing what he could try to do to save Ella's.

I told Elizabeth that night, "Thank you for being strong for Josh." I think Elizabeth's strength in this whole situation has given Josh strength. And I have absolutely seen him come out of that reclusiveness that he basically, just naturally, shrunk into after the incident. Every time I have conversations with him now, they are getting longer and deeper. So I think he draws a lot of strength from Elizabeth in that.

President's Report continues on Page 6

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Dues Attention

Apparently there have been conversations about the process for instituting a dues increase not being followed properly. According to the bylaws, the board votes for a dues increase, and it has to go to members with proper notice to be voted on at a general membership meeting.

I think proper notice was more than adequately provided with all the times it's been mentioned, whether it's been in *Lodge 7 Magazine*, on my YouTube videos, or you name it. It's been repeated over and over and over again that this is the way we were taking the Lodge. And it has been presented at a general membership meeting during the President's Report, which was voted upon and accepted by the membership.

Unfortunately, some people who would love to see somebody else running the Lodge decided to make it an issue and say that's not how it's supposed to be done. So we put a formal notification out for a separate active-members only vote prior to the next general meeting on June 15.

It's a shame that some members are willing to literally – and you can quote me on this – push the nuclear button just so they can come back and be the mayor of ashes. I mean, it is sad, but that's human nature and this Lodge is no different.

With regard to the dues increase, it's \$10 per paycheck for the purpose of being able to bolster the Lodge's footprint and political action. Some of those previously mentioned people are trying to spin it as being all about our personal political connections and power, which is absolutely stupid. As if it's a private piggy

bank I get to use to write checks to politicians, and they owe us something. It's just stupid, but that's what they're trying to spin.

It's clear what we said we were going to do and why we were going to do it. That mission hasn't changed. And if members complain like right now when they're getting their RDOs canceled again, the reason this is occurring is because you have politicians who allow it to occur. The only way to change it is to take out those elected officials. I don't know how else to explain it to members, but that's just the reality we're looking at right now.

This is a long-term vision. It's about trying to make working conditions and everything else as beneficial as possible for our members in the long run, and the political game has a large part to play in how that ends up.

I publicly talked about the dues going up on the YouTube video. I said, "If you have issues, please email me." I had 11 emails, three in favor, one of which said double what you're doing. And only eight emails against what we were trying to do. The membership understands. This is all about trying to score political points and trying to position the Lodge to be relevant in the City election next year.

It's just \$10 a check, primarily for political purposes. And when there is maybe a lull in politics, we start diverting some of that money for the cost of a new Lodge because our building has just become outgrown and outdated. And we need to start really considering that and without having to take a mortgage. It makes sense to have that dues increase to start building up capital.



Kiki Calumet
Executive Vice President

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THE 4-1-1



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Lodge 7 Picnic Canceled

The picnic scheduled for July 13 has been canceled due to a scheduling conflict

June 13

26th Annual German American Police Association Golf Outing

Renwood Golf Course
701 E. Shorewood Road, Round Lake Beach
8:30 a.m.

For information, contact Joe Kirchens at 815-756-3291 or gapgolfer@gmail.com

July 21

Chicago Police Foundation Second Annual Founding Members Golf Outing

Tuckaway Golf Course
27641 S. Stony Island Ave., Crete
10 a.m.

For information, call 312-664-7076

June 27

Retirement Celebration in Honor of Sergeant Billy Schield

115 Bourbon Street
3359 W. 115th St., Merrionette Park
7-11 p.m.

July 31

Area 4 Ride to Remember

Area 4 Detective Headquarters
3151 W. Harrison St.
9 a.m.

Preregister at give.cpdmemorial.org/ride2022

Aug. 1

Chicago Police Memorial Foundation 18th Annual Golf Outing

Cantigny Golf
27W270 Mack Road, Wheaton
7:30 a.m.

For information, call 312-499-8899

Aug. 8

Chicago Police Sergeants' Association 60th Annual Golf Outing

Silver Lake Country Club
14700 S. 82nd Ave., Orland Park
9 a.m.

For information, contact 773-376-7272 or golf@chicagosergeants.org

Aug. 10

Chicago Police Memorial Foundation Annual Charity Baseball Game

Guaranteed Rate Field
333 W. 35th St., Chicago
7 p.m.

For information, visit <https://cpdmemorial.org/events/cpd-vs-cfd-baseball-game/>

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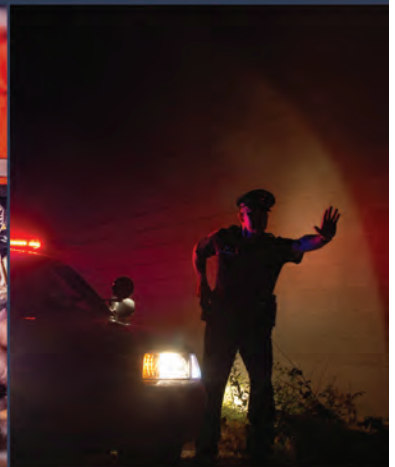
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Discipline briefs



DAN
GORMAN

My reports given at the monthly general members' meetings include examples of arbitrators' decisions issued at binding summary opinion (BSO) arbitration hearings. Every investigation has its own individual circumstances, and in most cases, there are multiple allegations as well as redundant alleged rule violations (usually piled on by the investigators).

However, below are examples of dispositions that have been awarded by the binding summary arbitrator. The following discipline briefs provide only a generalization of the allegations that were sustained in the CR investigations.

General Summary of Allegation	Original Recommended Penalty	Arbitrator's Award
Social media post in response to protests	10-day suspension	Upheld
Attend personal court matter while on lunch and encountering other legal issue	10-day suspension	Upheld
No BWC during pursuit	3-day suspension	1-day suspension
No-show on a canceled RDO	3-day suspension	Expunged
Fail to "properly" document field interview	3-day suspension	Violation noted-no discipline
No ISR, no receipt and turn off BWC	3-day suspension	1-day suspension
Fail to generate crash report	3-day suspension	Upheld

RDO cancellation information

In last month's issue, attorney Pat Fioretto's article is worth reading. The article is titled "RDO cancellations continue as Lodge 7 wraps up hearing." In the article, Fioretto provides a summary of the hearing; a summary of testimony provided by Carter and McDermott; quotes from Lightfoot and Brown about "officer wellness"; crime statistics (despite days off being canceled); overtime costs; etc. Fioretto also points out that although officers testified about how the cancellations have negatively affected the officers emotionally, physically and psychologically, "[s]adly, the City's insensitive response is that the employer's right to assign officers for duty while on regular day-off status is 'unrestricted and unchallenged' regardless of an officer's wellness."

These constant cancellations have also made more and more members interested in knowing more about the grievance and arbitration process. Since Lodge 7 became a collective bargaining unit, tens of thousands of grievances have been filed by the Lodge and members. As of this writing, the Lodge has at least 803 arbitration awards, hundreds of additional "settlements" and a few thousand binding summary decisions. Over the course of history, every FOP administration has been protective of the Lodge property, and these documents are no exception. These documents are not made public for a variety of reasons.

However, there are 10 arbitration awards that various admin-

istrations approved to release and post on the FOP website, where they are listed under "Arbitration Awards." Recently, several inquiries from members regarding the history and progress of the RDO cancellation grievances were brought to our attention. After assembling the relevant documents (minus an officer's identity and minus officer's testimony), I submitted the packet of documents to the Lodge president. The board of directors approved posting the included documents on the Lodge website.

The link to the file, titled "RDO Cancel Package," was added to the Lodge website under Resources/Arbitration Awards. Included are the three class-action grievances, their amendments and their respective attachments and amendments, a "settlement" and an attorney letter regarding a violation of the settlement.

The "RDO Cancel Package" was posted on the Lodge website on May 24. A brief history of the RDO grievance is as follows:

This was the first class-action grievance that was filed, on May 21, 2021, when RDOs were canceled departmentwide for Memorial Day and going into June 2021. We had requested expedited arbitration, and the City agreed. Arbitration was scheduled for August 2021.

Although the Department's position was that it had the right to cancel all RDOs under 20.9 of the CBA, the City expressed that they were interested in arriving at a settlement. We agreed to settlement discussions using Arbitrator Roumell as a mediator. The discussions took eight full hours, and the discussions were reduced to this settlement under 129-21-007, which was signed by the City on Oct. 4, 2021.

A second class-action grievance was filed on Nov. 16, 2021, when the Department canceled days off departmentwide.

A third class-action grievance was filed on Nov. 23, 2021, when the Department rescinded its November cancellations but then 42 minutes later issued cancellations "until further notice."

The grievances went to arbitration/hearing/trial, and testimony lasted four days (Feb. 9, Feb. 17, March 18 and April 19). Written briefs were to be sent to the arbitrator on June 10. The arbitrator may want to have another meeting based on what he reads in the briefs. The arbitrator will then give an estimate on how long we can expect to wait for a written decision (known as an "award").

On May 20, the Lodge attorney sent a letter to the Department regarding 10 consecutive days.

The "RDO Cancel Package" was posted on the website (May 24).

On May 27, an additional grievance was filed when the Department violated the settlement, and officers may find themselves being forced to work more than 10 consecutive days during the Memorial Day week cancellations. The settlement states: "The Effective Notice referenced herein shall not require officers to work more than the (10) consecutive days, unless in good faith, at the time of the Effective Notice, the Department reasonably concludes that it required officers to work longer than ten (10) consecutive days."

In addition to the grievance, a letter was sent to the arbitrator informing him of our claim and asking how he wishes for us to proceed. Stay tuned.

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Don't go it alone at COPA or BIA



FERNANDO FLORES

I have received a couple of calls from young new officers stating that they are gonna go to either COPA or BIA and give a statement. They are not sure if they are doing the right thing by calling the union and asking for representation.

Going to talk to BIA or COPA without legal representation is like sitting down and talking to the devil without a priest sitting next to you. Don't do it! Call to get legal representation. I am reaching out to officers who have gone to give statements: Please advise the younger officers that if they are going down to give a statement for the first time to please call legal defense to acquire representation.

If for whatever reason you go to a job and a police officer from another, outside agency is holding an offender for you, make sure that you get that officer's name and star number and the name of the department they work for and put them somewhere in your report. Make sure that when they hand the offender over to you, you pat them down again. Never leave your safety or the safety of your partner in somebody else's hands. If you did not make the initial arrest and the subject is handed over, you give them a quick once-over just to make sure they have no weapons that might have been missed.

It's gonna be a long, hot summer, and the nonsense has already begun. Make sure you have all your equipment and that

it is in working order. There is nothing worse than going into a dark basement or a dark alley with a flashlight that doesn't work. Check the batteries, replace them if needed. Check your firearm, make sure there are no dust bunnies living in the barrel of your gun. Check your holster and make sure that your gun is not being held in the holster by a thread. Replace it if needed. Your life is worth more than the price of a bullshit holster. Go to the range when and if you have time.

I remember as a young cadet going through the police academy and looking up at a poster that was in the gym, near the exit. The poster had a picture of a guy in prison working out who was built like a brick shithouse. The caption on the poster read "Every day you don't work out, somebody else does." Go to the gym and work out. Do some cardio and try to eat somewhat healthy. The Greeks had a philosophy that said "Healthy body, healthy mind" that still holds true today. Keep your head on a swivel, always scanning, seeing who or what is in your immediate surroundings, and don't forget to look up. Working in the Cabrini Green projects was an interesting endeavor. Objects would fall out of the sky mysteriously. Sometimes a refrigerator or a microwave or cans of soup would be dropped from above to try to hurt us. Don't forget to look up. Danger can come at you from any direction.

Stay healthy. Keep you and your partner safe. And don't forget: No lawyer, no statement.

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The lasting effects of canceled RDOs



JIM
JAKSTAVICH

Hello, officers active and retired. The cancellations are upon us! Regular days off, aka the RDOs, are harder to come by than a winning lotto ticket. The brain trust at headquarters decided to cancel RDOs around the first holiday of the summer, Memorial Day.

Some officers whose day-off groups fall into the cancellation plan are now subjected to working more than 10 days in a row. These cancellations coupled with the matrix that cancels the officer's first day off are a clear violation of the settlement agreement.

This grueling schedule of cancellations is not conducive to family life. When given the opportunity to speak with someone from the chief of patrol's office or a Gold Star during the ongoing portal compliance, I have personally addressed this topic.

Most officers work a particular schedule because it works best for their families. I know of senior officers who still linger on midnights because the 1st Watch schedule allows them to get home in time to drive their kids to and from school.

The officers deployed who work 2nd Watch in districts or units are the most adversely impacted by the 1800–0300 hours of deployment. Most of these officers' routines are that they are in bed before 2200 hours so they can wake up and be at work by 0500. Even if the deployments are only for the first day off, these officers' sleep patterns are disrupted, and it may take

that second and only day off just to recover and normalize their sleep cycle.

I asked two commanders a simple question: Other than a family member, who could an officer get to babysit their children from 1700 to 0400 hours while they are deployed? You all know the answer.

I cannot stress enough how contrived and insincere the words "officer wellness" are when uttered from headquarters. Officers cannot continue working the entire summer literally begging with to/froms to have their RDOs honored. We pick our furloughs the year before, plan our lives according to our days off, often celebrating the day after a major holiday, or a week after a birthday, just to be with our families.

These officers will continue to be deployed, missing travel baseball, graduations and family events. Enough already! It's time to rethink these useless strategies, because crime isn't going away.

The FOP has filed Class Action Grievance #129-22-008, naming Settlement Agreement: 129-21-007 and Articles 8 and 20 as being the contract sections violated. The remedy we are seeking is for the arbitrator to issue a cease-and-desist order requiring the Department to comply with the settlement agreement.

You can look on the Lodge 7 website under Arbitration Awards for more information and language. Officers, please know that we will continue to fight for you.



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Fighting the good fight — and winning



**ROB
NOCEDA**

It has been more than two years since President Catanzara's Lodge 7 administration took office. The City, along with anti-police politicians and anyone who has wished us harm, has caused us constant madness. We have had to fight so many issues this entire time. A military veteran would call that a wartime-like scenario, because it's far from being a peaceful time.

We came into a contract that was three years expired and had to deal with COVID's wrath, rioting in our streets, out-of-control crime, manpower shortages (we are 2,000 cops short) and canceled RDOs. Top that off with a vaccine mandate and the very sad reality of our line-of-duty and non-line-of-duty officer deaths. I would say you have yourself a wartime-like reality.

We are constantly fighting for our members and digging in. We have fought every step of the way. We got Phase One of a contract done. We are still working on Phase Two. We fought for line-of-duty death benefits for our members who died due to COVID. We have fought and won for our members to be reimbursed for the loss of equipment during those riots. We have provided ideas and strategies so the Department would go to military bases to recruit new officers to shore up our streets and our pension.

We have constantly fought and will continue to fight this canceled RDO nonsense. We have filed many class actions and individual grievances due to violations of our collective bargaining agreement. We have fought hard to protect and preserve the rights and safety of our members day in and day out, including:

- Reducing COPA's excessive discipline
- Filing court injunctions
- Making officer wellness a priority at the Lodge by holding mental health seminars and buddy-check days.
- Everyone getting the retroactive check they deserve
- Making sure that officers who retire can get reasonable health insurance rates
- Getting back duty availability for younger officers
- Fighting for and getting most religious exemptions to the vaccine mandate approved, more than any other City department
- Making a substantial PAC fund, so our political foes respect us
- No more will Lodge 7 get pushed around by empty promises from politicians and pundits. We are now slating our own political candidates who care about the police.

These are just some of the many battles your Lodge 7 administration has fought, and that's on top of handling the regular day-to-day issues and operations, such as responding to officer-involved shootings, seniority issues, contract questions and legal defense inquiries and representation.

Lodge 7 has taken on the nonstop assault and defended our position well. The battles will continue. These truly are unprecedented times. So dig in, mount up and stay alert. Stay in the fight, because we will continue to fight each and every day for you. Remember, we need each other more than ever before. The law-abiding citizens need us, too. So be there for each other, and we are most definitely going to be there for you, too.

May the Lord be with all of you. Stay safe. #stayinthefight

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All call on missing morale and camaraderie



MONICA
ORTIZ

Attention, BOLO. All units be on the lookout for these endangered missing subjects.

Morale: the mental and emotional condition (as of enthusiasm, confidence or loyalty) of an individual or group with regard to the functions at hand.

Talk to any officer with 20-plus years, and they will tell you about a completely different Department.

A Department where when someone lost a loved one, the whole district, including all bosses, would show up to the wake and funeral, or if someone's kid was selling cookies or chocolate to raise money for Scouts or sports, everyone would open their wallets and fill the purchase sheet in one day. When you had an arrest and maybe you didn't know exactly what you were doing or how to handle it, there was always another officer stepping up to mentor you and offer their help.

Morale was at an all-time high, people had their regular days off, no days off ever got canceled, you could request a day off even with little to no seniority and get the day granted. Furloughs could be extended without many rules as to how many days off that would entail. Bosses were generous with accommodating schedules for kids' graduations, communions, confirmations, birthdays. Mothers could take off Mother's Day, fathers could take off Father's Day. St. Jude Parade attendance was in the thousands; people would fight about who had to stay behind and man the district. Everyone wanted to be at St. Jude.

Now people are choosing sleep and time with families over everything else, including St. Jude, because they haven't had many days off. Suicides are the new norm. Officers are tired and overworked and have little time for family. There is no time for sleep, taking care of yourself or spending time with your family. The repeated canceled days off and extended tours are wreaking havoc in officers' personal lives. Some officers are being told by their spouses, it's your job or me. This stress, coupled with the endless hours at work chasing the radio while districts start their daily backlogs at noon, has caused stress and exhaustion so great that morale is in the gutter.

Officers are leaving the Department at a record pace, causing catastrophically low staffing levels and dangerous conditions for officers continuing to work in districts. Twenty years ago, officers told each other how much time they had on the job. The conversation today is much different, as officers now discuss how much time they have left. Even officers who don't have 20 years on speak in terms of when they can leave. Everyone now has an exit plan, and some are retiring before they are maxed or eligible for discounted insurance. The feeling is, we are tired, we have had enough and I choose my family and my health over this job.

Camaraderie: a feeling of friendliness, goodwill and familiarity among the people in a group — brotherhood, mutual trust, friendship among people who spend a lot of time together.

Years ago, two officers from 010 were injured in an off-duty car accident. The ticket sales for a fundraiser for them were so in demand that there was no venue big enough to hold everyone, so a junkyard in the district offered their space, which was outdoors and could hold the record crowd. Band after band volunteered to play for free for the thousands who attended and bought T-shirts and raffle tickets, and people were dancing and

MISSING

MORALE AND CAMARADERIE

Date of Birth: August 15, 1835

Age: 186 YEARS OLD

Sex or gender: ALL



LAST SEEN: MAY 19, 2019

**IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT CHICAGO LODGE 7**

enjoying themselves until the sun came up and everyone had to go home. The Junkyard Dog became an annual event, and the 10th District picked a new officer in need to support every year. The 10-1 benefits were a regular occurrence, and you always attended or bought a ticket to help your brothers or sisters in need. No questions asked.

This job has a unique characteristic commonly referred to as the thin blue line. This is a sense of belonging to a family that you won't find in many other careers. Cops bond together to help other officers. Our lives depend on it. When you are handling shootings and murders on a daily basis and find yourself in a situation where you need help, you feel a huge sense of relief when you see the sea of blue lights and your brothers in blue coming to your aid. If you had a partner, you might spend more time with them than with your family or significant other. You both could find yourselves in a situation where you needed to save each other's lives, literally.

How can we restore the morale and the camaraderie that used to exist in this Department? The answer is twofold.

1. **Management.** Management is more concerned with the well-being checks that their officers conduct on the homeless population, checking on their needs and making sure they are offered services for their mental health and well-being. Yet that same care and concern does not

apply to the officers. Management needs to fill the cars, at whatever cost. PCIs must be obtained for every citizen interaction due to the quota that the superintendent touted that the Department would meet: 1.5 million interactions for the year in the media. Officers are stressed, tired and underappreciated, with days off canceled for no reason, but they keep showing up and doing their jobs day in and day out. Then the superintendent puts out a memo reminding us how important it is to take care of ourselves and spend time with our families. How can we take care of ourselves and spend time with our families when we are always at work?

2. **Take care of each other.** Check on each other, ask officers how they are doing and listen to what their answer is. Ask a few more questions if you think their answers are short or they seem like they need to talk. Back each other up. Answer your radio and ride as an assist car. There should be slowdown after slowdown given when more officers respond than needed. Mentor younger officers. Ask if they need help with a case report or arrest report or to-from. You didn't come on this job knowing everything, and someone at some point in your career took the time to teach you what you needed to know. If someone is injured, check on them. If someone is on medical, check on them. If someone loses a loved one, check on them. It's OK not to be OK, and it's OK to ask for help. When it comes down to it, we must do a better job of taking care of each other. Sometimes all we have is each other.

Take care of yourself, stay safe and go home at the end of your tour.

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Your vote is more crucial than ever



MIKE
COSENTINO

The law enforcement profession has come under attack. At no other time in modern American history has it become more paramount that police officers and their families, friends and supporters rally to become politically active.

Some members of the Legislature and City Council have condemned law enforcement in an attempt to criminalize our profession, while other elected officials have come to the forefront representing our interests. It is essential we support them!

Chicago Lodge 7 has the lowest registration and voting members of any major union in this state. It is essential that Lodge 7 members register and vote. Encourage your family members, friends, neighbors and supporters of law enforcement to vote! Law enforcement's voice needs to be heard at the ballot box.

The Lodge 7 political endorsement process is incredibly open. It involves numerous layers of involvement to ensure that members' voices are heard. The Lodge sent out numerous emails to candidates to invite them to participate in the process.

The political action committee (PAC) conducted over 40 interviews of candidates and made its recommendations to the board of directors. The board then voted on the PAC's recommendations. The Lodge 7 president votes in this process only in the event of a tie vote of the board of directors. Each member of the PAC and board of directors takes their responsibility to the membership in this process exceptionally seriously.

The Lodge needs its members involved in the political process. Please contact Michael Cosentino at the Lodge at mcosen-tino@chicagofop.org or 312-733-7776 to become involved in a campaign.

We have two of our members running in the upcoming June 28 primary election.

Erin Jones is a detective who has previously worked in the 11th District and in narcotics. Erin is running in the Democratic primary for the 10th State Senate District (Northwest Side, Gladstone, Norwood, Edison, Jefferson, Portage Park and Old Irving) against Martwick, who voted "yes" for the criminal justice reform bill, HB3653.

Carolynn Crump is a police officer who has worked in the 4th and 2nd Districts and is currently working in informational services. Carolynn is in the Democratic primary for the 6th State House of Representatives District (Englewood, Canaryville, Bridgeport and River North) against the sponsor of HB3653, Sonya Harper. Carolynn is attempting to make history as the first African American Chicago Police Officer elected to the Legislature.

The Chicago FOP needs member and community support in the political process to foster its objectives. Many other unions in conflict with FOP values have rank-and-file members on the ground doing outreach. Lodge 7 needs your help reaching out to the community. An FOP-community partnership concerning the mutual interest of ensuring public safety is critical.

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The 2022 Vote

Chicago Lodge 7 Endorsements

Here are the Democratic and Republican candidates the Chicago FOP has endorsed for the 2022 Primary Election on June 28

Democratic

Secretary of State: Alexi Giannoulias

Congress 1st District: Chris Butler

State Central Committeewoman 3rd District:

Iris Y. Martinez

State Central Committeeman 5th District:

John J. Cullerton

State Senator

- 2nd District: Wilson Vazquez

- 10th District: Erin Jones



State Representative

- 6th District: Carolynn Denise Crump



- 15th District: Michael J. Kelly

- 19th District: Tina Wallace

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (6-Year Term)

- Patricia Theresa Flynn

- Frank Avila

- Rick Garcia

- Elizabeth Joyce

President of Cook County Board: Richard R. Boykin

Cook County Sheriff: Carmen Navarro Gercone



Cook County Assessor: Kari K. Steele

Cook County Commissioner

- 2nd District: Andre Smith

- 8th District Natalie Toro

- 9th District Sam Kukadia

- 16th District Leticia "Letty" Garcia

Board of Reviews 1st District: Tammy Wendt

Judge of the Appellate Court: Raymond W. Mitchell

Judges

- Monica G. Somerville (Vacancy Gordon Cannon)

- Thomas E. Nowinski (Vacancy Hyman)

- Elizabeth "Beth" Ryan (Vacancy Imgram)

- Jacqueline Marie Griffin (Vacancy O'Brien)

Judges Subcircuit

- 4th: Amanda Pillsbury

- 11th: Aileen Bhandari

- 14th: Jorge V. Cazares

Republican

Governor and Lieutenant Governor:

Richard C. Irvin and Avery Bourne

Secretary of State: Dan Brady

Attorney General: Thomas G. DeVore

Congress 6th District: Robert "Rob" Cruz

DuPage County Chairman: Greg Hart

Cook County Commissioner 9th District:

Matt Podgorski



Give officers their regular days off



MICHAEL
CARROLL

Just the other day, my kids asked me if I would be able to see them march in the Memorial Day parade. The parade had been canceled during the pandemic, and this was the first time in too long that they would be able to proudly march with their classmates and respective Scout troops. Sadly, I had to tell my kids that I wouldn't be able to be there at the parade, that Mom would have to send me pictures and that I would miss yet another moment in their lives. Being there for my children is important to me, as I know it is equally important to every officer out there.

We all know how hard it is to miss these kinds of important events, these one-of-a-kind moments that shape our children and make memories as a family. When we chose this career, when we chose to serve our community as Chicago Police Officers, we knew that we may miss important events. We knew that by serving the people of Chicago, we may not always be home for birthdays and holidays because of work. But it's still tough. It's still difficult knowing that these important events are happening without you.

This is the reason why our regular days off are so important, why when we do finally get time off, we make the most of it with our children and families.

As I have written many times before in *Chicago Lodge 7 Magazine*, canceling regular days off without warning and without

a clear reason does not give our members the respect and courtesy they deserve. More than that, canceling days off clearly lacks the simple decency that should be given to all workers, no matter their profession.

Canceling days off does not account for our officers' families, children and loved ones. Canceling days off can and does directly affect officers' mental health and well-being, a fact I believe the Department and leadership continue to ignore.

The Department and command staff often speak about the importance of preserving an officer's mental health and well-being, calling it one of their greatest priorities. But by canceling days off, they are doing the exact opposite. Their words say one thing, but their actions clearly say something else altogether.

The Chicago Police Department has again made the ill-considered decision to continue extending tours and canceling days off. Memorial Day weekend turned into Memorial Day week: all officers' RDOs citywide canceled, forced to work all scheduled days off. Emails have been sent out by command staff to expect the entire week of Father's Day and week of Independence Day canceled. All Chicago Police Officers are expected to have all days off canceled, yet again. It's almost as if the Department does not care about the mental health and well-being of their officers, as they so often say that they do.

Our members deserve better.

Our members are tired. They are worn out and desperate for time off. Because of time-due restrictions and canceled days off, officers are unable to spend time with their families, their children, the people our officers love. Simply put, canceling all days off, especially on Father's Day and Independence Day, loudly broadcasts the message to our members' families that the Department does not care about them and that the mental health and well-being of our members truly does not matter.

Canceling all days off is a mistake. Not allowing our members the opportunity to step away from the difficult and unpleasant conditions of working the streets of Chicago potentially endangers the mental health and well-being of our members and their families.

Once again, I implore the Department to reconsider this procedure of canceling regular days off for officers and allow them that much-needed break to decompress from the rigors of the street. Our officers' mental health and well-being are paramount, and the best way to ensure them is to allow our members the opportunity to simply spend time with their families.

Giving our officers their regular days off conveys the simple decency that should be given to all workers, no matter their profession. Police risk their lives for the people of Chicago, and our members will continue to serve with dignity. But our members deserve better. By not canceling these dedicated officers' days off, you are telling our members and their families that you hear them, you care about them, and their loved ones can depend on those regular days off.

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Honoring Retired Sisters and Brothers

April 2022

Name	Rank	Unit/District	Years	Name	Rank	Unit/District	Years
Cecilia M. Bohan	Officer	Unit 022	30	Ronald A. Jasica	Detective	Unit 610	26
Chris E. Andersen	Mounted P/O	Unit 055	28	Daniel R. Jensen	Detective	Unit 630	31
David A. Bachler	Officer	Unit 022	28	Eric J. Johnson	Officer	Unit 192	31
Jeffery P. Barber	Officer	Unit 018	27	Marlene J. Johnston	Officer	Unit 022	20
Annette L. Bay	Officer	Unit 025	20	Adam L. Katz	Detective	Unit 181	25
Joe Beosi	Officer	Unit 019	25	Joann Locullo	Officer	Unit 116	20
Thomas A. Beyna	Officer	Unit 124	23	Marco A. Mar	Officer	Unit 189	27
Michael J. Butzen	Officer	Unit 050	31	Kenneth P. McNally	Officer	Unit 018	30
Brian J. Caswell	Officer	Unit 018	30	Louis A. Moscovitz	Officer	Unit 024	28
Michael G. Cochran	Detective	Unit 620	27	Dennis M. Oboikovitz	Officer	Unit 050	28
Eleanor Diggs	Officer	Unit 721	23	Daniel Ortman	Detective	Unit 001	28
Thomas M. Doherty	Detective	Unit 620	20	Kenneth Ortman	Officer	Unit 001	30
Vincent J. Escamilla	Officer	Unit 009	22	Juanita J. Richardson	Detective	Unit 610	27
Hector Esparza	Officer	Unit 009	24	James K. Riess	Officer	Unit 024	24
Dale D. Ford	Officer	Unit 024	25	Jorge Rivera	Officer	Unit 001	25
Virginia M. Gahan	Officer	Unit 010	31	Tracy D. Rogers	Officer	Unit 004	20
Jose J. Garcia Jr.	Officer	Unit 192	26	Glen Shirahama	Officer	Unit 701	28
Stephanie D. Gonzalez	Officer	Unit 192	27	Oscar L. Simmons	Officer	Unit 018	24
Joseph Z. Hancin	Officer	Unit 124	26	Wanda R. Slater	Officer	Unit 015	21
Keith L. Harris	Officer	Unit 189	27	Stephen R. Storck	Detective	Unit 640	25
Jonathan A. Hernandez	Officer	Unit 016	21	Edwin E. Tremore	Officer	Unit 018	26
Robert K. Hughes	Officer	Unit 002	21	Luis Varela	Officer	Unit 012	30
				Jonathan M. Way	Officer	Unit 012	28
				Richard L. Williams	Officer	Unit 009	22

Retiree Meetings

Check the contact info listed with each location to confirm meetings are being held

North

First Monday of month
@ 8 a.m.
Blossom Cafe
8349 W. Lawrence Ave., Norridge
Ken Hauser, 312-485-8388

The Northsiders' Luncheon

Third Wednesday of January, April,
July, October @ noon
Suparossa, Chicago
Paul Vitaioli, 312-402-1040

South

Second Wednesday of month
@ 10 a.m.
Jedi's Garden, Oak Lawn

8-Ball Luncheon

Last Wednesday of month
@ noon
Les Brothers, Oak Lawn
Dorothy Piscitelli, 773-972-0139

Bomb and Arson

Second Monday of month

@ 9 a.m.

Fiesta Tapatia Restaurant
Chicago
Ross Horne, 312-613-9182

12th District Retirees and Alumni

First Thursday of month
@ 10 a.m.
Southern Belles Restaurant
Bridgeview
12retirees@comcast.net

Crime Lab, ETs, Forensic Services and Mobile Unit

First Tuesday of month @ noon
Flap-Jacks Restaurant, Oak Lawn
Bob Baikie, 773-284-1935

Orland Park Law Enforcement Organization

Third Thursday of month
@ 7:30 p.m.
Orland Park Civic Center
Orland Park

Don Ade, 708-408-9308

Survivors Lunch

Second Saturday of month
@ 11 a.m.
Beverly Woods Restaurant
Chicago

Public Housing Unit (North, South and Administration)

First Wednesday of month
@ 10 a.m.
George's Restaurant, Chicago
Maurice Brown, 773-577-0154

Arizona Retirees

Third Wednesday of month
@ 11 a.m.
Tavern Grille
8880 E. Via Linda, Suite 106
Scottsdale, Arizona
Brian DuFour, 623-521-6146 or
bdu4@aol.com

Arkansas Retirees

Third Friday of month @ noon
Elks Lodge
Mountain Home, Arkansas
Bob Zdora, 870-405-5407

Florida Retirees

First Wednesday of month
@ 1 p.m.
Cop Shop, Cape Coral, Florida
Tom Faragoi, 239-770-7896

Michigan Retirees

First Thursday of month
@ 8 a.m.
Macks on Main
101 W. Cedar Ave.
Gladwin, Michigan

Northern Illinois/Southern Wisconsin Retirees

Second Thursday of month
Herner's Hideaway
N202 Williams Road
Genoa City, Wisconsin

Remembering Sisters and Brothers who have passed

Name	Status	Age	Date of Death
Michael J. McNulty	Retired	75	April 30, 2022
George Vanderschoot	Retired	84	May 3, 2022
William Phillippo	Retired	79	May 4, 2022
Richard Elmer	Retired	71	May 9, 2022
Michael J. Sartori	Retired	67	May 10, 2022
William Ruck	Retired	57	May 13, 2022
Marilyn Weiglein	Retired	76	May 17, 2022
Robert E. Quaid	Retired	74	May 18, 2022

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City violates RDO pilot program in settlement agreement



**PAT
FIORETTO**

As the first of the 2022 summer holidays approached, it did not take long for the City to violate a major term of the settlement agreement, which the parties negotiated last year. As those who are familiar with reading my prior articles know, the cancellation of RDOs has become a common practice with the City. Let's review how we got a pilot program in the first place and what the City remains obligated to do pursuant to its terms.

In May 2021, the City issued an order involving the 2021 Memorial Day Deployment Plan. The Department canceled nearly all RDOs over a two-week period, resulting in some officers working 16 consecutive days without a single day off. The Lodge immediately filed a class-action grievance challenging the City's decision.

At the start of the arbitration hearing, with the guidance of the mutually selected arbitrator, the parties settled the matter and entered into a pilot program. The underlying principle of the settlement stems from the fact that the contractually protected RDOs should not be cancelled without a legitimate reason and/or in accordance with the terms of the contract. In other words, the spirit of the settlement revolved around protecting RDOs and prohibiting the City from canceling them with little notice to alleviate some of the harm, stress and frustration many police officers endure when RDOs are canceled abruptly. Moreover, the Lodge stressed the importance of not having officers

work more than 10 consecutive days, given the negative impact which officers inevitably suffer without a day off to decompress.

Several provisions of the Settlement Agreement are worth noting. First, Paragraph 2 specifically states:

No less than twenty-eight (28) days before the effective date of deployment, except where operational needs preclude doing so, for each of the four holidays above, the Department will send an anticipatory notice apprising officers of the then-anticipated deployment needs. It is understood that this notice is anticipatory and subject to change. The notice shall be communicated to the official email accounts of officers. In addition, an AMC message will be sent and will be required to be read at roll call, if applicable. As part of the notice, officers will be offered the opportunity to volunteer to work on days during the scheduled deployment they are not scheduled to work (e.g., RDO or furlough). In the event of a need for additional manpower for the deployment, the Department will first utilize the officers who volunteered to work pursuant to the anticipatory notice.

To the Department's (limited) credit, on April 28, 2022, it did send out an anticipatory notice concerning the 2022 Memorial Day holiday, seeking volunteers, if "additional manpower" was necessary.

Next, Paragraph 3 goes on to explain the City's obligation as

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the enumerated holiday approaches and requires the Department to inform and notify officers as follows:

No less than fourteen (14) days in advance of the scheduled deployment, the Department will send (via email and AMC message) an effective notice, containing the then-anticipated length of the deployment, whether RDOs will be cancelled, which units will be subject to the deployment, and whether 12-hour workdays will be implemented. It is understood that this notice is subject to change in order to respond to operational needs that were not anticipated.

On May 9, 2022, the Department did issue its effective notice: it informed officers that all RDOs will be cancelled for all sworn, full-duty officers, city-wide, from May 24 through May 31, 2022. In doing so, the Department offered no explanation as to why all officers had to have all their RDOs canceled during the relevant time period. Nor did the Department provide any information as to why all RDOs had to be cancelled. We can only assume it is because of the "crime rate."

Such cancellations result in officers working more than 10 consecutive days, which is a violation of Paragraph 9 of the same agreement, which reads as follows:

The effective notice referenced herein shall not require officers to work more than ten (10) consecutive days, unless in good faith, at the time of the effective notice, the Department reasonably concludes that it requires officers to work longer than ten (10) consecutive days.

This language does not give the Department carte blanche to work officers longer than 10 consecutive days. Indeed, when the parties negotiated the entire settlement agreement, and Paragraph 9 specifically, the Lodge made it clear that "an increase in crime" does not amount to a basis to have officers work more than 10 consecutive days. Rather, several examples were given, which included exigent circumstances such as another riot or civil unrest (as Chicago experienced in May 2020), a NATO summit, or a sports championship victory (similar to the Bulls' championship in the 1990s).

High crime, sadly, is now a normal, ongoing occurrence in the City. Crime exists each and every day — not only around the holidays and weekends. Other solutions exist (perhaps hiring more police officers). The solution is not to work officers more than 10 consecutive days. Real data exist which show the harm to officers emotional, physical and psychological, not to mention the harm to citizens, if officers are overworked without ample time to rest and decompress.

Despite raising these concerns with the Department, nothing changed. Therefore, the Lodge recently filed another class-action grievance and brought the issue back to the same arbitrator, who retained jurisdiction and will address the matter in an expedited manner. The Department cannot keep treating its officers this way. While the Department does not seem to care about officer wellness (despite paying lip service), Lodge 7 and this administration will continue to fight for the health and safety of those who serve the city of Chicago. Stay safe!



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Fireman's rule



**TIM
GRACE**

America is truly the home of litigation. Americans love to litigate and fight. This is particularly true in the field of personal injury and workplace injuries. Chicago Police Officers can join the fight and litigate to recover damages for the injuries that they sustain on duty, too. Serving as a law enforcement officer is a dangerous job.

Unfortunately, it is common for a Chicago Police Officer to become injured while on duty. Officers can sustain minor injuries and also severe injuries while on duty. Often, Chicago Police Officers believe or hear that the only option available to address their duty-related injuries caused by someone else is to be placed on injured on duty status (IOD) until they recover from their injuries and can return to work. This is not always true. But first, the officer must be able to defeat the "fireman's rule." This can be accomplished more often than you might think.

A century ago, courts and states throughout the country adopted a legal theory identified as the fireman's rule. What does this mean? A fireman who becomes injured fighting a fire can't recover from the homeowner for their injuries.

The fireman's rule was then expanded to include police officers. If an officer is injured doing some act that is unique to law enforcement officers, the officer can be barred from recovering damages from the responsible person or entity. For example, an officer is called to a residence on a domestic call. The officer is injured in a struggle with the offender. The officer is barred from recovering damages for the injuries they sustain in the struggle from the homeowner or person requesting emergency police assistance. However, there are many instances when an officer is injured on duty and can hold a person or entity liable and responsible for the officer's injuries and damages.

In the domestic call example above, if the officer's injuries were caused by the willful, wanton and intentional acts of the offender, the officer can recover for their injuries and damages from the offender. An officer who responds to a call and is attacked by a dog without any notice of the dog's presence, or if the dog is not leashed or reasonably controlled, can recover damages from the owner of the dog for their injuries.

Officers on routine patrol or traveling in their vehicles who are injured in a collision can recover for their injuries



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and damages from the negligent driver. Other examples include, but are not limited to, incidents where the injuries to the officer are caused by a dangerous condition found on the property.

Why should Chicago Police Officers consider additional options for recovery for their injuries besides simply injury on duty (IOD)? Injury on duty status is a great benefit for officers. It protects the officer's wages and covers all of the officer's medical expenses. But injury on duty does not fully compensate the officer for their damages. An officer's pain and suffering related to their injuries is not recoverable or compensable under IOD. Injury on duty does not compensate the officer for any scarring, permanent disfigurement or the lasting, permanent effects of the injury. On-duty injuries almost always negatively impact the officer's enjoyment of their private lives. This is also not compensable under IOD.

While the fireman's rule does limit the officer's ability to receive full compensation for their injuries, it is worth considering all of your available options to receive as much compensation as possible for your duty-related injuries. As a further incentive, any compensation that you receive through litigation, excluding the benefits received through IOD, is not taxable by the IRS as income. It certainly is worth a look if you are injured and there is clear liability on another party.

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Portraits by Peter Bucks

Tributes to officers from the CPD Officer, Lodge 7 member and renowned artist

‘People come in here and talk to you about everything’

■ BY ESTHER GONZALES

When a fellow officer suddenly collapsed to the ground at Department headquarters in 2016, Chicago Police Officer Beata “Bea” Staszewski’s instincts kicked in right away. She immediately began performing CPR while other officers located a defibrillator. Once paramedics arrived to the scene, they told Staszewski she had helped save the officer’s life.

The significance of saving one of her own has stuck with Staszewski throughout her 19-year career.

“In the moment, we did everything we could to save him,” Staszewski reflected. “And only afterward did I realize the importance of all the actions taken that day, because we didn’t know if he was going to be OK. It was pretty impactful that we were able to act in a way that contributed to him surviving.”

Staszewski, who was born and raised in Chicago as a daughter of Polish immigrants, never planned a career in law enforcement. But after a family friend recommended that she take the law enforcement entry examination, she did.

After the academy, Staszewski served in the 11th District as the watch secretary. Her presence there impacted many officers as she became someone they could talk to, whether it was recounting their day or asking for advice.

That’s when a supervisor recognized Staszewski’s influence and suggested she go back to school.

“He was like, ‘People come in here and talk to you about everything. You might as well just go to school for this,’” Staszewski related. “That’s how I ended up pursuing an education in mental health. I’m one of those people that people just feel comfortable talking with.”

In 2016, Staszewski graduated from Adler University with a doctorate in clinical psychology. Although the journey was hard at times, the support Staszewski received from her family made her more determined to complete the program so she could help



BEATA “BEA”
STASZEWSKI
Star #7182
Professional
Counseling Division
Unit 128

others in a greater way.

“It was hard, I’m not going to lie, but I had someone in my corner,” Staszewski attested. “And I think that when you have people to support you and help you understand options when you feel like there are none, or when things just seem like a lot, it’s OK. It may not feel OK, but there is always someone there to help you keep going, even when times are really tough.”

Staszewski has served in numerous positions with the Department, including as a member of the special events unit, where she coordinated details assigned to festivals, parades and protests, among other large-scale events throughout the City. She also served as an instructor at the police academy, where she taught use of force.

For the past two years, Staszewski has served in the professional counseling division, where she combines her certification as a licensed professional counselor with her career in law enforcement. As part of her duties, she serves

as the program manager for the peer support section.

“I find it extremely helpful that I can wear both hats,” Staszewski remarked. “When people have some kind of concerns or they’re worried about themselves or people who they care about, I can help them understand what may be going on and make sure that they get referred to resources.”

Staszewski has also used her doctorate to specifically advocate for women in law enforcement. Since 2018, she has served as the first vice president of the Chicago Association of Women in Law Enforcement to mentor and offer support to hundreds of female officers in the City.

And her greatest inspiration has been the ability to offer support to others like she once received.

“People believed in me,” Staszewski added. “And I’d like to be able to share that as much as possible with anyone who may benefit from that.”

New public safety bills signed into law



DAVE
SULLIVAN

It's primary election season! If you haven't yet registered to vote, please do so. It's easy. The primary election was moved this year to Tuesday, June 28, so please remember to vote!

Because of the election, the legislature has adjourned, meaning the governor has been busy signing bills that were sent to him this spring. Several were related to public safety. As you all know too well, crime and public safety are very big issues. Here are a few public safety bills that have now been signed into law by the governor:

- HB 1091 was led by Attorney General Kwame Raoul and the Retail Merchants Association to address the organized retail theft problem that Chicago and other areas are facing. Those who violate the crime by knowingly engaging with others in a theft valued at \$300 or more would be guilty of a Class 3 felony, and those who engage in retail theft from one or more establishments would be guilty of a Class 2 felony.

- HB3863 was sponsored by Representative Vella and Senator Morrison and is a bill addressing the strain on officers and the difficulties in attracting and retaining officers. This fund offers retention incentives and recruiting funds to preserve force numbers.

- HB4736 was sponsored by Representative Gordon-Booth and Senator Peters, and it authorizes the creation and funding of the Co-Responders Pilot Program. The initial programs will launch in Peoria, Springfield, East St. Louis and Waukegan in the next six months.

- SB 4053 was sponsored by Senator Martwick and Representative Hurley, and it provides that beginning Jan. 1, 2023, the minimum widow's annuity shall be no less than 150 percent (rather than 125 percent) of the federal poverty level.

Obviously, public safety will continue to be a key issue as we move past the June 28 primaries and toward the November election.



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Grandpa's hands



**RABBI
MOSHE
WOLF**

One of the best lessons in life I learned from one of our members on the street. They said, "Rabbi, at times the responsibilities of this job get me down. The constant changing of policies, getting the short end of the stick, and people's attitudes toward first responders. But rest assured, we will not stop doing what we swore to do, because that's who we are." It made me smile and proud of my flock, and it reminded me of the story of "Grandpa's hands."

Grandpa, some 90-plus years, sat feebly on the patio bench. He didn't move, just sat with his head down staring at his hands. When I sat down beside him, he didn't acknowledge my presence. The longer I sat, the more I wondered if he was OK. Finally, not really wanting to disturb him, but wanting to check on him at the same time, I asked him if he was OK.

He raised his head and looked at me and smiled. "Yes, I'm fine, thank you for asking," he said in a clear strong voice.

"I didn't mean to disturb you, Grandpa, but you were just sitting here staring at your hands, and I wanted to make sure you were OK," I explained to him.

"Have you ever looked at your hands?" he asked. "I mean, really looked at your hands?"

I slowly opened my hands and stared down at them. I turned them over, palms up and then palms down. No, I guess I had never really looked at my hands, as I tried to figure out the point he was making.

Grandpa smiled and said, "Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout your years. These hands, though wrinkled, shriveled and weak, have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out and grab and embrace life. They braced and caught my fall when as a toddler I crashed upon the floor. They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back. When I was a child, my mother taught me to fold them in prayer. They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots. They held my rifle and wiped my tears when I went to the military. They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent. They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my newborn son. Decorated with my wedding band, they showed the world that I was married and loved someone special. They wrote letters home and trembled and shook when I buried my parents and spouse and walked my daughter down the aisle. Yet, they were strong and sure when I dug my buddy out of a foxhole and lifted a plow off my best friend's foot. They have held children, consoled neighbors, and shaken in fists of anger when I didn't understand. They have covered my face, combed my hair and washed and cleansed the rest of my body. They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw. And to this day when not much of anything else of me works very well, these hands hold me up, lay me down and again continue to fold in prayer.

"These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of my life. But more importantly, it will be these hands that G-d will reach out and take when he

leads me home. And with my hands, He will lift me to His side, and there I will use these hands to touch the face of my maker."

I will never look at my hands the same way again. But I remember the day G-d reached out and took my grandpa's hands and led him home. When my hands are hurt or sore or when I stroke the faces of my children, wife or loved ones, I think of Grandpa. I know he has been stroked and caressed and held by the hands of G-d.

To my brothers and sisters who go out every day, to do G-d's holy work of protecting His children and keeping our streets safe, you are the hands of our society. You are like Grandpa's hands in the story. Your work is scrutinized, you get yelled at, shot at, sometimes abused physically and verbally by the same people you are trying to protect, but you keep on giving of yourself, and for that we say, thank you, thank you, thank you. Our society couldn't live without you. Without you, we would be like a child trying to go through life without hands.

Some points to ponder and keep you smiling.

- Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.
- Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
- If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
- Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you don't have a leg to stand on.
- In life, nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
- You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.
- Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened.
- We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colors, but they all have to learn to live in the same box.
- Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.
- No matter how good a friend is, they're going to hurt you every once in a while, and you must forgive them for that.
- You should always leave loved ones with loving words. It may be the last time you see them.
- You can keep going . . . long after you can't.
- Either you control your attitude, or it controls you.
- Sometimes the people you expect to kick you when you're down will be the ones to help you get back up.
- Just because someone doesn't love you the way you want them to doesn't mean they don't love you with all they have.
- It isn't always enough to be forgiven by others. Sometimes you have to learn to forgive yourself.
- No matter how badly your heart is broken, the world doesn't stop for your grief.
- The people you care about most in life are sometimes taken from you too soon. Remind them every day how

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

Keeping up morale during a difficult time



FATHER
DAN
BRANDT

Recently, I had the pleasure of enjoying a beer with Chicago White Sox legend Ron Kittle. The venue was Horse Thief Hollow on South Western Avenue, a CPD-friendly brewery and restaurant. The event raised funds for police charities as bartenders tapped a special lager made just for the occasion. The unique and tasty beer, dedicated to our hardworking officers, was aptly named "Canceled RDOs."

As RDOs are cancelled and extended days are required, morale among our members continues to decline. To combat this, I beg you as you go about your daily routine, remember: You are doing God's work, and our Creator smiles on you for it.

If the CPD chaplains can ever be of any assistance or support to CPD members, retirees or families, please don't hesitate to call on us: Chaplain Bob Montelongo (773-459-5089), Chaplain Joe Jackson (312-771-6684), Chaplain Hysni Selenica (312-771-6692), Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis (312-771-6638), Rabbi Moshe Wolf (773-463-4780), or me (773-550-2369). All these numbers (also listed in your FOP directory under "Chaplains") are cell phones and receive text messages. You can also email us through the chaplains' website. Be assured of our non-judgmental confidentiality.

The Department's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) professional counseling service is also a terrific (and confidential) resource on-call 24/7 at 312-743-0378. Please don't ever hesitate to utilize their services.

A CPD spouses' resource group is also available. If your spouse would like to



participate in this group, which meets periodically in a central location, please let me know and I'll put you in touch with the group's chairperson.

Our regular twice-monthly police Masses are offered at Mercy Home. In order to allow for social distancing, these Masses are celebrated on the indoor soccer field at Adams and Aberdeen. Mass is held the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 11 a.m. and, for the sake of on-duty worshippers, is kept under 30 minutes.

We will also celebrate a special Father's Day Mass at Gold Star Memorial and Park at 10 a.m. Sunday, June 19. Being an outdoor venue, if the weather looks questionable, please call 773-550-2369 that morning to make sure that the Mass is on. You are welcome to bring folding chairs or a blanket, and even a picnic lunch for after Mass.

In June, the Police Chaplains Ministry hosts our beloved Gold Star Families on their 25th annual luncheon cruise aboard the Spirit of Chicago. If you would like to help underwrite the cost of this outing, feel free to donate via our website or by mailing a check to Police Chaplains Ministry, 1140 W. Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60607.

On Thursday, July 21 at 6:30 p.m., our Upper Room Club will meet at Pizano's Pizza/Pasta at 21st and Indiana. Come enjoy a meal, drinks and faith-sharing opportunity in good CPD company.

Mark your calendar to celebrate "Sunday Funday" on July 31 at Dugans, 128 S. Halsted. We'll have food and an open bar from 4-6 p.m. for those who make a donation to Police Chaplains Ministry. Chances are very good that we'll stick around for a bit after 6!

God bless you as you continue to do God's work. Please stay safe and healthy!

Call or text Father Dan Brandt, directing CPD chaplain, at 773-550-2369 or email dan.brandt@chicagopolice.org.

WOLF CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

much they mean to you.

- Life is a journey, not a destination. Enjoy the ride even when the scenery changes.

On behalf of all your chaplains, may G-d bless you, keep you safe and always keep you in His loving care.

A special congratulations to our very own Father Dan Brandt, who this month celebrates 23 years of being ordained. Feel free

to drop him a congratulatory message at: dan.brandt@chicagopolice.org.

Should you need a shoulder to lean on or an ear to listen, or perhaps have some good humor to share, please do not hesitate to give us a call.

Blessings for a healthy, enjoyable summer. Amen.

Contact Rabbi Moshe Wolf at 773-463-4780 or e-mail: moshe-wolf@hotmail.com

Chicago Lodge 7 Officer Awards

Distinguished Service Award

Police Officer Gary Anderson, Star #6369

**Police Officer Gerardo Calderon Jr.,
Star #17623**

Police Officer Robert Goins, Star #5424

**Police Officer Emerico Gonzalez,
Star #9627**

**Police Officer Mark Hernandez,
Star #12289**

Police Officer Ricky Hughes, Star #8666

Police Officer Gerold Lee, Star #15949

Police Officer Joy McClain, Star #4915

Police Officer Fernando Velez, Star #13216

Sergeant Federico Andaverde, Star #2530

**Nominated by Police Officer Ricky Hughes,
Star #8666, Unit 189**



spanned the entire summer.

In July 2021, Team C-5 concluded its investigation after numerous narcotics and money seizures. Two search warrants led to seizures that included \$270,271 in USC, 193,565 grams of cannabis, 247 cannabis THC vapes, 1,154 cannabis THC edibles, 30 grams of ketamine, 20 grams of methamphetamines, 1 gram of cocaine, three 9mm semi-automatic handguns, one bulletproof vest and five vehicles.

The total estimated street value of the narcotics recovered was \$3,218,870, along with five offenders of an organized narcotics trafficking ring who were charged with numerous felony charges.

It is with great appreciation that Chicago Lodge 7 presents these officers with the Distinguished Service Award.

On May 19, 2020, the Bureau of Counter Terrorism, Narcotics Division Team C-5 initiated a narcotics investigation in the Chinatown/Bridgeport areas. The investigation began and was temporarily halted due to civil unrest and riots in Chicago that

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Chicago Lodge 7 Officer Awards

Distinguished Service Award

Sergeant Syed Quadri, Star #2406
 Detective Nicholas Nickeas, Star #20020
 Police Officer Ihmoud Samer,
 Star #17044
 Police Officer Mohammed Ahmed,
 Star #16497
 Police Officer Artur Tomkow,
 Star #18747
 Police Officer Slawomir Skubaja,
 Star #9475
 Police Officer Zohaib Zaib, Star #10988
 Police Officer John Welliver, Star #19026
 Police Officer Shoaib Ghalib, Star #13523
 Nominated by Sergeant Johnny Santiago,
 Star #1223, Unit 020

On July 10, 2021, officers from the 24th District Mission Team observed a stolen vehicle in traffic and were able to place the occupants into custody. The officers were able to determine that this stolen auto was used in a recent shooting.

A search warrant was obtained, which led to the discovery of another stolen vehicle from behind the offender's residence, the



key fob for that stolen vehicle, as well as a replica Glock handgun that had been displayed in a recent carjacking. The officers and followup investigator were able to clear three other vehicular hijackings.

The offender was arrested again a month later when he was observed entering a stolen vehicle parked behind his residence. A rifle loaded with armor-piercing rounds was also recovered at the scene. The offender gave admissions of guilt, and he identified his co-offender in the string of carjackings.

This joint effort by the entire team led to removing violent offenders from the streets and in solving a crime pattern involving seven related RD numbers.

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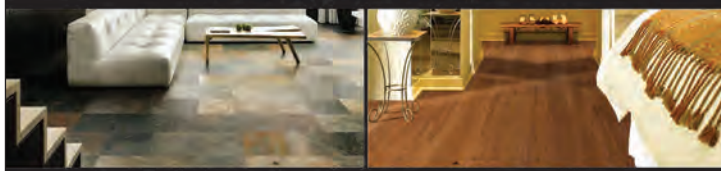
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Your get-ready-for-summer checklist



TOM
TUOHY

As we all get ready for summer, now is an excellent time to take a minute and review the basics to ensure you are organized and there are no gaps in your healthcare, financial, insurance or estate plan documents.

Power of attorney

- Are your agents outdated because of age, disability or residence?
- Is your child now old enough to be your agent?
- Update your healthcare power of attorney (POA) to include authority for your agent to access healthcare workers remotely and to visit you via Zoom or FaceTime.

Healthcare

Whether a trip to the hospital is sudden or planned, you will need a current healthcare power of attorney document. You will be asked for this legal document, and if you do not have one, you will be required to sign something you do not understand while in the hospital, under stress and with plenty of other things on your mind.

A healthcare POA appoints a person to make all healthcare decisions for you if you cannot do so. This person can access your medical records to accept or withdraw treatment, admit or discharge you from the hospital and make decisions on life support. If you have arrived at the hospital unconscious, it is chaos with your family and medical personnel. This isn't a situation you want to be in or one you want for your family. Make sure someone is in charge.

Take a minute to review your existing healthcare POA and ensure the right person is named and that the document is current. If you do not have one, now is the time to get one.

Financial

The law holds that no one, not even a spouse, can legally sign your name unless you have a valid financial power of attorney document that designates an agent to do so. Your financial POA agent has the legal authority to manage your financial affairs if you can no longer make these decisions yourself. A financial POA is an important document to ensure that your financial matters are handled efficiently in an unfortunate occurrence.

Beneficiary designations

- Were any children born after your insurance policies or tax-deferred accounts were opened?
- Have any beneficiaries died?
- Has your marriage ended, or are you separated from your spouse?
- Is there a change in circumstances with a beneficiary due to relationships, marriage, addiction or civil liabilities? Name your living trust to protect their inheritance.
- Do any beneficiaries have a legal disability? Name your living trust to avoid government reimbursement from your estate.

- Are any beneficiaries minors under the age of 18? Name your living trust to avoid probate.

Living trust or other estate plan

- What has changed in your family? Have you moved?
- If something happens to you, does your estate plan reflect your current wishes?
- Are your beneficiaries the same? Do you need to remove a beneficiary or add a new one?
- Are any changes needed on the timing of the transfer of your assets to your beneficiaries?
- Do your beneficiaries require asset protection because of disability, legal trouble or a failing marriage?
- Is your trustee or executor still appropriate?
- Are all your assets titled in the name of your living trust?

Real estate deeds

- Did you remember to retitle your property deed into the name of your living trust during the refinance closing?
- Have you moved to a new residence? Did you take the title of your new property in the name of your living trust?
- Are you still working? If so, as the active police and married, the title to the deed of your principal place of residence should be in tenants by entirety for maximum asset protection.
- Have you gotten married? Is it your intention to include your spouse on the deed?

FOP living trusts

This summer, lock in a one-third police discount on fees for you and your family members for a complete living trust estate plan. At the end of your life or incapacitation, they risk probate if you have property, investments or bank accounts in your name.

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- Your financial accounts, life insurance policies and deferred compensation accounts can name your living trust as beneficiary, subject to essential tax considerations.
- A living trust estate plan includes both healthcare and financial power of attorney documents. It also consists of a last will and testament. A will is necessary for guardianship of minor children. It also transfers assets in your name out of probate.
- A living trust contains a no-contest provision and beneficiary asset protection clauses.

Tom Tuohy is the founder of Tuohy Law Offices and the FOP Benefits Plan. He has been a police lawyer for over three decades. His father was a CPD detective, and his grandfather was the CPD chief of major investigations. You can reach Tom at 312-559-8400 or visit his office in Oakbrook Terrace.

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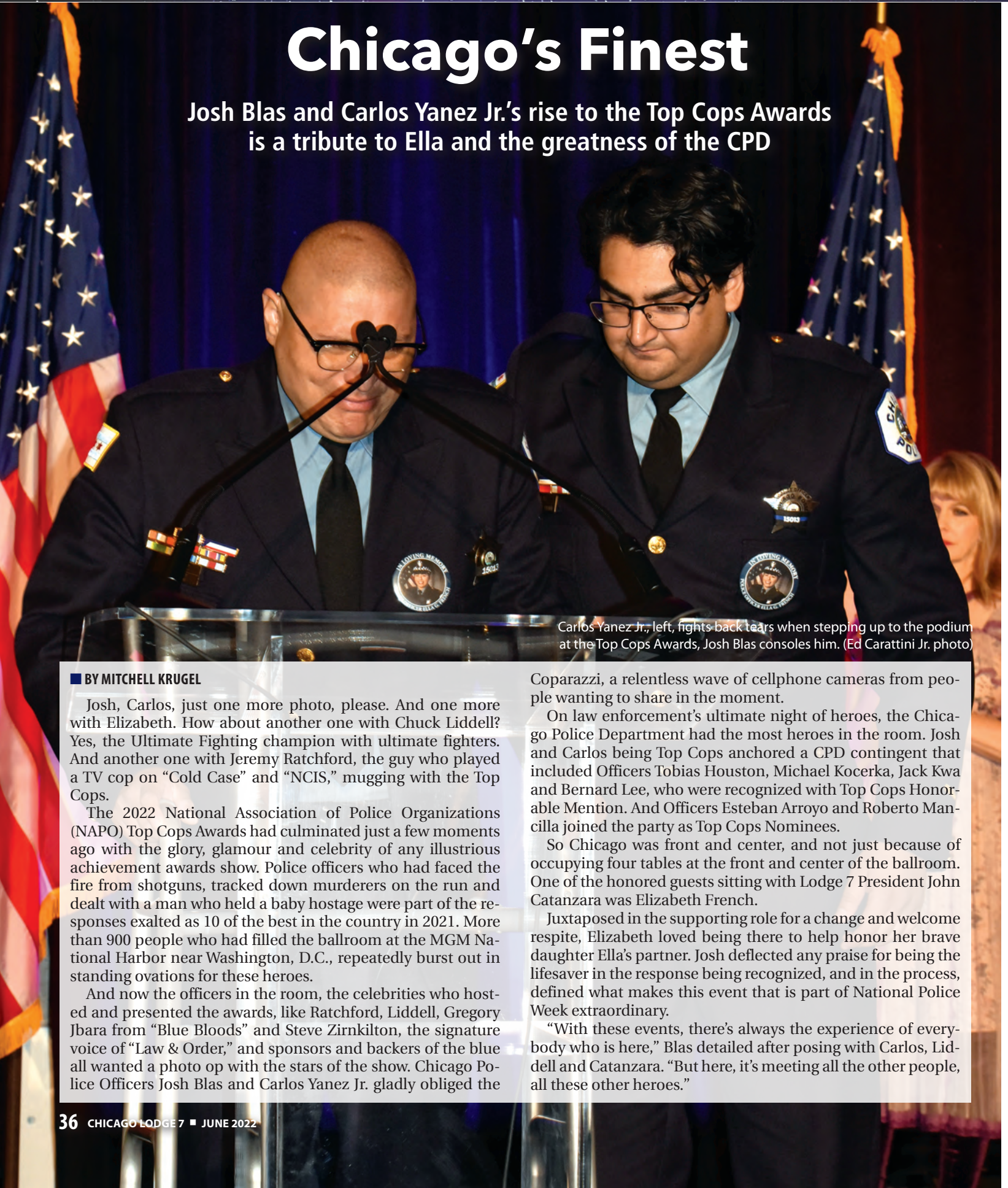
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Chicago's Finest

Josh Blas and Carlos Yanez Jr.'s rise to the Top Cops Awards is a tribute to Ella and the greatness of the CPD



Carlos Yanez Jr., left, fights back tears when stepping up to the podium at the Top Cops Awards, Josh Blas consoles him. (Ed Carattini Jr. photo)

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Josh, Carlos, just one more photo, please. And one more with Elizabeth. How about another one with Chuck Liddell? Yes, the Ultimate Fighting champion with ultimate fighters. And another one with Jeremy Ratchford, the guy who played a TV cop on “Cold Case” and “NCIS,” mugging with the Top Cops.

The 2022 National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) Top Cops Awards had culminated just a few moments ago with the glory, glamour and celebrity of any illustrious achievement awards show. Police officers who had faced the fire from shotguns, tracked down murderers on the run and dealt with a man who held a baby hostage were part of the responses exalted as 10 of the best in the country in 2021. More than 900 people who had filled the ballroom at the MGM National Harbor near Washington, D.C., repeatedly burst out in standing ovations for these heroes.

And now the officers in the room, the celebrities who hosted and presented the awards, like Ratchford, Liddell, Gregory Jbara from “Blue Bloods” and Steve Zirkilton, the signature voice of “Law & Order,” and sponsors and backers of the blue all wanted a photo op with the stars of the show. Chicago Police Officers Josh Blas and Carlos Yanez Jr. gladly obliged the

Coparazzi, a relentless wave of cellphone cameras from people wanting to share in the moment.

On law enforcement’s ultimate night of heroes, the Chicago Police Department had the most heroes in the room. Josh and Carlos being Top Cops anchored a CPD contingent that included Officers Tobias Houston, Michael Kocerka, Jack Kwa and Bernard Lee, who were recognized with Top Cops Honorable Mention. And Officers Esteban Arroyo and Roberto Mancilla joined the party as Top Cops Nominees.

So Chicago was front and center, and not just because of occupying four tables at the front and center of the ballroom. One of the honored guests sitting with Lodge 7 President John Catanzara was Elizabeth French.

Juxtaposed in the supporting role for a change and welcome respite, Elizabeth loved being there to help honor her brave daughter Ella’s partner. Josh deflected any praise for being the lifesaver in the response being recognized, and in the process, defined what makes this event that is part of National Police Week extraordinary.

“With these events, there’s always the experience of everybody who is here,” Blas detailed after posing with Carlos, Liddell and Catanzara. “But here, it’s meeting all the other people, all these other heroes.”

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2022:

Top Cops Awards



Carlos Yanez Jr. thanks all the officers who saved his life. (Ed Carattini Jr. photo)

This year's heroes included far too many responses in which officers were lost or seriously wounded in the line of duty. NAPO produces a program with detailed accounts of the incidents. The French-Blas-Yanez Jr. story carried a headline that accurately describe policing in Chicago and perhaps throughout the rest of the profession:

"Going into the Danger Zone."

According to the account, Ella, Josh and Carlos had been assigned to an elite unit deployed into the more violent areas of the City, like the crime-plagued 7th District. The account concluded with words that can never be reported enough.

"For his bravery in running back into the gunfire to protect his fellow officers, Officer Blas proves what being a TOP COP is all about. And for his courage and intense will to recover from a life-threatening gunshot wound, Officer Yanez exhibits the qualities of what being a TOP COP represents."

Tops Cops really sets the bar high for an achievement awards program. Each recipient is presented by a celebrity. And a video featuring Zirnkilton's ceremonial tones chronicles the response.

The allure of the Chicago video showed Josh sharing thoughts that he had not previously articulated. The CPD members and Lodge 7 staff in attendance knew this when the video showed Josh having to pause to what looked like wipe away a tear. And everybody in the ballroom seemed to get caught up in that emotion.

After detailing how Ella, Josh and Carlos wound up in a car together that night and where they were positioned during the traffic stop, bodycam footage and radio calls told the story. As the video recapped Emonte Morgan acting belligerently with a drink in hand when having to get out of the car, and Eric Morgan bolting from the scene, cut to Josh to do what he loves to



Members of Chicago Lodge 7 and the Chicago Police Department gather on stage with Josh, Carlos and Elizabeth French for a photo after the awards ceremony.



From left, Ultimate Fighting champion Chuck Liddell with Carlos Yanez Jr. and Lodge 7 President John Catanzara.

do most – share about his working relationship and friendship with Ella.

"Me and Ella had an agreement that sometimes partners do," he explained. "And I always had the job of chasing the guys that ran."

The video had the sound from the radio of shots fired. And how that stopped Josh in his tracks of running after Eric Morgan.

"When I first heard the gunshots, I was worried. I didn't know what happened," Josh described. "All I know is that I had to get back to my partners."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2022:

Top Cops Awards

CHICAGO'S CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

The tears gave way to a bit of a smile when Josh talked about Ella on the video.

"You hear people talk about people being different or special, but that's the best way to describe Ella," he shared.

And after the video showed Carlos crushing it in rehab and yelling his catchphrase, "Gains, baby," Josh's smile on screen grew even bigger as he offered these words:

"Seeing him in the hospital, I think for both of us was a very emotional time. It's almost like anything didn't happen. He's, he's himself. He's in great spirits."

Court TV correspondent Beth Karas read the narrative of the incident and presented the awards to Josh and Carlos. Before calling them up to the stage, Karas declared, "I'm proud to say Ella's mother is here tonight. Elizabeth French, would you please stand up."

Top Cops don't have to make any remarks when accepting their awards. But everybody wants them to. Josh went first and expressed how thankful he is to have met Elizabeth and how Ella made him a better person and officer. Carlos followed. Fighting back tears himself now, he thanked everybody for saving his life.

Afterward, Josh and Carlos each shared how they were thinking about Ella when speaking at the podium.

"Yeah, I hope she's proud of the progress I'm making, and I hope she's looking down on me," Carlos confided.

And then, as has been his way since growing up in a police family, Carlos only wanted to praise the other officers who were



Carlos, Elizabeth and Josh take a photo together on the Top Cops stage.

honored as Top Cops. Actually, all other officers.

"Being around all these heroes and thinking about all the officers at home working the streets right now, so many of them deserve recognition," he continued. "And the ones who were here, it was an honor to share this moment with them."

After the last photo request, including a group photo with Elizabeth and the entire Chicago contingent on stage, Carlos and Josh shared a final hug.

"I really wanted him to know he saved my life because he came back for Ella and me," Carlos divulged. "I just really hope he knows how much that means."

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CPDeserving

NAPO Top Cop Honorable Mention gives four Chicago Police Officers well-earned recognition

■ BY ESTHER GONZALES

Cheers and applause echoed from the crowd of family members, friends and fellow law enforcement officers who attended the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) 29th Annual Top Cops Awards Dinner on May 12 in Washington, D.C., during National Police Week.

The names of 9th District Chicago Police Officers Tobias Houston, Michael Kocerka, Jack Kwa and Bernard Lee were called. And the applause intensified as they walked across the stage to accept their Top Cop Honorable Mention awards.

It was a moment of celebration and recognition that Chicago Police Officers have not received nearly enough of in what seems like forever.

As they stood beside officers from across the country, they reveled in how great it felt to finally be honored and praised for their work and putting their lives on the line every day.

"It feels good, because this is what you signed up for," Houston remarked. "You signed up for the honor and for doing your job."

The four Chicago Police Officers were honored for their heroic actions on March 25, 2021, when they encountered a suspect who had shot a security guard at a Home Depot. After 15 minutes of exchanging gunfire, the threat was ended.

Kocerka was perhaps the happiest to be in D.C. with the Top Cops. He was wounded in the response and realized just how fragile the job can be.

"That really comes in perspective when it happens to you personally," commented Kocerka, who didn't return back to work until six months after the incident. "But I think it's a learning experience and things could happen in a split second."

Standing in the hall outside the ballroom at the MGM National Harbor Hotel and Casino, Kocerka and Lee, who were partners, replayed the incident they had been recognized for.

The events began at the Home Depot on Western Boulevard, where Travon Chadwell had shot a security guard. When the officers arrived at the scene, they chased the suspect running on a sidewalk in the Brighton Park neighborhood and followed him into a dark alley.

Kocerka reached the alley first, and suddenly, shots were fired. Kocerka fell to the ground, and Lee ran to his side, unsure where he was wounded.

"It was a lot of confusion," Lee asserted. "We heard the gunshot, and then I saw my partner down. I grabbed him and then just focused on him, trying to make sure he was OK."

The bullet had gone through Kocerka's back, in the left shoulder and out the right shoulder.

That's when Houston and Kwa received a call that an officer had been shot.

They immediately responded with only one thought: Get the



From left, 9th District Police Officers Bernard Lee, Tobias Houston, Jack Kwa and Michael Kocerka received the NAPO 2022 Top Cop Honorable Mention award.

man who did this.

"I remember flying northbound," Houston related. "I kept telling my partner to relax. 'Breathe, bro. Relax, relax, relax, relax. We don't know if he's around this corner or that corner.'"

As soon as the officers arrived on scene and jumped out of the car, the suspect turned around and began firing at them. Houston returned fire as Kwa ran to the adjacent backyard for a clear shot.

Peeking over a fence, Kwa fired. He hit Chadwell.

"The officers who were there before me communicated where the guy was," Kwa recounted. "When I spotted him, we just had to do what we had to do at the end of the day."

Kwa attributes the success of locating the suspect to the teamwork his fellow officers displayed. Because to him, they're not just coworkers who have each other's backs.

"We work close together as a team, basically more like a family," Kwa remarked. "They're a great group of people, and they keep me going. Who wouldn't want to work with them and alongside them? That's what makes it."

Following the incident, Kocerka was transported to the hospital, where he was discharged by the end of the night. As he left the hospital, he was greeted by a procession of officers saluting him.

His partners were thrilled to know Kocerka would be OK.

And they were honored to stand by his side as they were awarded for their efforts.

"Just seeing Kocerka again, the officer that was shot, it's a great feeling," Kwa added. "It honestly feels good from the bottom of my heart."

Feeling the Love

CPD Officers Esteban Arroyo and Roberto Mancilla confirm what makes a Top Cop

■ BY BRITTANY KRUGEL

Chicago Police Officers Esteban Arroyo and Roberto Mancilla stopped for a moment to bring some perspective to being a Top Cop. They had just been recognized as 2022 Top Cops nominees at the awards banquet.

Seeing the other 30 or so police officers from across the country also getting this distinction in the ballroom of the MGM Harborside Resort as part of National Police Week, Arroyo and Mancilla considered what they had in common with law enforcement who were the best of the best in 2021, including eight from CPD.

“Man, it’s a great job. I love it. I love what I do,” Mancilla began. “Which is, I think everybody that’s here, that’s why they’re here. Because they love what they do.”

The 14th District officers proudly represented CPD. And they presented more evidence of what makes this Department one of the best in the country. No other department earned as much recognition in this year’s Top Cops as Chicago.



From left, Chicago Police Officers Esteban Arroyo and Roberto Mancilla stand on stage at the Top Cops awards.



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“You know people never want to see the good,” Arroyo added. “Nobody sees what we actually go through every day. This is what we do. We try to help the people that need help. We were out there to catch a bad guy. And that’s what we did.”

The response that earned Arroyo and Mancilla recognition started when the partners saw people running from the Belmont CTA station. Citizens told Arroyo and Mancilla there was a shooter, and they provided a description of the man. The officers heard he was running down Belmont Avenue toward Sawyer and immediately hopped in their car to chase after him.

“We drive down to where he’s at. He doesn’t listen to us,” Mancilla explained. “He takes off running. We run right after him, and we catch him.”

It didn’t take very long for the officers to catch him. And once they did, they found two handguns in his backpack. And they discovered that his concealed carry license had been suspended.

With a combined 16 years on the job, Arroyo, who has been on for nine years, and Mancilla have learned the key to having a successful outcome in a situation like this.

“Communication. Communication and just staying on the radio,” Arroyo noted. “Not losing the subject and just staying focused.”

Mancilla added another key to success.

“Just having a good partner,” he said. “I couldn’t ask for a better partner.”

On this award-winning night, Mancilla and Arroyo had the chance to love what they do as much as they ever have. It was a reminder of why they put their lives at risk. And what will motivate them to continue to do so every day.

“You know, we try to make this city as safe as possible,” Arroyo emphasized. “I have my kids, and I just want them to be safe.”



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Through Mama's Eyes

In honoring her beloved daughter, the profession reaches out to Elizabeth French

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

■ PHOTOS COURTESY OF CPD NEWS AFFAIRS

Salutes from Chicago Police Officers and other members of a combined honor guard greeted Elizabeth French when she emerged from the jetway at the airport in Washington, D.C. The next six days of National Police Week would be filled with similar reverence from so many people who wanted to salute Elizabeth and remember and honor her beloved daughter, who has become a true national hero.

National Police Week was ordained in 1962 to remember officers lost in the line of duty. The 60th anniversary brought the full complement of remembrance back to D.C. for the first time in three years with the Peace Officers Memorial Service, Candlelight Vigil and a plethora of runs, bike and motorcycle rides, pipes and drums performances and relentless honor guard salutes.

And as the week remembers the fallen, it also does so much to honor their family members. For a family member who is experiencing them for the first time, the events can be exhilarating and exhausting. Elizabeth French enjoyed and endured that gamut of emotions as she has with the utmost grace since Aug. 7, 2021, when Ella Grace was lost.

And while National Police Week 2022 confirmed that her sisters and brothers from Chicago and throughout the profession will never forget Ella, it also offered a tribute to Elizabeth. By the end of each unimaginably long day, Elizabeth no doubt wanted to go back to her hotel room and get some sleep. But before that, she maintained her smile and motherly demeanor – albeit among some needed tears – which have brought more strength to help the Department heal than she probably knows.

Elizabeth lent her mighty support and, judging by the photos on the facing page, a helpful touch of humor to Police Week's first big event, the National Association of Police Organizations Top Cops awards. She shared an uplifting moment with Josh Blas and Carlos Yanez Jr., who were honored as Top Cops for the response to the incident in which Ella was lost.

After that, Josh seemed to speak for the



entire Department when commenting, "Elizabeth, I am very thankful I met her."

Few people have had the chance to be there for Elizabeth the way Lodge 7 President John Catanzara has since last August. He sat with her at the Top Cops Awards, escorted her at a presentation at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and shared a hug with her after the CPD Honor Guard presented an emotional remembrance of Ella at the National Honor Guard Tribute.

Catanzara observed that National Police Week provided a consummate culmination for Elizabeth, one that she relished, perhaps.

"She had just gotten so accustomed to having there be somewhere to remember her daughter that I think there was a sense of relief," he stated. "It definitely was a unique situation which culminated in D.C."

Truth be told, Elizabeth has become a hero in her own right to Chicago Police Officers. Or maybe a mom to all of them. Lodge 7 member Nadine Bahena, who works in 009, traveled to Police Week on the same flight with Elizabeth. Just being there touched Bahena.

"I did not get a chance to talk to her, but I almost started crying it was so emotion-

al," added Bahena, who met Ella briefly when she did her cycles.

One of the most touching moments might have come at the Candlelight Vigil on May 13. The event is held on the National Mall and attracts nearly 40,000 people who listen to the names of each officer lost in the line of duty from the past year read and end the night by each holding up a lit candle to honor the fallen. About 10 rows from the stage where the names are read, Elizabeth sat clutching Josh's arm.

And then all the Chicago Police Officers who traveled to D.C. – many at their own expense – lined either side of the walkway in front of the U.S. Capitol to salute Elizabeth one last time as she exited the Peace Officers Memorial Service on May 15.

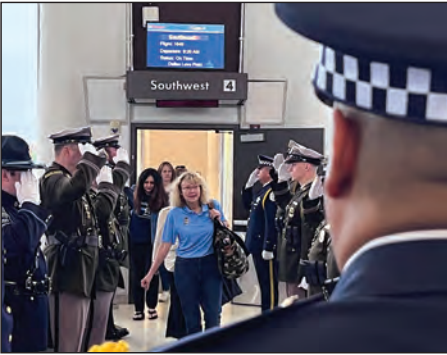
Before the Vigil, Elizabeth visited the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, where names of all officers lost in the line of duty are inscribed on the walls that line either side of the square block structure. The ritual there is for loved ones to take an etching of the name, as Elizabeth did. Carlos was there at the Wall with Elizabeth, and the image of the two grasping hands that is at the top of this page is almost beyond words.

Just these come to mind:

"We will never forget you, Ella."

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2022:

Remembering Ella





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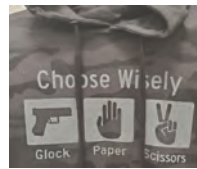
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NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2022:
National Peace Officers Memorial Service



At Peace

As they salute Gold Star families at the National Peace Officers Memorial, Chicago Police Officers feel the appreciation for all they do

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

■ PHOTOS COURTESY OF CPD NEWS AFFAIRS

Chicago Lodge 7 members held the line on May 15 at the 41st Annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service. Their present arms lasted almost an hour as Gold Star families from across the country walked through the corridor the officers formed on either side of the path leading to the front lawn of the U.S. Capitol.

Hundreds of Chicago Police Officers had come to be part of this line and be there to join in honoring Ella French and her family. Many came at their own expense, for creating the tribute to the Gold Star family members is the essence of National Police Week in Washington, D.C.

Knowing that could be their families, of course, made it so important to be on that line. If you have been there, you know what keeps Chicago coppers coming back year after year.

"It's a very emotional experience seeing it all, especially the

children walking by," described Lodge 7 Trustee David DiSanti, who took a position where the families entered the Memorial. "I think it's a little closure for them to share their grief with their police family, and seeing all the officers from all over the country makes you feel good about it."

Watching them walk through with their law enforcement officer escorts revealed something all the officers who came to Police Week loved seeing. The appreciation from the Gold Star families came with eye contact with those on the line, followed by a nod and a smile.

And there were the family members who dyed their hair blue seemingly for this occasion. Or painted their nails blue. And the female spouses wore those law enforcement-blue dresses. There was an overwhelming backing of the blue transpiring that reverberated through the Police Officers Memorial.

"We are needed in this country," interpreted Elizabeth

CONTINUED ON PAGE 48

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2022:

National Peace Officers Memorial Service



Josh Blas escorts Elizabeth French into the National Peace Officers Memorial Service, where Elizabeth pinned a flower to the National FOP Star to honor her daughter, fallen Chicago Police Officer Ella French.



Lodge 7 Third Vice President Fernando Flores, second from right, and Trustee David DiSanti, third from right, salute as Gold Star family members walk into the National Peace Officers Memorial Service.



Chicago Police Officers who attended National Police Week in front of the U.S. Capitol.

AT PEACE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 38

Marasigan, who works in Unit 188 at Homan Square and made her fourth visit to Police Week this year. “Seeing what’s happening now in the cities, in Chicago especially, we’re needed to protect the citizens and their property.”

As Chicago Police Officers mustered prior to the start of the Peace Officers Memorial, they were advising each other of the latest intel they had about what had been happening in Chicago during this weekend. They were discussing the violence that left at least five people are dead and 29 others wounded following weekend shootings in the City.

So perhaps seeing officers of all genders and races and from around the world provided a respite from all that. Jacqueline Torres, who works in 009, has been on for four and a half years and made her second trip to Police Week this year, sensed what this gathering of the profession meant.

“There’s still people that love this job,” she submitted. “I still love this job.”

Toward that end, there seemed to be some omnipresent signs within the Memorial. With the sun blazing down on the thousands in attendance, many family members brought umbrellas to provide some shade. One of those, apparently belonging to a Missouri family member who is part of Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) read “MO COPS.” More cops, indeed.

Lodge 7 President John Catanzara showed another accessory capturing the spirit of the profession with the tie he sported at the service. He had seen this tie at an event a few weeks earlier and wanted to know where to get one. It was made up of patches from police departments throughout the country. No more appropriate place to wear such apparel.

All of which made an impact on 9th District Officer Nadine Bahena, who made her first visit to Police Week this year.

“My friend told me it would be a good experience. She didn’t lie to me,” Bahena confirmed. “Everybody together, the closeness, feeling loved, it’s like we’re one big family.”

Retired Chicago Police Officer Sharon Colby has been coming to D.C. since 2005. She is a third-generation police officer, whose father retired as a sergeant and whose grandfather was injured in 1953 when his beat car flipped. He eventually succumbed to the injury suffered in that incident.

Having concluded her career in April of this year, Colby indi-

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2022:

National Peace Officers Memorial Service

cated that she will keep coming back as often as possible. The prime motivation is to bolster the numbers of officers at the Memorial so the Gold Star families can see the support. But also to get a feeling that only comes at Police Week.

"When I first came, I thought the show of camaraderie was just so impressive that I have to keep coming back," she reported. "Chicago has always been very impressive with the numbers of police officers who come, especially on their own dime. I think this show of support for the families, they're always so impressed when they come in and can't believe there are officers from all over the world."

The first page of the Peace Officers Memorial program featured a poem that conveyed why so many from the profession come to D.C. "A Part of America Died" included these inspiring lines:

*Somebody killed a policeman today,
and a part of America died.*

*A piece of our country he swore to protect
will be buried with him at his side*

*The beat that he walked was a battlefield too,
just as if he'd gone off to war.
Though the flag of our nation won't fly at half mast,
to his name they will add a gold star.*

Now his ghost walks a beat on a dark city street,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 50



After meeting Amethyst Tokley, who lost her father, Philadelphia Police Officer Erin Tokley, Lodge 7 President John Catanzara sent her a CPD bear ad T-shirt.

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NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2022:

National Peace Officers Memorial Service

AT PEACE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 49

*and he stands at each new rookie's side.
He answered the call, of himself gave his all,
And a part of America died.*

Standing with the large contingent of Chicago Police Officers as the service progressed, Evan Kilponen, who works SWAT out of Homan Square, saw these words manifest in the way they honored those who made the ultimate sacrifice. And how that emphasized why he came to Police Week for the sixth time in his almost 10 years on the job.

"It gives you a more well-rounded view of our profession as a whole," he added. "It reminds us that our job is important. It is a bit of a recharge and puts things back in perspective. You remember why you are doing this and who you are doing it for."

At the end of the day, of course, every Chicago Police Officer who attended would confirm that coming to Police Week is for those families. And for Ella this year. At the end of this day, Catanzara met a family member who brought the power of coming to Police Week to an unbelievable level.

Amethyst Tokley's father, Erin, a Philadelphia police officer and minister, was lost to COVID on March 3, 2021. Catanzara caught a glimpse of Amethyst clinging to a bear and struck up a conversation with the little girl.

"I'm pretty sure it had some kind of significance to her dad, and not knowing she was a Gold Star kid, I told her, 'You really

need a CPD bear,'" Catanzara explained. "So when we got back, we made the package extra special and overnighted it. She received it at 7 a.m. the next day."

The package included a pink CPD T-Shirt as well. Amethyst received it as she was getting ready to leave for her school, and her mother, Octavia, sent a picture of Amethyst to Catanzara with the following text:

"John, the UPS driver rang our bell at 6:58 this morning. I would have normally been afraid of a bell this early, but knowing my husband already has his wings, I thought it was just a neighbor. But no, it was Amethyst's special package. She was already dressed for school but immediately said, 'Can I change my shirt?' To say she loved it is just not enough. Thanks for standing in the gap!! Happy that our family extends beyond Philadelphia."

National Police Week inspires the pay-it-forward passion of law enforcement officers. Catanzara mentioned how he has seen officers throughout the country fill in the gaps for Ella's mother, Elizabeth. And that emphasizes the most important reason to stand on that line and hold that salute.

"Letting those families know that they may have local support, but they have it all across this country as well," Catanzara reiterated. "Those kind of moments are what this is all about."



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The Ultimate Ride

Chicago Lodge 7 members trek 250 miles in honor of their fallen brothers and sisters



■ BY ESTHER GONZALES

Preparing for the 250-mile ride from Chesapeake, Virginia, to Fort Hunt Park near Washington, D.C., on April 10 for National Police Week, Lodge 7 Trustee Monica Ortiz and First Vice President Mike Mette knew they would have somebody helping them, pushing them through this ultimate tribute. They rode for three days through rough terrain and over bridges where 25-mile-per-hour winds hit them so hard they thought they might get blown off.

They rode until their legs felt like spaghetti. And just when they thought they couldn't go any farther, Ella continued to be their inspiration.

"When I started my ride in the morning that first day, I said, 'Come on, Ella. Let's go for a ride,'" Ortiz recounted, referring to the picture of fallen Chicago Police Officer Ella French on her handlebars. "Come on, let's go together."

Ella was their motivation and inspiration to complete the Law Enforcement United Road to Hope Bicycle Ride May 10–12. And when they reached the end, Ortiz gave the black bracelets that she and Mette wore, engraved with Ella's name, to Ella's



Chicago Lodge 7 First Vice President Mike Mette and Trustee Monica Ortiz participated in the Law Enforcement United Road to Hope Bicycle Ride.



A photo of Chicago Police Officer Ella French on their bikes helped inspire Mette and Ortiz to make the 250-mile ride from Virginia to Washington, D.C. They also each wore a black bracelet with Ella's name, which they gave to Elizabeth French upon reaching D.C.

mother, Elizabeth.

It was an almost indescribable moment for Ortiz.

"I handed them to Elizabeth, and she gave me a hug," Ortiz recalled. "And then she said, 'I want you to have something.' She gave me a challenge coin of Ella. It's little things like that and knowing what that made her feel like. You can't put a price on those moments."

Law Enforcement United (LEU) is dedicated to honoring law enforcement officers who have been lost in the line of duty and their families. The organization provides monetary support for its biggest beneficiary, Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.), as well as for the Officer Down Memorial Page.

LEU also assists other charitable organizations that hold its same values to honor the service and sacrifice of those who gave their lives and to remember the survivors left behind.

It's the memory of officers like Ella that guided Ortiz and Mette.

On the first day of the ride, Ortiz and Mette completed 108 miles through downtown Richmond, Virginia, into Stafford. Along the way, residents of the surrounding communities stood along the road to show their support for the officers.

They waved American flags, held up "Thank You" signs and applauded. Virginia law enforcement officers saluted the riders, and construction workers even halted their work to cheer them on.

Riders stopped at several locations, including an elementary school in Virginia. Cheers rang out from the group of kindergarteners and first-graders, who displayed colorful hand-drawn posters with messages like "We love the police" and "Thank you for protecting us."

It was a memorable moment for Ortiz.

"Their eyes lit up, and they got so excited," Ortiz attested. "They all wanted to give us high-fives. They were so happy. And they were saying thank you. It's my favorite part."

Another stop came at the National Museum for the Marine Corps in Triangle, Virginia. Upon reaching the museum, Ma-



Children at an elementary school in Virginia, who created posters for the police officers who rode in the Law Enforcement United Road to Hope Bicycle Ride, greeted Mette.

rines who were riding honored their fallen brothers and sisters.

"They always do a little thing there where the Marine Corps guys get out there and start doing pushups to honor the fallen," Mette explained. "It inspires you to keep coming back, to keep doing it, because you really can see how the support helps them and affects them."

Ortiz and Mette have been participants in the Law Enforcement United Road to Hope Bicycle Ride since 2009. Ortiz remembers one of the first times she experienced seeing the Police Unity Tour and its 2,000 riders roll into the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in D.C. Goosebumps covered her arms, and she immediately wanted to find a way to get involved. That's when she was introduced to Law Enforcement United.

In the first year she participated, Ortiz was in tears after the first 75 miles because of how tough the ride was. She considered never participating again.

But the moment she reached the finish line, her mind changed.

"When you finish, you see those families, and you feel what they're feeling over three days," Ortiz remarked. "But I'll never feel their pain. I'm going to get up and leave that ride and go back to work. And they're always forever going to have the loss of a daughter, a mother, a father, a son. That is really what pushes you forward and has brought me back."

After completing another ride this year, Ortiz and Mette realized they wanted to recruit more Chicago Police Officers to participate. Mette noted how great it would be to have a CPD squad car or trailer join the effort to lend support to a large Chicago team making the ride.

The 2022 Road to Hope ride raised \$500,000 for C.O.P.S., which was generated by riders. And although each dollar makes a difference, Ortiz and Mette know that's not all the ride is about.

"When I'm able to do any of these events, I feel extremely honored, because these officers made the ultimate sacrifice," Ortiz added. "Showing up for those families is a big deal."

More Than a Performance

CPD Honor Guard shines with tribute to remember Ella



From left, Chicago Police Officers Michael Prohaska, Enrique Cervantes, Jordan Casey, Ramiro Alvarez and Rich Robles after the CPD Honor Guard completed its tribute to Ella French.

■ DAN CAMPANA

■ PHOTOS COURTESY OF CPD NEWS AFFAIRS

Fans rushed, and even pushed a little bit, to get a front-row spot for the next department preparing to perform its freestyle phase of the Steve Young National Honor Guard Exhibition & Tribute competition late in the afternoon of May 14. Apparently, they had been waiting all day for the Chicago Police Department Honor Guard to offer its tribute with the stirring performance the group has become renowned for.

"You will not be forgotten," the guard team of five officers shouted in unison to culminate the tribute. Officer Rich Robles had just finished poetically orating the tribute to Ella French, accentuating

how she should be remembered by the audience gathered near the reflecting pool outside the U.S. Capitol.

His riveting soliloquy transmitted a powerful and emotional message.

"She is your helpful neighbor. She's your endearing friend. She's your partner that expects you to bring your 'A' game. She is all of us."

The exhibition phase of the competition involves all members of the honor guard and is intended to be focused on recognizing the fallen. CPD's squad changed the event by bringing in a storytelling dynamic that has made it a must-see performance in recent years.

Some 200 people gathered this year as the team moved through its choreography. Robles painted the full picture of

Ella, noting how she loved animals and the White Sox and lived to be the police. She was a "guardian," who like too many other officers lost in the line of duty, inspires everyone "to rise up and give back," Robles said.

Watching all along was Elizabeth French, Ella's mother, who received hugs from each honor guard member at the performance's conclusion. The moment wasn't lost on anyone.

"It's incredibly humbling," said Officer Enrique Cervantes, who has been with the honor guard for four years. "The fact that we're in the backdrop of our nation's Capitol building, I really find myself at a loss for words. I'm thankful that I was selected and honored to do this presentation for Ella and that Mrs. French can see

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2022:

Honor Guard Exhibition and Tribute

that we haven't forgotten her.

"We still honor her daughter, and we'll forever honor her, never forget her," he said.

The presentation itself was inspired by the different parts of the soldier's cross. Ideas flowed from all members of the team to go from concept to reality, with Robles improvising as he spoke while Cervantes, Michael Prohaska, Jordan Casey and Ramiro Alvarez marched through the steps to put it all together.

"Our inspiration was obviously to be there for Mrs. French. It just started with a few thoughts and expanded to what it is," Robles explained. "I jotted down some ideas on how I would describe each individual piece [of the cross] and how it related to being a law enforcement officer. I also wanted to bring the human side of it."

Honor Guard Coordinator Prohaska elaborated on that message.

"[The police] are everyday people who make a commitment to possibly give that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 56



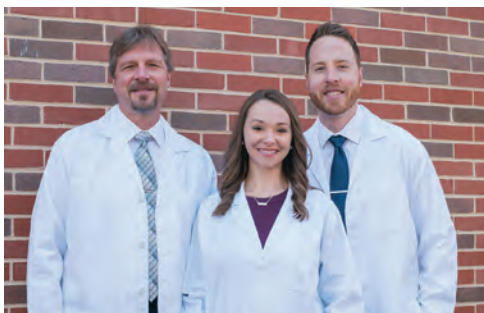
Ramiro Alvarez sets Ella French's shoes to complete the soldier's cross as Rich Robles presents the tribute at the National Honor Guard Exhibition and Tribute competition.



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NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2022:

Honor Guard Exhibition and Tribute



The CPS Honor Guard goes through the inspection and color guard phases of the competition.

MORE THAN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 55

ultimate sacrifice and, in addition to being police officers, we're people," he stated. "Just because we put a uniform on, it doesn't negate the fact that we are a part of this community."

Performing for Ella's mother and honoring a fallen colleague moved every member of the team in one way or another. Prohaska was at the hospital the night French died.

"I have a very personal connection to this. To be able to honor a sacrifice that she made like that, it made me feel good," he added.

Casey acknowledged that he didn't look at the crowd during the freestyle performance so that he wouldn't get emotional. But when it was all over, he caught the smile that Elizabeth French flashed to the team.

"It gave me chills. Exactly what you want to see," said Casey, a six-year veteran who has been on the honor guard for four of those years.

The connection between French's memory and the performance itself likely gets no stronger than for 10th District Officer Alvarez, who worked with Ella.

"She was awesome. She loved to work; always smiling. She definitely did not

have any fear whatsoever," Alvarez explained, adding that the exhibition's goal was to ensure she is remembered forever — and to get it right. "I knew who it was for. I knew Elizabeth French was watching, and that was my biggest thing — not messing up."

Robles summed it up best when he said that Elizabeth French's smile meant everything to the honor guard.

"That was worth it," Robles emphasized. "I don't know what kind of recognition we'll get here. That doesn't matter. Her recognition, to me, meant more than anything."





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On the Beats

CPD Pipes and Drums blows 'em away at Police Week competition



■ BY ELLEN WILKOWE

When officers of the Chicago Police Department took to the streets of the nation's capital for National Police Week, they were in tune with their surroundings and they didn't miss a beat. Especially a select group of them who make up the CPD Pipes and Drums band.

And the band played on in the Memorial Pipe Band Competition, held May 14, during National Police Week. Spirits — and notes — were high as the band was honored to once again perform in person with equal amounts hearts and hands, following a two-year sabbatical brought on by the pandemic.

"Bagpipes traditionally are deeply ingrained in police culture, especially in Chicago," said bass drummer Joe Effayer, who has 24 years. "So for me to be a part of such an honorable and traditional part of policing, it's amazing to me."

Effayer has put almost as much time into the band as he has into serving as a police officer, with 21 years and counting.

"It's just an absolute honor to be part of this group," he said. "This is, qualitywise,

a phenomenal band."

According to the competition's rules, bands play a performance to honor those being remembered. The musical selection should consist of a slow march/slow air set that is appropriate for a law enforcement funeral or memorial service. With a clearing near the Capitol Reflecting Pool as the chosen venue, the performances served as a tribute to fallen peace officers and their families.

The band's Police Week set included "La Boheme," "The Bells of Des Plaines" and "When the Pipers Play." The band selected its set based on past performances.

"It's something we play well together," Effayer said.

Piper Brian Reynolds, one of the founding members, echoed those sentiments.

"It's the synergy of when the band is on," he said after their performance.

With 25 years of service under his belt, Reynolds retired two years ago. The pandemic put the competition on hold until this year, and Reynolds was grateful to be back in his element.

"It's nice to be able to honor our fallen



properly," he said. "That's what I was looking forward to."

Just two days before his retirement, drum major Bill Schield waxed nostalgic over the 31 years he has put in as an officer. But while Schield may be retiring his badge, he will not be retiring from the band anytime soon.

The 22 years he's put into the band are just as important as the years he has dedicated to the force.

"So it's a way of showing everyone in the country, and even people in the whole world, just how much we care for our own, and we take care of our own," he said. "It's a solemn way of giving that warrior a send-off to the next life and letting

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2022:

The Memorial Pipe Band Competition



his family know that there is music to be heard.”

Piper Amy Petrouski also emphasized the role of music, especially in the absence of words.

“We try to heal with music, and we devote our time,” she explained. “It’s very emotional a lot of the time. We stick together through thick and thin for our fellow officers when tragedies happen.”

Petrouski is one of the newer band members, having joined just four years ago. The music and ceremonies were quite the departure from what she experienced playing pipes in her youth. But now

it’s the sweetest music she can imagine.

“When I joined the band, it became memorials and funerals. There’s been no greater honor,” Petrouski described. “It was like I was training my whole life to do this so that I can give a voice to the families that are hurting so bad and let them know that we stand here and support them.”

Like Petrouski, Luke McKee has been playing since childhood and has traveled the world in the name of family tradition. His dad and brother both played.

He is proud to carry on the tradition. With 24 years on the job, McKee basked

in the camaraderie of “seeing cops from all over the country” and being able to honor the fallen.

The performance by the CPD Pipes and Drums was also honored this year, landing second place in the competition. But for this band, the true honor exists behind the music they call their own and making sure the beat goes on.

“We make sure that the families of those that made the ultimate sacrifice never feel alone,” Schield added. “And that they always have the blue line to surround them and hug them.”

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A Light from Above

Even amid the rain, honoring Ella French at Illinois Police Officers Memorial is a shining moment

■ BY DAN CAMPANA

■ PHOTOS BY BOB BAIKIE

The heavens opened up over Springfield on the first Thursday in May once again.

As law enforcement from around the state gathered for the annual Illinois Police Officers Memorial ceremonies, persistent rain fell from the sky as if they were tears of mourning for 11 officers, including Chicago Police Officer Ella French, who died in the line of duty in the last year.

“Let perpetual light shine upon them,” Deacon Robert Sgambelluri said during an interfaith service at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

In his words to a somber chapel filled with family members of the fallen, including Ella’s mother, Elizabeth French, and police officers in their formal attire, Sgambelluri — a retired officer himself — identified with the ache in the hearts of those assembled.

“What we wouldn’t give for one more conversation,” he offered, mentioning an ancestor of his being one of the names on the Gold Star Families Memorial.

He described this life now and the grieving process it includes as “the call” that officers must now respond to by honoring the fallen and choosing hope over despair. In particular, he implored everyone to be open with their emotions and reach out to others to find comfort while coping with loss.

Several rows of CPD officers and cadets sat toward the back of the church, listening to Sgambelluri’s words. Among them was Officer Cherrise Hutchison, who has been on the job for two decades and currently works at the academy.

Hutchison returns to Springfield yearly to “support all of our officers,” acknowledging that it never stops being emotional. This year, she came to honor somebody special.

“Definitely after Ella French. She was a recruit while I was an instructor at the academy. I didn’t know her personally, but ... I instructed some of her classes,” Hutchison shared. “The memorial helps you to remember why you took the job and that the community is for you. Unfortunately, we have been feeling the love for a little bit, but yes, this is definitely a day to feel the love.”

With the hymn “You’ll Never Walk Alone” echoing through the chapel, the families quietly departed the church, solemn emotion on the faces of parents, spouses and children left behind when their loved ones didn’t return home from their last shift. Ella’s mother, Elizabeth, was escorted throughout the day by her daughter’s partner, Josh Blas.

Rain forced the annual memorial ceremony inside the Illinois State Library, where officers, families and other supporters filled the main floor and stood along perches overlooking the event. The booming sounds of a combined pipes and drums unit echoed through the building during the opening procession.

Several state constitutional officers spoke somberly about the emotional toll caused by a police officer’s death. They praised those who accept the sacrifices necessary to be in law enforcement, recognized the families of officers for their strength and resolve, and pledged to never forget the fallen or the thousands of



Chicago Police Officer Robin Popelka, an honor guard member, stands watch over the wreath paying tribute to Ella French at the Illinois Police Officers Memorial.



Josh Blas escorts Elizabeth French, the mother of his fallen partner, Ella French, to the interfaith service and the memorial.



Secretary of State Jesse White addresses the hundreds of police officers from across the state who packed the Illinois State Library, where the memorial was held because of rain.

police officers working during these challenging times.

In a speech filled with raw emotion, Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza shared her personal connection to the police, which motivates her to be an active supporter of those on the job and the Gold Star families who never truly stop grieving.

"Over the years, I've been to this memorial service many times. Each year, it pains me to see more families join the club that no one ever really wants to join," she said. "This is a horribly difficult and painful day. And there is nothing any of us, certainly not politicians, can say to make you feel better."

Mendoza emphasized that more needs to be done to help police understand how much love and support is out there for them.

"I have family in law enforcement, and it breaks my heart to see what the law enforcement community is going through these days. It's the last job on earth I'd ever want to be in. And it's the most thankless," she explained. "People wonder why police officers have such a high suicide rate. It's because we have turned them into these tough beings who don't have feelings — and



After the memorial, Elizabeth French receives a hug from State Comptroller Susana Mendoza, who comes from a law enforcement family.

that's not it at all. It's the complete opposite. I always have love for the police, and I think we need more people standing up for our officers every day."

The support is needed and wanted by officers, according to CPD Mounted Patrol Officer Robin Popelka, who also attended.

"It's so necessary, because the belief now is that we are not supported, we are viewed sometimes, unfortunately, as the bad guy," said the 23-year CPD veteran and honor guard member since 2013.

Popelka stood in solemn watch over a wreath bearing French's name throughout the service. She called the experience in Springfield "humbling."

"It's a great honor to be part of this, to be able to support the family. You see their loss and grief. We try to put on the brave face for our survivors, but the loss is felt by every one of us," Popelka said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 62

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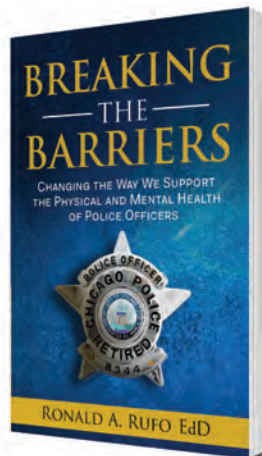


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A combined honor guard from agencies across the state greets family members of fallen officers as they enter the service at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

A LIGHT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 61

That was no truer than the moment when Ella French's name was read aloud and her mother received a memorial plaque bearing Ella's name.

Blas said he understands the memorial's emotion, but it was different this year for obvious reasons.

"This is amazing [for] remembering everyone, especially remembering Ella," he stated. "It is great being here, but it is wild. I was here about five years ago when I was in the academy. Now I'm here because my partner, we're remembering her. It's like, are we really here?"



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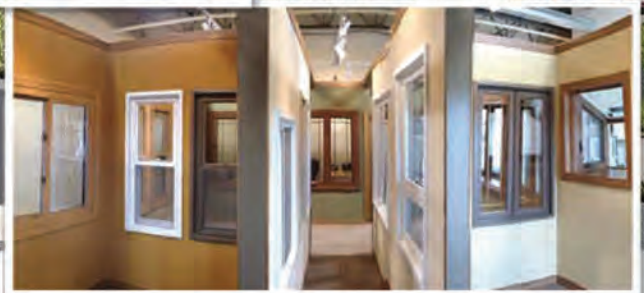
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Run On

18th Annual CPMF Run to Remember goes the distance for fallen Chicago Police Officers

The Chicago Police Memorial Foundation (CPMF) 18th Annual Run to Remember was filled with so many stirring signs of remembrance.

There were the participants with “French Forever” emblazoned on their shirts. Nearly 100 people wore shirts showing a picture of Samuel Jimenez. And there were many individual tributes, like the runner with a shirt adorned with badge number 6181, remembering Chicago Police Officer Thomas E. Wortham IV, who was lost in 2010.

More than 4,000 Chicago Lodge 7 members, families and friends of fallen Chicago officers gathered for the run on May 7 at the Gold Star Families Memorial and Park. Chicago Police Officer Carlos Yanez Jr., who was injured in the line of duty last year, served as the official starter, appearing on the podium with his wife, Brenda, son, CJ, and CPMF Executive Director Phil Cline.

“We try to have someone who signifies and symbolizes what the foundation means,” CPMF Director of Operations Joseph Salemmme remarked. “And Carlos certainly does that. We were tremendously gratified that he was able to do it.”

That all led to the placards with photos of the 540 Chicago Police Officers lost in the line of duty that formed a path to the finish line. The placards each had the words “Always Remembered” in bold lettering above the fallen officers’ names and end-of-watch dates.

“We put those placards of their photos up to ensure their



memories and legacies live on,” Salemmme added. “Toward the finish line, we put them about six feet apart, so as they’re finishing their race, they can contemplate about how these officers gave their lives for us.”

Participants waved thin blue line flags and wore T-shirts with names of fallen Chicago Police Officers, including Ella French, who was killed in the line of duty in 2021, Samuel Jimenez, who was killed in the line of duty in 2018, Thor Odin Soderberg, who was lost in 2010 and Lieutenant James O’Connor, who was killed in the line of duty in 1970.

Not only did the Run to Remember serve as a day to reflect on the hundreds of fallen officers, but it also served as a way to honor their families. The run has become a symbol of that support.

“It’s a unique brotherhood and sisterhood,” Salemmme added. “When push comes to shove, officers will always back each other up, and this is just one way of doing it.”



Members get a leg up for Special Olympics

On May 20, Chicago Lodge 7 members participated in the Final Leg Run of the 2022 Law Enforcement Torch Run. Officers made the 3-mile trek from Soldier Field to Navy Pier alongside many Special Olympics athletes.

To commemorate the run, members participated in a ceremony to light the Flame of Hope, which has been a unique symbol for Special Olympics athletes.

After reaching Navy Pier, the Flame of Hope was carried through various states by other Special Olympics athletes running alongside law enforcement officers, until it reached Florida on June 5.

There, the flame was used to light the cauldron at Exploria Stadium in Orlando for the start of the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games.

"The Flame of Hope symbolizes that individuals with intellectual disabilities can be afforded opportunities to display their skills, abilities and talents," John Newnan, team captain of the Final Leg Torch Run, told the *Chicago Sun-Times*. "[It depicts] a world that does not judge by disability, rather ability, and treats everyone with the dignity and respect they deserve."

For the past 25 years, law enforcement officers around the country have participated in the Final Leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run prior to the start of the USA Special Olympics Games.



On May 20, Chicago Lodge 7 members participated in the Final Leg Run, a 3-mile trek from Soldier Field to the Navy Pier.



Officers from the 20th District participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Run.



Officers from the 22nd District gathered at Soldier Field for the beginning of the Final Leg Run with Special Olympics athlete Aaron Descher, left, and Algonquin Police Department Deputy Chief Dennis Walker, right, who carried the Flame of Hope.



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Members give it up for moms to honor Mother's Day

Chicago Police Officers went above and beyond to offer special gifts and shout-outs to the women who go above and beyond every day more than anybody else: moms. In honor of Mother's Day, members in districts throughout the city participated in events just for the moms in the community.

The only thing moms might love as much as their children on Mother's Day is flowers. Officers in the 4th District went to a few local elementary schools to hand-deliver beautiful flowers for kids to give to their mothers.

In the 5th District, members decided to host a post-Mother's Day celebration for the district's Older Adults Subcommittee at West Pullman Park.

Members in the 8th District invited moms to a bowling event that included gift bags, pizza and cake.

Of course, Mother's Day wouldn't be complete without brunch, and that's exactly what 11th District officers had in mind. The Kells Park Community Council hosted a meal at the Golden Dome, where officers provided a helping hand.

Officers in the 15th District celebrated Mother's Day by participating in the 37th Ward Mother's Day Extravaganza. Officers came together with members of the Austin community for an event that also supported Black Men United and provided supplies to the community and some extra fun for kids.



4th District



5th District



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Cops and the Community

If anyone has the ability to exemplify the many ways you can help someone, police officers certainly lead the way. Across the city recently, Chicago Police Officers played a variety of different support roles within their communities to help make the day brighter or just to lend a hand in a way that goes beyond the badge's usual role.



1st District



Whether on "Motor Row" or in areas of downtown, 1st District officers were on the go with Walk and Talk meetings with business owners and anyone else interested in building relationships based on the issues that matter most to them.



5th District

Officers in the 5th District pitched in to roll out the blue carpet for the son of one of their own. The district's community room was transformed with a little glitz and sparkle to help send the young man and his prom date on their way to an exciting night.



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Of course, prom means young ladies getting dressed up for the big night. After collecting a fine selection of new and gently used prom dresses, 6th District officers held a dress giveaway at Tuley Park, where several promgoers picked out their favorites and styled their selections.



Officers in 022 ran, biked, jumped and lifted as part of the district's inaugural wellness fair focused on officer health and well-being. In addition to the physical benefits, community and sponsor support for the event helped remind officers that there are plenty of people on their side.



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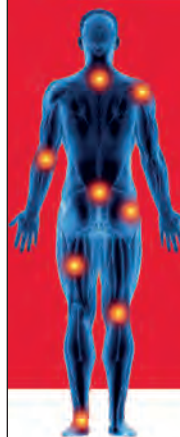


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If I understand it correctly, if I don't pass Part 1 (the written qualifying test), I cannot take Part 2?

That's correct. You must have a high enough score on the written qualifying test to be able to take Part 2 (the investigative logic assessment test).

How do they score Part 2, the investigative logic assessment test?

A scoring key will be put together by the test maker. It will include answers that subject matter experts provide to them. The answers you write for the investigative assignments will be compared against the scoring guide. Points will then be awarded. It's the same thing for the applied knowledge questions. The multiple-choice answers you pick are added up. Then, the total number of points you earn for the investigative assignments and applied knowledge questions will be added up to determine your final score.

What is most important to know for Part 1 and Part 2 of the detective's exam?

For the written qualifying test, you need to know select directives very well. For the investigative logic assessment test, you

need to know what to write to score the most points. You also must practice every week with the investigative assignments. A good study group should give you that. Whoever does really well on the investigative logic assessment portion will be the next detective.

Is there anything else you can recommend to me that will help me increase my score?

Stay committed to your studies, follow a well-thought-out study plan and join a good study group. Attending classes will be helpful, but no more than two study groups maximum. If you're in more than two, you will be overwhelmed.

Remember this: The detective's exam is not given very often. If you really are serious about becoming a detective, you need to take it seriously. Stop complaining, be positive and study hard. I can honestly say that being a detective was the best job I ever had.

To submit questions, email Dr. Bernstein at drbernstein@bernsteintestprep.com. Visit our site at www.bernsteintestprep.com or call 954-252-0010



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