



# The Call Box



Official Publication of the Retired Seattle Police Officers Association

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By Jerry Taylor, President, RSPOA

## RSPOA THANKS DICK ROVIG

On September 4<sup>th</sup>, Dick Rovig informed the RSPOA board that he was resigning as Vice-president of the organization. Dick has spent more than half of his life on the SPOG, SPAA, and RSPOA boards, and he now believes it

is time to call it quits and take a rest. As a tribute to Dick's many years of service, this Call Box is dedicated to him! Dick recently sat down with the Call Box editor, Rich O'Neill, for an interview that we hope you will all enjoy.



**Rich:** Dick, thanks for agreeing to do this interview. Where did you grow up, and what did you do before joining SPD?

**Dick:** Born and raised in Seattle, 2<sup>nd</sup> generation. I Went to the same grade school, Leschi, as my dad. From there, I went on to Washington Junior High School. My folks separated and remarried at this time. I moved in with my father and his new wife, who lived in the University District.

I graduated from Lincoln High School, Class of 1953. I passed the test for the United States Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, Long Island, NY., a college career that lasted two quarters. I learned something about college. You have to study. My father, who was Chief Engineer for the Military Sea Transportation Service (MSTS), got me a job on a troopship, transporting GIs to Korea via Yokohama and Okinawa (Great gig for a 19-year-old, don't you think?)

After a year or so shipping out, it was inevitable I would soon be drafted. Consequently, I volunteered for a two-year stint in the Army. I received basic training at Fort Carson, CO, followed by advanced Armor training at Fort Knox, KY (I could drive a Patton Tank before I could drive a car. Following advanced training, I was transferred to the Continental Army Command, Board No. 5, Fort Knox, an Army testing facility. My assignment was a tough one, running a mimeograph machine for a nine-woman steno pool. I remained at Fort Knox until discharged in early 1957.

I returned home and got a job as a trainee in the ocean marine insurance business. I got married and got laid off. Back to Boeing, where I had worked previously between jobs (Back in those days, it seemed Boeing was always hiring). While at the Big B, I noted SPD was hiring in anticipation of the upcoming World's Fair and took the test. The rest is history.

**Rich:** Tell me about the academy and getting hired.

**Dick:** Hired on 3-29-59, serial# 1920, Class #40. Among my fellow recruits were Jim Johnson, Charlie Lindblom, Carolyn Byron, Al McIntyre. Jim Philbrick, Dean Olsen. Kay Kemmis, Ken Waldal, Frank McGlothlin. I carpooled to classes with Charlie, Nat Crawford and, Vic Heins. Missed some here, too, I'm sure. With the recent passing of Dick Adams, more than half of our class is gone. God rest their souls.

**Rich:** Walk me through your assignments over the years.

(Continued on Page 4)

# RSPOA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jerry Taylor, President, RSPOA

Here we go with Issue 2 of the new Call Box. Since this article is written before the election but won't be published until after the election, I am unable to opine on the results—probably a good thing.

## Dick Rovig

As many of you may know, Dick Rovig has resigned as Vice President, Call Box Editor, Email Master and the numerous other jobs he has been filling at RSPOA. His work will be missed, but he promises to stay active at RAP and RSPOA events. Dick cites being tired as his primary reason for leaving the post.

For most of my career I was one of those who knew who Dick Rovig was but had never worked with him. It was not I started working on LEOFF issues for the board that I was able to get to know Dick Rovig. It has been a pleasure to work with Dick directly in the years since.

Dick has served the Seattle Police Officers in numerous capacities including the President of SPOG, the Editor of Guardian and the Vice President of the RSPOA. When someone was needed to do a job, Dick stepped up.

As the RSPOA has upgraded our online presence Dick has been there to help. Our mass email program was managed by Dick and it has always been a bit of a contest to publish news and information as we worked with

various systems and technical challenges. Dick got those challenges stabilized and generally got out our email notices before we could even post them to the web site.

It has been a pleasure and honor to work with Dick. It has been comforting to know that Dick would cover my back if needed. I am proud to call Dick a friend. His work at RSPOA will be missed. Do look for him to show up as an author for Call Box articles from time to time. Also, we expect to see him working on projects as needed. Dick, I know you are tired, but I also know you will step up when needed.

Thank you for your service.

## John Nordlund

John Nordlund has been appointed to fill out Dick's term as Vice President. He has also taken over the job of managing our email system. Like Dick, John is another member who is always willing and eager to help.

## Seattle Police

Adrian Diaz is the new Chief of Police taking over as interim chief after Carmen Best retired. At the end of September, he established the Community Response Group. The CRG will be working citywide to enhance 911 and emergency response. CRG is made up of 100 officers and sergeants and is not

Assigned to any one precinct. These officers respond to

demonstrations, freeing up patrol officers to handle 911 calls. When CRG officers are not engaged with demonstrations, they backup patrol officers on investigations and other 911 calls.

Early reports claim a reduction in response times to priority calls and a better overall staffing of Patrol functions.

In spite of the efforts to defund SPD and the elimination of specialty units, It is clear that SPD officers are continuing to work hard to serve the citizens. Sill, we are seeing a high number of homicides, assaults, shootings, and knifing incidents.

I hope the elected leaders of Seattle come to their senses before the destroy the city we all worked so hard to protect.

## COVID

It looks like Governor Inslee has started to reduce some of his edicts. We are anxious to resume our monthly meetings and plan a big celebration once things open us to the point that we can have in person meetings. Make sure you are signed up for email notices. That is the way you will get the fastest notification once we can resume meetings.



### Seattle's Compact Patrol Car Era

By Officer Jim Ritter #4710, (Ret),  
President-Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum

When the United States experienced the energy crisis of 1973-74 the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development recognized the need to evaluate municipal fleet efficiency to address the expected 44-47% increase in vehicle fuel costs, nationwide. As a result, the Seattle Police Department was chosen to evaluate alternatives to operating its full-size police car fleet. SPD Lt. Jack B. Greer was chosen to lead the study titled *Energy Management in Municipal Vehicles* to demonstrate the potential to improve fuel consumption, without compromising the effectiveness of policing.

In 1974, Seattle P.D. initiated new policies of substituting the smaller 3,700-pound, "compact" Dodge Dart with a 318, V-8 engine with 2-barrell carb with the current fleet of larger, 4,700-pound, 1973 Plymouth Satellites with a 400 V-8 engine, 4-bl carb. SPD began purchasing 113 Darts from 1974-76 and began the evaluation process. After the 3-year study concluded, the differences in fuel economy and cost savings were significant. It was revealed that the 1973 Satellites got 5.8 mpg and cost the city 5.2 cents per mile (maintenance costs). That, compared to the Dart's 8.9 mpg & 3.6 cents respectively, saved the city nearly 50% in associated fleet operation costs.

In 1974, the policing culture was vastly different than it is today, were the cars officer's drove and badge they wore were an integral part of their image. Forcing law enforcement into smaller "compact" cars was surely a blow to their image, especially since the 1974 & 75 Dodge Darts were not "police package" vehicles. Not until 1976 were the Darts specifically equipped for police use including the upgrade to a 360 ci engine, 4-bl carb, certified speedometer and heavy-duty suspension, cooling & electrical systems. Many SPD officers interviewed for this article remembered the Darts as being quick & maneuverable but clearly missed the big patrol cars of the past. Unfortunately, 1976 was the last production year for the Dodge Dart but paved the way for new compact police car models such as the Dodge "Aspen" from 1977-80, and the "Diplomat" series from 1981-89.

The Seattle Police Department's groundbreaking efforts to test new innovations in police car efficiency paved the way for auto manufacturers to develop new generations of police vehicles to meet the needs of the modern era.

If you have any historical information and/or artifacts that you would like to share and/or contribute to the Police Museum's efforts in preserving SPD history, please contact me at **206-949-9143** or at **jamesSritter@gmail.com**

### Thanksgiving Trivia

- The first Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621 over a three day harvest festival, it included 50 Pilgrims, 90 Wampanoag Indians, and lasted three days. It is believed by historians that only five women were present.
- Turkey wasn't on the menu at the first Thanksgiving. Venison, duck, goose, oysters, lobster, eel, and fish were likely served, alongside pumpkins and cranberries (not not pumpkin pie or cranberry sauce!).
- Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday on October 3, 1863. Sarah Josepha Hale, the woman who wrote "Mary had a Little Lamb," convinced Lincoln to make Thanksgiving a national holiday after writing letters for 17 years.
- The Average number of calories consumed on Thanksgiving is 4,500.
- Butterball answers more than 100,000 turkey-cooking questions via their Butterball Turkey Hotline each November and December.
- More than 54 million Americans are expected to travel during a typical Thanksgiving Holiday.
- The tradition of football on Thanksgiving began in 1876 with a game between Yale and Princeton.

SPD 1974 Dodge Dart 2780





# The Call Box



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From Page 1—Rovig

**Dick:** I'm a little hazy on the exact dates, but here goes; Out of the Academy, I was assigned to Patrol, downtown 1<sup>st</sup> watch. I worked relief, then the Skid Row, Chinatown car, 120, with John Dempsey and then, Larry Holder. Sergeant Jim

Ramon had me transferred to Precinct 2, Wallingford, 1<sup>st</sup> watch. He said I was getting "stale." probably was.

After a stint in the Relief squad, worked the University car, 215, with Roy Reed and then Vern McAlvey. My sergeant was Howard Slessman. Mike's dad. Space precludes the many war stories we could

Tell, getting shot at, Stealing Slessman's Cigars, pinochle games, etc . Seeking a change in my career, I transferred to Traffic and assigned to Special Enforcement, nights (1900-0300). We worked one-man cars but doubled up with a partner at 1100. During that time, I worked with Craig VandePutte, Bob Balantyne, Gordon Barnett, Bill Green, and Jim Whalen. Again, sorry for the memory.

The nice thing about a Traffic assignment is that one could do police work besides writing tickets. Chief Frank Ramon gave our squad an SPD commendation for the number of on-view felony arrests we made during the year.

I then asked to go on Three Wheelers. Following a short stint there, I volunteered for and ac-

## A Little Bit of History

Santa & Mrs. Clause getting an escort during the WTO riots.



cepted into Traffic Special Detail (Accident Investigation); Val Painter was my partner, Howard Price, my sergeant.

### Resignation and back

Around '64 to '65, while in Special Detail, I was persuaded by my then father-in-law to leave the department to assist him in his grocery business located at 16<sup>th</sup> West and W. Dravus (I had been working there part-time). A young Special Detail Cadet, Dave Ritter, told me I was crazy to quit. Well, he was right. After 11 months, I couldn't get back quickly enough—one thing about being a civilian. You have to work.

Captain Carl Reinbolt and Lt. Lyle LaPointe were customers at the store and were instrumental in helping me return to the job, in Traffic, no less. Believe it or not, there was no one on the Motorcycle list, so I said, what the hell, I might as well try it and signed up.

Merle Dickhaut and Dick Thomas trained me and my cohorts, Paul Giersch, Dave Ritter, now a police officer, and Gordie Barnett. My short-lived motorcycle career became the stuff of legend—the Spot on the Wall Behind the Cordes' Garage, the Rovig Wave, etc. Frankly, I was scared to death. They are all part of the fable.

After only four months on Bikes, Lt. Al Elliott, Special Detail commander, asked me if I wanted to fill an opening in the unit. It took two seconds to accept the offer.

I worked for Elliott for a couple of years. Merle Dickhaut, who was promoted to sergeant, Sgt. Ivan Feilberg, Les Lanksbury. Hal Fogus, Jake Ehli, et al. were fellow squad members.

### Other Positions

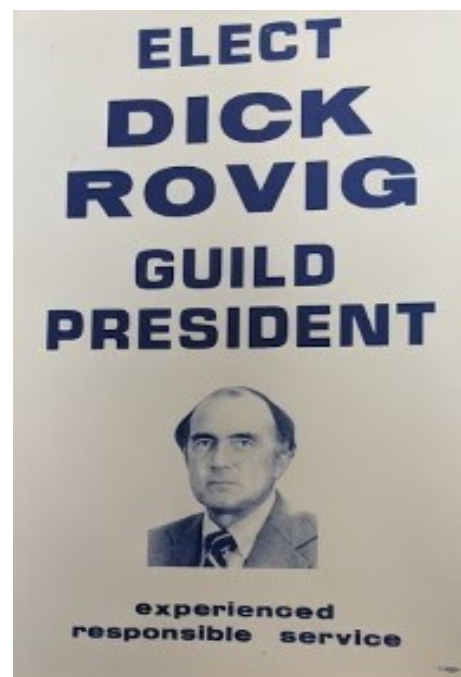
In the late '60s or '70s, I traded my Accident Investigation position, my good friend, Bob Neal, and went to Community Relations, where somehow I became the "voice of the Seattle Police Department." The unit had purchased a Code a-Phone, a telephone answering device. It was one of my jobs to record police news, traffic conditions, etc. for dissemination to the public. New stations would call and play the various recordings over the air. I ended them with, "This is Dick Rovig, Public Information, Seattle Police."

It was a good gig, especially for someone with my ego. Captain Bill Rhodes was commander of the unit. Larry Holder, Joe Nicholas, Helen Karas, Emmitt Kelsey, John Hoberg, Duane Christiansen, and Duane Hoeksta were some of my squad mates as I recall.

In the early '70s, I traded my Community Relations post with Steve Jarvis. Steve was the aide to Sgt. Bob Burns, who ran the Criminal Investigations Admin Unit. Burns who reported directly to the Bureau Chief, Bob Hanson. Not much later, Bob was promoted to Detective Sergeant and was assigned to a squad, leaving me alone to run the unit.

Lynn Swindler was the boss. I let her run the group as I sat back and did administrative research for Hanson.

Later, all things came to an end. I was transferred back to Patrol, worked 2N2 afternoons. The late Craig VandePutte, my old partner, was my sergeant, and along with a bunch of my old traffic cohorts, it was a great gig that, alas, came to an end when I passed the Detective test.



I was temporarily assigned to Background Investigations. The pension was about to be changed, and the department was rushing to hire recruits before LEOFF 2 became law. I rejoined many of my old squadmates from my old units Paul Knapp our commander. It would be a list too long to name the recruits, now active or retired, we investigated.

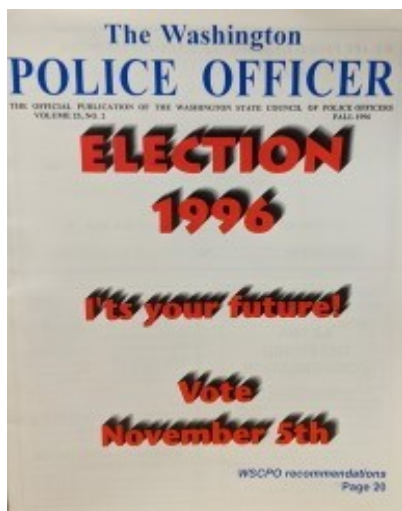
**Rich:** Tell me a little about the World's Fair and the Riots in the '60s.  
(Con't on Page 6)



Al Terry; Dale Schenck; Clark Kimmerer (child); Training N Seattle



(Rovig Cont from Page 5)



**Dick:** I really didn't do much extra stuff for the Fair. My partner, McAlvey, was working security for the USS Alabama, the first atomic-powered freighter, which was moored on the waterfront.

As for the riots, I was in Special Detail. We took photographs of the miscreants from the rooftops of buildings. I also remember being on vacation for two of the worst riot days, Garfield and the U District.

**Rich:** What was your first patrol car?

**Dick:** We drove '57 Chevys or '58 Fords. Many of the Fords then, were refurbished Engineering Department cars. We also had Studebaker Larks. Ugh!

**Rich:** Who was your favorite Chief of Police?

**Dick:** Well, we had a lot of them. George P. Tielsch is the usual answer here, but I'll say Frank Moore and Bob Hanson.

**Rich:** Who was your favorite Mayor?

**Dick:** I got to know Charlie Royer pretty well during my tenure as SPOG President. He did a lot for SPD that folks don't know about.

**Rich:** Who was your favorite supervisor?

**Dick:** Sergeant Bob Davis in

Juvenile. Bob and the entire juvenile squad really supported me during my

Guild activities. Bob was my only supervisor for the last 15 years of my career. Bob, if you read this, I promise I will respond to your Christmas cards!

**Rich:** Tell me about your involvement with SPOG?

**Dick:** At the time, there was no one from Traffic on the Guild Board of Directors. Bob Allshaw and I decided to fix that and ran for election in 1966. We both lost, but in 1967, as the highest unsuccessful vote gatherer, Wayne Larkin appointed me to the vacancy created when Dick Schoener, another great chief, was promoted to Lieutenant. I served on the Board from 1967 to 1982 before running for President. I was elected and served one term from 1982 to 1984.

**Rich:** What were some accomplishments during your time as President?

**Dick:** I'm proud that we went to arbitration and finally broke financial parity with the Fire Department. We also rated sitting judges when they ran for election. I remember going to Olympia and testifying against a proposed bill that would have outlawed the "sleeper hold" throughout the state. Our efforts were successful, and the proposed bill died. Of course, the department adopted the ban despite our efforts.

**Rich:** You are the "Father of The Guardian." Tell me how the paper came to be and your involvement?

**Dick:** My favorite class in high school was journalism. I started a paper at Kings Point, and when I worked at Boeing, so had some experience. I'm most proud to say I created the publication,

even named it. I edited *the Guardian* from 1971 until I was elected SPOG President in 1982. I came back in 1984 and assisted several "co-editors" until I retired in 1989.

Ron Smith asked me to write what turned out to be *Back in the Day*, and *Now for the paper*. Thank you, SPOG, it has been an honor and a pleasure working with you and Tom McLaughlin, the last "*Editor Emeritus*."

**Rich:** You've also served with other organizations. Tell me about that?

**Dick:** I served on the Board and as a Treasurer for the Seattle Athletic Association. I assisted in counting ballots for the Seattle Police Relief Association elections, a small but rewarding experience. Along with the late Steve Kirkland, I also served as co-chair of the 1988 and '89 Seattle Police Ball Committee. The first event drew 900 police attendees from all over the Northwest. The crowd dwindled to 600 the following year and, alas, has since been abandoned. Bruce Wind, and his entourage, including the late, great Steve "Potty Mouth" Sparby, the late Don MacMillan (who volunteered for everything), Nick Bulpin, John Nordlund, Dave Ritter, Jim Pugel. Add to this list all members who were instrumental in putting on Ball and GRAM events. None of these could have occurred without their help. Thanks, Guys and Gals.

I also co-chaired Pacific Northwest Golf Tournament Committees with Mike Crist when it was the SPGA turn to host them. I was President of the Golf Association in 1981, (Cont on page page 7)

the year before I was elected SPOG president.

After retiring, I worked on pension issues. That led me to be appointed by Ted Fonis to the RSPOA Board. I was elected vice president when Jerry Taylor became President.

Upon my SPD retirement, I was named editor of the Washington Policeman/Police Officer, the Washington State Council of Police Officers (WSCPO, now WACOPS), a quarterly magazine. I left about seven years and 30 or so publications later.

**Rich** What about the Call Box over the years?

**Dick:** Public Relations Officer Joe Nicholas edited the SPD Call Box in the '60s. Only a few issues were printed. Years ago, when RSPOA decided to start a private publication, Nick Bulpin volunteered to edit it and got permission from SPD to use the name and produced it for while. Now that *the Guardian* is no more, we are resurrecting the concept with Rich as editor.

**Rich:** Tell me about your family?

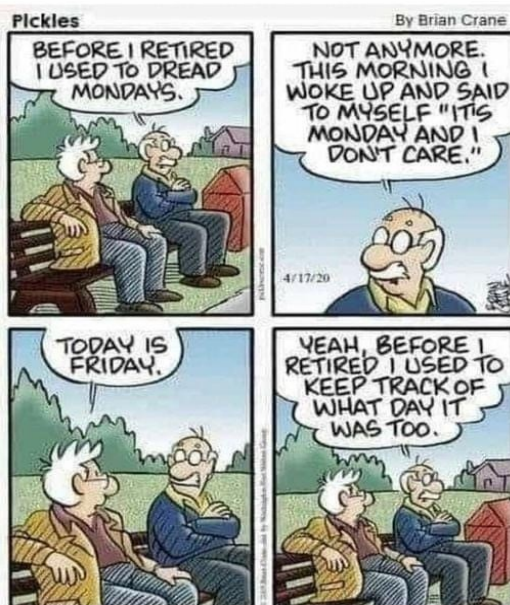
**Dick:** I've been married to Pat-sy for 47 years. Between us, we have five grown children and four grandchildren, now all adults.

**Rich:** Dick, thank you for all the many years of service that you have given to police officers and their families. We are all better off because of your efforts.

**Dick:** It has been an honor and a pleasure. But remember this, It wasn't me that accomplished this. It was committees. The events described here could not have occurred without the assistance of my good friends and allies

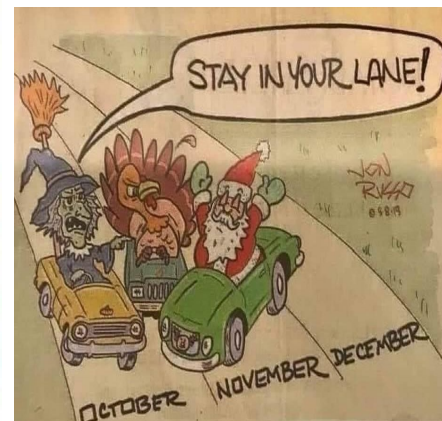
Again, I apologize to those who I missed mentioning.

Thanks to you all, especially "Old What's Her Name."



## Christmas Fun Facts

- People in the US spend a whopping \$6 billion on Christmas each year..
- Jingle Bells was written for Thanksgiving, not Christmas.
- In Germany, Poland, and Ukraine, finding a spider or a spider's web on a Christmas tree is believed to be a harbinger of good luck.
- The first artificial Christmas Tree wasn't a tree at all. It was created out of goose feathers that were dyed green.
- In Germany, Christmas Eve, is said to be a magical time when the pure in heart can hear animals talking.
- Santa did not always wear red; he initially wore green, purple and blue but Coca Cola decided to match their brand name soda packaging and the color stuck.
- Mistletoe is the symbol of love and laughter and compassion.
- In 1886, the largest gift was given to the United States from France, The Statue of Liberty.

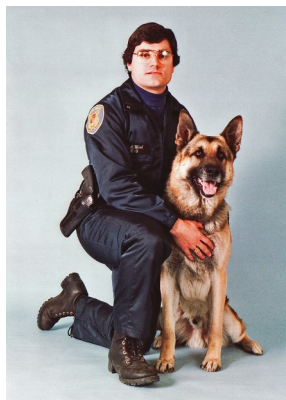




# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**Bruce 'Uncle B' Wind #3995 Academy Class #79**

Hired: November 19, 1975 Retired: June 12, 2012



What was your most memorable SPD assignment and why?

1<sup>st</sup> - 1982 -1990 K9 Unit with Police Dog King. The Officers today have no idea what a police dog can accomplish because they are barely using the dogs. We used our dogs on everything and made many memorable arrests. The crew with Sgt. Lynn Stark and Training Master Tom Miller was one of the best group of guys I ever worked with. We worked extremely hard and we played hard too.

2<sup>nd</sup> – I was a member of the Hostage Negotiations Team for 27-years. Although HNT rarely gets credit for anything, we did amazing work and saved many lives.

What do you miss most about SPD?

Nothing. As a career 38-year Patrol Officer, I loved doing police work. Given today's situation, I miss nothing about SPD. I know, I should say I miss the people.

LIFE AFTER SPD:

I started my own LLC called Tactical Talk. I traveled and presented 'Stress is Killing Us, A Locker Room Approach to Dealing with Stress'. I also spoke at the WSCJTC on behalf of Code4 Northwest to all the BLEA classes.

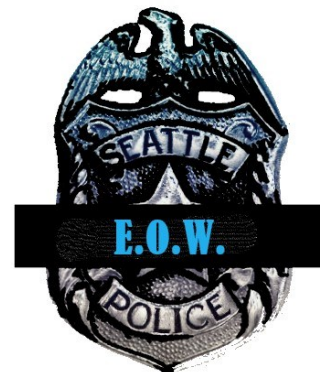
I am still the Executive Director of Western States Hostage Negotiators' Association (WSHNA). I have been with WSHNA since 1986 and currently serve as Executive Director.

What did you do, where do you live?

Joanne & I live near family & grandkids in Puyallup.

Hobbies and Activities?

My weeks are filled with cigars, whiskey, golf, and Roger's High School sports. We travel when we can and enjoy long road trips. Sometimes on Puget Sound boating, but currently boatless.



**Fallen SPD Officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the months of August and September.**

## OCTOBER

David Sires  
EOW: 10-16-1881

William T. Rumble  
EOW: 10-29-47

Jerry L. Wyant  
EOW: 10-26-76

Timothy Q. Brenton  
EOW; 10-31-2009

## NOVEMBER

James Wells  
EOW: 11-28-1897

Trent A. Sickles  
EOW: 11-26-35

Theodore E. Stevens  
EOW: 11-27-35

Con B. Anderson  
EOW: 11-27-36

Red H. Hull  
EOW: 11-15-45

Robert R. Allshaw  
EOW: 11-11-68

If you would like to be featured in a future WATN article send an email to [richO@rspoa.org](mailto:richO@rspoa.org)



# FROM THE PENSION OFFICE

- Remember to mail in your ballot for the Pension Board Trustee election by the end of November.
- I know that open enrollment for Medicare is over. Hopefully you were not enticed to sign up for any of the offers because your retirement medical is handled through the Pension Office. You are completely covered. So please ignore the mailed advertisements
- Attention! You nine retirees that have a second career and work for an employer that provides health care via a self-funded plan or employs more than 50 full time employees the Obama ACA Forms 1095-B and 1095-C may not be mailed to you by the end of January 31, 2021. Employers got an extension from the IRS until March 2, 2021. You need the appropriate form to complete your tax return. Talk to your tax preparer if you have any questions. Retirees that have only Medicare and the Pension Office back up to Medicare you DO NOT need a 1095 form to complete your income tax return.
- Have a joyous Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas to all.



## Last Ring



### P. Craig Vandeputte

**#2246**, Retired Seattle Police Lieutenant, passed away this morning, October 13, 2020 at 82 years of age. Craig joined the Department on March 21, 1962, rose up through the ranks and spent time in many units, including Homicide. He retired on January 8, 1986. Craig and Betty were married for 53 years.

**Richard L. Hutchison #2074**, Retired Seattle Police Officer passed away on October 5, 2020 at the age of 90 years old. Richard was hired on July 25, 1960 and retired on July 28, 1984 after almost 25 years of service. Richard is survived by his wife of 68 years, Georgia.

**Richard "Dick" Adams #1930**, Retired Seattle Police Patrolman, passed away on Friday, September 11, 2020 at 85 years of age. Dick hired onto the Department on March 27, 1959 and retired on a disability on March 20, 1979 after serving his community for 20 years. Dick worked Patrol his entire career, but during the last few years, he was a very proud member of the "Pike Peacekeepers" a program that had foot beat officers in the Pike Place Market, Pioneer Square and King Sector while wearing the 1910 Seattle Police Uniform. Beverly and Dick were married for 63 years.

### Widows:

**Jeanne McLaughlin**, surviving spouse of Deceased Retired Patrolman Stanton McLaughlin #713, passed away on October 16, 2020 at 92 years of age.

**Woneata R. Airhart**, surviving spouse of A. John Wilton #2580, died on August 28, 2020 at the age of 76, two days shy of her 77<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Barbara C. Ehli**, wife of Deceased Retired Seattle Police Officer Jacob Ehli Jr, #1881, who passed in 2001, died on August 26, 2020 at 88 years of age.





Send in your old  
photos of Seattle  
to  
[RichO@rspoa.org](mailto:RichO@rspoa.org)



SPD Patrol Officer, 4-5-1951

Bill W. Morris.



Mona the Elephant Refusing to  
budge; April 1939 Downtown Se-  
attle

## VINTAGE SEATTLE



SPD Traffic Enforcement Drill Team, 1980's





# Editor's Corner

By Rich O'Neill  
SPD Retired

What a difference a year makes! Last November I was still working at SPOG as the Director of Media & Labor Relations. SPOG hosted a Public Safety Political Forum for all of the candidates running for the Seattle City Council. Every candidate except three put down in a written questionnaire that they supported increasing the number of officers on the Seattle Police Department. Socialists Sawant & Morales along with a self-described "police abolitionist" Shaun Scott were the only dissenters. We all know by now that the Seattle voters voted to move the council further to the left and they rejected the more "moderate" candidates.

The new year started with a SPOG Presidential election. Incumbent, Kevin Stuckey, who was the first police officer to hold elected office on the King County Labor Council Executive Board, was defeated by SPOG Vice-President, Officer Mike Solan. To fill Solan's now vacant vice president spot, Sgt Pete Schrantz was appointed to that position.

After the swearing in of all the new SPOG officers I took off for two great weeks in Maui. When I returned, the COVID crisis had landed! Within a few months I was informed, by the new SPOG leadership, that my services were no longer needed and I was let go. New leadership often brings change so I guess it was my time to go and my career as a civilian at SPOG came to an end.

Just about this time, the police world exploded in violence as George Floyd died in police custody in Minneapolis after an officer was seen on video kneeling on his neck. Seattle, like several cities, erupted in violence. Protests turned into riots! Radicals began a "Defund the Police" movement. The Seattle politicians, who just last fall, had vowed to add more police, reversed course and jumped on the radical bandwagon. Nights of violence and riots led to rioters setting up the CHOP/CHAZ zone after city officials agreed to "abandon the East Precinct." Like many of you, I sat at home and thought, "the city leaders have lost their minds."

Seattle leaders failed on so many levels. Someone on Day 1 should have said that Seattle is NOT Minneapolis! They should have pointed out that SPD has had all of its policies "reformed" as part of the settlement agreement with the feds. These policies were developed in consultation with civilian monitors and approved by a federal judge. They should have praised SPD and pointed out how Use of Force in SPD was at an all time low. . But they did not mention those things, not

even once. Instead they sympathized with the rioters, downplayed the violence and even called it the "Summer of Love." This made Seattle a national embarrassment.

This also brought the end of the SPD career for Chief Carmen Best. I have served on many "city search committees" for Chief of Police and she was a top tier candidate. I find it ironic that the Seattle Council describes the department as a "systemic racist organization. I have seen firsthand how these Seattle politicians have treated our minority police chiefs. Chief Harry Bailey was criticized for clearing out a backlog of old minor discipline cases. A prerogative allowed to other chiefs before him. Chief John Diaz was criticized for policies and training that were instituted under Chief Gil Kerlikowske. Chief Best was criticized and had her pay reduced for deploying riot control tactics that were not any different than the tactics used by former Chiefs in similar situations.

So now officers are leaving SPD in droves. Over 100 officers have left already this year with many more burning sick time as they wait in the wings to exit. Some detective units have been eliminated along with Anti-Crime Teams, Community Police Teams, all traffic enforcement squads, including the DUI squad. So, Seattle is OK with eliminating a squad like DUI which has been around since the 70's and has saved countless lives by removing drunks from the road! Whoever thought this was a good idea should be removed from their position! It makes me angry how the Seattle politicians have allowed the Seattle Police Department to be ridiculed and damaged, all for something that happened in Minneapolis! Instead of "re-imaging policing" maybe we should "reimagine" who we elect to leadership roles.

Thank you to all of you who emailed me in support of the Call Box. I want to thank Dick Rovig for helping me get the first issue up and going. His expertise will be missed.

Next issue will be in January so let me wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas!



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