



Fraternal Order of Police

CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine • November 2022



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COVER STORY



Page 39

Día to remember

The celebration of Día de los Muertos at Lodge 7 attracted hundreds of members to the FOP Hall to participate in a unique event to remember fallen officers. The traditions of the Día filled the Hall with honor, respect and life. And the celebration included amazing performances, delectable food and drink and the unity that gives life to Chicago Police Officers. It was a memorable night to be sure.

COVER PHOTO BY JEN SHANAHAN
COVER DESIGN BY GINA CROTCHFELT

MESSAGES FROM LODGE 7

President's Report	Page 5	FOP Labor Report	Page 20
The 4-1-1	Page 8	FOP Legal Report	Page 22
First Vice President's Report.....	Page 10	Portraits by Peter Bucks	Page 24
Second Vice President's Report	Page 11	Legislative Report.....	Page 25
Third Vice President's Report.....	Page 12	Compliments of Rabbi Moshe	Page 26
Financial Secretary's Report	Page 14	From Your Directing Chaplain.....	Page 27
Recording Secretary's Report.....	Page 16	FOP Benefits	Page 28
Field Representative Report	Page 17	Peer Support	Page 30
Retired Members	Page 18	Officer Awards	Page 32
Deceased Members.....	Page 19	Members Only Section	Page 55

INSIDE STORIES



A Good Cigar Night



Military Appreciation



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Founder

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CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine
President's Report



Call it a Día



JOHN CATANZARA JR.

In Mexico City, Día de los Muertos is twice as big as Mardi Gras in New Orleans. It was like that in the FOP Hall on Nov. 1 when we had one of our all-time celebrations at Lodge 7. I mean, it was nuts. Off the freakin' hook.

Carlos Yanez and his cousin, Balvina Ranney, who is a Cook County sheriff, suggested we have this event to bring out many members who maybe had not partied with us before. We had a time, a real cultural festivity that not only brought out members but brought us together.

Día de los Muertos is like All Saints Day. It's more about celebrating the memory of the dead than mourning the loss of the dead. According to the tradition, you basically build a giant altar, like the one you see pictured on the cover behind the dancers who performed.

I helped build the altar. They call it an *ofrenda*. And you put pictures of your fallen loved one, whether it's a cop or a family member. We stuck to cops. And then you can put a sentimental item or trinket next to the picture that meant something to that person or is a connection to that person.

If you saw the Bond movie "Spectre," the opening scene takes place on Día de los Muertos in Mexico. We had the dancers. We had an all-female mariachi band perform. We had amazing food. We raised money for injured officers and families of fallen officers. And to cap off the evening, Carlos even got up and danced a little bit.

Now, that was a party.



Board Games

The Chicago Police Board held a public hearing in October, at which time President Ghian Foreman made a determination for the discipline dispute between COPA and the superintendent's office regarding the Adam Toledo shooting. For shooting Toledo, who had been shooting at passing cars and basically attempted murder, Officer Eric Stillman was referred to the Police Board for a full termination hearing.

Absolutely ridiculous. Unfair. Uncalled for. But it just goes to show you the board is one more corrupt entity that is past its time and needs to go away. Termination cases need to be put in the hands of an arbitrator, or the police policy can be left up to the new district councils that they're creating in the municipal elections. But the Police Board needs to be done once and for all with a new administration next spring.

Going forward, saying Eric Stillman did anything wrong that night is just stupid. It is ungodly that COPA chief administrator Andrea Kirsten signed off on that recommendation. And it makes it clearer than ever that we're never going to get a fair shake from the Police Board.

We're going to keep fighting for Eric and stand by him. We're not letting it go, or otherwise I will tell you that you really need to consider what you're willing to do when you show up to work every day. How far are you willing to take police action that could jeopardize not only your job but your freedom?

The whole process is a disgrace. A board member is randomly assigned to the case and it's freakin' Foreman. And he even said the superintendent didn't meet the proof standard. But it's going to the full board for a firing. Just disgusting.

Tim Grace, our attorney, filed a motion for Eric to remain in a paid status pending the outcome of his hearing. If we ever get the City to stop stalling on Phase 2 of the contract, we will be able to put the Police Board out to pasture. One of the proposals – and it's not even a proposal, it's a guarantee – will give an officer the right to go to arbitration for termination cases. If either party backs out of the agreement in a subsequent contract, then it is null and void, and arbitration will be for all discipline, including termination. That's where we're headed. They know it. They know they're going to lose it if it goes to arbitration, yet they refuse to mediate it and just agree upon it now. We all firmly believe that you'll get a much fairer shake in arbitration than you will with the handpicked, wacky f---, I mean folks, at the Police Board.

Their day is coming. The board will be gone with this next phase of the contract, and they know they can't stop it. They know it's going to happen. The mayor is trying to refuse because that's her

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President's Report continues on Page 6

Mediation Aggravation

Go back to view my TGIF video from Oct. 21 so you can hear how pissed off we are about the City's continued obstruction of what is just and fair in Phase 2 of the contract negotiation. We had just finished four rounds of mediation to try and get some contract topics off the table prior to going to arbitration with arbitrator Tom Sonneborn.

Arbitration is definitely going to happen, because the City has made it perfectly clear in the conversations we've had that there are issues we are never going to resolve. Mediation in October basically resulted in two minor, tentative agreements. We put forth some serious considerations for proposals, but they couldn't give us a con-

crete yes or no at the end of the day.

It has been very clear that the City has no intention of doing anything right by the men and women defending this city. Every argument we make is as fair as can possibly be. We are not asking for pie-in-the-sky demands. Just fair and balanced to try and balance out what we've been dealing with since 2020, when law enforcement was turned upside down overnight. It really created a climate where they felt the need to reinvent what law enforcement is like. And it has made contract negotiations hell because it's given them cover to hide and do nothing.

Nobody Tougher

Shout-out to our Lodge 7 board member Dr.Carolynn Crump.

She was the victim of an attempted carjacking on Oct. 20. She had to shoot through the window of her car. She shot through the door. She got one of the three offenders in the leg.

She had to go to the hospital that day, and a few days later because doctors recommended a follow-up, but she's fine. They arrested all three offenders.

Kind of makes what's happening with crime and criminals being

emboldened hit close to home. I give Carolynn a ton of credit for reacting as well as she did. Not everybody would have had the presence of mind to do so.

But that's Carolynn. If you know Carolynn, you know there aren't many tougher cops in this City. These idiots tried to f--- with the wrong person, and the way she stood up to them was her basically saying, "Crump you!"

PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

little baby. That's where she cut her teeth and made her name. But given the chance to pick arbitration over a Police Board hearing, I don't see any police officer voluntarily saying they're not going to pick arbitration every single time.

Somebody, of course, is going to be the last case. Unfortunately, we don't know when that's going to be. It should have already happened. But one day, someone will be the last victim of the Police Board. In a perfect world, it would've been me. And I would have walked away, and they're done. That would've been a perfect curtain call.



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- Michael M., Retired CPD



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THE 4-1-1



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Nov. 15

Chicago FOP Retirement Party for Sergeant Kenneth Mok
PB&J Pizza & Jukebox
205 N. Peoria St.
7 p.m.
Tickets available at door

Nov. 18

Chicago FOP Promotional Party in Honor of Commander Jesse Alvarez
Chicago FOP Hall Lodge 7
1412 W. Washington Blvd.
6–10 p.m.
For more information, call 773-851-9858

Nov. 30

7th District Retirement Party Sneaker Ball
The Oak Lawn Hilton Hotel
9333 S. Cicero Ave.
6 p.m.
For more information, call 312-747-8220

Dec. 1

Illinois State Lodge Back the Bailey Homecoming Parade
Line Route 50 to show support for wounded officer Tyler Bailey
2–3 p.m.
Parade times: Peotone 2 p.m., Manteno 2:20 p.m., Bradley PD 2:30 p.m.

Dec. 1

2nd District Holiday Retirement Party
The Oak Lawn Hilton Hotel
9333 S. Cicero Ave.
6:30–11:30 p.m.
For more information, call 312-747-5109

Dec. 2

Puerto Rican Police Association 42nd Annual Christmas Banquet
Biagio
4242 N. Central Ave.
7 p.m. cocktail reception, 8 p.m. dinner

\$100 per seat, \$800 per table for 8
For more information, call 773-888-7176 or email prpachicago@gmail.com

Dec. 18

Polish American Police Association Members & Family Annual Christmas Party
Alpine Banquet House
11141 W. Roosevelt Road, Westchester
2–6 p.m.
\$30, children 6 and over \$20
RSVP by Dec. 10
For more information, email grace.moczarna@polampolice.org

Dec. 18

Shomrim Society of Illinois Chanukah Party
Nickel City
555 Waukegan Road, Northbrook
3:30–6:30 p.m.
For more information, visit <http://www.shomrimillinois.org/2022-chanukah-party.html>

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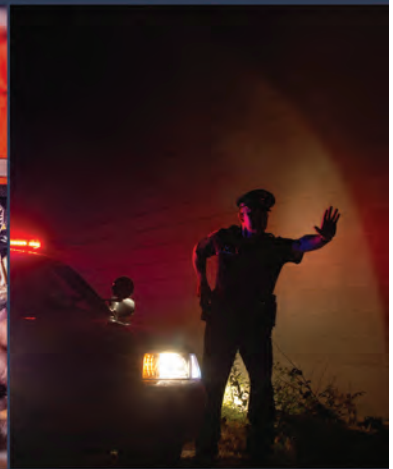
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'Tis the season to be kind to each other



**MICHAEL
METTE**

As we approach the holiday season, let us begin to focus on what is most important to us: friends and family. As police officers, we sacrifice a lot of time and energy in this profession to provide benefits to ourselves and our families. No one has ever said our jobs are easy, but we trudge along and persevere through the ups and downs of life and work.

This year, try and make a conscious effort to remember to be a little more kind to one another. Reach out to nonwork friends more often. Take more time away from work so you can be the father, mother, brother or sister, aunt or uncle you would really like to be to those in your life.

We all have gained and lost so much in life. Much of our gains and losses come from this job. Try and keep your mind on the positive side of things. Don't let social media and the rest of the modern world fool you. There is still plenty of good to be had by all if you just look for it.

Put the phone away while you are out and about. You'd be amazed at how often you will be able to catch a random act of kindness. If you don't find any, be the person who does something nice for someone else. Do it with no expectations of getting anything in return. Not only will you make someone feel better, but you will find some happiness as well.

Happiness is a mindset — one that has gotten away from many of us. Your happy doesn't have to stay lost forever. Maybe

you have just forgotten what it is that makes you happy. Maybe you have forgotten how to unplug from the stresses in life. I have been there many times throughout my career and my life. It's easy to get lost in the fray of the world, the negativity. I am proof that the negativity that we endure doesn't have to bring us down.

Sure, we may stumble and fall every now and then, but as I try to remind myself, it isn't about the fall — it's how we pick ourselves back up that matters. There will be times when you won't feel like getting back up. It happens. When it does, reach out to those around you for a helping hand. If you happen to look around and feel like you don't have anyone to ask for help, call me or anyone else here at the Lodge. We are here to help. Even on the darkest of days, you can find the light.

Please remember that we call each other brothers and sisters for a reason. We are family, and we need to be there for each other. We need to provide each other with support and kindness.

One last thing: I am proud of the hard work each one of you does on a daily basis. Keep your heads up high, and keep each other safe.

FOP Mental Health Ombudsman: 312-736-1990

EAP: 312-743-0378

Peer Support: 312-672-9973

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Reviewing recent COPA penalties



DAN GORMAN

Normally, I would report recent arbitrators' decisions during the monthly Binding Summary Opinion hearings. However, in this issue, I am listing the recent penalties issued by COPA, which seem to have severely increased compared to past COPA cases. Needless to say, the affected members have filed grievances.

These increased implementations by COPA have been done without negotiating and are inconsistent with similar cases from the past. On Oct. 11, we filed a charge at the Labor Board (yet again).

Here are just a few examples of recent allegations and COPA's recommended penalties:

General Summary of Allegation	Recommended Penalty
• Accepting injured arrestee into lockup	365-day suspension
• Inaccurate arrest/processing report	30-day suspension
• Search of arrestee, failure to ensure safety of prisoner	180-day suspension
• "Shoving" person during "large-scale protest" (aka full-scale riot) and a BWC infraction	15-day suspension
• Baton use during riot (two officers charged)	180-day suspensions
• Baton use during riot (three officers charged)	90-day suspensions
• Unjustified verbal comments during T-stop	180-day suspension
• Failure to conduct thorough investigation (three officers charged)	180-day suspensions
• Failure to "properly secure" BWC	15-day suspension
• Entering offender's vehicle (to prevent fleeing)	30-day suspension
• No traffic stop study card and no ISR	30-day suspension
• Simply referring to a particular neighborhood by its long-standing religion-based name	20-day suspension
• Force used during "large-scale protest" (aka full-scale riot) (two officers charged)	120-day suspensions



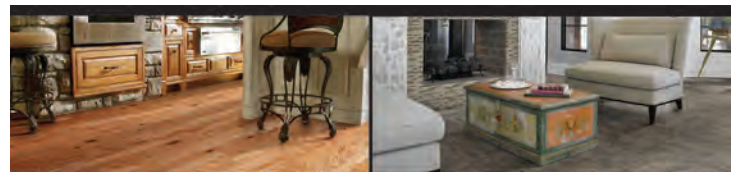
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Don't be intimidated into doing something unlawful



FERNANDO FLORES

Hope you are all doing well. Recently we have had an influx of new investigators at both COPA and BIA, formerly known as IAD. These new investigators are calling our members and asking them to have an informal sit-down or an informal phone call concerning an ongoing investigation.

I am not sure if they're doing this on purpose or if they just don't understand the procedure, but as I always say, "No lawyer, no statement." Our members will not be speaking with any investigator from COPA or BIA or to a detective concerning a criminal investigation.

We are more than happy to cooperate with any investigation, as long as our members have legal representation. So don't be intimidated when these investigators start getting loud or verbally aggressive with you, stating that you must give a statement. Let them know that you are more than happy to answer any questions, right after contacting the FOP attorney.

When I worked at O'Hare for a short stint, I was given an illegal order to arrest a subject when I had no knowledge of their wrongdoing. The supervisor involved stated that the subject in question needed to be arrested for trespassing on O'Hare Airport property.

I stated to the supervisor that I was not going to arrest this person because I did not witness the incident. Needless to say,

the supervisor didn't take that well. He said that if I did not arrest this person, I would be getting a SPAR.

I told him, "You might as well write up the paperwork, because I'm not gonna arrest this person." He then said, "I will see you in the office, and we will handle this matter there." Upon going to the office at O'Hare, the supervisor stated, "I need you to sign this SPAR."

My reply was, "No, I am not signing your SPAR."

At that point he said, "If you do not sign this SPAR, I will get a CR number on you." I then said, "I don't give a s**t. Get the f*****g CR number." And I walked out.

I called IAD and later found out that he had also called IAD to file a complaint on me. About a week later, I went down to IAD and explained to them that this sergeant wanted me to make an unlawful arrest and I refused to do so — that's why he retaliated by putting a CR number on me. IAD decided to give me a 10-day suspension.

If I had filed my grievance in a timely manner, I would have beaten the penalty. But I didn't. Long story short, I would rather take a 10-day suspension than be part of a federal lawsuit for an unlawful arrest and jeopardize myself and my family's future. Don't ever let anyone intimidate you into making an unlawful arrest or following an unlawful order.

Please be safe and stay healthy. And remember, no lawyer, no statement.



FIRST RESPONDERS WELLNESS CENTER

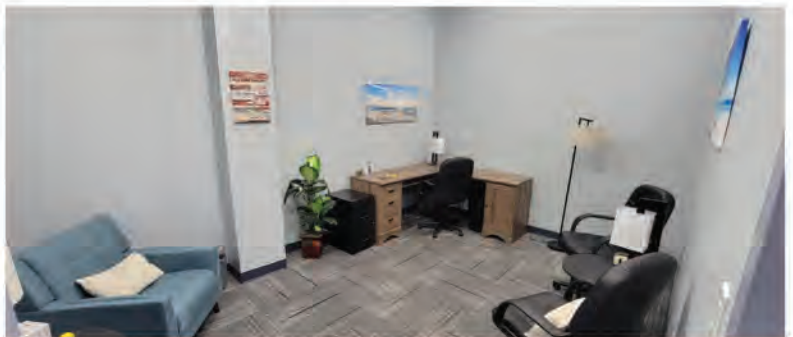


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Dr. Carrie Steiner
Retired Chicago Police Officer
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JIM JAKSTAVICH

I was recently called by my dear friend and bagpiper for the Pipes and Drums of the Emerald Society Chicago Police Department and Area 2 Detective John Sullivan. Sully, as he is known to his vast circle of friends, let me know that the 4th annual Chief Francis O'Neill

memorial would be taking place on Oct. 12, and it was something that I should be a part of.

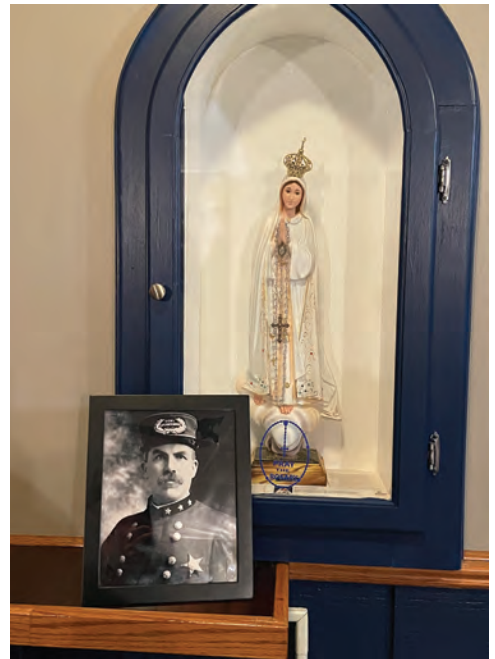
I couldn't make it to Mt. Olivet Catholic Cemetery for the ceremonies, so I caught up with a couple of the founders and organizers — 4th District Tact Lieutenant Marty Loughney and retired 4th District Captain Terry McMahon — as the group did “premise checks” along 111th Street's fine establishments.

Marty, whom I've known and worked with for a large portion of my career, laid down the facts. Marty related that Chief Francis O'Neill was the chief of police for the Chicago Police Department from 1901 to 1905. His title of

chief was held before the title of superintendent existed.

Marty further explained that Chief O'Neill was born in County Cork, Ireland, escaped the Great Potato Famine and came to Chicago just before the Great Chicago Fire, climbing the ranks to chief. He is credited with switching the police stars that officers wore to the “pie plates.” But he's known worldwide for saving and recording Irish music.

The chief recruited patrolman James O'Neill (no relation) and promoted him to the rank of sergeant. This promotion



wasn't just because James O'Neill could play Irish music, but because he could write traditional Irish music. The fact that he had the ability to write music was key to documenting and recording music that was hundreds of years old, most passed down through families who learned to play only by ear. So as the story goes, the good Sergeant James O'Neill wrote down the music, and Chief Francis O'Neill took credit for it and went down in history as saving some 4,000 Irish songs and ballads. I see things haven't changed much in 100 years.

Marty said that the memorial starts as the bagpipers, Sully, retired Detective Bill Donnelly and Detective John Sullivan, both from the Emerald Society, and Sergeant Brian Baader of the CPD Pipes & Drums, play some music that would make the chief proud. Marty then gives a little graveside history every year about Chief O'Neill as the large group meets at the chief's granite mausoleum. The group is comprised of active officers and their families of every race, religion and ethnicity.

Some local residents hear the bag-

pipes and join in as well. Retired Captain Terry McMahon leads the group in prayer, not just for Chief O'Neill but for many officers and first responders who are buried in Mt. Olivet, like CFD Captain Herbie Johnson. Terry stated with reverence that the cemetery is "holy ground." These prayers are also for the active officers currently working, so that they make it home safe.

The group meets every year in early to mid-October, just before the cemetery changes the summer closing hours from 7 p.m. to 5 p.m. It's usually pretty cold out by this time of year, but a smart lad in the group brought a bottle of Jameson so they could take a nip and fight off the fall chill in the air.

The bagpipers played as the group walked off in ceremonial fashion. They convened at the first local establishment to warm themselves, carrying with them a picture of Chief Francis O'Neill. The founders enlightened those who asked about the picture and gave the chief's history.

Terry and Marty, some of the best bosses to ever grace the CPD, said that this memorial allows for an evening

of remembrance and also promotes much-needed camaraderie. The neighborhood in which this takes place "backs the blue," which was evident by all the gracious supporters as well as the blue line flags that hang from businesses like Barocco's.

Needless to say, the chief would be proud of this hearty group, which managed to visit every establishment west of the cemetery. Marty and Terry want to extend an invitation to all who are interested in attending next year. If you live on the North Side, carpool or take a bus. This job that many of us love so much has changed, but the most important thing is that we have each other. God bless all, and stay safe.

I have a quote from Len Aronson, a former newspaper reporter and producer of documentaries: "Simply put, it is music that somehow helps us cross the barriers of class, age and ethnicity and makes us feel that we are all in this together. Lord knows, there is not enough of that going on in the world today. That, I believe, is the real magic of Irish music, and the legacy of Francis O'Neill's life."

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The plight of wearing the uniform



ROB NOCEDA

I want to wish all my fellow veterans a safe and enjoyable Veterans Day. It is also Military Family Appreciation Month. Additionally, I would like to thank all the military and veteran families who support our members' devotion to our country. Without the support of a service member's family, service members would not be able to accomplish the mission of protecting our nation's freedom. So please, everyone who has served or is still serving: Please thank your families for all the support, love and dedication they have given you during your military service.

That being said, one of my many duties and responsibilities at the Lodge is to ensure that our Chicago Police military members are taken care of during their deployments, drills, annual trainings or leadership schools for promotion. Members do call the Lodge on a regular basis regarding their personal military service situations. It can be stressful juggling the professions of police and military service on top of day-to-day family life. I hear from the members frequently about their hardship. It's a lot of sacrifice. That is why the Military Committee sends care packages each year to members who are away.

Back to sacrifice: Our officers know a lot about sacrifice, too. RDO cancellations and double-digit days worked are no fun. The last few years of civil unrest, skyrocketing crime and a shortage of officers are no small obstacles. It is similar to military service. The sacrifices that our members have endured are some of the most admirable things I have ever seen. You are Chicago's finest.

Since I mentioned sacrifice, veterans and military families know all too well the plight of wearing the uniform. I know of many mil-

itary friends and co-workers who missed so much time away from their families. Whether they had to go on deployment or go to a long MOS school, being away from loved ones is hard. That's the usual consensus. They have missed births, anniversaries, birthdays and holidays. They are out of the country or in a faraway state. The families feel this longing as well, to be with their loved service member. It is especially hard on children.

Thanks to technology, military families enjoy more interaction via Zoom, Skype or FaceTime. But nothing beats in-person family time.

That being said, more than a decade ago there was a military service member who had to go to a long training evolution over a month. The family knew their dad and husband had to leave and do his required service.

So periodically, when he wasn't training, the dad would be able to check in and see videos that were sent of his family.

You have to remember that technology was not as good during this time. Videos were usually blurred and not as clear by today's standards. One of the videos that was sent was of the service member's child taking her first steps. He was filled with joy and wished he could be there. It was not known when or if the child would walk, due to the child's special needs.

But this miracle from God happened. I thank God frequently that she is able to walk, especially when she is hungry.

Please remember the military families everywhere who are away from their loved service member.

I pray that you all will be in good health and safety. Hug a loved one to tell them they mean so much to you. We are here for the membership always. God bless you, Lodge 7.

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**MONICA
ORTIZ**

The end of the year is near, and for the Chicago Police Department, that means a lot of retirements in the next few months. Here is some information that can help with a smooth exit. All of this information is on the Policemen's Annuity and Benefit Fund of Chicago website.

There is a participant's handbook if you go to the website that will give you all the same information.

After your intent to retire is submitted and approved, the Policemen's Annuity and Benefit Fund would like you to follow the steps listed below:

1. Approximately 30 days before your retirement date, let us know you plan to retire by emailing retirement@chipabf.org or calling 312-744-3891.
2. Provide the following information to the fund (unless previously provided):



- a printed copy of your Personnel Action Request (PAR) form (aka the "Retirement Submission Receipt"). The status must be approved, and you and your commanding officer must sign forms.
- documentation of life changes, including certified copies of:
 - marriage certificates
 - birth certificates

- divorce decrees
- death certificates
- Social Security numbers for all dependents who will continue their healthcare coverage
- a valid email address

3. Once the Fund receives all the information, you will receive a prepared retirement application by email. Upon receipt of the application, you will need to sign it, have it notarized and return it to the Fund as soon as possible.

The last thing I want to add is to call the pension board and find out how much suspension time you had during your career. If you had 100 days of suspension time, you would need to work an additional 100 days to make up those days. Call Benefit Calculations, for assistance with this information, at 312-235-4597.

Stay safe.



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Honoring Retired Members

August				Name	Rank	Unit/Dist.	Years
Name	Rank	Unit/Dist.	Years				
				David M. Minelli	Detective	610	24
Melvin Bailey	Officer	051	24	Reginald A. Murray	Officer	012	19
Christopher J. Barajas	Officer	008	20	Martin G. Nativida	Officer	261	25
Anthony J. Beam	Officer	377	26	Jason W. Pawelczyk	Officer	018	22
Michael P. Casey	Officer	016	25	Kent M. Pemberton	Officer	020	20
Aaron B. Cunningham	Officer	116	23	Therese M. Puchalski	Officer	001	30
Anthony Davis	Officer	007	25	Nelson L. Rivera	Officer	012	26
Carol B. Davros	Officer	006	24	Abner Rodriguez	Detective	650	30
Julie R. Dickens	Officer	051	30	Sherea Scaife Henderson	Officer	003	25
Patrick J. Felker	Officer	008	21	Anthony Singleton	Officer	005	20
Eve M. Gushes	Deputy Chief	120	32	Russell L. Sutherland	Detective	620	27
Matthew E. Hearn	Officer	384	32	Antonio Trevino	Officer	018	22
Maria C. Jimenez	Officer	050	24	Mark A. Trost	Officer	050	27
Christopher M. Katalinic	Officer	022	24	Ross J. Valenti	Officer	177	24
Peter M. Lennon	Officer	018	19	Walter Ware	Officer	007	23
Carmen S. Malkowski	Officer	020	23	Kevin D. Wyman	Officer	009	26
Timothy D. Marino	Officer	025	25				

Retiree Meetings

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

North

First Monday of month at 9 a.m.
Kappy's American Grill
7200 Dempster St., Morton Grove
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
James V. Donovan	Retired	80	July 6, 2022
Jerry Harper Sr.	Retired	74	Aug. 31, 2022
Martha De Priest	Retired	81	Oct. 2, 2022
Luther Gowans	Retired	72	Oct. 4, 2022
Casimer Kozlowski	Retired	83	Oct. 4, 2022
Joseph M. Roman	Unit 650	53	Oct. 6, 2022
Michael Fera	Retired	82	Oct. 7, 2022
Sebastian Ingrassia	Retired	77	Oct. 7, 2022
Judy Isaac	Retired	58	Oct. 8, 2022
Kevin G. Barry Jr.	Retired	72	Oct. 10, 2022
Dennis Novak	Retired	81	Oct. 13, 2022
Jesse A. Acosta	Retired	61	Oct. 14, 2022
Charles M. Brown	Retired	71	Oct. 16, 2022
Dennis Mushol	Retired	72	Oct. 18, 2022
William D. Fields	Retired	84	Oct. 20, 2022
Joseph J. Rokas Jr.	Retired	75	Oct. 20, 2022
Vito Jacobellis	Retired	87	Oct. 21, 2022
John R. Bobko	Retired	72	Oct. 23, 2022
Patrick J. Martin	Retired	79	Oct. 23, 2022
Frank Amato	Retired	87	Oct. 26, 2022
Yvonne V. Blakey	Retired	79	Oct. 26, 2022
Alonzo Hayes	Retired	83	Oct. 26, 2022
Ronald Brambora	Retired	86	Oct. 29, 2022

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We have much for which to be thankful



PAT
FIORETTO

As I sit to write an article for this publication each month, I tend to focus on current legal issues in which the firm has been involved. Lately, the focus has been on police officers' ability (or lack thereof) to decompress and get some much-needed time off.

Of course, this includes the recent struggles that police officers have endured to spend time with their families. The Lodge continues to fight for police officers to utilize their contractual right to a regular day off. This battle is even more important around the holidays.

Meeting with officers on a regular basis to prepare them for arbitration hearings, mediations or other work-related issues, every attorney in our firm sees the pain that inevitably comes with being a police officer. As professionals, we are trained to set aside our feelings and focus on the facts and legal issues in order to assist police officers.

Admittedly, it is not easy. Oftentimes, however, we also see the joy when those same police officers speak of their loved ones — be it a spouse, parent, child or other family member.

With Thanksgiving approaching when this article is published, I want to do something different. Reflecting on what truly matters as we enter into the holiday season, I am taking this opportunity to thank the brave men and women of the Chicago Police Department who risk their lives so others, including myself, can spend time with loved ones.

Since I am not a poet, I turned to the trusted internet and found the perfect poem. Please accept these words (written by an

individual only identified as "dkb") as our thanks for what police officers and their families deal with on a daily basis:

"A Cop's Thanksgiving Prayer"

No festive meal for me tonight
Spare me calls of senseless fights
Make there be no children lost
No drunk drivers and the resulting cost

Let there be peace in our town's homes
Don't make me hear a battered wife's moans
Let the gangbangers enjoy a turkey feast
And spare the streets their bloody lease

May those with no roof find shelter tonight
And those who are lost find a guiding light
Let those who on the helpless prey
Leave their victims untouched this day

Don't ask me to deliver news of the death
Of loved ones, far away, in a wreck
Show me no children who have been abused
Whose haunted eyes reveal the parent accused

Give me a night without guns, blood or tears
A night without useless pain, suffering or fears
If you spare me this night all of these things
I'll call it even Lord, and a Happy Thanksgiving

Continue to do the good work you do. You are all appreciated.
Stay safe, and thank you!

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Being named on an order of protection



TIM GRACE

A very concerning trend has occurred over the last half year involving our members being named as the respondents on orders of protection. This must be revisited, as the cost is not only the loss of your family and your reputation but the loss of your career. Recently, we have had far too many cases where officers are placed in no-pay status and are fighting for their job due to what was essentially an argument between them and their significant other. These are unforced errors that are usually predictable and simply should not happen. We must see the signs and avoid this hazard.

An order of protection can be issued when a person who is identified as a “household member” goes to a court seeking protection from another person. A “household member” is broadly defined and does not simply include your spouse. Under Illinois law, any person (the petitioner) can seek an order of protection if they can establish that the respondent is a family member related by blood, people who they are currently married to or used to be married to, people who share a common dwelling, people who allegedly have a child together

and people who are dating or used to date. This list essentially allows for almost all of the people in your personal life to be a candidate to get you in front of a judge at 555 West Harrison Street.

The Circuit Court of Cook County will grant a petition for an emergency order of protection if the petitioner testifies to the court and presents enough evidence to convince the judge that he or she was abused by a family member or significant other, even if the responding party has not been given notice and is not present in court at the time to assert a defense. If the court grants the petition for emergency order of protection, it will issue the order and continue the case for 21 days for the respondent to be served. If the respondent is not served during the initial 21-day period, the court will extend the emergency order of protection another 21 days and will continue to do so until the respondent is served or otherwise files his or her appearance. From then, the court will continue to extend the emergency order until a hearing is held on the merits. If, at the conclusion of the hearing, the court finds the petitioner’s evidence credible, it can issue a plenary order of protection for up to two years, which can also be renewable



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in some instances.

You may be saying to yourself that you live a good life, free from harassing anybody, and should have no concern, as you would be able to defend against these types of false actions. You can turn the page and move on to the next article, but I suggest you read on. Under the Chicago Municipal Code, a police officer who does not have a valid FOID is ineligible for employment. Once you get an order of protection issued against you (emergency or permanent), you are unfit for duty and will go into a no-pay status. No paycheck, no healthcare and no pension credit. Under federal law, any person who is named in an active order of protection is prohibited from possessing a firearm. If you can't carry a weapon, you can't possess a FOID, and without a FOID, you are unfit for duty. You can't even work at call-back. Tricky situation. There is one exception to this that should be illuminated: If you lose your FOID due to a mental health crisis, generally the City still must allow you to work in a nonpolicing function. While that is not the subject of this article, please do not refrain from obtaining the proper mental health treatment due to a fear of losing your paycheck. State law has allowed for that exception. Simply put, you cannot let an order of protection be issued against you. But how do you prevent it?

The best act of prevention is to anticipate the problem be-

fore it arises. The moment you find yourself in a relationship that is toxic, where you find yourself spending more time fighting and arguing than getting along, it may be time to get out. Even officers who go on casual dates are finding themselves in trouble due to feelings being hurt or the fact that a person is simply mentally unstable.

The real problem is that the court system is so overwhelmed and behind right now that the hearing dates being given out are sometimes six to seven months in the future, and judges have been very unsympathetic to our no-pay arguments. We have even seen a few situations where police officers have filed against other police officers. With all the entities out there attacking the police, we should not have to be taking incoming fire from within our own foxhole.

I will caution that if you are in an abusive relationship and you believe you need judicial protection, you should get it, even if the abuser is a fellow police officer. However, the court system is not a marriage counselor and not the place to get a leg up on a divorce proceeding. It certainly is not a place to seek revenge on someone who has hurt your feelings. If you find yourself in a relationship where trouble is brewing, it is best to defuse it, by getting either counseling or legal guidance. Once the judge signs the order of protection, it may be too late.



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Portraits by Peter Bucks

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

‘They’re going to remember me forever’

■ BY ESTHER GONZALES

Ulises Avila-Venegas gripped his seat in the police cruiser. Beside him, his field training officer at the Hammond Police Department in Indiana pressed hard against the gas pedal as they chased a suspect down an alley. Avila-Venegas recalled how he couldn’t believe what was happening that day in 2007: his first car chase.

It was a moment Avila-Venegas remembers well. And even more so, the advice and training that he received from multiple FTOs over the years left a lasting impact.

As a 12th District FTO, Avila-Venegas often incorporates the teaching moments he experienced as a new recruit into his own teaching style.

“They simplified the policies and procedures in a way where we can relate to people,” Avila-Venegas explained. “And there’s not just one way in teaching. My FTOs adapted to my learning style at the time, and that’s what I try to do.”

Growing up on the South Side of Chicago, Avila-Venegas always knew he wanted to pursue a career in law enforcement. One of his first experiences with CPD officers came after his family had been victims of burglaries. And seeing those officers help his family and apprehend the suspects inspired Avila-Venegas to want to one day do the same for others.

After serving with the Hammond Police Department in Indiana for six years, Avila-Venegas decided to come on with the Chicago Police Department in 2013. One of the first things he had to grow accustomed to was working with a partner. And although Avila-Venegas said he never considered himself a teacher, he was inspired to teach others how to work by themselves to make decisions independently if need be.

“With teaching someone, you don’t realize it until later, but it’s their first experience at all this,” Avila-Venegas reflected.

“And they’re going to remember everything. Especially if I was their FTO, they’re going to remember me forever.”

In 2016, Avila-Venegas took a leave of absence from CPD to serve with the Austin Police Department in Texas. When he returned six months later, some of his colleagues in 012 explained that the FTO test was approaching and suggested that he should take it.

When Avila-Venegas appeared hesitant, they reminded him how knowledgeable he was and that with his experience he would make a great FTO. They convinced him to sign up.

Still, the night before the test, he recalled feeling exhausted. He told himself that if he woke up in time, he would take it. The next morning, after a cup of coffee, Avila-Venegas showed up for the test.

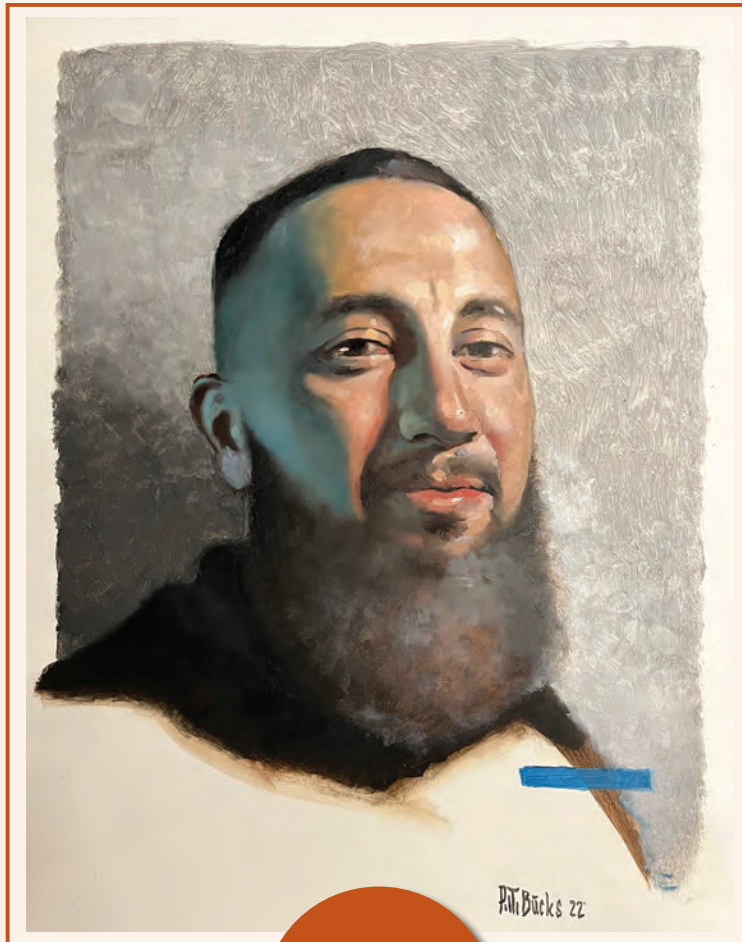
Now, after serving as an FTO for the past five years, Avila-Venegas expressed how much he has been able to help younger officers.

“The main thing for me is to teach them to go home,” Avila-Venegas stated. “Safety is a number-one thing, because the one thing you can’t slack on is safety. And it’s about going out there and doing the right thing. Helping those that do need it. And I think every day can be like that.”

As he continues to guide the officers who come through 012 on their cycles, Avila-Venegas related he finds motivation from his trainees. Witnessing them make their first arrests, seeing them learn how to relate to residents or hearing from past recruits about how much it meant to them that

he deeply cares has compelled Avila-Venegas to continue as an FTO.

“I’m not going to lie. I do think about it sometimes — if it’s time for me to stop teaching and to move on to something else,” Avila-Venegas added. “But if I can guide somebody, if I can correct some things or if I can just give back something to the Department, that in itself is rewarding to me.”



FTO ULISES AVILA-VENEGAS
Star #18310
12th District

The first election after redistricting



DAVE
SULLIVAN

This article was written before the Nov. 8 General Election, but you won't read it until afterward. Guessing what will happen on Election Day is rarely a good idea, so I won't do that. So let's just discuss what may happen post-election.

The entire General Assembly will have been through the first election in their new districts when they return for veto session on Nov. 15. They will be exhausted from the long campaign. Some legislators will be saying goodbye to the House and Senate, while many will be thrilled to be returning for another term.

Even before we get to Election Day, we know that at least eight current senators and 18 current state representatives will not be returning. That is a large turnover for a General Assembly in which more than 50 percent of its members have less than five years of experience in the legislature.

As you have seen in political ads, the SAFE-T Act is a big issue that will continue to be addressed. While some legislators believe the entire law needs to be repealed, there are others who think little to no change is necessary.

Discussions continue with Democratic legislators, activists who are for the law, state's attorneys and sheriffs from around the state, as well as the rank-and-file police representatives discussing options. While I write this, I am not convinced that much will change in the law, but we shall see how negotiations continue. There certainly is a wide variety of opinions on this topic.

As a reminder, the legislature will be in session before and after Thanksgiving and then again just after the New Year to discuss these public safety issues, as well as other items of importance.

Have a safe and blessed Thanksgiving!

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Is the glass half empty or half full?



RABBI
MOSHE
WOLF

Recently I had the privilege of having breakfast with one of our members — “Billy” — who had just finished a long regimen of chemotherapy treatment.

During the conversation, Billy said, “What a long tough journey, but I am not giving up the fight, I know I’m going to make it.” Then he said something to me that I will forever remember. He said, “Moshe, this is my philosophy: The doctor gave me the diagnosis, but the prognosis is between me and the

Lord, and I’m not giving up. It’s all in a person’s attitude.”

What a powerful message. We are all faced with trials and tribulations, and how we handle them is up to us. The following short story puts the question “Is the glass half empty or is it half full?” into perspective:

A famous writer was in his study. He picked up his pen and began writing:

Last year, my gallbladder was removed. I was stuck in bed due to this surgery for a long time.

The same year, I reached the age of 60 and had to give up my favorite job. I had spent 30 years of my life with this publishing company.

The same year, I experienced the death of my father.

In the same year, my son failed his medical exam because he had a car accident. He had to stay in the hospital with a cast on his leg for several days.

And the destruction of the car was a second loss.

Alas! It was such bad year!!

When the writer’s wife, “Jill,” entered the room, she found her husband looking sad and lost in his thoughts. From behind his back, she read what was written on his paper. She left the room silently and came back shortly with another paper on which she had written her summary of the year and placed it beside her husband’s writing.

When the writer saw Jill’s paper, he read:

Last year, I finally got rid of my gallbladder, which had given me many years of pain.

I turned 60 with sound health and retired from my job. Now I can utilize my time to write better and with more focus and peace.

The same year, my father, at the age of 95, without depending on anyone and without any critical conditions, met his Creator.

The same year, God blessed my son with life. My car was destroyed, but my son was alive and without permanent disability.

This year was an immense blessing, and it passed well!

See? The same incidents but different viewpoints. “Is the glass half empty or half full?”

Moral of the story: In daily life, we must see that it’s not happiness that makes us grateful, but gratefulness that makes us happy.

There is always, always, always something to be thankful for! Attitude is everything.

As the Thanksgiving holiday is coming up, here is a thought to share with your loved ones:

Thanksgiving reflections and prayer.

As we are about to celebrate the holiday of Thanksgiving, we pause to reflect on this past year. There were good moments that made us smile and laugh, and moments that broke our hearts and made us cry. We had good times, and times when we were shown more than we can understand. As the saying goes, “One thing in life is for certain — nothing is for certain.” The trick is to take a few moments each day to stop, and while we are praying for our daily needs, to also remember to give thanks for what we have been blessed with. That’s why it’s called “the present.”

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Lord, thank you for having given us life. G-d, you have given us everything that we need and could ever want. Help us to see with your eyes all the beauty that exists around us. Often we look around but don’t really see how lucky we are. Help us to not complain about small things day in and day out, either. But rather let us thank you for the simple things in life like sunshine, family and loved ones.

G-d, help us to be conscious of everything that we have going for us, even if we are afflicted by illness or the challenges of everyday life. Thou art glorious and can grant us the strength to use the power we possess to change our lives. Lord, we are happy for what we have and will have because it comes from you. Whatever comes from you is filled with glory and we accept it.

Thank you for having created the ocean, for it is beautiful, the sun, for it is bright, and the moon, for it is romantic, and the day and the night. Thank you for giving us food every day to eat and water to drink. You know our needs and fulfill them. Many worry, saying, “What shall we eat?” or “How are we going to cope with all that is shown to us.”

But we should be like the birds and have faith. They worry not as to what they will eat today or tomorrow, yet you provide for them, Lord. Help us to have a greater faith in you, Lord, and help us to not worry so much.

We thank you, Lord, for all the beautiful things you bring into our lives each day. Lord, help the thanksgiving nature which is within us to become more present in our lives. So that when we begin to think negatively or complain about small things, we can begin to realize how small our problems are and be thankful for everything we already have. Also, Lord, remind us to find something to laugh at each day, even if it means looking in the mirror. Please, Lord, help us to remember this prayer daily. Amen!

As we enter Thanksgiving and the holiday season, please be mindful of any of our members who live alone or are going through difficult times. Perhaps let them join your family for a meal or just make a phone call to let them know they are loved and not alone. It will bring a smile to both of you!

Some quick humor, from the Moshe files, to keep you smiling, “The Three Questions”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

Remember the real meaning of the season



lice Chaplains Ministry and the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation. To reserve your spot, please email Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis at kimberly.lewisdavis@chicagopolice.org.



FATHER
DAN
BRANDT

Recently, on our weekly rounds, I bumped into Officers Allyson Reboyras (left, in photo above) and Alyssa Aguinaga on a job of theirs in 025. Thank you two (and all your brothers and sisters) for doing God's work!

Thanks also to the many parishes (most recently, Queen of Martyrs in Evergreen Park) for inviting me to celebrate blue Masses.

Our next blue Mass will be offered on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Nicholas of Tolentine on the Southwest Side. Come pray with fellow active and retired members of the police family.

Don't forget our regular twice-monthly police Masses offered at Mercy Home. In order to allow for social distancing, these Masses are celebrated in the indoor soccer field at Adams and Aberdeen. Mass is held on 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. (Please note that on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, the police Mass is celebrated at 10 a.m. in the same location.)

On Nov. 19, we commemorate the four-year anniversary of Officer Samuel Jimenez's death at Mercy Hospital. Sam's memorial card — and many others — can be downloaded from our website. May he and all our fallen heroes rest in peace.

Attention, married couples: Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis is putting together a police marriage weekend retreat to be held the weekend before Valentine's Day. Mark your calendar to come strengthen your marriage with a dozen or so other couples. Enrollment is limited, and attendee costs are offset by Po-



Here's a challenge our retired members will especially enjoy: Email me with the name of this 18th District retiree, and I'll send you a CPD Chaplains Ministry challenge coin. The picture was taken at the German American Police Association's Oktoberfest last month, if that helps.

Finally, the holiday season can be very stressful. Please keep in mind the real meaning of this season. If you feel you need an ear or more to cope with these busy times, we're here for you, as are your EAP clinicians. Don't hesitate to call on us.

May God bless you and keep you safe and healthy!

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

MOSHE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

A man called up his lawyer and asked: "How much would you charge to answer three questions?"

The lawyer thought for a moment and said: "Two thousand dollars plus tax."

"Two thousand!" cried the man. "That's a bit expensive, isn't it?"

"Yes, I suppose it is," said the lawyer. After a moment's

pause, he added: "So, what's your third question?"

On behalf of all your chaplains, may G-d bless you, keep you safe and always keep you in His loving care. Should you ever need a shoulder to lean on, an ear to listen, or perhaps have some good humor or inspirational stories to share, don't hesitate to give us a call or drop us a line.

Contact Rabbi Moshe Wolf at 774-463-4780 or moshewolf@hotmail.com.

Umbrella insurance: What is it? Why do you need it?



During the decades that the City hosted the retirement seminar, I added a brief discussion on umbrella insurance. Considering the importance of this insurance coverage and its low cost, I was always concerned about how few officers in the room had the coverage. This insurance coverage can be the difference between complete asset security and losing everything you own.

Your current auto and home insurance policies

First, knowing how much insurance coverage you currently have on your auto and residence is essential. The most common auto liability coverage is \$100,000/300,000. For home coverage, it is \$250,000.

What those figures mean is that you are covered for \$100,000 in damages that your driving negligence causes to a single person and \$300,000 in “aggregate” coverage for multiple people injured in the same accident. Suppose you have \$250,000 in homeowners liability coverage. Therefore, that is the limit your insurance company will pay for damages your negligence causes to someone injured in your home or on your property. You are personally liable for any excess damages.

Consequences of inadequate insurance coverage

I have seen it time and time again. Many of my clients are lulled into thinking they have enough insurance. Consequently, \$100,000 sounds like a lot, until you injure someone who ends up in the hospital for a week. Or someone trips on your garden hose and fractures their ankle.

Two clients that most often come to my mind were both off-

duty police officers. One was at a stop sign in Park Ridge. However, it was night, and Park Ridge had low stone posts marking the street names. While he was inching up to see the sign, an older woman stepped off the curb, and he bumped into her. She fell back, hit her head and died.

My other client’s young daughter was playing in the house with her friend from next door. The friend tripped on a PlayStation cord, hit her head on the coffee table and suffered brain damage.

Both clients had average coverage limits, and neither had an umbrella policy. Both had more than \$600,000 in net asset worth. They lost it all.

What is umbrella insurance?

Umbrella insurance is personal liability insurance that provides coverage for claims that exceed your auto, homeowners and watercraft policy limits.

Umbrella insurance provides \$1 million in liability coverage on each vehicle and your home for one annual premium cost, averaging \$200 to \$300 a year. You can get up to \$10 million in coverage. There is no good reason not to have this coverage.

ERISA and your deferred comp

The Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) protects employee retirement benefits and usually protects from lawsuits and judgments from creditors. However, government-provided plans and IRAs are not covered by ERISA.

Now would be an excellent time to consider your net worth by adding up your home equity (after the mortgage balance), savings, investments, deferred comp and other assets. And make sure you have an umbrella policy to cover your total net worth.

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Tom Tuohy is the grandson of a CPD Chief and son of a CPD Detective

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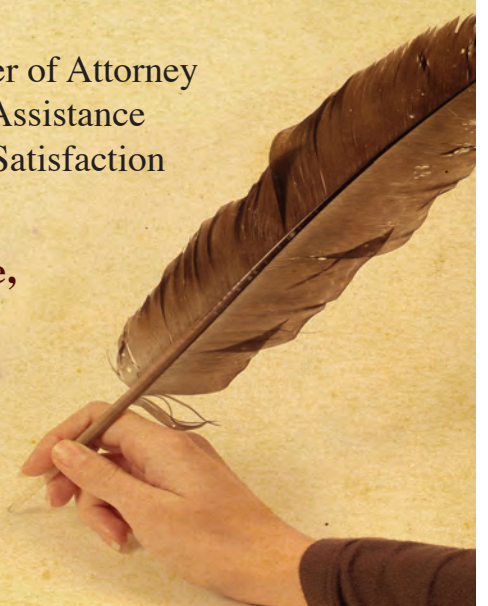


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Your living trust police discount

When CPD provided its retirement seminar, I offered all police officers and their family members a one-third reduction in my fees for a complete living trust estate plan on the day of the seminar. I am extending that offer through the FOP and this magazine for as long as there is interest.

At the end of your life or incapacitation, you risk probate if you have property, investments or bank accounts in your name.

- A will = probate. The rule is that no one can legally sign your name. Therefore, all assets in your name are subject to the probate process, which averages 18 months and is costly.
- A living trust avoids probate.
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- A living trust estate plan includes healthcare and financial power of attorney documents. It also consists of a last will and testament.
- A will is necessary for the guardianship of your 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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Take time to relax



DR. RON
RUFO

"I have so much chaos in my life, it has become normal. You become used to it. You have to just relax; calm down, take a deep breath and try to see how you can make things work, rather than complain about how they are wrong."

— Tom Welling

Because of canceled days off and working extra hours, many police officers are tired, both mentally and physically. When an officer finally gets a day off, it is important for them to do their best to decompress. I know it is hard to say no to working a side job or working special employment when your day off finally comes around, but working 10, 15, 20 straight days will take its toll on your mind and body.

Eventually, something has to give. Believe me, I was guilty of this throughout my career, as I felt like I was the king of side jobs. I am realizing now that I was only hurting myself in the long run. The money was good, but I spent more time away from my family than I should have. Doug Monda, a dear friend of mine and founder of Survive First, has this to say about working too much and what fatigue will do to your body:

The bottom line is that the law enforcement career is too much. It demands too much. What people forget is that cops are not robots; they are human beings. Human beings can only take so much pain before they shut down. I have a metaphor for this: Most cops are like an engine. Most people know the ba-

sics of an engine and how an engine works. Take the biggest, meanest diesel engine on the planet; it is powerful and can run forever and ever. If a person takes a little bit of sand and drops it into the carburetor of that diesel engine, the first day it's not a big deal, the second day, not a big deal. If a person continues to do that time and time again, what is going to happen to that diesel engine? After a while, the engine is going to seize up and quit running.

The diesel engine is more powerful than a human body. The metaphor of the story is this: If you think of the sand as the officer's trauma and the engine as the officer's brain, just like that engine, if you keep adding trauma, sooner or later that officer's brain is going to seize up. When it seizes up and does not want to work, it shuts down. Once it shuts down, there is nothing they can do about it, and that's where the suicide comes in.

That is what happened to me. I consider myself an engine. I am a 50-year-old guy who is in better shape than most guys in their 30s. I always ran at 100 miles per hour, and I am highly physically trained as an athlete. After a while, the injuries came, the mental injuries and physical injuries came, and my body and mind could not take it anymore. I could not medicate the physical and mental pain, and the only way my body and my mind could handle all that pain was to shut down. The only way to shut it down was to turn off the motor. For me, that was putting a gun to my head and pulling the trigger. If we do not fix this problem now, it is only going to get worse. If we do not train newer cops properly or change the way we do business, it is not going to work.

My personal recommendation is when you walk out the door of your station or office, you leave the law enforcement mentality there. You do not need to be the police on your way home. Take the time to decompress and enjoy the rest of your day by yourself or with your family. What better time than the present to start taking better care of ourselves? When you get your furlough, instead of working special employment, do your best to take the time given to rest and relax. Enjoy the family and unwind. As always, stay safe!

"We will be successful in all our endeavors if we can let go of the habit of running all of the time, and take little pauses to relax and recenter ourselves. And we will also have a lot more joy in living."

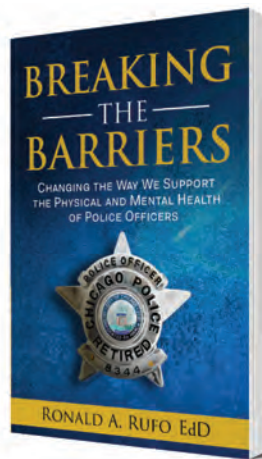
— Thich Nhat Hanh

Dr. Ron Rufo is a highly decorated Chicago Police Officer with over 22 years of service. He began his career in the 9th District, was assigned to the prestigious Ambassador Program and was eventually assigned to the Preventive Programs Unit, where he served as a crime prevention speaker for over 13 years. For most of his career, Dr. Rufo was a peer support team leader for the CPD Employee Assistance Program (EAP) of the Chicago Police Department. He has had specialized training in police suicide prevention and is a member of the Critical Incident Team. He retired from the Chicago Police Department in July 2015. He is the author of *Police Suicide: Is Police Culture Killing Our Officers?* and *Breaking the Barriers: Changing the Way We Support the Physical and Mental Health of Police Officers*. Dr. Ron Rufo's book *Breaking the Barriers: Changing the Way We Support the Physical and Mental Health of Police Officers* is available through Amazon, at ronrufo.com or through the FOP bookstore.

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 Detective J'mal Riley, Star #20088
 Sergeant Theophilos Kerkeres, Star #1314
 Sergeant Tomasz Surma, Star #1044

Nominated by Sergeant
 Theophilos Kerkeres, Star #1314

On March 26, 2022 at the location of 1133 N. Massasoit Ave., the 1562 tactical team responded to a "shot spotter alert." While en route to that location, a call of a person shot came over the zone and Beat 4553 Sergeant Surma was first to arrive on scene. The sergeant was met by witnesses on scene, who gave the name of the offender, clothing description and direction of flight. The sergeant transmitted the flash message over the zone.



The 1562 tact team utilized I CLEAR and searched for a recent booking photo of the offender while continuing to canvass the area for the offender. The officers observed the offender, and the offender fled on foot. They were able to place the offender into custody and a "show-up" was conducted with the witnesses, who positively identified the offender as the person who shot the victim. The offender was transported to Area 4 for processing, and he was initially charged with aggravated battery with a firearm. The victim was transported to Mt. Sinai Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries, only kept alive long enough for the medical staff to harvest organs for donation. The offender's charges were eventually upgraded to murder, and the victim's family was grateful to the officers for bringing them justice through their arrest of the offender.

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



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Chicago Lodge 7 Officer Awards



On Jan. 27, 2022 at 12:55 a.m. at the location of 9925 S. Oakley, Officers Arreola and Ortiz responded to an assist the EMS call in which a man was not breathing. Upon arrival, the officers were met by the frantic wife, who escorted the officers upstairs to where the victim was lying. The victim's daughter was performing CPR and was becoming fatigued. The officers

immediately intervened and began lifesaving efforts by taking over CPR and monitoring the victim's airway and pulse. The officers alternated doing chest compressions and continued to monitor the victim until CFD arrived on scene. The EMS staff and the officers continued lifesaving efforts and eventually carried the victim downstairs to the ambulance, which transported the victim to a nearby hospital. The CFD fire lieutenant on scene complimented the officers' actions, telling their sergeant, "That was good, CPR was good, it was very good." The victim was treated at the hospital, where the staff noted that if it were not for the officers' immediate intervention of rendering aid, the victim would have perished.

It is with great appreciation that FOP Chicago Lodge 7 presents these officers with the Life Saving Award.

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Chicago Lodge 7 Officer Awards



Robert Swiderski Jr. is the son of retired Officer Robert Swiderski Sr., who served the city of Chicago for 31 years. In 2021, Robert began his walk to raise awareness for mental health and suicide prevention by walking around City Hall for 24 hours. During this 24-hour walk, he was joined by members of the FOP, walking throughout the night to boost his spirits and in solidarity with Robert as a way of showing support and saying thank you for his actions.

In September 2022, Robert completed his second annual Serve & Protect walk to raise awareness of officer suicides. He walked more than 80 miles in a 48-hour period, stopping

at each of the 22 police district stations. This time, Robert lugged 12,000 copper pennies in a backpack, carrying an additional 70 lbs. during his trek. These pennies symbolized the 12,000 CPD officers that he was walking for, leaving a handful at each police district he visited. During this 48-hour period, Robert was again joined by members of the FOP, a wife of a CPD sergeant who had taken his own life, and a group of supporters. Robert pledges to walk again, proving that we never walk alone. Thank you to all who came out and for the officers who escorted Robert. God bless you all.

It is with great appreciation that FOP Chicago Lodge 7 presents Robert Swiderski Jr. with the FOP Fraternalism Award.



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What a Día

Día de los Muertos celebration at Lodge creates a new tradition that helps members feel close to fallen sisters and brothers

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL
 ■ PHOTOS BY JEN SHANAHAN

Skulls never seemed so welcoming, so friendly, as the ones posted outside the FOP Hall. Skulls could be seen en masse, including one that masked a true identity. (See if you can guess.)

Rows of multi-neon-colored paper cut intricately and artistically streamed across the ceilings, spreading reams of jubilation that seemed to lift up all the spirit – and spirits – in the room. Sights, sounds and smells seducing the hundreds of officers here included a dance crew performing a floor show with glasses on their heads, an all-female mariachi band even inspiring one unlikely officer to shake it (see if you can guess who) and tamales that were utterly addictive.

The front of the FOP Hall staged three levels of more cutout paper, marigolds in vases adorned with skulls, candles, a bottle of sangria, assorted artifacts and faces of old friends no longer with us. This altar featured the faces of those retired member Marilyn Gomez called “our guardian angels.”

The first-ever Lodge 7 Día de los Muertos celebration for Chicago Police Officers and their families engulfed the FOP Hall on Nov. 1. The Mexican tradition of Día de los Muertos – or Day of the Dead – offered an unprecedented and uniquely alluring way to honor sisters and brothers lost, as well as an opportunity to unite members in a celebration of the diversity of the Department.

And of life, for the way this evening transpired with the love and family flowing through the hall, Día de los Muertos also was a Noche de la Vida.

“The music, the food, the people, the warmth. It’s a unique experience for everybody,” observed Humberto Gutierrez, who has been on for 17 years and works in organized crime. “I think tonight, it should be the beginning of something new in our



police community, something they have never seen before. We bring not the sadness, but happiness, by celebrating their day and what they love.”

Judging by the way they lined up to enter the FOP Hall for the event and how attendance spilled out to the patio, members had never seen a celebration quite like this. It certainly was a welcome addition to never forgetting.

“It’s a celebration of life,” confirmed Scott Florez, an officer in 019 who tended bar with his teammates from the Chicago Police Soccer Club. “Just to have a good time, embrace the culture and pretty much reminisce on the great times we had with them when they were alive.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38



A group of dancers wowed the crowd with a performance with glasses on their heads.



Attendees all stopped to watch the all-female mariachi band perform.

DÍA CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

Brings you happiness

Being at the Lodge 7 Día de los Muertos reminded 10th District Officer Danny Lopez of the Días he loved growing up in Little Village. Just a family thing at home to remember family members – grandparents, aunts and uncles who had passed away.

“We would have a small altar,” added Lopez, who moved out a couple of years ago but still goes back to Little Village for the Día. “We put their favorite meals up there. Sometimes pizza. Sometimes even White Castle. And some cigars and some beer.”

Nothing like feeling close to lost loved ones by busting out objects of affection. Such is the tradition of the altar.

Chicago Police Chaplain Bob Montelongo shared how he found something to place on the altar for his good friend he used to ride with in the bike unit, Thor Soderberg. Soderberg’s sister told Deacon Bob how Thor, who was lost in the line of duty on July 7, 2010, loved rice, which led Bob to place a little bowl of rice on the altar.

“It’s always about remembering your loved ones in a joyful way, not so much a mournful way,” Deacon Bob noted. “Just where it brings you happiness and the faith in mind that one day we will meet again.”

The skull, called a *calavera*, is another adornment designed to give Día de los Muertos beauty. There is a long tradition of art depicting skeletons in Mexico. All over Mexico, people paint their faces as incredibly beautiful skulls to celebrate the Day of the Dead.

The mariachi band members showcased their skull face



Photos of fallen Chicago Police Officers, such as Irma Ruiz (top row, center), filled the altar that is the centerpiece of Día de los Muertos celebrations.

paint, as did several members attending the Día. There were skulls everywhere, including skull cookies, specially made Chicago Police coffee mugs with skulls and a life-sized one atop a skeleton, wearing a traditional dress and holding a bouquet of marigolds, outside the hall.

The multicolored paper is perforated and known as *papel picado*. The holes are said to allow a way for souls to travel through and visit. It’s also believed that the delicate nature of the paper is symbolic of the fragility of life.

The bountiful buffet table led to the *pièce de tradition*, Pan de Muerto, or bread of the dead. To have captured so much of the tradition in what many hope is only the first Día de los Muertos at Lodge 7 certainly generated what the Día had intended.

“It’s just a beautiful celebration, and we’re honoring our beloved that departed,” confirmed Gomez, who retired from 014 after nearly 30 years on the job. “They have passed on, as we say, to a better life, so we’re letting them know we miss them. We’re raising them and hope they had a safe journey crossing over.”

An uplifting event

The idea for this great Día at the FOP Hall sprouted when Carlos Yanez Jr. was at a memorial service talking to his cousin, Balvina Ranney, a Cook County sheriff. They commented how the memorials were devoted to respect and honor but were sometimes hard because of being very somber, very heavy.

Ranney mentioned to Carlos about doing a Día de los Muertos for police officers. She suggested that it could carry on from other memorials into a celebration of life. They figured the food, the drink, the altar, the color, even the skulls, would make the event to remember the fallen full of life.

As she stepped out into a full hall, still feeling the euphoria from the mariachi band’s performance, Ranney considered what made this Día great.

“You know what, because there’s so much sadness we thought this might be a nicer way of celebrating. But also respectful, because you have to be respectful for this event,” Ranney related.

Carlos suggested that Ranney ask Lodge 7 about hosting the event at the FOP Hall. She connected with Field Representative and Trustee Monica Ortiz, who has taken the lead in planning several Lodge 7 events the past couple of years.

Ortiz had seen a Día de los Muertos celebration in Mexico. She and Ranney thought this way of remembering and honoring the fallen could make a profound impact on Chicago Police Officers.

“A lot of the young Hispanic officers were so excited when they heard about this. They were like, ‘This is something we do.



Carlos Yanez Jr. and his cousin Balvina Ranney came up with the idea to hold a Día de los Muertos celebration at the Chicago FOP Hall.

We want to let everybody see what we do,” Ranney continued. “We wanted it to be an uplifting event and one that would bring everybody together.”

The opportunity to be part of a Día of this magnitude seemed to lift up Officer Ruben Dominguez. The Yanez family reached out to Dominguez as president of the Latin American Police Association (LAPA) to participate in the event.

Standing watch over the buffet table and trying not to be tempted into eating too many empanadas or churros, Dominguez felt that even with this Día being so big, it reminded him how his father used to go to Mexico and celebrate Día de los Muertos in the funeral home or at the burial grounds. And he seemed to sense this event was having a powerful effect.

“When the family reached out, I said, ‘It’s a great thing. Some-

thing we should be doing a long time ago,” Dominguez commented. “I think this will hopefully bring us all together, and the younger officers can see what can be done to get us together and remember our fallen officers.”

As word began to spread about the Día coming to the FOP Hall, support started pouring in. Florez saw the Yanez family at the Chicago Mexican Independence Day Parade, where they asked him if the soccer club wanted to help out.

“We’re like, ‘Say less. We’re in. We will work the bar.’ And here we are,” Florez reported as he presented a Paloma, a traditional beverage of Día de los Muertos. “It’s beyond amazing what the FOP and the Department has become with Hispanic officers. It’s an honor to be representing the City.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40

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This kind of pride

Somehow, you'd expect Día de los Muertos to evolve into enjoying an after-dinner cigar. Retired member Elmer Rivera did so, and as he savored a stick, he imparted the wisdom that came with serving 30 years on the job.

"It's one of the only times that I've seen something like this here at the FOP. This kind of turnout. This kind of pride," Rivera observed. "I love the fact that they do this, that they care about these officers that were killed in the line of duty."

Even in the final minutes leading up to the event, Lodge 7 leaders and staff worked to add some touches to the altar to represent the best of the fallen. President John Catanzara built much of the altar, and only after the finishing touches were on did he sneak out to present a surprise for those who attended.

(Yes, he was in the skull mask, hiding his true identity. And yes, there were members who quipped that he should have kept it on the entire evening.)

The altar was a thing of beauty. It almost brought the officers up there to life. Perhaps that's the way the family of Irma Ruiz, who was shot and killed on Sept. 22, 1988 while confronting an armed offender, felt. Irma's daughter, her husband and their children attended, perhaps because they knew the feeling that would be at the FOP.

Many members who were there spoke of personal connections. Dominguez shared how he came on the job with Michael Gordon, who was lost on Aug. 8, 2004, and how great it was to see his smiling face on the altar. He mentioned how LAPA was able to share with the family of Alex Valdez, who was lost on June 1, 2009, that they could see him honored along with his sisters and brothers at this Día de los Muertos.

Lopez seconded that emotion by noting how he put a picture



The traditional *papel picado* hung from the ceiling on the altar of Lupe Lopez, a dispatcher he worked with in 010 who passed away. And his old partner in 002, Adrian Polonio, who retired and moved to Belize but passed away a year later after suffering a stroke and a heart attack.

"There's people here from all over the Department, all over the world," Lopez commented. "We're all here to celebrate each other's lives, celebrate each other's losses, each other's ties. And it's great that the FOP acknowledged it."

The Día culminated with the hall turning into a big dance floor. The DJ kept things spinning and, lo and behold, Carlos Yanez Jr. stepped out on the dance floor, likely for the first time since that horrible Aug. 7, 2021 night.

Apparently, the spirit at the Lodge 7 Día de los Muertos celebration was that powerful.

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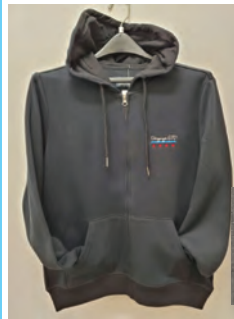
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Chicago Police Officer Joel Gordils (seated in front) with the members and friends who supported the Lodge 7 Smokeout to help him.



Where there's a Smokeout... ...there's help for a brother

Officer Joel Gordils, who was severely injured on duty, finds some powerful support at a Lodge 7 event in his honor

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL
■ PHOTOS BY JEN SHANAHAN

Chicago Police Officer Joel Gordils stood with many of his brothers and sisters, as well as FOP members from throughout Illinois and neighboring states, flashing a big freakin' smile. A vintage photo op captured Gordils feeling as good as he has the past two years. Maybe better.

For one night, the smile replaced the severe migraines. And the nightmares. And the PTSD making him "want to kill somebody" because of the fear. How great was that one night – Oct. 28, when Lodge 7 hosted a fundraiser and cigar smokeout to benefit Officer Joel Gordils, who was severely injured while making a traffic stop almost two years ago.

"It's been two years since I've done anything like this," Gordils confirmed. "For people to come together and not only donate money, but donate their time, that is what means the most to me. I want to thank everybody for spending time and laughing with me."

After Gordils was injured on Nov. 23, 2020, Lodge 7 Field Representative Monica Ortiz had been checking in regularly with him. She knew he had been going to multiple types of therapy and doctor's appointments, and even helped him through some challenges he had with transportation to the sessions and appointments.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 44

Gordils, right, enjoys a good time with friends at the Lodge 7 Smokeout.



Some of the Lodge 7 members who attended the event partake of the cigars donated by Rocky Patel.

WHERE THERE'S CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43

Ortiz mentioned to Lodge 7 President John Catanzara how Gordils was doing and that he was dealing with both health and financial challenges. The pension board has delayed ruling on whether he will be getting a full IOD retirement, and he had been in no-pay status after using up all his medical leave time.

All the while, Ortiz noticed how strong, how dedicated Gordils continued to be.

“He never complained about it,” she noted. “When you talk to him, you get how polite he is. When our officers become dramatically injured, you don’t realize how it impacts them



Members of the Brothers of Justice motorcycle club came out to support the cause.

because they don’t know what’s going to happen with the rest of their lives.”

Hearing the situation, Catanzara wanted to do something for Gordils. Something to make him feel like he is still the police and always will be.

The Lodge came up with the idea for the smokeout. After about a month of organizing, Ortiz had arranged for 500 cigars to be donated by FOP friend Rocky Patel. Financial Secretary Jim Jakstavich found some supporters who donated raffle items. One of the raffle highlights was a package of memorabilia from the career of legendary football star Jim Thorpe.

Illinois FOP State Lodge President Chris Southwood attended, along with Illinois National FOP Trustee Rocky Nowaczyk.

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One of the raffle items was a package of Jim Thorpe memorabilia. Gordils poses with the winner and other attendees.

Friends from the Brothers of Justice motorcycle club came out for Gordils.

The goal of letting Gordils know he has not been forgotten was certainly achieved. He had heard from Catanzara about the night and thought it was going to be a few officers hanging out and having a cigar.

"I got surprised with everything else," he revealed. "I saw all the people and it was very pleasing. It's something where you don't know everybody, but then they come up to you and say, 'Hey, we're here for you.'"

If everything went as planned, Gordils went home with that smile and had a good night's sleep. Which would have been welcome because, he confided, "I can't remember the last



time I had a full night of sleep, to be honest with you."

Because of his injuries, he does not know much about what happened on Nov. 23, 2020. The last thing he remembers is getting out to make a traffic stop. This was the job he always wanted growing up in Garfield Ridge. He served almost five years as a Cook County sheriff before coming on with CPD, where he has worked for five years.

His partner was driving that day, so Gordils got out for the stop. Suddenly, he was being dragged by the car for about a block until he crashed into a steel pillar. The incident left him with four plates in his head.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 46



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He still has memory loss and cognitive issues. He is in vision therapy. He is seeing a psychiatrist and a psychologist for help with his PTSD. And that might not be the hardest part.

"The last 10 years of my life was law enforcement. That's what I know how to do," he explained. "It's very challenging to figure out what I can do now without going off on somebody because of my PTSD. So it's a challenge, but I believe I'm here for a reason. There's a reason God didn't take me that day. So I have to try to make the best of it."

There was hope that the Illinois Pension Board would help him make the best of it by confirming an injured-on-duty (IOD) disability retirement that would have enabled Gordils to pension out at 75 percent. As of now, he has been granted an ordinary disability, which is 50 percent.

His case has run into several obstacles, including the policy of having to use up all medical leave time. Lodge 7 First Vice President Mike Mette, who tracks all members going to pension board hearings for the union, questions this policy for an officer who is obviously not coming back to work.

Apparently, the pension board is backlogging hearings for up to a year. And many of those members are stuck in no-pay status awaiting hearings. Even if the member has a favorable independent medical evaluation from the pension board's assigned doctor, the cases are slow to be processed.

"The pension board blames it on the City, saying it takes too long to get the medical file over to them," Mette commented. "Then, you have the City saying, 'No, we have given them everything.' It goes back and forth, and everybody points the finger at everybody else."

Another barrier comes from the pension board ruling that the officer can go back to work on limited duty. But then the Department pushes back by saying the officer can't meet the standards even for limited duty, such as being able to make an effective arrest.

Mette has also heard statements like asking an officer who is right-handed and suffered an injury to the right arm to learn to use their firearm left-handed. Or the pension board trying to deny officers an IOD disability because they have a college degree and can pursue another means of employment.

And some of these cases are winding up in court, for which the pension board might be spending millions of dollars on lawyer's fees. All of which leads Mette to make this rather direct request:

"Stop denying them their benefits, their due benefits," he exclaimed. "It's not the board's money. It's these officers' money. They paid into it, and now they need it because they can't come back to work."

An officer who has suffered what Joel Gordils has would seem to be one who should get that IOD disability retirement. And he may still.

But Gordils is not letting it get him down. He has a perspective that runs deep in the best of Chicago Police Officers.

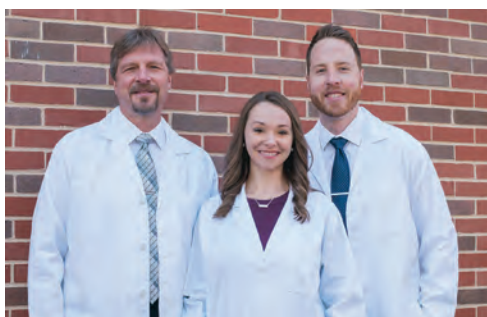
"I don't look at it like I am injured. I was blessed," he professed. "I may have four plates in my head, and it may be hard day by day with the PTSD and the chronic migraines. But you know those happy moments, they go a long, long way. And even those moments when I'm still in pain, it's so much better to laugh. I'm struggling with it, but I know it's going to pass."



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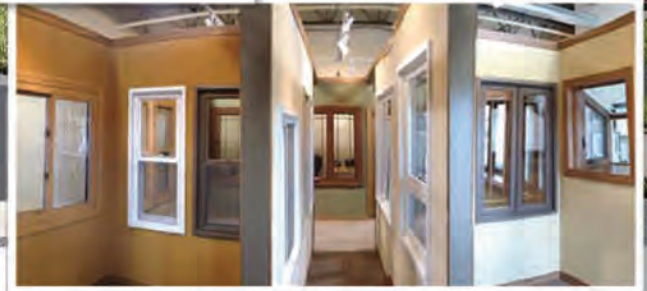
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Appreciation Adoration

Chicago Police Officer veterans know how much their families matter when they are deployed

■ BY ESTHER GONZALES

Six days after his son was born in 2010, Jim Wynn deployed with the U.S. Air Force to Afghanistan. Although he had been deployed before, to Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Iraq, this time was different. Would he miss seeing his son start to crawl or hearing his first words?

“[I wondered], will I ever get the chance to know him or meet him? Will I make it back home?” related Wynn, who is a member of the CPD Bomb Squad. “And I think that was the most worrisome thing.”

But Wynn found a way to build a bond with his son while he was deployed. Every Sunday when he had time, he visited the USO center on base to record a DVD. Wynn read books and recorded them, then mailed them to his wife, Meghan, for her to play for their son. Sundays became the highlight of his week.

“He probably doesn’t even know what he’s watching, but it was a way I felt that I could connect with him,” Wynn explained. “Whether it worked or not, I don’t know, but it was something that I liked to do, because I felt like, ‘I’m reading this story to my son. I can’t be home and do it, so I’ll do it while I’m here.’”

Wynn is among many Chicago Police Officers who have served in the military and left behind their families for months or years at a time. But the family members know what their service is during these times and how much a handwritten letter or looking at a photograph between missions can make a difference.

So as Veterans Day came this year, Lodge 7 members who have served in the military remember how much their families have served with them. It’s an opportunity to honor them with a tribute to military family appreciation.

Appreciation affirmation

When Charleene Rusiecka, who has been on for 17 years, was deployed to Iraq in 2007 with the Army National Guard, she had an overwhelming feel-

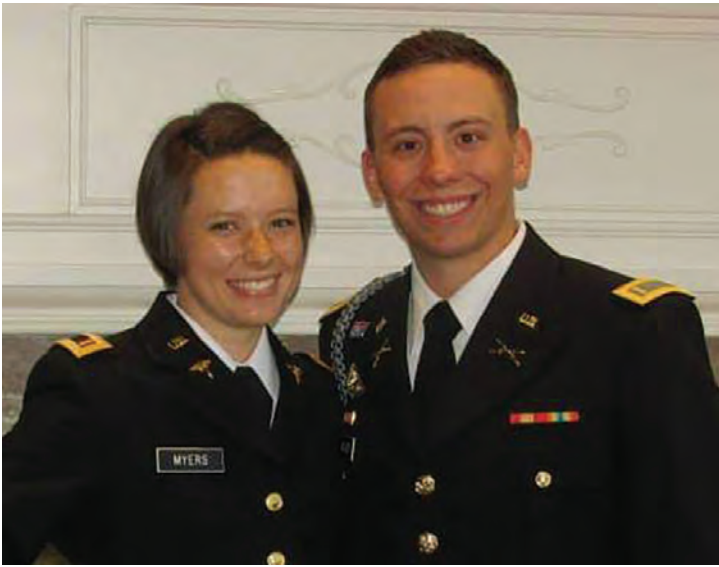
CONTINUED ON PAGE 50



The Wynn family: Meghan, Kaylee, Jim and Colin.



Charleene Rusiecka, who has served with CPD for 17 years, is an Army National Guard veteran who deployed to Iraq in 2007.



Adrienn and Tyler Woods met in ROTC.

APPRECIATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 49

ing of helplessness. She left behind her mother and three younger brothers, who had always looked up to and depended on her. Rusiecka wanted to be there for them, but she knew she couldn't.

On base, Rusiecka wasn't always able to communicate with her family because of the intermittent internet connection. She remembers one time waiting in line for an hour to use the phone. But because of the time difference, after calling 10 different people, no one answered. So Rusiecka understands the appreciation. When she received a surprise care package from her mother, she said it felt like Christmas. And it fortified her strength to continue serving.

"Even the small acts of kindness and thoughtfulness, such as sending a letter, a card, even to tell me about their day, was my daily reminder that I wasn't forgotten," Rusiecka explained. "And I feel like sometimes we go about our daily lives and we think it's something so little, so minor. But for someone who's deployed, it really makes a huge difference. Because it's those little things that you look forward to. Sometimes you don't even realize they impact you as much as they do."

After only eight months of marriage, 18th District Officer Tyler Woods also learned about the impact of family support when he deployed to Afghanistan in 2015. During the following eight months, there were many long nights because of the time difference. But his wife Adrienn, whom he met in college ROTC, had a military background too, and even in the frustrating moments when they couldn't talk every day, she tried to put herself in his shoes.

"We both understood, at least in some aspect, sometimes you're too busy to talk, you're too stressed out, you're sleep deprived or just the military pressures that are on you," Adrienn detailed. "It's nice to be able to say, 'I understand where you're coming from. I've been through that before.'"

But Adrienn expressed that those long sleepless nights seemed like nothing compared to 2020, when Tyler was gone for a year at a class with the U.S. Army in California. Now they had a baby.

Throughout the year, Tyler and his wife used social media to communicate. To show his appreciation for her support, Tyler would even order food for his wife through Uber Eats on days when he knew she was working late. And a 4 a.m. phone call became the new norm. Before his wife went to work each



18th District Officer Tyler Woods was deployed to Afghanistan in 2015 with the U.S. Army as an infantry officer.

morning, Tyler would FaceTime her and their daughter.

"We were able to keep in contact so much that it really made it a seamless process coming back," Tyler explained. "But with being able to talk to [my daughter] on the phone and video with her, that just made it so much easier. I mean, it was almost like I wasn't gone."

But there were times as Tyler was undergoing a strenuous Russian language course when he needed an extra push of motivation. And in those moments, he looked at a photo on his desk. It was a candid shot of the three of them on a couch.

"If I didn't find my motivation for the day or I was having a hard time getting something done, I was able to look at that and it reminded me of what I was doing it all for," Tyler remarked.

Appreciation commendation

"Dad is going to be away at work for a while," explained Ana Olvera to her three children after hearing that her husband Fernando would be deployed to the Middle East with the Army.

Fernando, who has been a detective for nine years, and his wife began preparing for his departure. They posted a calendar on their fridge and told their oldest, who was entering preschool, that they would count down the days until Dad would come home.

But for Fernando, the reality of being away from his wife and children didn't sink in until he was overseas.

"It doesn't really hit you until you leave the States," Fernando explained. "You'll still be here in the States, prepping to leave. But once you leave the States and your boots are on ground in the combat zone, that's when you feel it."

Throughout the year Fernando was deployed, Ana relied heavily upon her family. She experienced the challenges of balancing her time with a full-time job with the City of Chicago and taking care of her children. Their support kept her going.

"The one thing that I could say to families that are going through this or that will be going through this, is to keep their eye on the prize," Anna expressed. "Keep their eye on the end, work toward it, persevere and seek help. Use your family, use your friends as your support system, because it goes a long way."

Like many Chicago Police Officers who have served in the military, Fernando held on to the moments when he could connect with his wife and children. And Ana looked forward to the morning FaceTiming.

"Being able to talk to him regularly helped me keep strong," Ana remarked. "It helped both of us keep going. And helped us keep as positive as we could so that the time can seem to go by fast."



Detective Fernando Olvera holds a care package he received from Lodge 7 members while he was deployed with the U.S. Army in the Middle East.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 52

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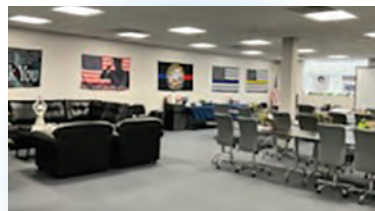
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APPRECIATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 51

Fernando expressed that he felt unwavering support from his wife and CPD family. The numerous care packages, letters and words of encouragement were just what he needed to set aside extra worries and focus on his missions at hand.

"It's really a high, up-tempo situation when you're deployed out there," Fernando explained. "Everybody's working longer hours, stress is pretty high and it's not good when you have stress over there and also have stress back home. So it's good when you have a supportive family and they understand what you're doing. That way you could just focus 100 percent on the mission."

In 2013, Wynn prepared once again to deploy to Afghanistan. This time he was leaving behind his 8-month-old daughter, too. And this time, with technology being more advanced, he had the opportunity to FaceTime his family while he was overseas.

Wynn expressed that at times, for soldiers, it may seem easy to pack your bags and say, "See you in nine months." But it's the family members you leave behind who have it the hardest, because they are left to pick up all the pieces. And without them, none of these men or women would be able to complete their missions.

"I don't think the family ever gets enough credit," Wynn added. "Once we're there, we're there. We can't go anywhere. You're stuck in a foreign country in a war zone. And we never really think about how when we leave, your family back home is responsible for everything now, for as long as you're gone. Families definitely sacrifice — the children and the spouses — probably more than the servicemember."



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Wish Come True

CPD members provide a dream day for 4-year-old Khalil

■ BY ESTHER GONZALES

Four-year-old Khalil had one wish: to become a Chicago Police Officer. And after hearing from staffers at the Make-A-Wish Foundation that Khalil had been diagnosed with sickle cell anemia, CPD members made this wish come true.

CPD units rallied together to create a special day for Khalil. Various units, including the bomb squad, the mounted unit, the K-9 unit and the marine unit, prepared a show-and-tell presentation for Khalil and his family.

Officer Arcee Cain served as Khalil's personal ambassador for the day. Members of the traffic unit picked up Khalil and his family, and a motorcade met them halfway along their route to escort them to the department.

Once there, officers stood at attention to salute Khalil.

"I was happy that we were able to collaborate on something so complex between so many different units within the Department and units outside of the Department," Cain expressed. "And he seemed to be happy. We tried to make it more his moment, so we did everything to make everything about him, so that he could have happiness."

Cain began the tour at the academy with a demonstration of a self-defense class. He followed that with an immersive simulator that helped Khalil and his siblings learn how to deescalate a situation like ones officers may encounter on the streets. Then the children were able to see the K-9 unit and the mounted unit.

Cain then brought the family to a dock, where they enjoyed a boat ride with members of the marine unit. Looking across the water from another boat, Cain saw the wide smile on Khalil's face and felt a sense of gratitude.

Then a loud hum filled the air. Overhead, CPD helicopters flew over the boats several times. Later, Khalil and his siblings got a tour of a helicopter.

Just as the family thought their day was over, Cain brought them back to the academy. Khalil was made an honorary CPD member and given a uniform that

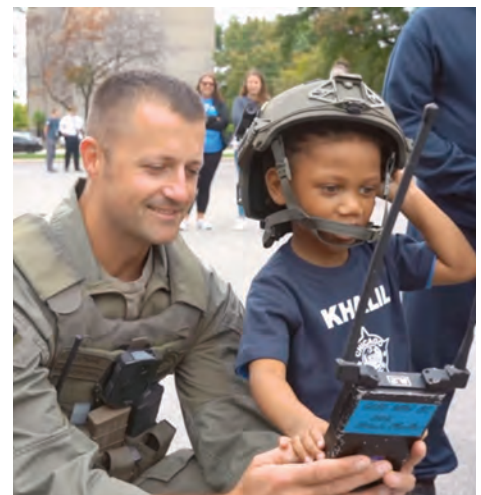


Four-year-old Khalil was invited to CPD headquarters for his Make-A-Wish, which was to become a police officer for a day.



Members gave Khalil a tour of their helicopter. had been made just for him and a star number.

"When we had his star pinned on him, I think that was the pinnacle," Cain added. "I looked over and I saw his mom in tears. It was a great moment."



Members of the bomb squad displayed their robots and showed Khalil how to use them.

The names in 004 that will never be forgotten

On East 103rd Street, you see the 4th District. What you may not see is the memorial honoring the department's 14 fallen officers.

In a ceremony that included family and friends of those 14 souls, the 4th District celebrated its new memorial space on Oct. 19.

The project came to life when a few officers had the idea to turn the area into a wellness area for the department to relax.

But Captain Mike Murphy had other plans.

"As soon as I saw it, I was like, this just screams memorial space for our fallen," Murphy said.

He was involved with building the Gold Star Families Memorial and Park just east of Soldier Field, so he knew what a memorial should look like.

The 4th District's building's bricks have the names of every officer who's ever worked in the department. These are officers who were lucky enough to return home to their families safe and sound every night.



every night.

But there were 14 officers who didn't make it home. Murphy explains that those 14 names were each inscribed on a piece of granite and mounted on the building in the memorial space.

It's common to hear at a memorial service, "never forgotten." While it's easy to say those words, Murphy says it may be hard for officers to remember due to how long it's been since some of these officers lost their lives. Murphy says he wanted to give these 14 officers more than a plaque



inside the department or a mention at a roll call.

"I wanted something right in 004 so that we can stand in the memorial, stand at attention, pay respects and read off a short narrative of how that officer lost their life."

For Murphy, the phrase "never forget" hits home. The third-generation police officer's grandfather was lost in the line of duty in 1933.

"It means that those officers will always be remembered," he added.



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Faith in Action

CPD officers celebrate National Faith & Blue Weekend with the community

In honor of this year's National Faith & Blue Weekend Oct. 8–11, various CPD districts hosted events in partnership with faith-based organizations and leaders in the community to unify residents. Whether through prayer walks or candle-light vigils, many members embraced the mission of Faith & Blue, to build strong police–community relationships.

Members of the 9th District participated in three events over the weekend, including a visit to the Brookfield Zoo with more than 70 residents, a safety walk through Chinatown, where officers presented safety tips to senior citizens, and a prayer vigil at Lodebar Church and Ministries.

"A lot of [residents] were very grateful that we were doing this," 9th District Officer James McAndrew related. "I think a lot of times they might look at the police as just coming to arrest somebody. And they don't realize that we provide different services and try to help them. So when we get them out there and we actually tell them, 'Hey, we do more than what you think we



Members of the 9th District invited families who have experienced domestic violence to a day at the Brookfield Zoo during National Faith & Blue Weekend.

do,' it's a very positive response."

Faith & Blue is an initiative started in 2020 by the One Congregation One Precinct program that focuses on pairing law enforcement with local faith-based organizations. Its goal is to reinforce connections between leaders of the community to help facilitate community discussions and activities.

"It's an important impact," 20th District Officer Brian Schwarck explained. "The church is like the cornerstone of the neighborhood. And people can gather



Members of the 20th District gathered with residents in the community at Philadelphia Church to pray for victims of domestic violence.

there and feel safe to come meet with us and ask questions."

Officers in the 20th District joined with community members to walk in and out of local businesses and offered to pray with business owners. Members also hosted a prayer vigil outside Philadelphia Church with members of the community.

"The leaders are very supportive of the police," Schwarck added. "They bring out people of their congregation and we have a chance to discuss ideas and life. It's good partnership with the faith leaders."



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Purple Gain

CPD gives a voice to victims of domestic violence

Throughout October, Chicago Police Officers spread the purple in local neighborhoods.

It's a pretty color to be sure, but it also represents a lot of pain. The scars that survivors have may never heal completely, but with help from Chicago Police Officers, their stories can be told in a variety of ways.

Multiple Chicago Police districts sported purple at events, tied purple ribbons around trees and squad cars and even decorated their headquarters in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Right from the start, the 14th District made sure you saw their purple. On Oct. 1, officers held a domestic violence awareness rally. Participants gathered to hang purple ribbons in support of those who have been silenced.

Some showed support by actions, and others by words. The 11th District's domestic violence liaison officers participated in a women's health conference for the Hispanic community to begin the month. But the 11th District didn't stop there. Officers taught local women how to protect themselves with a self-defense course led by instructors from Krav Maga Illinois on Oct. 14.

It takes a special person to walk in another's shoes. Nobody knows that better than the members of the domestic violence committee in the 15th District. On Oct. 2, they walked the entire



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distance between the Madison and Central neighborhoods, tying purple ribbons on light poles and handing out flyers about domestic violence to local businesses.

The scars that domestic violence leaves can't always be seen. That's why the 19th District created a display to catch people's attention when they walk into its headquarters. Along with a purple table holding pamphlets, the district shared real stories of victims on T-shirts. One shirt read, "My husband won't let me have my own phone, money. He won't let me talk to my friends or family. He hits me where my clothes cover."

The 12th District used social media and traditional face-to-face interactions to spread the word about domestic violence. Several times throughout the month, the district shared the Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline in multiple languages. Officers also took part in an event at the Resurrection Project, where they spoke to community members.



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10th District unveils Ben's Café

The break room at 10th District headquarters on West Ogden now bears a stylized new look and a meaningful name.

Ben's Café was unveiled in late September to honor fallen Officer Benjamin Perez 20 years after his death in the line of duty. Family members, fellow officers and the honor guard attended the ceremony to officially open the updated space, which is signified by a large sign just outside the room that includes a replica of Perez's star.



CPMF Valor Awards honor 12 officers

On a crisp fall evening along the lakefront, the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation's annual Valor Awards ceremony paid tribute to a dozen officers for their outstanding and honorable efforts.

This year's award recipients were Officer Jaime Avila, Officer Fernanda Ballesteros, Officer Mark Bean, Officer Zachary Carmen, Officer Rudy Estrada, Officer Julius Givens, Officer Anthony Graffeo, Officer Raven Hoskins, Officer Crane Julamoke, Officer Erik Moreno, Officer Matthew Pufpaf and Officer Felipe Zamorano.

Each of the officers was featured in a video posted to the CPMF Facebook page.



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Cops and the Community

Just because it's fall doesn't mean everyone has retreated indoors — and certainly not Chicago Police Officers. Throughout October, as neighborhood groups and kids continued to get out and about for fun and meaningful causes, officers were right there with them.



11th District

In the 11th District, the community wore pink for a breast cancer awareness walk that stepped off from the JLM Center with officers alongside to support cancer survivors and their families and friends.



10th District

CAPS officers joined in the community's 9th Annual Peace March in the Ogden-based district, handing out backpacks and other goodies to students while also providing resources and engagement with other community members.

6th District

Across the City, officers took part in fall festivals, Trunk or Treat and many other Halloween celebrations. In the 6th District, officers dressed up and stocked up on donated candy to hand out to trick-or-treaters who stopped by.



Chicago Marathon



One of the biggest marathons in the country makes its way through many City neighborhoods and police districts. Officers lined the route to keep things safe and lend moral support for the runners in the Chicago Marathon.



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