

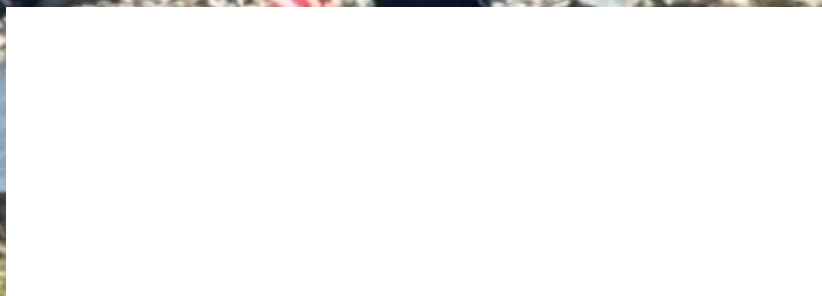


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# CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine • November 2024

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## COVER STORY PAGE 34

### What a Relief

When a call came to provide disaster relief and support to an East Tennessee county and town devastated by Hurricane Helene, Chicago Lodge 7 responded. Loading up its food trailer and getting a crew of members together, the Lodge joined with the Illinois FOP Disaster Response Unit and made the 1,200-mile round trip to help out fellow officers involved in search-and-rescue and recovery. In the process of bringing some special gifts and an abundance of uplifting spirit to Tennessee, Lodge 7 realized that the gratitude from the officers there made them realize how much there is to be thankful heading into the upcoming holiday season.



COVER DESIGN BY JENNA RAMOS

## MESSAGES FROM LODGE 7

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For information about advertising,  
subscriptions or editorial submissions:

**Call:** 312-733-7776

**Email:** [kathy.spiewak@chicagofop.org](mailto:kathy.spiewak@chicagofop.org)

**[www.chicagofop.org](http://www.chicagofop.org)**

**JOHN CATANZARA JR.**

Publisher

[john.catanzarajr@chicagofop.org](mailto:john.catanzarajr@chicagofop.org)

**JENNA RAMOS**

Art Director

**MITCHELL KRUGEL**

**SEAN CARLIN**

Contributing Editors

**DAN CAMPANA**

Contributing Editor

[dan@dancamcom.biz](mailto:dan@dancamcom.biz)

## MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

Rob Noceda (Chair)

Michael Carroll

Carolynn Crump

Lisa Ford

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# CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine  
President's Report



## The power of raising up a community devastated by the disaster



JOHN  
CATANZARA  
JR.

Something to be thankful for...  
You better freaking believe it.

Let me tell you a real humanitarian story that will remind everybody how Thanksgiving is the day to recommit our energies to giving thanks. And just giving. If you are thankful for what you have, you'll end up having more. Or to put it this way: If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough.

All of which we felt when making the 1,200-mile round trip to Erwin, Tennessee, Oct. 11-15 with our food and support trailer to provide disaster relief to this 6,000-person community obliterated by Hurricane Helene. Why Erwin? Because of the record levels of rain Helene dumped on East Tennessee, especially with the Nolichucky River overtaking the Impact Plastics factory, which lost six workers who could not get out before the only road out was washed away.

That's only the beginning of the story, which I spent some time sharing with those who attended the Oct. 16 General Members Meeting. And about the experiences of the people, the first responders and the heroes we met while we were there.

Lodge 7 Executive Board Trustee Chairman David DiSanti and two retired sergeants and members, Steve Martin and Bill Angus, made the trip with me. We had a mini convoy with the State Corrections Lodge 263 trailer, led by member Jennifer Ward, the wife of 263 President Scot Ward, and the State Lodge Disaster Relief Trailer, led by trustee Terry Trueblood and including Jeremy Kyle and others from the Illinois FOP Labor Council.

We had the State FOP board meeting that Thursday, Oct. 10, at Lodge 7. The discussion started with sending the disaster relief team to join up with the National FOP in the Asheville, North Carolina, area. But someone through state corrections had a relative in Erwin, and we learned that they could use some help, too. So that was why that became our destination.

At the state board meeting, I had already sought a budget for our deployment, specifically for Lodge 7, of \$10,000. We received a \$5,000 check from the PBPA as a thank-you for the work at the DNC and feeding all the members — not just ours, obviously, but those from throughout the state. Such a nice gesture by PBPA President Jim Calvino and his union. We also received a wonderful thank you and \$5,000 donation from CFD Local 2 President Pat Cleary.

So I asked the Lodge 7 board for another \$5,000 to increase our budget \$10,000, and the board did not hesitate. I knew that was what we were starting with when I announced it at the state board meeting. Illinois State Troopers Lodge President Joe Moon pledged another \$10,000 for the effort. Then some other lodges kicked in smaller amounts. So it was nice that everybody kind of got on board, trying to do as much as we can for those people and first responders.

We brought food, a budget and a plan. We left on Friday, arrived Saturday and started cooking that afternoon. But what they were thankful for and gave us more to be thankful for was the camaraderie we brought, letting them know that people from far away — total strangers — cared so much.

As we cooked the hot meals, we heard the search-and-rescue stories, including one about two Unicoi County officers who lost their houses and another Erwin officer who lost everything — demolished by the floods. He has to start over with three kids. All these officers are 30 years old and younger.

It got my mind thinking, "What more can we do?" I brought a couple of chainsaws with me, figuring the search-and-rescue teams might need them, and they were happy to get them. But what do you do beyond that? When I started learning about these officers, I had an idea.

**President's Report continues on Page 7**



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## Another win for Lodge 7 members

The Illinois Labor Relations Board upheld the initial decision about our contesting the City's COVID policy. The question now is if the City is going to be silly enough to appeal that in the courts. Or at this point, are they going to say, "Let's just call it a loss and move on"?

This is further validation that the whole policy was wrong, that all discipline needs to be erased and all members who were put in no-pay status over exercising their right to not report their vaccination status be made whole.

Unfortunately, I think the City is going to look at the fact that they are in the middle of a budget crisis right now and trying to figure out how to plug a \$1 billion deficit. The last thing they're going to do is say, "Hey, let's just throw in the towel on this COVID thing." And "Where are we going to come up with the money to make all of these City employees whole with 7 percent interest?"

I remind everybody that the mayor, supposedly the mayor of labor, should have stopped it from Day 1 and literally said that the COVID fight was wrong. But he just kept fighting it. No different than what Lightfoot did, and now he has created another issue that he has no solution for.

They were literally counting on Joe Biden getting elected, and then he would throw in federal money and put us further in debt to try and bail the City out for its irresponsibility. That's exactly where we're at yet again. Hoping for some federal money to bail them out for the stupidity, specifically of Brandon Johnson and his City Council lackeys, yet again.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

I contacted Joe Moon and asked him what he thought about the idea since he was putting up such a large amount of money. He said, "That's why I gave you the money, because I knew you would spend it properly." My recommendation was to write each of those officers a \$5,000 check so they could get their lives back on track quicker, which was exactly what we did.

We also heard about the budget for the search-and-rescue squad for the county, and it was pretty heartbreaking to see how desperate they were for equipment that wasn't coming. Jeremy brought a drone, which they didn't have, and he helped them because they were looking for the sixth victim from the plastics factory. They recovered five of the bodies, but they were still looking for this last lady. The debris field was humongous, so Jeremy stepped in with the drone.

Then I asked Jeremy if he could find out what other equipment was needed. There was pretty much one request when he came back. They all needed new boots. They were all working on the same pair of boots for a couple of seasons now. So, we got all their boot sizes and bought 13 pairs of boots for them. A couple of first responders were almost in tears thanking us for a pair of boots.

These officers and first responders in Erwin remind us that there is always something to be thankful for. Your life could always be worse, and that kind of trip and disaster relief was a reminder of how we lose focus on the good parts of life and then just keep thinking about all the negative stuff we have here in Chicago.

Which leads me to the rest of the story. A gentleman named Jim Erwin is head of the emergency management agency in Unicoi County. What a good, solid, calming person who you want in charge of a situation like this. He walked us through the scene, taking us through the timeline of how everything happened. Jim had to be rescued from the hospital himself because he was trying to manage that scene when the water just got too high too quickly for everybody.

He had also been trying to acquire this old National Guard armory for a couple of years for the county's emergency management team. But the funds weren't there, and the state wasn't budging on the price

## More stupidity

So we have all seen and read about the CTU's efforts to basically take over the City. Teachers are requesting another pay increase, while the mayor freezes two months of our academy classes. That's his quid pro quo with his former employers.

Yes, that is the last thing Chicago and the Department can afford. And, yes, it seems like we have gone from bad to worse with City leadership. Yes, un-freakin-believable.

At least there was back-and-forth with Lightfoot. This guy just totally buries his head in the sand or up his own backside. He just ignores things like they don't even exist, including us at this point. I guess he does have bigger fish to fry because he's such a poor manager of municipal budgets that he created that \$1 billion hole.

He can blame anybody he wants, but he created it, along with his little lackey allies in City Council, primarily through their stupid migrant policy of spending hundreds of millions of dollars that we didn't have and putting the City in this hole to begin with.

Well, I guess he can throw all the money at education he wants, as long as CTU is in charge of it. It's not CPS in charge, it's CTU. As long as that's the case, the education product is going to be extremely poor, and that's only going to lead to further problems no matter how much money you throw at the South and West sides.

If you don't educate these generations properly and give them opportunities and confidence that they can be successful, then it's all wasted money. But they're perfectly OK with the wasted money because they've been wasting money at CPS for generations, just throwing money because they say they will go on strike. And they get most of what they look for, but nothing gets better. It gets worse.

It's always this ever-moving goal line with CTU, and it just needs to stop.

to sell it. All it took, I guess, was a tragedy like this and the governor walking through the scene with his people and asking Jim what he needed. And he told me he said to the governor, "What I really need is a real office to work out of, and that armory would be great." Next thing you know, they're moving into the armory.

The last day, Bill Angus came up with an idea because he saw this gigantic flagpole outside the armory that had nothing hanging from it. He said we should get an American flag. We tried to find a Tennessee flag of the same size, too, to put on the flagpole and claim the place as their own. When we were getting ready to leave, I told Jim, "We bought you a flag for your pole. Would you like to go and claim your property and raise it up the pole?"

We could see the sense of pride that he had as a former military guy, raising the flag all the way up, literally never breaking his eye level straight ahead and whispering, "Let me know when it's all the way to the top."

Perfect opportunity to pause and salute all those who have served in the U.S. military. With also celebrating Veterans Day in November, we are so thankful for all of you who have served in the military and what you have done to protect our freedom.

We raised that flag to the top and then he said, "OK, let me know when it's down to half-mast." Never once did he do anything but look straight ahead like any military person would. The kind of reverence he gave that ceremony was a great way to end the trip, and seeing how much pride he took with knowing that he had a new home now was pretty cool.

People had also stepped up with donations that filled up that armory from one side to the next. Everything from cleaning materials to toys for kids for Christmas. That was on top of a whole other room that was totally filled to the gills. And just to know that that community came together like that for their fellow citizens who have had their lives demolished, it just really restores your faith and focuses on how we all should be thankful.



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# Giving Thanks this Holiday Season



**MICHAEL  
METTE**

It's November y'all! That means the weather is going to start getting colder and colder and the daylight shorter and shorter. Despite the turn in weather, November has always been one of my favorite times of year. The lead up to the holiday season is upon us, and Thanksgiving is my second favorite next to Christmas.

Thanksgiving has always been near and dear to me. When my grandmother Norah was still with us, this was the day of the year we would gather up and watch a bunch of football and pig out on Gram's turkey and stuffing with gravy. The turkey was great, but the green bean casserole and sweet potatoes with marshmallows always took first place.

I miss those days, and I miss my Grams. She was the Matriarch of our family, and the holidays just aren't the same without her. But I am thankful that I had so many years with my Grams around to teach me that all the hustle and bustle of the world really doesn't matter. It is the relationships we have with family and friends that matter the most.

And since it's almost Thanksgiving, what are you thankful for? I'll tell you what I am thankful for as I write this article. This past Saturday, Oct 26, we had five of our brothers in blue get into a very hairy situation. A gunman had just shot an innocent man in the 24th District and, while the ambulance and police were on

scene, the gunman came back to try and finish the job. In doing so, there was several exchanges of gunfire between the police and the gunman. Eventually, the gunman was stopped and taken into custody. Thankfully none of the officers or other civilians were hurt during the exchange of bullets.

I am thankful to have the opportunity to share my experiences with each of you. I am thankful to be in the position I am in to try and help as many of you as I am able. I appreciate the hard work all of our active members put in and I am grateful for those of you who paved the way. I write about gratefulness often because of how powerful gratefulness can be. Focusing on all of the little good things in one's life can create an amazing outlook. Wintertime in Chicago is a great time to start the practice. As the days get shorter, changing our focus to the little things that we are thankful for will help get us through the season. It's easy to find new and thoughtful ways to stay positive, just ask the Google machine! Try one or all of the tips you find online. I personally like a daily gratitude book in the morning when I first get into the office. This gets me in the right mindset to take on the day.

I would like to personally thank each of you who read these articles each month. I hope they find you well and maybe give you something to think about other than the online craziness of the world.

Lastly, I hope this Thanksgiving is one of peace and happiness for you and your families. As always, stay safe and healthy!



## FIRST RESPONDERS WELLNESS CENTER

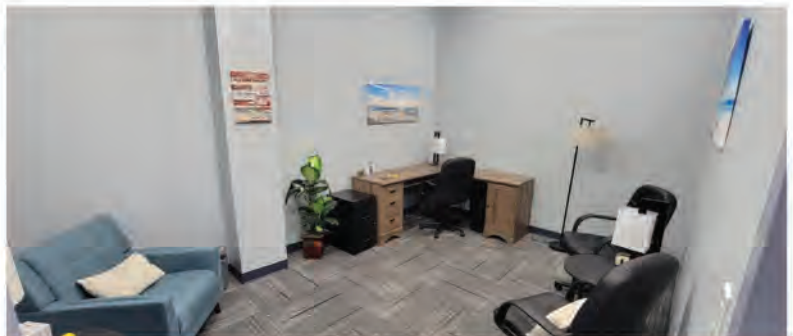


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**Dr. Carrie Steiner**  
Retired Chicago Police Officer  
Owner, First Responders Wellness Center



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# A Report on Discipline Briefs



DAN  
GORMAN

Part of my report given at the monthly general members meetings include examples of arbitrators' decisions issued at binding summary opinion ("BSO") arbitration hearings. Every investigation has its own individual circumstances, and in most cases, there are multiple allegations and redundant alleged "rule violations" (usually piled on by the investigators). However, below are examples of relatively simpler CR investigations and recent dispositions that have been awarded by the binding summary 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
Profanity and no BWC	5-day suspension	Reprimand only for BWC
Off-duty display of firearm	5-day suspension	Expunged
Stop, and search without justification. No ISR, no receipt, no BWC. (2x's)	5-day suspension (2x's)	2-day suspension 1-day suspension
Fail to inventory personal property from towed vehicle	1-day suspension (2x's)	Reprimand (2x's)
Fail to properly identify predominant aggressor during domestic; incomplete GOCR, no notifications	5-day suspension (2x's)	2-day suspension (2x's)
No BWC, No TRR	10-day suspension (2x's)	1-day suspension (2x's)

## QUOTE BOARD:

To add context to some of the above listed dispositions, below are just a few notable quotes taken directly from the arbitrator's written awards/decisions.

### Quote from the 7-page arbitration decision re:

No BWC and profanity after a shooting incident

"There can be no dispute that Officer [REDACTED] was engaged in a serious and tense foot pursuit during which Officer [REDACTED] heard gunfire and believed that it could have been directed at his partner, Officer [REDACTED]. Officer [REDACTED] did acknowledge, however, that he failed to activate his BWC in a timely manner, and that he could have used more professional language with the offender."

### Quote from the 8-page arbitration decision re:

Off-duty display of firearm

"I have reviewed the evidence and find that based on the circumstances of this case, including Officer [REDACTED]'s perception of (the complainant's) behavior, I cannot find that the Department has proven that Officer [REDACTED] was acting unreasonably when he stopped his vehicle, removed his weapon, and placed it in the low ready position. I do note that he did not aim the weapon at (the complainant), but rather kept it in the low ready position. I believe that based on (the complainant's) behavior, Officer [REDACTED]

reasonably believed that he was in danger." "Based on the evidence, I will not second guess Officer [REDACTED]'s determination."

"I also note that after Officer [REDACTED] determined that (the complainant) was not a threat, Officer [REDACTED] reholstered his weapon and waited for Officers to respond to (the complainant's) 911 call."

"I feel that Officer [REDACTED] made a judgement call and that his judgement, in the moment, was reasonable. While I agree that Officer [REDACTED] could have simply called 911, his actions were not unreasonable. Therefore, I cannot find that COPA was correct when it determined that Officer [REDACTED] violated Rules 2, 3, 8, 9, and 38."

### Quote from the 13-page arbitration decision re:

Alleged stop, and search, without justification. No ISR, no ISR receipt, and no BWC

"Therefore, based on the totality of the circumstances, including the fact that only 2 of the four allegations were upheld and the prior Complimentary History and Disciplinary Records of the Officers, I find that the penalty in this matter should be reduced to a 2-day suspension for Officer [REDACTED] and a 1-day Suspension for Officer [REDACTED] for the failure to issue (the complainant) an Investigatory Stop Receipt, for their failure to file an Investigatory Stop Report, and for failure to activate their BWCs."

### Quote from the 7-page arbitration decision re:

Fail to inventory personal property from a towed vehicle

"While these are significant mitigating factors, they do not absolve (the officers) of the responsibility to follow Department requirements to properly remove and inventory personal property in a vehicle to be towed. Their actions warrant some discipline."

### Quotes from the 12-page arbitration decision re:

Fail to identify the predominant aggressor during a domestic (mutual combatants), incomplete case report, and failure to call a supervisor for further assistance

"I note that the evidence shows that the Officers entered a very contentious incident and were attempting to deal with two very aggressive parties. It is clear that the Officers were diligently attempting to deescalate the situation. While the Officers noted that both (parties) were mutual combatants, they could not reasonably determine which individual was the prominent aggressor. Therefore, Allegation 1 is rejected."

"However, the Department has proven that the Officers did violate the relevant rules when they failed to make proper notifications, failed to interview the parties separately, and failed to document on the General Offense Case Report that children were present. However, I note that based on the specific circumstances of the incident, including the small space and the cold weather outside, it was difficult to separate the parties to interview them."

### Quote from the 9-page arbitration decision re:

No BWC, No TRR

"In mitigation, at the time of the incident, both Officers had extremely favorable Complimentary Histories. Neither Officer had a prior discipline at the time of the incident. Also in mitigation was the unexplained delay in COPA's Investigation. Further, I note that while there is no Command Channel Review, I note that the Superintendent recommended that the Officers receive only 1-day Suspensions based on similar discipline that had been imposed in similar situations."



# It's All About Service



ROB  
NOCEDA

Hello, Lodge 7, I pray this finds you well. Happy Veterans Day! Thank a veteran. Have a conversation with a veteran. Heck, buy lunch for a veteran. It's a day to celebrate our nation's warriors! Thank you, veterans everywhere!

Lodge 7 currently has over 80 members on military leave. Some of those members will be coming back to Chicago soon. But we have many CPD military members all around the world. From Jordan to the Horn of Africa to Poland. Our members are proudly serving our great nation. We are so appreciative of their dedication to our great country.

Five years ago, we started our Military Care Package Drive at Lodge 7. This idea was inspired by my late grandmother. While I was deployed to Iraq twice, Busia would send sugary sweets in her care package to me and always wrote her letters in cursive. Mind you, she also wrote letters to my

grandfather in World War II. Grandpa was also prisoner of war.

I want to always thank our Military Committee as they do a fantastic job with this drive. Also, Detective Will Andino and his wife Arlene have done so much great work the past few years. It's such a blessing to have the Andino team working hard. Please check out the QR code attached to this article. Your donation will help support our CPD/Lodge 7 troops abroad.

A special mention to Sgt. Matt Carlson who returned from Jordan "Tower 22" with the American Flag that was flown there in support of Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve. We appreciate Matt bringing "Old Glory" so we can put it here at Lodge 7. We also pray for the safety of all our members that they may return home from their tours of duty.

God bless you and your families. Stay safe.

## CARE PACKAGES FOR *CPD HEROES*



We are accepting donations for our CPD Military brothers and sisters who will be on deployment this holiday season. Items are due by November 22nd. FOP Lodge 7 will coordinate delivery of care packages to our service men and women.

**ITEMS NEEDED:**



- Individual snacks: trail mix/peanuts/protein bars/granola/candy/gum...
- Individual drink mix
- Socks

- Personal hygiene: baby wipes, baby powder, lip balm, shaving cream, razors.
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 Contact me at:  
William.Andino@chicagopolice.org

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# The Risk Of "No Bid"



JIM  
JAKSTAVICH

This article will assist officers in the art of selecting a watch for the 2025 calendar year. The selection process continues to be problematic for some members in understanding the "no bid" selection. There are indeed risks involved in placing a "no bid" on your selection form. **Please read the department notice titled, "Annual Watch, Furlough Selections, Vacation Schedules and 2025 Operational Calendar," prior to completing your watch selection form.**

Over the years, there have been a number of officers who decided to place a "no bid," hoping their commander would take care of them and assign them under the department's percentage to a desirable watch. In some cases, the old saying, "Promises are made to be broken," rang true. Looking forward to the 2025 selection process, all officers should be cautious in placing a "no bid" selection because they will be at the mercy of the department. In essence, you have opted out of the selection process and are telling the department they may place you wherever they choose. There are no guarantees to a "no bid" selection. There is a guarantee when your watch is selected by

seniority. For example, a less senior officer who may have wanted and had been promised 2nd watch thought he/she would be given the 2nd watch assignment if a "no bid" was selected ends up on midnights, but could have achieved a more desirable 3rd watch assignment by seniority if only his/her 2nd choice had not been a "no bid" selection, but rather, 3rd watch.

The department will soon release a list of how many positions will be filled by 80 percent seniority and how many positions will be filled by the 20 percent department's discretionary assignment. This will be posted for each watch. Looking at the number of positions and where you sit on the seniority roster can give you a good idea on what watches you can select by seniority. We caution you that if you place a "no bid" as your second choice, you should have received some prior assurance from the commander that he/she will use his/her 20 percent to place you. You should also understand the risk of the "no bid," and how it will affect you.

If you have any questions regarding the risk of "no bid," please check with your watch or unit representative. If further information is needed, please contact the Lodge at 312-733-7776.

## Instruction For Filling Out A Watch Selection Form

On a watch selection form, you have four choices that can be made: 1st watch, 2nd watch, 3rd watch, and no bid. Although there are risks of placing a "no bid" choice, it remains a choice for you to make.

Officers should make their choices by prioritizing the watches, with the most desirable watch being designated as your first choice, followed by your next desirable selection, etc. Officers should complete all four choices but may not select the same watch for all four choices. Submitting a selection form in which all four choices indicate the 2nd watch is not only the wrong way to fill out the form, but if you don't have enough seniority to achieve a 2nd watch seniority assignment, you have just opted out of the selection process and will be placed on a watch designated by the department. Use each selection once and only once. For example: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and no bid.

Here are a few examples and scenarios which I hope will assist you in deciding how to use the "no bid" choice. The Lodge is recommending that you use the slots (which are effectively empty) after your "no bid" choice to indicate to your commander what your least preferred watch is.

**EXAMPLE #1:** I am an officer who, although I do not have enough seniority to get on the 2nd watch, am confident (really, really confident) that the commander will use the department's 20 percent to place me on the 2nd watch. I made out my form:

1st Choice: 2nd Watch

2nd Choice: No Bid  
3rd Choice: 3rd Watch  
4th Choice: 1st Watch

**EXAMPLE #2:** I am an officer who, although I do not have enough seniority to get on the 2nd or 3rd watch, am desperately trying to avoid the midnights and all I can do is hope and pray the commander may use his/her 20 percent on me, but I can at least indicate to him/her my preferences. I made out my form:

1st Choice: 2nd Watch  
2nd Choice: 3rd Watch  
3rd Choice: No Bid  
4th Choice: 1st Watch

**EXAMPLE #3:** I am an officer who knows positively that the commander is not going to use his/her 20 percent on ME. I made out my form:

1st Choice: 2nd Watch  
2nd Choice: 3rd Watch  
3rd Choice: 1st Watch  
4th Choice: No Bid

Officers, think wisely before submitting your watch selection form. Your decision may be with you for the full year. Also, use each choice selection (1st w, 2nd w, 3rd w, or no bid) only once. Using any of them twice will not get you that selection.



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# Celebrating a Career of Service and Achievement



KENYATTA  
GAINES

Last month, one of our very own was praised for her leadership of the 011th District. Cmdr. Davina Ward is one of only two Black women commanders in the city. Known to be one of the most dangerous districts in the city for violent crimes, new CPD data showed both violent and property crimes are trending down compared to the three-year average, as reported by ABC7.

Mayor Johnson and Cmdr. Ward sat down exclusively with ABC7 to discuss the trend. Johnson credited Cmdr. Ward's leadership for the impressive results. The ABC7 Data Team reported that in the past 12 months there have been 48 homicides, which is a 45 percent decrease, and shootings have dropped 39 percent to 285. In addition, there have been 100 carjackings, which is a 34 percent decrease, and a 9 percent drop in motor vehicle theft. Unfortunately, robberies are up 758 in the past 12 months. Cmdr. Ward implored the community to step up to continue these trends.

"They have to work with us and any other organization that we bring forth to help them stay safe. That's the only way that we can at least start seeing more of the crime go down," Ward said. Hats off to all 011th District officers working to make these changes possible!

I'm sure we can all agree that leadership matters. The department will evolve into something we can be proud of when we have bosses that invest in the troops and the community alike. Cmdr. Ward saw a greater need for the inner city, so she joined

the Chicago Police Department. For the past 23 years she has donated herself to the elimination of crime throughout Chicago. Cmdr. Ward has held many titles, including field training officer (FTO), sergeant (six years), and lieutenant (six years). Cmdr. Ward is a member of the Chicago Metropolitan Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Executives (NOBLE), where she served as their recording secretary for the vice president. In addition, she is a part of the National Council of Negro Women, a life member of Texas Southern University Alumni Association, a life member/ruby member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc., and a member of the Lincoln Park Chapter of the Top Ladies of Distinction and Black Public Safety Alliance (BPSA). She is also a CPD choir member. With her boisterous laugh and silly disposition, Ward has successfully built relationships with numerous faith-based and social services organizations that widely serve the community. She extends her life of service by mentoring youths from grade school through their college years.

Cmdr. Ward has received numerous prestigious awards including the noteworthy Arnold Mireles Special Partnership Award. This award was achieved in collaboration with other officers and NOBLE and is given to those who make a significant impact upon the quality of life within their community by identifying and resolving problems. Her most recent award is the 2024 Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award, which she received on Oct. 30, 2024. The FOP salutes Cmdr. Ward for her many accomplishments throughout her journey from police officer to commander. Be encouraged to reach higher. Stay safe!

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# Honoring Retired Members

August 2024

Name	Rank	Unit	Years
Shelly A. Beard	Officer	124	30
Anthony Brown	Officer	003	24
Daniel J. Claybourne	Officer	701	29
Robert A. Garcia	Evidence Tech	277	27
Charles A. Kaufmann	Officer	022	38
Chauncey W. Moore	Detective	620	30
Thomas Norberg	Officer	014	29
Anthony J. Pulcanio	Detective	650	27
Harry S. Strong	Detective	640	32
Joyce A. Tokarz	Officer	005	29

## 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 Vitaoli, 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  
**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 Association Northsiders Retiree Breakfast

First Monday of month  
@ 10:00 a.m.  
Burgundy Restaurant  
5959 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago

### Hellenic American Police Association Southsiders Retiree Breakfast

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

### 25th District Retirees

1st Wednesday of the Month  
Tavern on the Point  
6724 N. Northwest Hwy  
7 P.M.



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# Honoring Sisters and Brothers who have passed

Name	Status	Age	Date of Passing
John M. Mulligan	Retired	73	March 29, 2024
Aurthur Arguijo	Retired	71	May 10, 2024
Paul Gregoire	Retired	64	May 21, 2024
James L. Mullins	Retired	72	July 20, 2024
Patrick Fogarty	Retired	86	August 19, 2024
Joseph Strotter	Retired	94	September 25, 2024
James Kotowicz	Retired	78	September 30, 2024
Michael Demitro	Retired	80	October 4, 2024
Jack Schwarz	Retired	99	October 5, 2024
Edward R. Winstead	Retired	52	October 15, 2024
Carmen Maldonado	Unit 015	35	October 20, 2024
Victor Gutierrez	Retired	67	October 20, 2024
John Kosiewicz	Retired	77	October 21, 2024

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# A Fitting Thanksgiving Tribute



**PAT  
FIORETTO**

This past year has seen many changes and continued obstacles for the men and women in blue. A new superintendent, ever-changing "policing guidelines," COPA's continued attempts to demonize officers, and ongoing political strife both locally and nationally. The number of disciplinary grievances which the Lodge has filed is ever increasing. The city continues to fight over terms of the new contract, which leads to more distrust among the rank and file. It seems like law enforcement is always under attack.

Yet one thing remains constant: Police officers put on their uniforms and do their jobs. They leave their families at home and go out in the streets to serve and protect. They work on their canceled days off. They stay after their watches are over to help citizens in need. They run towards danger. Despite the rhetoric, it is the men and women who maintain law and order in our city. And it is the Lodge who always fight to ensure that the safety, rights and respect of its members are safeguarded.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I am reminded more and more of the sacrifices which police officers make each and every day, but especially during the holiday season. Often, it seems that police officers are fighting an uphill battle with little or no support from the public who so desperately need them.

Reflecting on what truly matters as we enter the holiday season, once again 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.

I am re-posting the perfect poem which was included in one of my articles several years ago. Please accept these words, found on the Internet (written by an individual 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 gang-bangers 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

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

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# The Importance Of Articulable Suspicion



TIM  
GRACE

We all understand the idea of what is required to conduct an investigatory stop. An officer must have reasonable articulable suspicion to believe a crime has been or is about to be committed to justify a brief detention. What sometimes gets lost in the process is what exactly does “articulable” mean in this analysis. Many officers when composing their reports and offering testimony before the court can skip over this very important element. Recently a very instructive case came down from the appellate court that demonstrates how an officer can prove his or action where consistent with the Fourth Amendment. Being a police officers is more than just knowing the law and being proficient with its application, a good cop needs to be able to explain the what, how and why to justify their actions. Trust me, COPA will give you no quarter if you fail to do this.

In October, the opinion in *People of the State of Illinois v. Deonte Frazier*, 1-23-1387 was released by the Illinois Appellate Court. The facts of the case are rather simple and involve scenarios that you encounter each and every day. Deonte Frazier was arrested for unlawful use of weapon after he was found to have a gun in his waistband. The matter was assigned to the now retired Judge James Linn at 26th and California. To those who don’t know, Judge Linn was always known to be a very astute, considered and very smart judge who is much missed since his leaving. He was not a judge to suffer fools and would call out improper police actions but was always fair and had a very strong understanding of how difficult it is to police in an environment like the City of Chicago. The defense filed a motion to suppress the evidence claiming the officers violated the Fourth Amendment as the detention and pat down was improper. One officer was called to testify and this is the point where the rubber hits the road. It is quite apparent that the officer understood the case and the law, was prepared and did an outstanding job on the stand particularly in cross-examination. He understood the assignment.

He testified that he and his partner were working a tactical assignment in the 006th District. They were in an unmarked squad and dressed in typical civilian dress. The officers observed Deonte Frazier at a gas station, exiting his vehicle. What drew their attention to him, he explained, was the fact that he “repositioned an item from his right rear waistband area” and he had observed similar movements “hundreds of times before” and he

estimated that ninety percent of the time he later found contraband in that area. Great testimony. The officers parked their squad and followed the defendant inside to conduct a field interview. Once inside they found the defendant with an unlit cigar of suspected cannabis hanging from his mouth, and Deonte was “breathing heavily and had wide eyes.” The officers asked him if he had anything illegal and he “looked down, paused and related ‘No.’” Simply great testimony and a great use of the English language to set the scene for what comes next. The officer further added that this area is known as a high-crime area that resulted in many arrests for guns and illegal narcotics. Again, using his expertise and knowledge of the area is another outstanding way to set the scene for the Court. A brief pat-down was conducted and the weapon was recovered in that very waistband. Judge Linn denied the motion to suppress and Frazier was sentenced to 8 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. This appeal ensued.

The appellate court noted that the fourth amendment of the United States Constitution generally requires that any government search or seizure be authorized by a warrant supported by probable cause. It noted that as in in this case, the exception to that rule is outlined in *Terry v. Ohio* or investigatory stops. Under *Terry*, a police officer may conduct a brief, investigatory stop of a person where the officer reasonably believes that the person has committed, or is about to, commit a crime if the officer has ‘reasonable, articulable suspicion’ that criminal activity is afoot. The Court stated that “the investigatory stop must be justified at its inception and the officer must be able to point to specific and articulable facts which, taken together with rational inferences from those facts, reasonably warrant the governmental intrusion upon the constitutionally protected interests of the private citizen.” Once an officer has initiated a stop, if the officer reasonably believes that the suspect is armed and presently dangerous to the officer or others, the officer may conduct a pat down search or frisk to determine whether the person is carrying a weapon.

The appellate court then went on to analyze the officers’ actions through the lens of a *Terry* stop. The defense of course argued that the officers lacked reasonable suspicion to justify the detention and further there was no basis to conduct the brief pat-down. This is where the officer’s testimony carried the day. The court keyed in on his testimony. The court agreed with Judge Linn, and found that in a totality of the circumstances review, the objective facts (or the articulable suspicion) as testified to

by the officer, of the high-crime area, the repositioning of the weapon in the waistline and the fact that the offender acted nervous and evasive when confronted by the police, all gave the officers the right for a brief detention and subsequent search due to officer safety. Now, you may say, "thank you Mr. lawyer, we already knew all that" and you would be correct. However, knowing it and putting it concisely in your reports and further testifying clearly without vagaries is a different story. The officer should be commended for his conduct both on the street and in court and we should all take note of his professionalism. Good job officer.



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## An Update Before the Election



DAVE  
SULLIVAN

This article is being written before the election, but this magazine issue does not come out until after the election. So, by the time you read this we will hopefully know who has won the presidential race as well as all of the other campaigns throughout the state and nation.

As a reminder, there are not statewide elections in Illinois this year and not much going on in the few Illinois State Senate contests, but there are several hotly contested races throughout the state for Illinois House seats. Downstate, there are a couple of GOP-held seats that are in jeopardy and a couple of Democrat-held seats that could flip. The two GOP seats are in suburban St. Louis and another one near the University of Illinois. The Democratic seats are in the Bloomington area and LaSalle area. In the suburbs, there are several GOP held seats that are in play including in former GOP strongholds of Wheaton, Elmhurst, Barrington, and Western Springs. The Democrats currently hold a supermajority in the House and the Senate, and they will continue to do so next year. The only question is if the Democrats have more seats next year than their current 78-40 margin. Both parties are currently predicting victory. We shall see.

After the elections, both the House and Senate will convene for their fall veto session. We are not expecting much legislative action then. Legislators have been told to keep the first week of January on hold on their calendars for a probable lame duck session. That is when we anticipate more legislative activity. The new legislature will be sworn into office on Jan. 8. We will remain vigilant.

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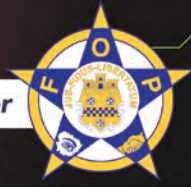
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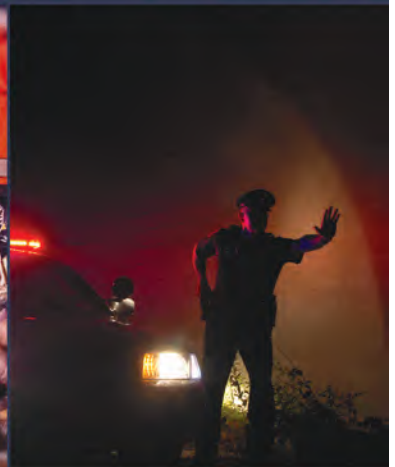
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# Don't We All



RABBI  
MOSHE WOLF

As we enter the holiday season, I offer a reminder to please look around among your peers with the following thoughts: not all are blessed to celebrate the holidays with family and friends. Some of our peers have no family and some don't have a special loved one to share the holidays with. Please let's adopt the motto, "In our family you are never alone." Brothers and sisters, you know who these individuals are. Please consider inviting them to your family's holiday celebrations. You both will have a better holiday since no one should have to celebrate alone or feel lonely. This reminds me of the story, "Don't We All."

I was parked in front of a shopping center wiping off my car. I had just come from the car wash and was cleaning out the inside of my car, lost in thought, contemplating life, and carrying a heavy heart for a friend dying of cancer. Coming my way from across the parking lot was what society would consider a "street person," "bum," or "street panhandler."

From his looks it seemed as if he had no car, no home, no clean clothes, and no money. There are times when you feel generous, but there are other times that you just don't want to be bothered. This was one of those "don't want to be bothered, leave me alone" times.

"I hope he doesn't come my way," I thought.

He didn't. He came and sat on the curb in front of the bus stop, but he didn't look like he could have enough money to even ride the bus. After a few minutes he spoke. "That's a very cool car," he said. He was ragged but he had an air of simple dignity around him.

I said, "thanks," and continued wiping off my car.

He sat there quietly as I worked. The expected plea for money never came. As the silence between us widened, something inside said, "Ask him if he needs any help." I was sure that he would say "yes," but I held true to the inner voice.

"Sir, do you need any help?" I asked.

He answered in three simple but profound words that I shall never forget. We often look for wisdom in great men and women. We expect it from those of higher learning and accomplishments.

I expected nothing but an outstretched boney hand that I would gladly help. Instead, we locked eyes and he spoke the three words that shook me, and I'll never forget.

"Don't we all?" he answered. Then he added, "at some point in life we all need a shoulder to lean on or ear to listen."

I was feeling high and mighty, successful and important, above a supposed "street person" in the street, until those three words hit me like a 12-gauge shotgun: "Don't we all?"

I needed help. Maybe not for bus fare or a place to sleep, but I needed help if nothing more, then to stop and count my blessings get my head back in focus. I reached in my wallet and gave him not only enough for bus fare, but enough to get a warm meal and shelter for the day. Those three little words still ring true. No matter how much we have, no matter how much we have accomplished, we need help too. No matter how little we have, no matter how loaded we are with problems, even without money or a place to sleep, we can give help to another in need of physical or emotional help.

Even if it's just a compliment, we can give that. We never know when we may see someone that appears to have it all. They may be

waiting for us to give them what they don't have, perhaps a smile, a handshake, a friendly hug, or a kind word. A different perspective on life, a glimpse at something beautiful, a respite from daily chaos, that only we through a different perspective can see. Maybe the man coming towards me in the parking lot was just a homeless stranger wandering the streets or maybe he was more than that?

Maybe the man was sent by a power that is great and wise, to minister to a soul too comfortable in themselves or to remind them that no matter how heavy their burden, there are those carrying a heavier burden.

Maybe G-d looked down, called an Angel, dressed him like a bum, then said, "Go minister to that man cleaning his car, that man needs help keeping his life in focus." Don't we all?

## "Reflection and Thanksgiving"

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 heart 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, that nothing is for certain." The trick is to take a few moments each day to stop and give thanks for what we DO have. Remember, life is a gift, that's why it is called "the present."

### A Thanksgiving Prayer:

Lord we thank You for having given us life. G-d, You have given us everything that we have and blessed us better than we deserve. 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 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 lakefront, for it is beautiful, the sun, for it is bright, 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, because we know in life sometimes we are shown more than we can understand.

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, please remind us of all our blessings and to be thankful for everything we already have. And please help us to remember each day to appreciate our loved ones who enrich our lives and mean so much to us. Bless us, keep us safe, and always keep us in Your loving care. Amen.

A little humor from the “Moshe Files”, to keep you smiling:

#### BATH TUB TEST.

During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, “How do you determine whether or not an older person should be put in a long-term care home?”

“Well,” the doctor said, “we fill up a bathtub with warm water, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup, and a bucket to the person and ask them to empty the bathtub.”

“Oh, I understand,” and then I said. “A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup.”

“No” the doctor said. “A normal person would pull the plug and let the water drain.” The doctor looked at me and asked, “Do you want a bed near the window?”

On behalf of ALL your chaplains, may G-d bless you, keep you safe and always keep you in His loving care. Thank you for the holy work that you do. We appreciate you, our city appreciates you, society couldn't survive without you. Please remember should you ever need a shoulder to lean on, or an ear to listen we are ALWAYS AVAILABLE for you, never hesitate to call. Your pain is our pain, and we are here to assist anyway we can. All your Chaplains are listed in your FOP books.

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FATHER DAN BRANDT

On Oct. 1, I joined members of the Chicago Police Futbol (Soccer) Club at Casa Tequila Mexican Grill and Steakhouse to personally hang portraits memorializing some recent fallen officers. Casa Tequila (1949 W. Division Street) LOVES the police. Be sure to visit and check out their beautiful memorial to Paul Bauer, Sam Jimenez, Ella French, Eduardo Marmolejo, Conrad Gary, Areanah Preston, Andres Vasquez Lasso, and Luis Huesca.

recent class's star ceremony. We CPD Chaplains had the opportunity to pray with new officers desiring a blessing of their newly issued stars. As is mentioned by the commanding officer of the academy at each star ceremony, these stars are EARNED, not given. Stay safe, new officers! Congratulations.



On Oct. 17, the Chicago Board Options Exchange (CBOE) honored us with a closing bell-ringing ceremony. This same honor has been enjoyed by folks like Ronald Reagan, George Bush, Donald Trump, and Abraham Lincoln (OK, maybe that's a stretch). What a treat for us! You can see pictures and video of the event on our website. It should be noted that the board also made a generous donation to our cause and our outreach to the Chicago Police Gold



Another north side restaurant that loves us is Orso's at 1401 N. Wells Street. On Oct. 3, they hosted a happy hour dinner buffet with open bar for a few hours. It was a delightful chance to mingle with about 100 guests who together contributed over \$10,000 to Police Chaplains Ministry and our outreach to Gold Star Families. Here you see Frank, the proprietor of over 55 years. What a gracious and generous host! Please check out Orso's!

On Oct. 3, Chaplain Joe Jackson offered the invocation at our most







Star Families, those who have lost a loved one in the line of duty serving our city.

On Nov. 19, we commemorate the six-year anniversary of PO Samuel Jimenez's death at Mercy Hospital. A memorial ceremony will take place at noon on Sunday, Nov. 17 at the 002nd District. Sam's memorial card—and many others—can be downloaded from

our website. May he and all our fallen heroes rest in peace!

Mark your calendar: Our next Upper Room Club will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 26, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Thanks to our friends at Pizano's Pizza, who generously host us on a regular basis. Active or retired, contact me for

details if you'd like to join us for a couple hours of conversation about our faith, policing, and current events.

In addition to our regular second and fourth Sunday Masses at Mercy Home, we will gather Thanksgiving morning (Thursday, Nov. 28) an hour earlier than usual. Thinking ahead, the same 10 a.m. start time applies to Christmas morning. No matter your faith tradition, you are most welcome to come and pray with some of your colleagues and friends. Bring your family!

One last note of gratitude: THANK YOU to four parishes who this past month invited me to celebrate Blue Masses honoring our fallen members and thanking our active and retired officers. These parishes deserve to be recognized: St. Benedict in Blue Island, St. Francis of Assisi in Orland Park, Holy Name Cathedral downtown, and St. Gianna (Queen of Martyrs) in Evergreen Park. It was so nice to see so many familiar faces at all of these Blue Masses.

May God bless you and keep you safe.

**Fr. Dan Brandt, Directing CPD Chaplain**  
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## Chicago Lodge 7 Awards



On June 21, 2023, at the location of 80th Street and Burnham Avenue, 004th District officers responded to a call of a person stabbed. Upon arrival, the officers were met by a woman with a small laceration. Further investigation revealed that this woman was in fact the offender who attacked a female senior citizen waiting at the bus stop at 7900 S. Burnham Ave. The officers learned from senior citizen that while waiting at the bus stop, the offender began striking her with a piece of wood, causing her to fall to the ground. The senior citizen, in self-defense, produced a box cutter and cut the offender which caused her to retreat



and flee from the scene. The officers utilized the POD cameras which corroborated the senior citizens' account of events. The officers placed the offender into custody and transported her to the 004th District. The offender was charged with aggravated battery to a senior citizen and a violent offender was removed from the streets of Chicago.

**It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 presents the officers with the Distinguished Service Award.**

## Chicago Lodge 7 Awards



On Aug. 25, 2023, officers from the 002nd District were dispatched to a "deceptive practice" in progress and learned from the victim that her vehicle had been stolen along with \$5,000 worth of machinery inside the vehicle. The victim stated that her vehicle had been recovered but the machinery inside the trunk was now being offered for sale on Facebook Marketplace. The victim had communicated with the seller, and he agreed to meet at 4030 S. Oakenwald Blvd. The officers set up a plan to assist the victim in recovering her stolen property. While conducting surveillance, the officers observed the offender carrying the victim's property. The offender was placed into custody, and a loaded Glock 43 was recovered from the offender's



waistband. The offender did not possess a valid CCL or FOID card and had a serviceable warrant for his arrest. The offender was subsequently charged with felony theft. The victim presented documents that verified her property's serial numbers, and the items were returned to her. The victim stated that she needed this machinery for her business, and it wasn't just some "junk in her trunk."

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



# Chicago Lodge 7 Awards



On Aug. 2, 2022, while working a "robbery mission" in the 019th District, officers conducted a traffic stop of a vehicle with multiple occupants. While approaching, the officers detected a strong odor of cannabis emanating from the vehicle and requested additional officers as backup. The driver of the vehicle was unable to provide a valid driver's license, and the occupants were removed from the vehicle. During their investigation, the officers located a zipped bag which contained three "L" shaped objects inside. This keen observation resulted in the recovery of three handguns. At this time, all the offenders, none of whom possessed a valid FOID or CCL, were placed into custody. Officers found a duffel bag full of cannabis and armor piercing rifle rounds. The officers continued their investigation, which led them to the Langham Hotel located at 330 N.



Wabash Ave, where the offenders were staying. The officers utilized security footage, which showed the offenders previously entering the room with Gucci duffel bags bearing a peculiar shape. Once inside the room, the officers located additional subjects along with a fully automatic rifle with armor piercing ammunition, another bag of cannabis, a ghost gun or privately made handgun bearing no serial number, and large bundles of USC. In total, this traffic stopped led to the arrest of nine offenders, who were charged with misdemeanor and felony charges, the recovery of four handguns, one assault style rifle, two pounds of cannabis, \$130,000.00 USC and \$2.3 million in jewelry recovered from the offenders and the vehicle. This arrest surely prevented the continuation of criminal activity and the gun violence which goes hand in hand.

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

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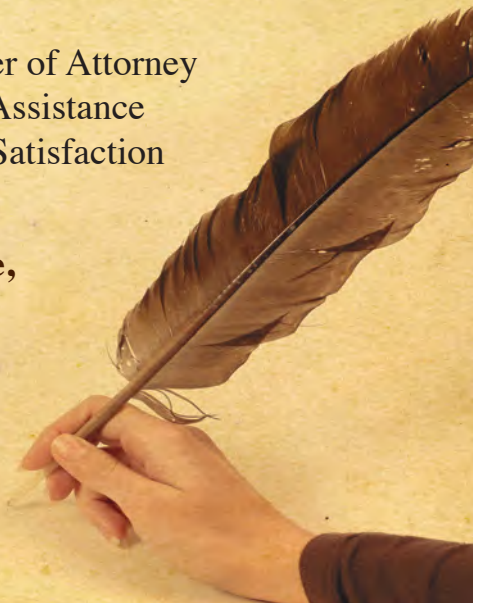


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# Chicago Lodge 7 Awards



On Nov. 7, 2020, at the location of Division Street and Laramie Avenue, Officer Aviles-Lane responded to a "shot spotter" call of multiple gunshots in the 015th District. Upon arrival, Officer Aviles-Lane observed a subject running from the scene with a gun in his hand. Officer Aviles-Lane exited his squad car and gave chase, yelling verbal direction at the offender. The offender tossed the gun as Officer Aviles-Lane caught up to him and a struggle ensued. The officer was forced to strike the offender with his handgun as the offender repeatedly fought to make good his escape. Officer Aviles-Lane called for help and even yelled as he heard sirens approaching, only to find out that they were responding to the scene of the shots fired where the victim lay dead in the street after being murdered by the offender he

was struggling to arrest. The officer continued to fight with the offender, using every possible technique he was taught in the academy and in the streets. Finally, after a few minutes that seemed like an eternity, Officer Aviles-Lane utilized a hand strike and knee to the body to stop the assailant from his continued attack. Officer Aviles-Lane's supervisor came to his aid and the offender was handcuffed. Due to the officer's bravery and courage, an offender who had just committed a murder, was brought to justice and charged with first-degree murder.

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

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On the 08th of October at 17:00 hours, a group of Officers met in Mt. Olivet Cemetery at the mausoleum of Chief Francis O'Neill, the first superintendent of the Chicago Police Department. The memorial "pub crawl" began with the Emerald Society Pipes & Drums marching towards the mausoleum and serenading the group with some beautiful music in honor of Chief O'Neill, who also happens to be the savior of Irish music. Father Ryan Brady of St. Christina Parish followed with a brief history of the Chief's amazing life and notable facts regarding other historical figures buried in the cemetery. The ceremony ended in prayer and a toast to the late Chief. This event draws anywhere from 50-100 people in attendance, with more joining in as we march down 111th Street stopping at every watering hole. All are welcome to join regardless of religious affiliation. Thank you to all that attended and took the time to honor the Chief's memory.

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# ROAD TO RELIEF

**Lodge 7 teams with Illinois State FOP to bring special gifts to law enforcement in Eastern Tennessee responding to Hurricane Helene**

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

When Lodge 7 joined with the Illinois State Lodge Disaster Response Unit's run to East Tennessee, where Hurricane Helene had done so much dirty work, they shed an unexpected and illustrious ray of light. During that holiday weekend visit Oct. 11-15, one of the young coppers who lived in Unicoi County found a way to have a birthday party for his son.

Hearing about the celebration, Lodge 7 President John Catanzara and Dave DiSanti, chair of the Chicago FOP executive board of trustees, expedited a trip to Walmart. They came back bearing special gifts.

"The kid really wanted to be a firefighter, so we picked up some fire trucks," DiSanti shared. "But I also threw a police car into the package."

The support from Lodge 7 and the Illinois State Lodge, and the impact on Erwin, Tennessee, where they had some special connections, brought a seemingly endless supply of uplifting. Retired CPD sergeants Bill Angus and Steve Martin joined Catanzara and DiSanti with the Chicago contingent. Along with the state lodge DRU, led by state lodge trustee Terry Trueblood, they

extended notification of the intent to provide some relief and sustenance for officers in Unicoi County and the town of Erwin, which sits at the base of Mount Mitchell in the Blue Ridge Mountains, bordering the Nolichucky River that overflowed with destruction.

Arriving at the end of the second week of search-and-rescue and recovery efforts, Erwin anticipated the scrumptious meal plans that would prove to be so fortifying. And even more as Jimmy Erwin, the director of the emergency management authority for the county related.

"Once they got here, even the expectation that they told me what they were bringing, it still kind of blew my mind when they pulled up," Erwin confirmed. "The environment they created for our people to kind of relax and just sit around and talk was very therapeutic."

## Stress relief

Who better to relate to what fellow officers had to endure in response to an unprecedented disaster than Chicago Police Officers. They can empathize with working 12-hour tours for 14 to



15 days without a break like nobody else.

So just as Lodge 7 has come to their aid, Catanzara and crew wanted to do similarly for first responders in East Tennessee reeling from Helene. The effort eventually crescendoed with gifting \$5,000 each to three officers from the Unicoi County Sheriff's Department and the Erwin PD whose houses were completely wiped out.

At the command center where officers mustered, Lodge 7 set up its food trailer along with the Illinois State Corrections Lodge 263 food trailer. And they cooked it up with a combination of Southern fare and Chicago style, only starting with the famous Italian beef, which was a huge hit. Fresh tacos, fajita and even biscuits and gravy added to the hearty change of pace from what had been served there.

Additionally, the state lodge brought the wellness team that is part of its DRU to provide widely appreciated acclaim from officers in Unicoi County. Clearly, the presence there from Chicago and Illinois was omnipresent.

"They just started talking to us, saying, 'Oh, you're from the Illinois group,'" Trueblood described. "They knew our contingent made the 10-hour drive. And just the fact that other people outside even their own state cared, that's what we call our footprint of caring."

Angus explained how local officers would grab a plate and sit down with him and the others from Illinois. He observed that they were just happy to be able to tell somebody their stories and see officers from so far away were so willing to help.

And Angus said that the empathy they brought from Chicago provided relief that truly resonated and created a mutual thankfulness from those who were there and those who came.

"We let them know that you're not alone in this world," he added. "Other people understand what it's like."



## Relief pitching

The connection with Erwin came through a member of Lodge 263. Jennifer Ward from 263, whose husband Scot is the lodge president, serves as one of the wellness chairs for the state lodge and is part of the DRU. So she contacted Trueblood to coordinate offering relief to that area, which is essentially on the other side of the mountains from Asheville, North Carolina.

Lodge 263 also has a food trailer that was set to make the trip. That fit in perfectly with Lodge 7 taking the lead in this convoy, which also included the DRU trailer.

The Illinois State Lodge Disaster Response Unit was created to respond to situations like this. The DRU trailer even packs mitigation equipment to pump out flooded basements, as well as generators and lights.

Initially, the state lodge was looking to connect with the National FOP response to Helene but didn't see a clear path to crossing the mountains. At the Illinois FOP board meeting on Oct. 10, held at Lodge 7, Trueblood reported about having been in touch with Erwin and that the area felt it had been left off the national response map a bit.

"They didn't want any old whipstitch people just coming in," Trueblood reported. "But once they found out this was all law enforcement help, they said, 'Yeah, yeah, we could use the help.' And they wanted us to come the second week of the response because that's when the adrenaline starts dropping."

Catanzara checked with the Lodge 7 board, which approved funding to lead the trip. And after a few hours to prep, Lodge 7 took off and drove all through the night to get to Erwin.

There couldn't have been a better complement to the crew than Angus. Because of being a self-proclaimed "train geek," he was familiar with the area through the Clinchfield Railroad that runs through the part of the country. In fact, he has made several trips to Unicoi County.

So when he received an email from the state lodge asking for volunteers, he replied. The state had enough help by that time, but Angus' name was passed on to Catanzara, who called him to join the Lodge 7 team.

Prior to his 29 years with the Department, Angus did 10 on the job in the suburbs. One time, working as midnight shift supervisor with the Lake Villa PD, he led a group commandeering boats to rescue people caught in flooding around Round Lake Heights.

Angus also worked the Chicago Bulls championships rioting and the NATO Summit and was a sergeant assigned downtown during the George Floyd rioting.

"John called me and said, 'I heard that the state lodge told you he didn't need you to go. Well, I need you,'" Angus revealed.

And he saw what drives Lodge 7 to go to these types of lengths.

"When we arrived, the officers there were exhausted from working 12-hour shifts of search and rescue, looking for survivors," DiSanti detailed. "At the end of the day, we're here to help coppers, whether it's a meal on their day off or it's defending them against criminal or Department allegations. We're here for the police officers."

## Sigh of relief

The Unicoi County economy relies on the Nolichucky for tourism and recreation. There was a big industrial park in Erwin that also accounted for a large part of the local prosperity. And then there was the Impact Plastics factory that made parts for the automobile industry and tragically lost six of its employees to the flooding.

Jimmy Erwin sighs when relating that it is all gone. His molasses-sweet drawl muddled when he added that the trees on the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36



river are also all gone. More than a month following Helene hitting, one lane of Interstate 26 that runs through Unicoi finally opened.

DiSanti recalled that at first glimpse, the downed telephone poles and power lines looked like something out of a horror movie. Trueblood added that when they arrived, McDonald's, Walmart and other essentials had reopened.

Electricity had even come back in the disaster zone. But he also observed that there are piles of debris nearly 30 high that might take the next year to sort through.

Catanzara told a story about a 5-ton military vehicle that soldiers had to bail from when flood waters rose so rapidly it was swept downstream. Nine days later, he said, search-and-rescue workers were walking on a pile of mud, wood and debris that turned out to be the military vehicle.

"Well, it's kind of just being in a whole other world," Ward explained. "I think it was a real awakening experience. I mean, the people in the area were fabulous. They were completely appreciative of us being there. I guess the best way to describe it is, what you see on TV looks devastating, but it doesn't compare to being there and seeing the need and the destruction."

What also struck Ward came from talking to the officers there, especially the three who had lost their homes in the flooding. After meeting them, Catanzara called around to get support for the idea he came up with to make the \$5,000 donations to all three officers. They had certainly recognized how those young coppers did not take time to deal with, or even process, their own issues because the community needed them. And they knew it.

Behind those scenes, though, were officers meeting and eating in the command post the emergency management authority



set up at the middle school in Erwin. On Saturday of the holiday weekend, Lodge 7 set up its food trailer and began cooking and serving.

Angus made the rounds, talking to local coppers and those from other agencies, including the Tennessee Highway Patrol. They expressed what it was like to clean up and conduct search and rescue amid the asbestos and multiple minerals mined in the mountains that had washed silt down on Erwin.

"The stories would just choke you up, the stories about people helping out, what little, simple gestures meant to them and how they restored their faith in the people around them and across the country, too," Angus added. "I'd seen a lot of pictures, including drone footage, but when you see it in person, it's worse than the photos. And when you actually see it, it's like, 'Oh my God.' And you could smell it."

### Relief work

Angus has seen the lasting impact of going long distances to provide relief. After Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005, he ran into officers from Louisiana in Washington, D.C. He said they told him they always remembered that Chicago Police Officers brought them clean underwear.

In Erwin, the wardrobe assistance came in the form of boots. When hearing about how some of the search-and-rescue first responders had been working Rocky Top with 2-year-old, worn-out boots, Catanzara made a run to buy 13 new pairs.

Jeremy Kyle, one of the Illinois FOP Labor Council members who made the trip, actually brought a drone with him. They did not have one in Unicoi County, so Kyle flew his over the flood zone, including trying to help search for the last of the six Impact Plastics employees, who still had not been found.

And as Trueblood heard repeated accolades for how Lodge 7 served during the four days there — including the best food officers had eaten in two weeks — he realized the addi-





tional impact this expedition made on officers in Unicoi County.

"I think we left them with an awareness that the FOP is more than just a card in your wallet," Trueblood elaborated. "There are actually human beings behind it. They really do care about other law enforcement and their family. It's that footprint of caring."

After all the meals had been served and a real break for healing had been enjoyed, Ward conveyed how they wanted to stay another few days. The Illinois contingent finally headed home with a feeling that seems to indicate how needed the presence had been.

"We were texting each other about what else can we do for them," she confirmed. "We don't feel like we did enough."

One last act of kindness came when the emergency management authority moved into its new facility in the local armory, which previously had been vacant. Erwin said the agency had been wanting to move into that armory for years but could not get the deal done. Until need outweighed the cost.

When the authority finally took up residence, the Lodge 7 team noticed an empty flagpole out front. So Catanzara took the Lodge 7 crew out to purchase an American flag to raise.

"Putting that flag back out front was kind of putting the community back," Erwin celebrated.

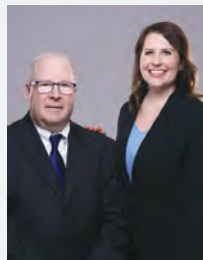
When debriefing the expedition at the Lodge 7 General Membership Meeting on Oct. 16, Catanzara's passion for what had been accomplished created a riveting account. It had achieved a resounding high note that echoed through the Chicago FOP.

"I know most of the membership sees this and is proud of it," he began. "We're there representing them and Chicago PD and letting our brothers and sisters in this profession somewhere else know that they have support. Because at this point, in many places, all we have is each other in this profession."

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## What is the Plane Pull?

The Plane Pull features the ultimate tug-of-war competition! Teams of up to 20 raise a minimum of \$1,000 for the opportunity to test their strength by pulling an United Airlines 737, weighting more than 95,000 lbs, 12 feet as fast as possible. That's right, the plane weighs nearly 48 tons!



On Oct. 5, the DCOS (District Coordinating Officers) joined a tug-of-war competition in the Public Safety Division to raise funds for Special Olympics. Tenth District DCOS, with a team name of Ogden Defenders, raised \$1,200 to donate to a worldwide charity. The plane-pull was conducted at Chicago O'Hare International Airport, where the Ogden Defenders were required to pull a 737 United Airlines plane, weighting more than 95,000 pounds, 12 feet as fast as possible. A group of 12 10th District officers were aided with the pull from some of the Special Olympics attendees on scene as volunteers. The Ogden Defenders finished with a strong 9.79 score averaging in a respectable rank. The competition is one of the first in the 10th District, organized by active enthusiastic police officers always willing to compete for a great cause. This event was a great way to engage with the community the team was able to build moral and raise funds for a great cause. If you are interested in joining next year's team event contact DCO Officer Yadhira Garcia at the 10th District Station. Until next year plane pullers.

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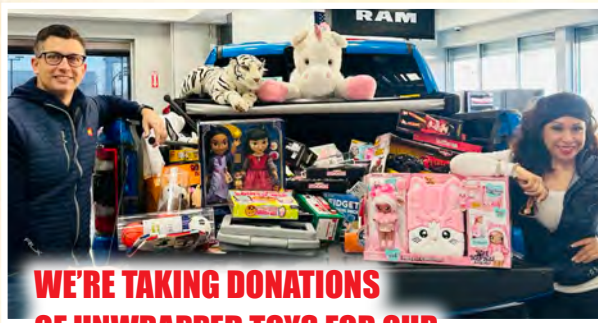
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