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CHICAGO POLICE LODGE 7

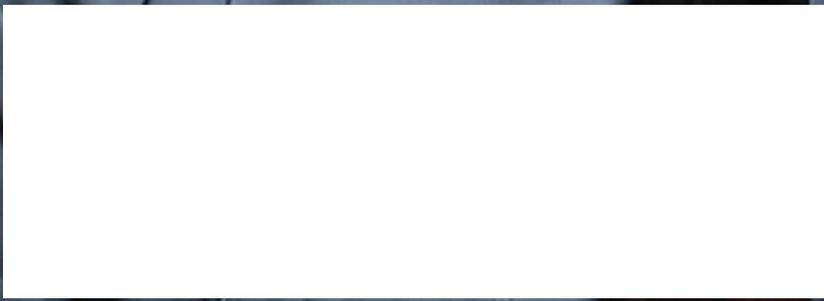
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OFFICER LUIS HUESCA

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT STAR #18913

END OF WATCH: APRIL 21, 2024



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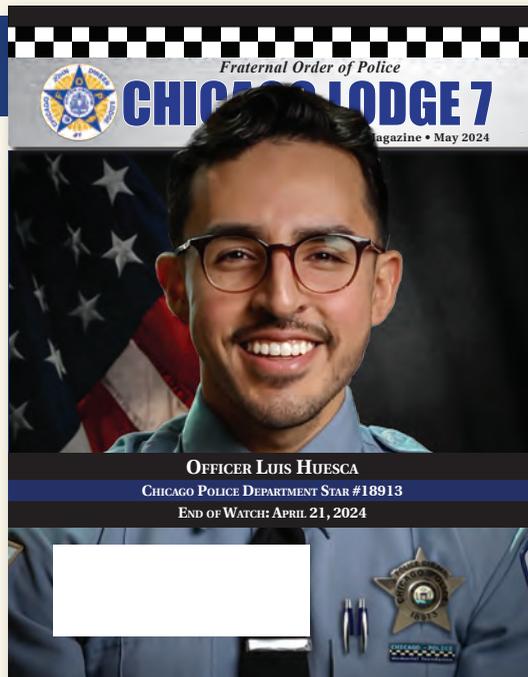
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**COVER STORY
PAGE 29**

A Tribute to a Superhero

Looking through those magnetic glasses that became part of his persona seemed to give Luis Huesca an extraordinary view of the world. One that enabled him to connect with everybody he went to the academy with, everybody he worked with and everybody he met. One of his superpowers was an ability to make an impact on everybody. His others included courage, curiosity, compassion and a relentless drive to advocate for victims of crime in Chicago. These as just some of the attributes his supervisors, colleagues, friends, family and an entire City will miss about the man CPD Superintendent Larry Snelling described as a true exemplary officer.



COVER DESIGN BY JENNA RAMOS

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CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine
President's Report



Another officer down and another shot heard round the City



JOHN CATANZARA JR.

Sometimes — too many times — there's no way to make sense of how Chicago Police Officers cross paths with evil. I mean, 60 seconds either way, you never cross paths with a guy and you're going home and walking in the house. It's kind of crazy.

What happened to Luis Huesca is so random and ridiculous. He catches one more red light, and he never runs into that guy. It's the same with Aréannah Preston. One more red light, and they never see her get out of her car and follow her.

I don't think Luis knew what was happening until getting out of his personal car. He ended up struggling briefly with the assailant and was incapacitated pretty much with the first shot. Then it was just execution at that point. In a criminal's mind, I guess if you're going to be charged with carjacking and attempted murder, you might as well go the full Monty and try not to leave a witness. But the callousness that the video showed of what he was acting like after the fact is kind of crazy.

I was in Memphis Saturday night when this happened, planning on churching with Dr. Willie Wilson on Sunday morning. Then this goes down in the middle of the night, so when I woke up that morning, I told him, I got to go back. I stopped at the Illinois Police Officers Memorial in Springfield and made a video that I hope you have seen on the YouTube channel. I had to redo it, because in the first one, my emotions got the better of me. I started dropping f-bombs, and I was just so f---ing angry.

The overtone of the video was, Enough bullshit, enough politician excuses. Here's a bit of a trailer for that video:

Behind me is the memorial for the state law enforcement, and we all know there's going to be several names memorialized here a few days from now. And now we know there will be at least one Chicago Police Officer memorialized again next year because some predator decided that taking someone's car wasn't enough. He had to execute him because he was Chicago Police Officer. If they would do that to a Chicago Police Officer, does anybody think the average citizen stands a chance in any of these situations? That's exactly what we're talking about right now to the politicians. I can tell you this: If you do not put felony murder back on the books for law enforcement homicides, your political career will end quickly if we have anything to do about it. Enough is enough. A signal needs to be sent that law enforcement in this state and all across the country are under greater attack than ever before, but specifically in Illinois, when we have paroled at least three Chicago Police cop killers in the last two years who should have rotted and died in prison. But they can't even get that punishment anymore because of policies of politicians and judges. This needs to stop. We are going to do everything we can to make sure that happens, and the first step is going to be joining that effort to put Brandon Johnson on a recall vote come November. The ball is in your court, politicians. You can do the right thing, or you can get the hell out of the way.

It's so raw because the connections between the last three deaths are weird and eerie. Luis and Andres Vasquez-Lasso, who was lost last March, went to the academy together. Luis was one of the video presenters at the funeral for Andres. Their moms are friends. Luis was such good friends with Andres that when they had their fundraiser through the Brotherhood of the Fallen, Luis wrote a \$1,000 check himself to help with the expenses in honor of his good friend that he went to the academy with.

And now, the ridiculous similarities between Luis and Aréannah are just so bizarre. The last three are so intertwined now. The last three are exactly what this police department is supposed to be. And the last three have been eliminated by pieces of you know what. And because of politics, primarily.

The day after Luis was killed, we went to the roll call for the Saturation South team. Superin-

President's Report continues on Page 6

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COPA Bananas

I just had to speak up and speak out at COPA meetings in April after the March 21 incident when a man fired on four of our officers and they had to return fire. The video clearly shows the man fired first.

I had to respond to the behavior of COPA Chief Administrator Andrea Kersten since then. Something definitely needed to be said publicly to her face. The shooting isn't the issue here as much as her feeling the need to weigh in when she's supposed to be the lead investigator. When was the last time you saw a homicide detective giving interviews about a case and about what they believe happened and the guilt or innocence of the offender?

So it just was really bizarre that as the head of that organization she felt the need to go on a public campaign to question the officer's integrity and to question the process and the procedures that were followed. It just basically tells you where her head was at from the get-go.

I know the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability is not happy with her behavior regarding this shooting. Certainly, Larry Snelling is absolutely fuming. There's so much wrong with how this whole narrative went down after the shooting, including City Hall putting a brick on the IRT video that was put together with frame-by-frame explanations about what the officers did, just breaking it down like every other major city does.

IRT was tasked with doing that by the superintendent. It took a couple of days, with a lot of man-hours expended putting that video compilation together. And then when the superintendent talked about it at a town hall meeting, the very next morning the

brick order was put on by City Hall that it was not going to be released because, God forbid, they already had their narrative that the police were bad.

I absolutely asked these officers for their input on whether I should speak on their behalf, because I believe it's beneficial that we put out a statement to get our narrative out before Andrea Kersten and the mayor put their narrative out. So it was up to them.

If they had told me no, it wouldn't have happened. But they all, to a person, said, "Absolutely, go ahead."

When I had a grasp and understanding of everything that happened, our statements, along with the video compilations that even COPA released, caused the public sentiment to die pretty quickly. There were many liberal Democratic politicians who generally may be apathetic and suspicious of police-involved shootings on some level who thought differently. But to them, I say, "What do you expect the police to do? He shot first and continued to try and kill him." And I think 999 out of every 1,000 citizens in the City ended up with that same perspective.

So their attempt to warm up the bus and run over five more officers failed miserably to this point. I think it was all to try and drum up emotion and get Kim Foxx to try and charge at least one of the officers, which to this point sounds like is not going to happen.

Their response was exactly as they're trained to do. And I think the narrative for this story would be read the book, not the COPA cover.



Brief update on arbitration for termination

We have filed the brief in the appellate court, which is our appeal to throw out the whole chancery court opinion on the arbitration ruling to give us the right to fight termination decisions.

On our end, it's very basic to appeal the decision Judge Mullen made that was 100 percent unlawful. On the City's end, I don't see them having a realistic expectation to have the arbitration completely rejected, which is the only component, really, that they did not get in Judge Mullen's award.

So in theory, they're happy with the status quo and are certainly going to motion to reject our appeal. I don't see them asking for that last little nugget of throwing out the whole arbitration award.

Our appeal is simply asking for arbitrator Ed Benn's award to be basically the rule of law.

That will return members to paid status while they go through the process, which is what we are entitled to by Illinois state law.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

tendent Snelling was there with a bunch of the brass. Larry spoke for quite an extended period of time. Pretty straightforward, pretty impassioned, and just as solid of a superintendent's speech that I've heard.

It's similar to what happened outside the hospital in the ambulance bay when Andres was killed. Larry took charge of that scene even though he wasn't the superintendent at the time. It's just refreshing to have that kind of leadership and compassion and just no BS. All the bosses spoke up a little bit at the roll call, and it was nice. It was a good touch. I think it disarmed the officers because they're all so young, and for most of them, it was their first close brush with this kind of situation. And it just solidified why Larry was the right choice for superintendent.



Chicago Police Superintendent Larry Snelling's comments to the media and officers following the shooting of Luis Huesca were very powerful.



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Things to Do



**MICHAEL
METTE**

Hi everyone, I hope this article finds you well. Just a couple of quick tidbits coming up. First up, The FOP Gun Safety Days will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday May 29th and 30th at the Lodge Hall. Please stop on by and give your weapons a good look over and clean up. If you are one of those officers that does not inspect and clean their duty weapons on a regular basis, this is a great opportunity to make sure your weapon is in good working order. If you get any type of maintenance done on your weapon, make sure to get to a range and make sure it is still in working order.

Secondly, I don't know if I have put this out there yet but here you go. With the help of the Lodge, we have created a 501(c)(3) organization called the Chicago Blue Line Support Foundation. Our new organization has been quietly going for a little over 6 months now. Our main focus is on Officer Wellness in the way of educational retreats. I am proud to say our first retreat back in Dec 23 was a tremendous success. We hosted 15 officers at the Phantom Ranch Bible Camp up in Mukwonago, Wi. This is an awesome escape from the daily grind here in the city. Phantom Ranch is set up on Lake Mukwonago and has so many activities for our officers to enjoy. Officers have the chance to participate in indoor rock climbing, tomahawk throwing, horseback riding, swimming, kayaking, and so much more.

Now I know you read above that these retreats are also educational, and they are in many ways. Each retreat will have at least one guest speaker who will bring their own personal stories of trauma and growth. These retreats are meant to give officers a chance to open up and get back to a more natural state of being. With the help of our Officer Wellness Committee, we have chosen Officers who have been involved in traumatic incidents or injured on the job. If you

are interested in joining us on one of these retreats or know someone who might benefit from it, please email me at Michael.mette@chicagofop.org.

Our next retreat is scheduled for June 3rd through 5th. I would like to say thank you again to the amazing staff at Phantom Ranch for their hospitality on our first retreat and their continued support for our organization and our Officers. I would like to give a big shout out to Paul Zogg, Rob Noceda and the rest of the Chicago Police Marines for offering to donate the cost of this next retreat. On behalf of the board at Chicago Blue Line Support Foundation, I thank you for the tremendous and generous donation.

If you have any questions about the retreats, please email me and if you would like to help support our goals of bringing Officer Wellness and Support to our members who need it most, you can send donations for the Chicago Blue Line Support Foundation to 1412 W Washington Blvd #2, Chicago, IL 60607.

Lastly, I would like to remind everyone that May 15th is National Police Memorial Day. Police Week is a the time of year Officers from around the country come to remember those who died in the Line of Duty. Team Chicago will be riding again in the Law Enforcement United Road to Hope. This year we have 6 riders and 2 support personnel that will be making the 250-mile bicycle ride from Chesapeake, VA to DC. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the tragic death of PO Michael Gordon. I am honored to have his brother John Gordon riding with us along with Maria Marmolejo and Crystal Jimenez! I am so proud of what you all have been able to accomplish.

I hope to see many of you out in DC after the ride. If you plan on going to Police Week, please remember you are there to honor the fallen and remember the survivors. God bless and stay safe and healthy!



FIRST RESPONDERS WELLNESS CENTER

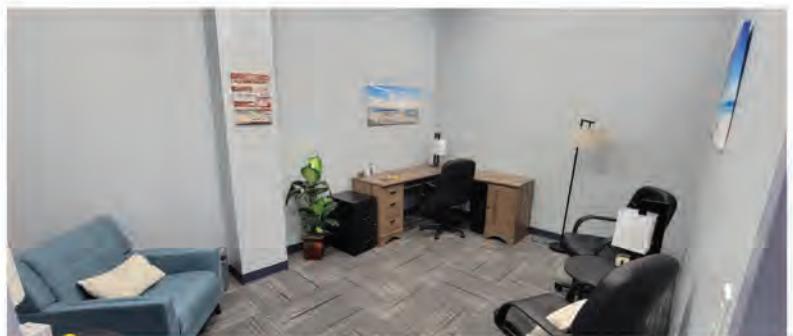


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Dr. Carrie Steiner
Retired Chicago Police Officer
Owner, First Responders Wellness Center



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A Report on Discipline Briefs



DAN GORMAN

My report given at the monthly General Members' Meetings includes examples of arbitrator's decisions issued at arbitration hearings. Every investigation has its own individual circumstances, and in most cases, there are multiple allegations and redundant alleged "Rule violations" (usually piled on by the investigators). However, below are summaries of some recent dispositions that have been awarded by the Arbitrators. The following discipline briefs only provide a generalization of the allegations that were sustained in the CR investigation.

General Summary of Allegation	Original Recommended Penalty	Arbitrator's Award
Fail to continually monitor a prisoner in lockup	5-day suspension	1-day suspension
Prisoner escape	1-day suspension (2x's)	Violation Noted/No Discipline
Prisoner escape	1-day suspension (2x's)	Expunged
Alleged "rude" and "abusive" towards citizen as scene of a shooting.	10-day suspension	3-day suspension
Remove a person from a scene, fail to notify supervisor upon request, profanity, etc.	15-day suspension	10-day suspension
Alleged "rude" comments during a citizen recording an encounter.	5-day suspension	Expunged
Fail to sign in taser (despite the radio room being locked).	1-day suspension	Violation Note/No Discipline

QUOTE BOARD:

To add some context to the above listed dispositions, here are some notable quotes taken directly from the arbitrator's written award/decisions.

60-Day Suspension: COPA Fabricates Evidence?

The following quotes were taken from an arbitration decision of a 60-day suspension where the primary dispute was whether the accused officer "deliberately" kicked a subject in the head, and face, during a struggle. The arbitrator noted in his 14-page decision:

Quote: "...under the just cause standard, the purpose of discipline is to correct the officer so as to avoid a repeat of the officers objectionable conduct; a delay in discipline may not accomplish the need to correct wit reasonable promptness as the officer could be

still engaged in conduct during the delay period that is deemed necessary to correct."

Quote: "...a delay could well deprive and officer of due process in presenting his/her defense to allegations..."

Quote: "The COPA investigator's reliance on his interview with Officer [REDACTED] as an acknowledgement by [REDACTED] that he kicked (the complainant) deliberately is questionable." "The COPA investigator interviewed Officer [REDACTED] for 16 minutes...approximately 2 1/2 years after the incident..."

Quote: "It was represented that the above mentioned individuals approving Officer [REDACTED]'s TRR in doing so reviewed [REDACTED]'s BWC and apparently did not observe any kicking of (the complainant), thereby bringing into question the BWC observations of (COPA) Investigator Schaaf and (COPA) Deputy Chief Investigator Haynam."

Quote: "For the above described reasons, COPA cannot support their finding that Officer [REDACTED] deliberately kicked (the complainant)."

Arbitrator Compliments The Superintendent:

"The above named supervisors and reviewers of Officer [REDACTED]'s TRR are in good company. Then Deputy Chief Snelling and now the Superintendent as a member of the Command Channel Review in his comments wrote:

"...[t]he investigation never established if Officer [REDACTED]'s foot making contact with the complainant's head was inadvertent or purposeful. The attached BWC footage did not clearly capture the kick to the head."

Two Commanders Come To The Aide Of Officers Facing A Copa Suspensions:

Quotes from a 15-page arbitration decision re: (Alleged Strip Search)

Quote: "Commander Joseph J. Bird did not concur with COPA's proposed findings or recommended penalty for Officer [REDACTED]. Commander Bird responded with an extensive, detailed analysis of the incident and explained why he should be exonerated of all COPA's allegations. In his analysis, Commander Bird looked at the adequacy and timeliness of COPA's Investigation..."

Quote: "Commander Sean Joyce wrote a detailed and extensive non-concurrence. Commander Joyce, in similar fashion to Commander Bird, identified which allegations he recommended be exonerated or unfounded. Commander Joyce did not sustain any of COPA's seven allegations against Officer [REDACTED]"

Quote: "Given the excessive and unjustified delay in completing this Investigation and notifying the three Officers of the proposed discipline, I agree with Commander Bird that any discipline issued at this point would be merely punitive and not restorative. Further, I find the four and one-half year delay from January 29, 2019 to August 31, 2023, to be unreasonable and unfair to the accused Officers."



Not Without Love



MONICA ORTIZ

My first encounter with Leatrice Woody was when she attended a board meeting at FOP to tell us about a book she had written. She had recently retired from the department after over 20 years working on the west side. My first impression of Leatrice was that she was energetic and excited; she had an enthusiastic smile stretching from ear to ear. I've seen and spoken with her several times, and her disposition is always the same, so I asked her how she is always cheerful, happy, optimistic, and energetic. She told me, "I realized one day how grateful I was to be alive because every day is a gift; today, someone will not wake up to enjoy life anymore, so I walk with gratitude."

I've had the pleasure of reading Leatrice's book and wanted to share a little more about the author, the wonderful person she is, and the fantastic things she wants to do to help police officers and citizens better understand the people who wear a uniform. The title of her book is NOT WITHOUT LOVE 7 TASK TO CHECK OFF. I asked her why she wanted to write this book. She said she was tired of seeing the news and all the crime, knowing what police officers go through daily. She asked God, "What can I do?" She felt God say, "Tell your story, "So she picked seven stories that tell how she transitioned from being a civilian to having a police career.

Leatrice explained that seven represents God, who completed His work on the seventh day, so she picked seven stories from her life and career to share. She wrote her book with new officers, veteran officers, and retired officers in mind, knowing her stories can help assist officers with their wellness. She also shared things she thinks new officers wish a veteran officer would have shared with them early on, along with things to do to secure our financial future and how to be a successful police officer.

Leatrice has attended community meetings, speaking with youth groups about her book and trying to bridge the gap with her stories. Most re-

cently, she visited the 015 District's Youth District Advisory Council. Her goal was for the community to understand that the police are just like everyone else; we have problems like feeling pain and sorrow when witnessing the same thing impacting community members.

I asked her what message she has for people reading her book. She said, "With love, you can do anything and be successful." Leatrice also wanted me to mention the Not Without Love Foundation (NWL Foundation) (www.nwlfoundation.org).

Thank you, Officer Woody, for sharing your story with me and the many who can now read your stories. God bless you.

I've listed the QR code to purchase her book on Amazon.



Scan the QR Code to Purchase
**NOT WITHOUT LOVE:
7 TASKS TO CHECK OFF**



I want to say congratulations to Angela Spalla from 011, who I wrote about last year. Quick update: Angela competed in the 2024 Steel Challenge Nationals, and she was the Pistol Caliber Optics Lady and Law Enforcement winner. Angela has nine national recognitions in multiple disciplines over 25 classes and category wins in multiple firearm platforms. She is currently an instructor at The Site for Intro to Speed Shooting. Keep up the excellent work.

MEDICATION—If you are an officer taking medications for wellness or seizures, and the medical service section or department is sending you for fitness-for-duty evaluation, please call me. I would like more information.

Please stay safe.



Our Brother Luis Huesca



ROB NOCEDA

Hello Lodge 7

As I write this, I celebrate my birthday. Luis Huesca missed his 31st birthday. So, on my birthday I thought of him and enjoyed a wonderful time with my family and girlfriend. When we spend time with our loved ones it makes our lives complete. Officer Huesca's family is now unfortunately incomplete.

Like most reading this it breaks my heart that Officer Luis Huesca was tragically killed. But as we say he will never be forgotten.

As like most of our Officers who have fallen in the line of duty, they lived remarkable lives. They were family, friends and faith oriented people. They served with honor and distinction.

We know in Law Enforcement the evil that exists. We also see the beauty in life by helping others. Most of the time Officers are saving people from themselves. You are the angels on the street.

Officer Luis Huesca was a remarkable and inspiring person. He dedicated his life to serving others.

His life, should be remembered for what he was to all who knew him well. As well as those who have heard his stories. His life is a blessing and is bringing people together.

Luis and his family are in our prayers and they have our full support.

Take Care and God Bless you all.

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NEW Automated PAR FORM



**JIM
JAKSTAVICH**

Hello again Officers, both active and retired. I recently had the pleasure of attending a meeting at headquarters computer lab regarding the new automated PAR form. In attendance was Labor Relations Assistant Director, a Sgt from LRD, a Sgt from HR, Assistant Director of HR, and Sgt. James Calvino, President of the Sgts Union. The civilian computer programmer who created the program also came to the meeting to answer questions and to confirm that this was a workable format for all parties involved.

The Automated PAR Form will be in the CLEAR system and will be comprised of drop-down boxes and approximately 4 different screens. The department hopes to have this up and running in the next couple of months, utilizing the computer and paper version, and then finally phasing out the paper PAR Form from bidding for Recognized Vacancy Bid (openings in districts & units). The paper PAR Form will still be used for in house bidding, Recognized Opening Bid, (i.e. watch relief, review, lockup, etc.)

This computer version only requires the user to enter minimal information by simply using the drop-down features. All your personal information (title code, rank, seniority, etc.) is automatically input once you are logged into the system. The Recognized Vacancy Bid will be listed and provide the Vacancy Announcement with the recognized openings in the specific districts or units. The

Automated PAR Form program does not allow someone to bid if they are not eligible either (i.e. limited duty or they have already bid within the same year.) Anyone bidding must submit their bid within 72 hours of the posting. You will also now have the option of withdrawing your bid if it is still within the 72 hours. The Automated PAR Form DOES NOT require a supervisor's approval. The Automated PAR Form DOES NOT require you to hand carry anything or get timestamped. Once you submit your bid, it is sent directly to the Labor Relations Division/MLAS and to Human Resources. The FOP will only get a copy of your PAR Form if you drop it off at our offices. The programmer related that Captains and Commanders can view automated PAR Forms submitted for retirement at this time. The Sgts Union President James Calvino and I both agreed that nobody should be able to view a bid submitted to transfer to another district or unit. We have both heard stories from Officers & Sgts whose bids were unsuccessful and mysteriously they get treated differently by their direct supervisors once they find out that they tried to leave their current assignments. No Officer's bid opportunity should ever be taken personally or as an affront to their current bosses. I am sure we will experience some hiccups with this system, it's the CPD, and it's bound to happen. We did request a training video to assist Officers with this new program, hopefully the department will provide something, but this was a simple process to navigate through. As always, stay safe.



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The Honor Guard



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GAINES**

The Chicago Police Honor Guard was created in October 1998. Dubbed "The father of the Honor Guard," then Retired Superintendent Terry Hillard was determined to honor our fallen at the highest level. PO Wayne Guliford was tasked with gathering 25 of the best CPD Officers. The assignment given to the selected 25, was to form a ceremonial body to facilitate a full honors funeral of our fallen by our own officers. The selected PO's went to train with the ceremonial unit of the U.S. Coast Guard in Arlington. Sup. Hilliard assigned the HG to line

of duty death funerals. Pleased with their performance, he extended their role to participating in award ceremonies and graduations. After attending Police Week in DC, Retired Commander Marion Perry decided to submit the CPD HG to participate in the IL First Responder HG Competition. Reluctantly, they presented and won 5 of the 6 events during their first competition. Eventually, competitions at our Nation's Capital became an annual event. The heart of the Retired HG, Michael Ostrowski changed the competitive drill like competition into what it has become today, a presentation with a mission of honoring both our present and past fallen. Upholding the HG motto, "We Will Never Forget."

I will share a portion of The Honor Guardsman's Creed with you. It reads...

I will proudly stand beside my fellow officers despite the discomfiting element; I will maintain poise on and off duty; I will Honor all police both living and dead. I will respect the Honor Guard Mission and my Seniors. I will devote my maximum effort unto this sacred duty.

Being part of the HG demands a high level of dedication and willingness to represent the department with dignity and respect. It's a

role that symbolizes the discipline, integrity, and values of police service. We choose professionalism, discipline, teamwork, adaptability, sacrifice, and a passion for serving others.

The HG is comprised of guardsmen all dedicating and volunteering their time. So much time is necessary for preparation of uniform, drills, equipment upkeep, storage, facilitation of staff and planning, gathering intel, developing and maintaining relationships with outside entities, meeting with other agencies, updating protocols, etc. Only two members of the HG are full-time HG members while others work across the department. There are PO's, Sgt's, Lt's from Patrol to the Office of the Superintendent. It is important to understand that though we are all aware of our positions within the department, amongst the Guardsmen, there is no rank here, only the mission!

Recently, the Pipes and Drums of the Chicago Police Department became part of the HG. This, a gift given to us by our old HG Coordinator Enrique Cervantes as he passed the torch to Elsi Kilponen. It is a match made in deep blue waters. We are better together! Together we attend and help to facilitate funerals, Unit honors, parades, memorials for first responders/MIL, other various first responders' engagements, DC and Springfield events, many personalized tasks to support our Gold Star Families.

Two of the original 25 HG members are still serving. The OG's have dedicated themselves to the cause for over 26yrs. To all my HG brothers/sisters I say Thank You for your Service! The CPD HG has the most diverse group of proud officers. We represent the department with integrity for the sole mission of honoring our fallen at the highest level, showing the world that THEY will Never Be Forgotten!

To all of my CPD family and the family of Luis Huesca, I extend sincere Condolences.

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Honoring Retired Members

February 2023

				Mark Jakob	Officer	189	28
Name	Rank	Unit	Years	Kimberly K. Kruser	Officer	016	28
Les O.Kroliczek	Officer	016	27	Steven S. Laureto	Officer	189	25
				Rayco L. Lee	Officer	051	30

January 2024

				Robert B. Mayor	Officer	016	23
Name	Rank	Unit	Years	Daniel S. Medici	Officer	116	19
Catherine Skol	Officer	DPR	31	Jenny A. Molda	Officer	701	29
				Peter Muhney	Detective	620	30
				John C. Olen	Officer	019	20

February 2024

				Martin A. Philbin	Officer	019	21
Name	Rank	Unit	Years	Christopher J. Pilgrim	Officer	018	26
Willie L. Spears	Officer	001	24	Angela Pittman	Officer	189	24
				Brian P. Reidy	Officer	022	30

March 2024

				Mark C. Rodriguez	Officer	002	29
Name	Rank	Unit	Years	Michael M. Soto	Officer	010	33
Martin J. Acevedo	Officer	010	25	Gregory A. Swiderek	Detective	640	34
Anthony J. Amelio	Officer	010	26	Gerardo Teneyuque	Sergeant	610	28
Perry D. Ballard	Officer	006	18	John C. Thill	Officer	022	29
Joanne M. Cardinale	Officer	143	30	Stephanie N. Weber	Officer	019	25

Honoring Sisters and Brothers who have passed

Name	Status	Age	Date of Passing
Kevin P. Dunne	Retired	78	September 12, 2022
Cecil Ward	Retired	90	January 4, 2024
Nancy Rivera	Unit 017	37	March 26, 2024
Scott Soti	Retired	73	April 1, 2024
John H. Koenig	Retired	89	April 2, 2024
Celal Surgit	Unit 017	54	April 3, 2024
Delbert J. Burns Jr.	Retired	94	April 6, 2024
Thomas A. Davis Jr.	Unit DPR	58	April 7, 2024
Dennis Cappetto	Retired	79	April 14, 2024
Robert E. Westphal	Retired	84	April 15, 2024
Luis Huesca	Unit 005	31	April 21, 2024
Lawrence Willens	Retired	51	April 22, 2024

Retiree Meetings

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

North

First Tuesday of the month
@ 9 a.m.
D'Agostino's Pizza and Pub
7530 W. Oakton St., Niles
Steve Marchfield 773-771-0877

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

Orland Park Law Enforcement Organization

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

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 Thursday of month
@ 11 a.m.
Eagle Buffet at Casino Arizona
524 N. 92nd St.
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
John Nielson
989-324-0877
jnnielson@gmail.com

Northern Illinois/Southern Wisconsin Retirees

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

Hellenic American Police As- sociation Northsiders Retiree

Breakfast
First Monday of month
@ 10:00 a.m.

Burgundy Restaurant
5959 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago

Hellenic American Police As- sociation Southsiders Retiree

Breakfast
Second Monday of month
@ 10:00 a.m.
Valois Cafeteria
1518 E. 53rd St., Chicago

Copa's Ongoing Failure To Be Fair, Timely And Impartial



PAT
FIORETTO

In yet another case of COPA's inability to conduct a fair, timely and impartial investigation, the Arbitrator takes COPA to task, yet again. Recently, Arbitrator Roumell issued an arbitration award in which he highlighted COPA's unsupported conclusions cited in its Final Report and the Department's outlandish discipline recommendations—both of which the Arbitrator criticized. In a case presented by one of my partners, Catherine Chapman, the Lodge succeeded in having a Police Officer's 60-day suspension completely thrown out and removed from the Grievant Officer's record after a full day of hearing.

On the date of the incident, nearly five years ago in 2019, the Department dispatched the Grievant Officer and his partner, a PPO, to respond to a burglary alarm at a business located at 8001 South Martin Luther King Drive. When they arrived, the Officers instantly observed a shattered front door window and a man standing inside the building. As the Grievant Officer's partner addressed the man from the front entry door, the man immediately fled out of the rear of the building. The Grievant Officer ran to the rear of the building and ordered the man to the ground. Initially, the man did not comply with the order and continued to walk away from Grievant Officer. Grievant Officer used an emergency takedown to place the man on the ground. The Officers' body worn cameras recorded the events.

Once on the ground, the Grievant Officer ordered the man to place his hands behind his back. Once again, the man did not comply with the lawful command. The Grievant Officer delivered a one-hand, open hand strike to the man's right upper arm, while again ordering the man to place his hands behind his back. The man eventually complied, allowing the Grievant Officer to handcuff him and escort the arrestee to a Department vehicle where he could be properly and safely searched and secured. Once transported to the 7th District, the Offender was charged with criminal trespass to property and resisting an Officer.

Not surprisingly, the Offender then filed a subsequent complaint (the next day) against the Grievant Officer alleging that the Grievant Officer subjected him to unnecessary use of force. At the end of a 2 ½ year investigation eventually led by Investigator Garrett Schaaf, COPA issued its Final Report and Recommendation for discipline. In essence, COPA concluded based on unclear BWC footage that Grievant Officer "intentionally" kicked the Offender in the head, in violation of the Depart-

ment's Use of Force policy. Not surprising, the case had laid dormant in COPA's offices for nearly eight months before eventually assigned to the Investigator who issued his Final Report. Arbitrator Roumell noted how a long delay in COPA's investigations could "well deprive an officer of due process in presenting his/her defense to allegations because of the passage of time due to the delay affecting members." Frequent readers of this magazine know this is not the first time Arbitrators have chastised COPA for its delays. Although he could have disposed of the grievance on a timeliness issue, Arbitrator Roumell thought it best to grant the grievance based on the merits.

Turning to the merits, COPA based its conclusion that the Grievant Officer "intentionally" kicked the Offender based upon the following: unclear BWC footage, inconclusive medical records, and an interview with the Grievant Officer, which lasted about 15 minutes. COPA's report focused on a statement made by the Grievant Officer nearly three years after the fact, when he honestly responded, "After reviewing the video, I believe it was an unintentional I don't believe I intentionally did it, but there is a motion as my foot goes toward his head. Toward that area. But I don't believe I intentionally meant to kick him." COPA ran with this statement and twisted it to fit a common narrative—all Police Officers are bad.

Then Deputy Chief Larry Snelling (now Superintendent Snelling), as a member of the Command Channel Review, wrote the following upon a thorough review of the evidence:

... [t]he investigation never established if Officer Smith's foot making contact with the complainant's head was inadvertent or purposeful. The attached BWC footage did not clearly capture the kick to the head. Therefore, the reporting Deputy Chief was unable to make his own determination regarding the kick.

Fortunately, even then-Superintendent Brown found COPA's investigation to be baseless and filed a non-concurrence highlighting, "[T]he investigation never established if the kick was inadvertent to the physical struggle and take-down of the offender or if the kick was done intentionally." As such, Then-Superintendent Brown recommended that the allegations be changed to not sustained. Under the current COPA ordinance, the case then went to a single police board member. Not surprising, Police Board member Paula Wolff, without any explanation, found that the Superintendent did not meet his burden of overcoming the Chief Administrator's rec-

ommendation for discipline and forced COPA's recommended 60-day suspension.

The Grievant Officer subsequently filed a grievance under the CBA and the matter came before Arbitrator Roumell, who agreed with the Lodge that "COPA's reliance on medical records, Investigator Schaaf's interview of Officer Smith, and the BWCs does not support COPA findings." Highlighting COPA's deficiencies, the Arbitrator concluded:

There is no question that the standard of proof is the preponderance of the evidence. However, it is questionable to rely on the proposition that the conduct was more likely to have occurred than not when the record, as this Arbitrator has explained, does not support such an approach. Applying the just cause standard, the objectionable conduct must be established, and it was not in this matter.

Consequently, Arbitrator Roumell ordered the Grievant Officer should not serve any suspension and the discipline should be removed from his record.

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Pretextual Stops



TIM
GRACE

Recent events have called for a debate on the pretextual traffic stop. While many members of the Movement scream loudly about the constitutionality of these stops, few understand or want to understand exactly what such an encounter of this kind is. Like most positions taken by the antipolice crowd, they believe that the pretextual stop is a recent discovery and has never been addressed by any competent court of law. They scream and yell about the end result without any reflection on history of the engagement. No considered study is tried to educate themselves but rather words and chants that quite simply make little sense. They obviously have never read Mark Twain's thoughts on ignorant people. Old Samuel Clemens told us that "it is better to keep your mouth shut and appear stupid than open it and remove all doubt."

The idea of a pretextual stop has long been the subject of debate in American jurisprudence. By definition a traffic stop is a seizure that implicates the fourth amendment. Whenever law enforcement "seize" a citizen by means of actual physical action or a show of authority the officer must have either probable cause to believe a crime has been committed or the lesser standard of reasonable articulable suspicion that a crime was or was about to be committed. The seizure, either by probable cause or RAS must not be unreasonable. What normally happens in a pretextual stop is that there is a claim that the officer desires to detain the vehicle for a reason unrelated to the traffic violation. Most traffic offenses are relatively minor infractions and can lead to a ticket or in many times a warning. The concern, which is rightly grounded, is that officer will see a vehicle and make an assumption that the person or persons in the car are "up to no good" and thus should be investigated. Then the officer observes a minor traffic violation and a traffic stop results. It is the "up to no good" criteria that have always bothered the courts. Is it based on race, the age of the persons in the car or perhaps even the car itself? Obviously, we cannot and should not make a decision to police based upon an illegal reason. Should police officers, who have no interests in the vehicle, but see a traffic violation, just ignore it? The Movement evidently believes they should.

The courts have reviewed the idea of pretextual stops to scrutinize if this type of seizure run afoul of the fourth amendment. In the 1970s and 1980s the courts looked

to the motivation behind the stop without looking at the actual violation itself. This test was called the "would have test" meaning would have the officer have stopped the vehicle for an expired city stickers if he or she had no motivation to investigate the occupants. The challenging part of this analysis is that the court would need to get into the mind and motivation of the officer. This proved to be somewhat of a difficult exercise because remember, there is a bona fide traffic violation. Some courts moved to what is called the "could have test." The simple issue in the "could have test" was that the stop is deemed compliant with the fourth amendment if the officer did in fact observe a traffic violation. These courts seemed to not want to get into the motivation of the officer. In legal parlance, this is called a split in the law. While some states and federal circuits were using one test, other states and federal circuits were using a different test. What makes a well-greased legal society work is a supreme court that recognizes the need to resolve this dispute and that is exactly what the United States Supreme Court did.

In 1996 the United States Supreme Court took up the case of *Wren v. United States*, 517 U.S 806 (1996). In *Wren* two Washington D.C. police officers were on patrol in a high drug area in Southeast D.C. The officers passed a vehicle that they thought looked suspicious and became more interested in the vehicle when it stopped at an intersection for what the officers thought was an unreasonable amount of time and then the driver looked into the lap of the passenger. All actions which could have been perfectly innocent but could also have been actions associated with illegal narcotic activity. The vehicle then made a turn without signaling and was traveling at an unreasonable speed. The vehicle was curbed and narcotics were seen in plain view. The driver and passenger were both arrested. The defendants filed a motion to suppress the narcotics under the theory that the stop was unreasonable. The motion was denied under the "could have test" meaning the motivation for the stop was irrelevant as long as a traffic violation was observed. The Supreme Court, with justice Scalia authoring the decision, essentially rejected the "the would have test" and held that if probable cause exists for the detention, the motivation of the officers is irrelevant. The decision is long and well thought out, but ultimately it determined that pretextual stops are constitutional as long as the officer has a legitimate and valid basis for the stop and his or her motivation should not be considered.

So where does that leave us? As an officer you see a vehicle code violation, no matter how minor, you have the right to stop the individual and issue a ticket or warning. However, COPA will always question and eventually disregard the traffic offense and claim fabrication. COPA will always believe that unless the BWC shows no seat-belt that the officer is engaging in fabrication. And to no surprise to anyone, sometimes COPA will ignore the evidence that proves the actual violation. The state of constitutional law really will not matter to those who oppose the police, as they will always try to find fault. It may be better that they instead follow Mr. Mark Twain's advice.



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Living A Life That Matters



RABBI
MOSHE WOLF

On April 21, 2024 the CPD lost one of their most dedicated and devoted members, P.O. Luis Huesca. His life was stolen from him in a senseless and cowardly act. He was loved by all who knew him. He was the definition of a true gentleman, a true friend and a true public servant. His service to our city will never be forgotten. He touched the heart of all who came in contact with him. His memory will always live on in our hearts.

A special thanks to all our brothers and sisters, members of CPD and CFD, who came en mass, to the Hospital ER, the morgue, visitation, wake and funeral services of our dear brother P.O. Luis Huesca. Thanks for your support and just "being there", it was most appreciated by the Huesca family and friends. Because in life there are times that there are few words that give more comfort than our mere presence, thank you for "being there".

As we were huddled on the street, teary eyed, standing in silence, it brought to mind the following poem.....

"Live a life that matters".

**Ready or not, someday it will all come to an end.
There will be no more sunrises, no minutes, hours or days.
All the things you collected, whether treasured or forgotten, will pass to someone else.
Your wealth, fame and prestige, will shrivel to irrelevance.
It will not matter what you owned or what you were owed.
Your grudges, resentments, frustrations, mean spirit and jealousies
will finally disappear.
So, too, your hopes, ambitions, plans, and to-do lists will expire.
The wins and losses that once seemed so important will fade away.
It won't matter where you came from,
or on what side of the tracks you lived, at the end.
It won't matter whether you were beautiful or brilliant.
Even your gender and skin color will be irrelevant.
So what will matter?
How will the value of your days be measured?
What will matter is not what you bought, but what you built;
not what you got, but what you gave.**

What will matter is not your success, but your significance.

What will matter is not what you learned, but what you taught.

What will matter is not what you gave in to but what you stood up for.

What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage, love

or sacrifice that enriched, empowered or encouraged others to emulate your example.

What will matter is not your competence, but your character.

What will matter is not how many people you knew, but how many will feel a lasting loss when you're gone.

What will matter is not your memories, but the memories that live in those who loved you.

What will matter is how long you will be remembered, by whom and for what.

Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident. It's not a matter of circumstance, but of choice.

Choose to "live a life that matters"

Police Officer Luis Huesca lived a life that mattered, he made a difference. His life and legend will never be forgotten.

The Month of May also includes a very special day, 'Mother's Day', I dedicate the following story to those special people in our lives who proudly carry the title of "Mom" or fill her place.....

Why Moms Are Special

Mom and Dad were watching TV when Mom said, "I'm tired, and it's getting late. I think I'll go to bed."

She went to the kitchen to make sandwiches for the next day's lunches. Rinsed out the popcorn bowls, took meat out of the freezer for supper the following evening, checked the cereal box levels, filled the sugar container, put spoons and bowls on the table and started the coffee pot for brewing the next morning.

She then put some wet clothes in the dryer, put a load of clothes into the washer, ironed a shirt and secured a loose button. She picked up the game pieces left on the table, put the phone back on the charger and put the telephone book into the drawer.

She watered the plants, emptied a wastebasket and hung up a towel to dry. She yawned and stretched and headed for the bedroom. She stopped by the desk and wrote a note to the teacher, counted out some cash for the field trip, and pulled a text book out from hiding under the chair.

She signed a birthday card for a friend, addressed and stamped the envelope and wrote a quick note for the grocery store. She put both near her purse. Mom then washed her face with 3 in 1 cleanser, put on her Night solution & age fighting moisturizer, brushed and flossed her teeth and filed her nails.

Dad called out, "I thought you were going to bed."
"I'm on my way," she said.

She put some water into the dog's dish and put the cat outside, then made sure the doors were locked and the patio light was on. She looked in on each of the kids and turned out their bedside lamps and TV's, hung up a shirt, threw some dirty socks into the hamper, and had a brief conversation with the one still up doing homework.

In her own room, she set the alarm; laid out clothing for the next day, straightened up the shoe rack. She added three things to her 6 most important things to do list. She said her prayers, and visualized the accomplishment of her goals.

About that time, Dad turned off the TV and announced to no one in particular. "I'm going to bed."

And he did...without another thought.....(A'int that the truth, me included...lol)

So If you are blessed with having a Mom in your life, take a moment give her a call and tell her how special she is, how loved she is.

On behalf of all your Chaplains, thanks for all you do. Should you need an ear to listen, or shoulder to lean on, or perhaps have some good humor to share, please don't hesitate to give us a call. May G-d bless you, keep you safe and always keep you in His loving care. Amen.

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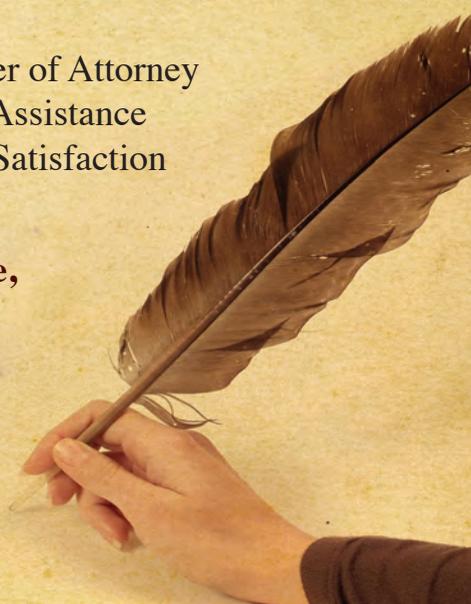


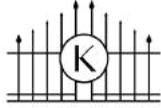
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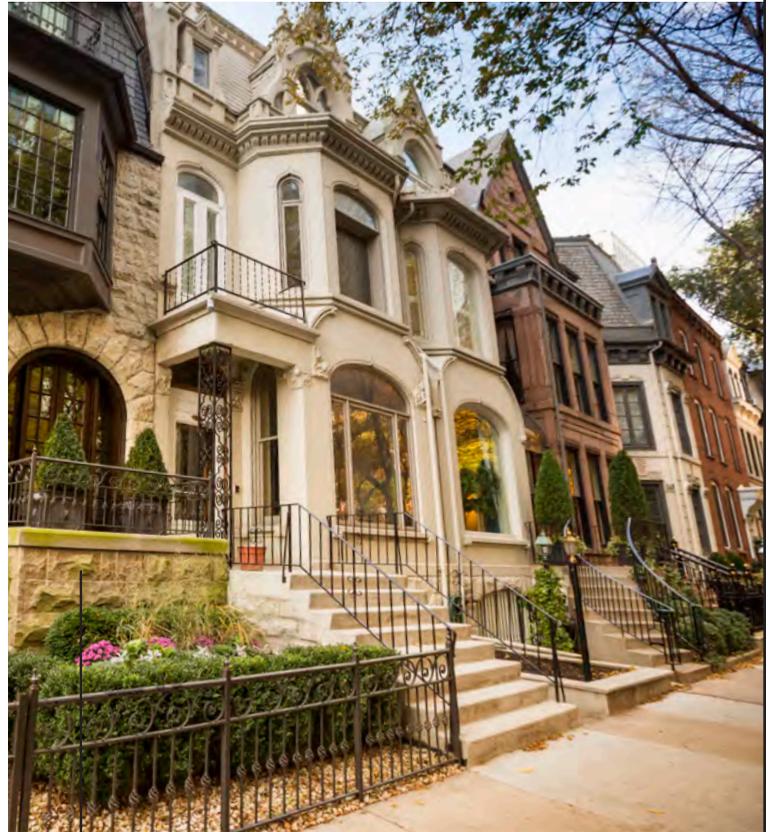
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FATHER DAN BRANDT

Thank you to all who attended the sold-out Police Chaplains Ministry fundraiser at Klairmont Collections last month! We raised considerable funds and had a lot fun supporting our outreach to our Gold Star Families. And what a cool museum this is, right on the northwest side of Chicago! If you haven't been there, I highly recommend a visit. You'll find a link on our website.

Sadly, there will be another family added to the Gold Star Families community. On behalf of his family, I'd like to thank all who paid respects to our fallen brother, Luis, this past month at his wake and funeral. May he rest in peace.

I am excited that our St. Jude march has been returned to the downtown area. After many years of being on Museum Campus Drive, I am thrilled to share our pride of service with ALL of Chicago. THANK YOU to our brothers and sisters who attended and marched!

The next Upper Room Club session, where we discuss current events as they relate to our faith and profession, will be held Thursday, 13 JUN, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the northwest side back yard of one of our "Regulars." If you're interested in attending, please let me know so I can share details.

Next month, Sunday, 16 JUN, we will celebrate our annual Fathers' Day Mass at 10:00 a.m. at Gold Star Families Memorial and Park. Being an outdoor venue, if the weather looks questionable, please call (773)550-2369 that morning to make sure the Mass is on. You are welcome to bring folding chairs or a blanket...and

even a picnic lunch for after Mass.

Keep up with all of the above and LOTS more on our Facebook page or website (www.ChicagoPCM.org).

Thank you for doing God's work! I leave you with this Irish secret to a long life: May you leave the bed tired, leave the table hungry and leave the tavern thirsty.

Fr. Dan Brandt, Directing CPD Chaplain
773/550-2369 (cell/text)
dan.brandt@chicagopolice.org
www.ChicagoPCM.org

IMPORTANT DATES:

Thursday, June 13 - 6:30pm-8:30pm
Upper Room Club Session

Sunday, June 16 - 10am
Annual Fathers Day Mass

**This is an outdoor event. So please call (773)550-2369 if the weather looks questionable.*



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LIVIN' LA VIDA LUIS

The life and times of Luis Huesca will forever cast an image of an exemplary and extraordinary Chicago Police Officer

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

■ PHOTOS BY FRANK ALATORRE AND LEW ARCEO, CPD NEWS AFFAIRS

Within the line of friends, family, law enforcement from throughout the City and the country and many, many, many, many, many supporters of Chicago Police Officers attending the visitation for Luis Huesca, a group known as the American Lawmen waited. They are a biker club, mainly Chicago Police Officers, and when asked if they knew Luis, one who worked in the same district with him only smiled and uttered, "Yeah. The guy with the glasses."

Like Ella, Andres and Aréanah, Luis Miguel Huesca cast a penetrating, historic image rising up from the most horrific, tragic and unacceptable events. The assassination that took his life just after his tour ended in the early-morning hours of April 21 gave way to that photo of Luis wearing those

Clark Kent-like glasses and radiating that smile shining to the end of the rainbow.

Like Ella, Andres and Aréanah, Luis was just getting rolling on a career that showed rising star with every response, with every action, with every interaction. The glasses and the smile jumping out of posters, placards, billboards and social media posts just made him unforgettable and hinted at the makings of a superhero, if you will.

"He was unmistakable. You never forgot him with those glasses and that smile, right?" confirmed Fabricio Lopez-Bermudez, who knew Luis in passing from working in the same CST unit a few years ago. "He always had a smile on his face, always had something positive to say, and you looked at him, he's always happy. I don't know how he did it."

Up and down that line at the visitation, comments came up about how Luis always had that smile on his face. Even on bad days, nobody remembered him having a bad day.

How did he do it?

“Always with jokes, always making sure everyone's OK. He was always making sure that if you were down, that he would try to pick you up,” explained Lynette Betancourt, who worked in Unit 212 on the Priority Response Team out of Area South. “I would say that he knew life was short and you got to live your life to the fullest.”

Like Ella, Andres, Aréanah and so many out there doing it at a level every day that the public just has no idea about, Luis was one of those “kids” who was unequivocally an exemplary officer. His presence, impact and legacy extend well beyond earning a department commendation award, eight honorable mentions, three physical fitness awards, and a crime reduction award — as far as the line of folks at the viewing on April 28 extended.

The next day, the funeral, which more than a thousand law enforcement officers, elected officials and dignitaries attended, perpetuated the outpouring of love for another one of their own who exemplified everything that is celebrated about a Chicago Police Officer. And in that fervent and adoring moment, the man who wanted to honor how Luis exemplified the work being done by officers standing up for the neighborhoods, the communities, the City and innocent victims stepped up to unabashedly celebrate Luis.

“What made him exemplary is the respect that he had for others — not only his fellow officers, but the community,” responded Superintendent Larry Snelling. “In order to be an exemplary officer, you first have to be an exemplary human being, and that’s what he was.”

The superintendent went on to emphasize that, like Ella, Andres, Aréanah and so many others, the celebration of Luis is something for the entire City.

“It should remind us of how important the work is that’s



being done by our officers out here,” Snelling continued. “It’s important to understand that what our officers are doing every single day is trying to reduce the number of victims of violent, senseless crime going on in this City.”

Full of Life

Chicago Police Officers in community safety teams, the bike unit and some of the busiest districts have been recognizing Luis since he moved from 005 and started with the PRT more than three years ago. And they all remember him from the tear-inducing video tribute he made at the funeral for Andres Vasques Lasso after he was shot and killed on March 1, 2023.

Luis and Andres had been best friends since starting at the academy together in March 2018. In the Class 18-3 D graduation picture, they are right next to each other. They stayed that close ever since.

Consequently, consider the emotions burning out of Luis being shot in Gage Park just like Lasso. Or from Luis being killed on his way home after finishing a midnight watch, just like Aréanah Preston was, early on Sunday morning, May 6, 2023. Outside her home, just like Luis.

Luis was also still in uniform when he was shot multiple times two days before his 31st birthday. Like Aréanah, Luis was well-educated, having earned his B.S. in business administration from the University of Illinois-Chicago.

Lucia Chavez was the third musketeer from 18-3 D. In her remarks at the funeral service, Chavez detailed how Luis was the smart one, Andres was the good-looking one and she was the one who didn’t speak English very well. They would eat lunch together



CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

every day and share their goals and plans for being the police.

Chavez culminated her comments by expressing the emotions that all officers are still feeling about this loss.

“During our training, our instructor said, ‘The uniform makes us family. If one fails, we all fail.’ I didn’t understand that. Now I do,” she commented. “The violence in this City took away my classmates, my best friends, my brothers. I hope this tragedy unites us to change our city.”

A rainy early a.m. turned to overcast skies on the morning of the funeral at St. Rita of Cascia Shrine Chapel. But about an hour before the start, the sun poked through, appropriately smiling on the honor guard, combined CPD, CFD and Emerald Society pipes and drums, mounted unit, motors with sirens flashing, hundreds of Chicago Police Officers and hundreds more from the Illinois State Police, Cook County Sheriff’s Office, suburban agencies and many others.

Standing next to the Gold Star families and leaders from Chicago Lodge 7, members of Unit 212 waited for the service to start. Suddenly, laughter ripped through their formation. Perhaps Luis was making his presence felt, creating one more day to leave people with a smile.

The eulogies provided words of tribute like “He fought evil for us, one of the great gifts from his servant’s heart” and “Life with Luis felt timeless.” In the superintendent’s address, Snelling praised Luis for being a moral compass, having a protective spirit who “made a societal difference as one of the guys who deserved to wear the star.”

In this bilingual service — Chief Angel Novalez translated Snelling’s remarks into Spanish — Father Matthew Foley of St. Gall Catholic Church ultimately brought those in the chapel to a roar.

When he declared, “Viva, Aréanah Preston,” they responded “Viva!”

When he shouted, “Viva, Lasso,” they shouted back, “Viva!”

Then, together they bellowed, “Viva Luis Huesca. Viva Luis Huesca. Viva Luis Huesca.”

Christian Calderone described his partner the way everybody who ever crossed paths with Luis probably felt.

“Mi compadre,” said Calderone, who also noted about his son’s godfather, “We weren’t just partners, we were brothers. Inseparable in duty and in life. Beyond a badge and a uniform, Luis was my rock, my map. He guided me through the storms of life, helping me become a better version of myself.”

Calderon recalled one of their first nights working together on the night shift in 005. They responded to a ShotSpotter notice coming from an alley. They were the first car on the scene, and when they approached the alley, they heard more shots from the house next to it.

“As soon as we opened the door, we heard the shots very close,” Calderone continued. “We both felt so scared that we looked at each other and said at the same time, ‘I love you,





Luis Huesca's mother, Edith, embraces the Chicago city flag that was draped over her son's casket. CPD Superintendent Larry Snelling presented the flag to the Huesca family.

bro.' Ever since then, it became natural for us to say, 'I love you.'"

Elizabeth Sanchez, who worked the Area South PRT with Luis for more than four years, repeatedly felt that presence that would make her laugh. But the first time occurred when they were sent out to protect Lodge 7 headquarters during protests following the George Floyd incident.

It was the first time she and her partner had handled a shield, working on which way was up.

"Luis was behind us, laughing at us, and tells us, 'No, hold it this way.' So from there on, we were just best friends," Sanchez recounted. "It was always something like making fun of us, but it was his way of showing that he cared."

He could take it as well as dish it. One summer, Luis and Calderone were in an old Capri. The sirens didn't always work.

"We would make fun of them, and they would stick out their heads and they go, 'woo-woo,'" Sanchez added in her best impression of a siren.

The lasting impression from Luis, however, was inspired by something that was no joke.

"He was very big on advocating for teenagers and hoping that they do something for themselves by getting an education," she added. "He was very big on education."

Way of Life

Luis had a magical gift of turning the simplest aspects of life into wonders.

Like food.

Calderone revealed that they would split food on their meal break. Split, not share, because Luis put barbecue

sauce on everything.

But Calderone also marveled at his partner's stamina in this department.

"He could turn a buffet into a personal challenge," Calderone reported. "I mean, as long as there was barbecue sauce."

Chavez added an extra helping by sharing that food was his weakness and that Luis also loved baking.

"I will never forget his phrase, 'I'm going to eat until I can't even breathe, because tomorrow I'm fasting,'" she said.

The wonders of the world truly fascinated Luis, which manifested in his passion for travel. Officers on his shift admired how he could take a three-day weekend and set out for a random destination. Then, he would send them a video of himself in Montana.

At the funeral, his older brother, Emiliano, told how Luis would show him a place on a map and say, "Let's go to this place, and let's see if we can find something interesting."

One of those expeditions took them to Morocco, where an accident occurred right in front of their vehicle. Talk about finding something interesting. Emiliano explained how Luis got out, traded badges with a Moroccan police officer and took charge of the scene. (Luis spoke Arabic, one of the languages he was fluent in.)

Another of Emiliano's road trip stories detailed how Luis set out to ride his dirt bike from Illinois to California. He rode on the famed Route 66 and connected with Emiliano in Arizona, where he noticed how much travel meant to Luis.

"He was so cramped up and in a hunched position from being on his dirt bike for that long," Emiliano added.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

Truly, Luis was out there. In the best possible way.

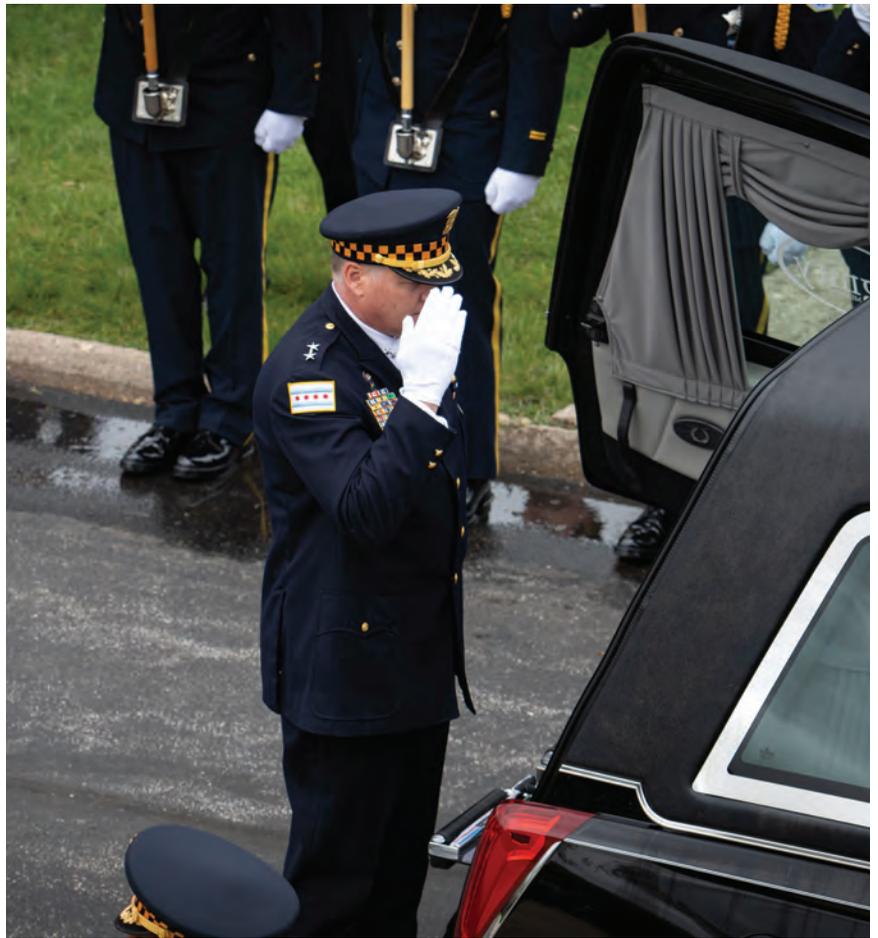
Those who had worked even one tour with him said he could have a conversation with anybody. About anything. He loved to do so, and he could do it in French and Italian, as well as Arabic. He loved to learn languages and about the cultures that went with them.

Betancourt witnessed him talk to somebody they pulled over who was a native French speaker. He immediately started speaking to the person in French.

“That person was so grateful,” she continued. “It made the whole day for him, talking about it like, ‘Oh my God, he’s from here and he’s this and he does this.’ So he really got to know people. It wasn’t just an act.”

Emiliano related how a conversation with Luis could begin with talking about dinosaurs, shift to genetics, then switch to the geopolitics of Europe before landing on a new song he was learning to play on piano. Yes, piano.

“He used to send me Snapchats of him playing the piano,” Sanchez disclosed. “Same thing with cats. There’s a cat that used to come into his



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house, and he used to play with it. So when we were driving around and saw stray cats, we used to call him over.”

Life Goes On

At the end of these days, recollections of Luis reminded an entire unit, district, Department and City to always, always stop and enjoy what the world has to offer. For at the end of the day, he prioritized seizing each day and making the most of every passing moment.

As one of his closest friends submitted, all those who have met Luis will have little trouble remembering him for the smiling, caring public servant, friend and man he was. Maybe even more than words could describe.

Although his family in 005 tried to leave some lasting ones. For the visitation, they crafted two big wooden hearts with a blue-line flag on them. Vazquez carried them around, asking people to write some words and sign them. They were going to be given to the Huesca family.

Some of the messages read:

- “A hero called home.”
- “We got the line from here.”
- “Ride on, Brother!”

With that, one refrain will forever reverberate:
 “Viva, Luis!”

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Chicago Lodge 7 Awards



On 21 Jan 2021, at the location of 1458 S. Karlov Ave, the Officers approached an illegally park vehicle in an area that had recent shootings. The driver/offender was uncooperative and refused to provide an I.D. or D.L. and to exit the vehicle. The front seat and rear seat passengers complied with the Officer's lawful order and exited the vehicle and walked to the rear of the vehicle. The Officers continued to attempt to gain the driver/offender's cooperation and she refused. The Officers requested assistance of a female Officer to the scene at which time the driver/offender turned as if she would comply. The Officers could no longer see the offender's hands as she reached for something in the car and stated, "I will kill you before I go to jail, shorty". The Officers created a tactical distance and observed

the offender extend her arms and point a handgun at P.O. Sandoval. The Officers, fearing for their lives, fired their weapons striking the armed offender multiple times. The Officers immediately placed the offender into custody and notified EMS who transported the offender to Mt. Sinai Hospital. The offender's loaded handgun was recovered on scene and during the investigation by IRT Detectives, the passengers corroborated the Officers account of events. Unfortunately, the offender survived and was charged with 3 counts of Agg Assault of a P.O., 1 count of UUW by a felon.

It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 presents these Officers with the Award of Valor and the Detective with the Distinguished Service Award.

Chicago Lodge 7 Awards



On 09 Aug 2023 at the location of 8815 S. Halsted St., Officer Corcoran responded to a person shot. Upon arrival, the Officer made her way through the crowd of bystanders and potential witnesses and located the victim standing in a pool of his own blood. Officer Corcoran immediately notified EMS and began utilizing her LEMART training to assess the victim's gunshot wound. Officer Corcoran applied her tourniquet to the victim's upper right leg, physically marking the tourniquet for the EMS crew and getting a time stamp from OEMC. EMS finally arrived on scene and noted the correct application of the tourniquet and thanked Officer Corcoran

for "doing a good job". Officer Corcoran's actions in a stressful and potentially dangerous situation saved the life of another senseless gunshot victim in the City of Chicago.

It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge#7 presents the Officer with the Lifesaving Award.

Note: Police Officer Margaret Corcoran is the daughter of Retired Police Officer Kenneth Corcoran.

Chicago Lodge 7 Awards



On 23 Nov 2023 at the location of 2701 W. Division St. while on routine patrol, Officer Witczak observed an individual frantically running around with blood squirting from his arm. The deep laceration on the victim's wrist, consistent with arterial bleeding, made the arm bone visible. Officer Witczak applied her tourniquet above the laceration and did her best to keep the victim awake as he slipped in and out of consciousness, even getting the name and description of the knife wielding offender. Officer Witczak waited

with the victim until EMS finally arrived on scene and transported the victim to the hospital. Responding units were able to locate and arrest the offender who was charged accordingly. Officer Witczak actions saved the victim's life, upholding the departments core value of the sanctity of life.

It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 presents the Officer with the Lifesaving Award.

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- Retired CPD



Chicago Lodge 7 Awards



On June 29, 2023, at 4714 N. Broadway, a cellphone store had been robbed. 019th District officers immediately began utilizing the SDSC room to access POD cameras in the nearby area and gave responding units the description and direction of flight of the offenders. The offenders had entered a CTA train, but officers had responded so quickly that they were able to halt its departure. Officers conducted a search of the train and located two offenders along with a backpack containing proceeds from the robbery and a loaded Interarms 9MM handgun. A third offender was located after he was observed passing

in between train cars. Proceeds and a handgun were recovered on him as well. The offenders were then positively identified by the victims on scene. All offenders were charged with felonies ranging from Armed Robbery/ Agg UUV/ Theft. This combined effort resulted in taking three violent offenders off the streets of Chicago.

It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge#7 presents these officers with the Distinguished Service Award. Nice Pinch!

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