

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



# The Call Box



Official Publication of the Retired Seattle Police Officers Association

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## The Seattle Police Relief Association

A History & Review By Detective Fran Smith, SPRA President

When I was asked by Rich O'Neill to write an article for the Call Box about the history of the Seattle Police Relief Association and maybe a little overview of what benefits we provide, I thought where do I start? I then remembered reading a couple of articles in the past that I thought might certainly cover those topics. Why reinvent the wheel? So this article is a blending of two. One regarding the history of the SPRA, written by Retired Officer Jim Ritter in August of 2018. This article was printed in the Guardian. The other article, on benefits provided by the SPRA, was written by Sergeant Pete Schrantz, a SPRA board member and printed in the Guardian in January 2020.

The Seattle Police Department has always been known for its innovation, progressiveness and helping those in need. Caring for our own has always fallen upon us to ensure that the officers of the SPD are cared for beyond what the government bureaucracy can provide. Thus, is the story of the Seattle Police Relief Association. When the Seattle Police 'force' was formed in June of 1876, the policemen of the era were faced with extreme dangers; 12-16 hour shifts, no job security and only one day off per month. Back before Washington was even a state, policemen had no city-provided health insurance, disability or sick day pay. If you were a cop in Seattle back then and became ill, the burden of healthcare was on you and the prognosis wasn't always great.

In 1890, several patrolmen, who recognized the need to help their fellow officers in times of need, envisioned creating a Relief Society to aid the Police Fund, which was already in place. Their vision was conceived in an effort to boost morale, help pay for non-budgeted social items, needs, events, and to

provide department members with some semblance of security. The monies for the fund would be generated by holding a benefit dance, given by the police department and open to the public. The first dance was held at Turner's Hall and raised \$200, which was then used as a reward for the capture of Tony Miller, one of Seattle's notorious criminals.

Over the following years, it became increasingly apparent that unregulated monies generated by various police fundraisers were occasionally being used for unauthorized purposes. As a result, the loosely run Relief Society would relinquish their control to a more structured, formal entity. On January 5<sup>th</sup> 1893, the Police Benefit Association was formed and administered by a police captain and an independent executive board. The new organization was funded by policemen voluntarily donating \$1.00 per month for the purpose of helping those officers who became sick or injured and forced to remain off-duty without pay. The monies were also used to cover basic funeral expenses of policemen and their wives. The concept was simple, yet sound and helped a variety of policemen in need, paying a benefit of \$10.00 per week for injured members for 26 weeks, \$150.00 funeral expense for each officer who died, and dispensed \$75.00 to their widow.

Although extremely helpful and popular, the fund quickly dwindled due to the increasing number of claims and a new funding source had to be devised to remedy this issue. The relatively low-profile organization needed to increase its profile to garner



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## President's Message

By Jerry Taylor, President, RSPOA



We are just completing our second year of this pandemic and we still remain confused. The minions of our government both local and national continue to harass and threaten us—President Joe Biden warned unvaccinated Americans they face a winter of “severe illness and death”. Yet, as I write this, there has been only one death from the

Omicron variant and every indication is that the infections will be mild. Some of us are frightened and some of us are perturbed at this raw attempt to control us. The RSPOA has decided that we need social interaction and that that interaction is more helpful than the fear that seems to drive many folks. We have had two major events this year, the Retired Officers' Banquet and the RAP/RSPOA Christmas Luncheon. Both were very well attended—over 100 at the Christmas Lunch and over 200 at the Retired Officers' Banquet. And, nobody got sick from attending these so called “super-spreader” events.

Please remember that as a group we are almost all in the age class that puts us at higher risk. Most of us are vaccinated. Many of us are burdened with other conditions that make us more at risk.

We are all confused at the “science” as it applies to the virus. It appears that the doom and gloom propaganda is just that—propaganda. But we still know folks who have been infected and even some who died either from or with the virus. Unfortunately, we cannot rely on any one source and must conduct our own investigation and make our own choices. That defines the challenge each of us faces and the failure of our government to provide facts divorced from some political agenda. The net effect is that everyone becomes isolated to some degree. We get testy and snarky as we find all our friends more remote. Some people become almost hermits, but even the least concerned are still withdrawn. This is not a healthy scenario and even family ties are impacted. We need to resist this isolation and fight against the tendency to withdraw.

Here is where the RSPOA can help. Here is why all members should endeavor to participate. Each month you can renew your associations with old friends. It is like some sort of magic elixir—better than Relief Factor. Take a break from the negative propaganda and enjoy the company of your friends. We meet on the second Wednesday of every month starting around 11:30 at the Nile. Most meetings draw about 50 of your friends and associates. Plenty of parking and a good lunch for only \$10. But wait, there is more. Every Thursday starting around 11:00 there is a RAP (Retired and Active Police) meeting at the same place. About 25 to 30 folks show up for these meetings and your lunch is if off the menu. RAP is developing a cadre of women (wives and widows) who attend regularly. They seem to have a good time.

the political and community support it needed. As a result, new legislation was proposed that would increase donations. On August 26, 1893, 34 Seattle policemen signed the *Articles of Association* for the formation of the *Police Relief Association of the City of Seattle*. The results of this re-organization immediately replenished the Association funds and were the catalyst for the beginning of the Police Ball, a formal gathering and dance hosted on February 22<sup>nd</sup> of each year (Washington's Birthday). By 1923, more than half of Seattle's officers were now members and their monthly contributions were reduced to 25 cents per month. For nearly fifty years the Police Ball drew in thousands of attendees during an era where the public's perception of the police was overwhelmingly positive. Unfortunately, that dynamic changed in the late 1960's, when police corruption scandals began to surface in Seattle. As a result, the Police Ball was eventually suspended. Although it was resurrected in the 1980's, the glorious days of the magnificent police balls of the past have been lost to history.

The Seattle Police Relief Association of today is regulated by the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974. This oversight was necessary to safeguard against previous internal misconduct and other incidents involving the Teamster's employee's pension funds of the 1960's & 70's. The modern SPD Relief Association is managed by a 12-person Board of Directors and an Executive Board and has greatly expanded its role over the past 125 years. The variety of services and benefits the Relief offers is far beyond those during its infancy and now includes supplementing medical bills for officers, low-interest signature loans, and a training & education fund for officers. As an additional bonus, the Association owns a variety of condominiums throughout the United States that are made available for officers and their families to utilize as low-cost vacation destinations.

The Seattle Police Relief Association has a great deal to be proud of and will continue to be an essential part of the SPD for future generations to come!

### **Benefits of SPRA membership:**

**Loan Program:** Members can get a \$1000.00 loan, (500 for officers' first year), upon request, and repayment is made through payroll deduction

**Emergency Relief Funds:** Members can apply for emergency funds up to \$5000.00 to pay for significant unexpected expenses from extreme or crisis situations. Requests for assistance are reviewed and voted on by the Relief Association board members. All informational is confidential.

**Education and Training Funds:** Officers can apply for reimbursement of up to \$300/year for Law Enforcement related training that the department has declined to fund.

**Death Benefit:** Active members are entitled to \$5000.00 for the member and \$1500.00 for the death of a spouse. After retirement from the department, you can opt to cash out your benefit for \$1000.00 and still remain a member but no longer pay dues. (Please call the Office if you need further details)

**Wild Waves Discount Tickets:** Each officer can purchase 6 steeply discounted tickets per year, and then unlimited tickets at a small discount. (This is per family) This was not done in 2020 or 2021 because of COVID, and this year we will be reevaluating this benefit to see what the interest is.

**Condo Rentals:** SPRA owns and maintains 5 condominium units for rental by members. The condos are all at least 2 bedroom/2 bath, sleep 6 people and are located in popular resort/vacation areas. The locations and nightly rates are:

Lake Chelan, WA (\$105) purchased in 2010

Paradise Valley, AZ (near Scottsdale) (\$105) (2005)

Sunriver, OR (\$105) Purchased in 1988

Whistler, BC Canada (\$105) Purchased in 2000

Maui, Hawaii (\$130) Purchased in 1985

**\*All condo rental rates are going to increase for new reservations in 2022 (Up 20.00 per night)** The nightly rate for each location is approximately 1/2 of the cost of a comparable rental in those locations)

Reservations are made through a random lottery held one year in advance. You pick what month or months you want to enter and your name will get put in the hat for that month. The first person picked for the month gets to choose from the entire month. (There are a minimum and maximum # of nights at each location) The second person drawn picks from the dates not yet booked. This continues down the list until the month is filled. You can enter online at [reliefassociation.org](http://reliefassociation.org), (please use your personal email address), or by emailing or calling the office. If you need to cancel, your deposit is refunded as long as you provide the required amount of notice. After the lottery is completed, any unfilled days during the upcoming year are available for reservation on a first-come/first-served basis. Openings are regularly listed through department notices. You can always check the website or call the

# FROM THE PENSION OFFICE

## PENSION NEWS:

1. Happy New Years!
2. 96 members attended the Christmas luncheon. The food and companionship got high marks. John Nordlund was the M.C.
3. The 2021 Medicare reimbursement request forms are being processed. The payouts will start in January 2022.
4. In the spring, the annual reporting packets will be mailed out. Remember, two of the forms require a notary stamp.
5. The SPMA negotiations still appear to be moving forward.
6. Still no word about SPOG negotiations.



## Last Ring



**Ted Gormley #2100**, retired Seattle Police Harbor Diver, passed away on July 17, 2021, at the age of 83. Ted was born in Medicine Lake, Montana. His family moved to Port Orchard where he attended Bremerton High. Upon graduation, he joined the Army Reserve. In 1956, he transferred to the Air Force and had three years of active duty followed by five years of reserve duty. As his active duty time winded down, he landed a job with Boeing as a draftsman for approximately 18 months. Ted was hired by SPD on December 28, 1960.

Ted worked Patrol West Central relief for nine months before attending Academy class 43. After the academy, he was assigned with John Boren #2235 to car 111 which today would be southern George Sector. They work together until Ted was assigned to the Tac Squad in late 1968. There he was partnered with John Erickson #2464 for the next five years.

While there, Ted bought a 61-foot wide lakefront lot on Lake Washington just outside of the north city limit. He replaced the old shack on it with a beautiful house that he built.

After the Tac squad, Ted went to Harbor for the next ten years. There he worked with Ed Fjerstad #3185 and Art Vanpuymbrouck #3357. He became a diver in addition to being a boat driver. On one occasion when a pleasure boat capsized and trapped its owner underwater, Ted immediately stripped off his clothes, dove into the cold



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and choppy Puget Sound water, swam under the overturned boat and freed the entangled boat owner. Then Ted guided the owner back to the surface saving his life. In 1983, Ted transferred to the Seattle Center Detail to work for Mark Bailey #2184 on the night shift. He stayed at the Center until retirement on May 1, 1990, after twenty-eight years and four months of service.

He then went to work for King County Corrections - Department of Adult Detention for the next nineteen years. After retiring from King County, he mentored several ex-inmates that he helped turn around during work release. He was known for his compassionate, big-hearted nature and was always available to help his neighbors or anyone down on their luck.

During his non-work years, he enjoyed his many hobbies: fishing, hunting, sailing his 40-foot ketch, camping, hiking and helping with the Boy Scout program.

Ted is survived by his ten children: Stacy, Michele, Regina, Danny, Gary, Heather, Molly, Gib, Casey, Kieran and ten grandchildren.

**John Hoberg #1302**, retired Seattle Police Patrolman, passed away on August 16, 2021, at the age of 96. John was born in Seattle in the Ballard neighborhood and the family later moved to a 2,000-acre farm in Carnation. John attended Tolt High where he played football. Upon graduation at the age of 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Marines in 1943. He fought in the South Pacific Theater earning three Purple Hearts, two Silver Stars, the Navy Cross and the Meritorious Service Medal. After discharge he enrolled in the U W and played on the football team. During his spare time, he hung around Golden Gardens racing his old souped-up car. He got several tickets for racing which caused him to decide if you can't beat them, join them. Thus, on January 2, 1952, he became a Provisional Patrolman. Three months later, he became a regular making \$290 per month. He attended Academy Class #26 during the spring of 1952. After two years in patrol, he was assigned to the detectives. While in investigations, Ray Carroll #1230 and John joined the Army Reserves. On June 4, 1956, he married Bette. In 1957, John transferred to "H & R". With his distinguished war service, John quickly moved up the ranks in the Reserves which required frequent military leaves. In 1959, he was assigned as one of the mayor's drivers. This assignment lasted until 1967 when he returned to Patrol for five years. In 1972, while on a call, he fractured his right



ankle. This resulted in Chief Bob Hanson #899, transferring John to a new position the Department initiated – Officer Friendly. His job was to make presentations at elementary, junior high and high schools. He was a frequent guest on the J.P. Patches television program. In 1974, he broke his other ankle, while visiting a school. John continued to work and command the Army Reserve CID Unit at Fort Lawton. In fact, he was the first Reserve Major to attend the Army's Command and General War College. He made full Colonel and appeared that he was on the path to make General. Many of the Department's officers and commanders served under John. But unfortunately, tragedy struck on September 23, 1979. His 17-year-old son John Joseph was a passenger in a car that was struck by a drunk driver and that resulted in John Joseph's death. John retired from both the Department and the Army to take care of his wife. He had been with the Department almost 29 years and with the Army for almost 25 years.

From 1980 to August 20, 2005, Bette and John traveled together and spent their winter months in Palm Springs. There they met Frank Sinatra. John became the relief bodyguard in Frank's security detail. After Bette passed away in 2005, John sold the family home off of 123<sup>rd</sup> and Greenwood Avenue to move to Texas six months every year to be with his daughter, Carol. He spent the other six months in Woodway just north of Richmond Beach. He was the rock of his family during his 41 years of retirement. John was preceded in death by his wife of 49 years, Bette, and his son John Joseph. He is survived by his daughter Carol, two granddaughters Shannon and Andrea and three great granddaughters Kayia, Kaitlyn and Kinsley.

**Ron (Ripper) Rispoli #3649**, retired Seattle Police Detective, passed away on August 24, 2021, at the age of 74. Ron was born with his twin brother Dennis and was only three pounds, two ounces at birth. His first nine months of life were in the hospital and he had to be resuscitated twice. The boys grew up in the Magnolia Bluff neighborhood and attended our Lady of Fatima Catholic elementary. They went to O'Dea HS

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where Ron played baseball with Mike Nelson #3365. Upon graduation, Ron joined the Marine Corps Reserves and did his duty stateside. At Camp Pendleton, Ron was assigned to "KP" for a day. His job was to keep the coffee urns flowing. A colonel braced Ron and belittled him for serving cold coffee. He apologized saying "It will be heated, sir". Then Ron put the heat on: tabasco sauce. After the first gulp the colonel immediately assigned Ron to latrine duty for a week.

After Ron's six-months of active service, he returned to Seattle. He got a job at Tsubota Steel driving a truck. He delivered steel to various construction sites where he met Bob Lange #1603 who was flagging and decided to become a police officer. Ron was hired by SPD on November 3, 1971. He attended Academy Class #69. During one class A inspection, he wore bright green socks so his Tac Officer, Ken Crow #2426, would occasionally make Ron pull up his trouser cuffs to make sure he was wearing regulation socks. Upon graduation, Ken was assigned to 2nd watch Georgetown, where he reconnected with his high school mate, Mike Nelson. After a couple years Ron was transferred to West Central 1st watch so he could attend Seattle University's Criminal justice program through LEAP funding. He stayed in patrol for easier class scheduling and earned his bachelor's degree over the next six years. In 1985, he transferred to Training as an instructor in the Advanced Section. He became the department's lead first aid teacher introducing the classes to the threat of the dreaded "Brown Hobo Spider." Ron spent 11 years in Training. He went through several captains including Mike Germann #2714, Harv Ferguson #2857, and Don Daniels #1879. Don bowled with Ron and also managed the bowling team. In 1995, Ron became a burglary detective working with John Crumb #5664 for seven years. Not to be outdone by the H & R Detectives quoting their famous Lima-isms, the Burglary Dets began keeping records of Ron's sayings entitled, "Rispoli-isms or Ripper-isms." During this time, Ron bought his dream home on Camano Island. Ron rented out this home and moved in with his mother to take care of her for the next five years! Then he moved back to Camano Island. In June 2005, Steve O'Leary #4333, introduced his sister, Tara O'Leary to Ron. She became the love of his life. They got married on September 25, 2006. She continued to work as a stewardess for Alaska Airlines. Ron worked almost another two years. He retired in 2008 after 36+ years. Tara worked until October 2020 and then retired to take care of Ron due to his ongoing illnesses.

Ron is survived by his wife of 17 years Tara, daughter Ali, son Daniel, and brother Dennis and nephew Nick.

*And Until We Meet Again, May God  
Hold You in The Palm Of His Hand.*



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**Mike Bolger #2966**, retired Seattle Police Patrolman, passed away on September 15, 2021, at the age of 85. He was just two weeks shy of his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mike was born in 1935 and was raised in Sydney, Australia area during WWII. He attended Scotts College, our high school equivalent. There he played rugby and Australian rules football. After graduation he went to England to attend a university, earning a degree in mechanical engineering. Then he went back to Australia to work on his electrical engineering degree. About this time, his mother married an American banker and moved to Seattle. When he was twenty-eight years old, he came to visit his mother and stepfather. He liked it here so much that he got a job at Boeing for the next several years. He also joined the Seattle Police Reserves in 1964 under John Hoberg #1302. On November 12, 1968, he was hired by the S.P.D. He attended academy class #58.

His first assignment was traffic for seven months and then he was reassigned to patrol at the Wallingford Precinct. On August 11, 1969, he was assigned riot duty on the "University Ave." He assisted Larry Stewart #2420 make three rioting arrests. The rest of the rioters turned on them. Mike suffered a fractured jaw and three badly broken teeth. But they successfully booked all the suspects. Mike did not take any sick leave! Next, he was teamed up with Eric Norberg #2605 to work an umbrella car for Charlie Lindblom #1890. The two were very proactive. On February 24, 1970, they stopped a stolen Mustang. As the driver got out, he fired a round at Eric. Both officers dove for cover and returned fire; however, Mike reinjured his shoulder damaged during the "Ave Riots" months earlier. The suspects were finally arrested after a long pursuit. In 1971, Mike was assigned a new partner, John Harmon #3042 to work Ballard. This time Mike injured his eye while arresting a car prowler suspect. These injuries resulted in him being assigned to the Patrol Administrative Unit for eighteen months and he was the Stable Master at Mounted.. In February 1973, while riding to work on his motorcycle, he was involved in an accident that severely injured his right leg and reinjured all his old riot injuries to his back and shoulder. This led to a series of rotating administrative assignments while he tried to heal. In 1977 he was retired due to his injuries, after almost nine years of service. He worked as a city building inspector and then as the flight engineer on the UW's weather research plane. He earned a BA in political science from UW. After four years, he moved to the private sector as an electrical foreman for various electrical contractors. In 1992, Mike and his wife Julia sailed to Australia via California in their 57-foot ketch. In 1996, they moved to New

Mexico and Mike built his own home, while working at the Bernalitto Correctional Center and volunteering for the Placitas Fire Department. In 2003, Julia finally convinced Mike to totally retire. Now, he started remodeling his house. He had a need to keep active right up to the end. Mike is survived by his wife Julia and his daughter Patricia Ann.

**Bill (Wild Bill) Hebert #2364**, retired Seattle Police Patrol Sergeant, passed away on September 20, 2021, at 77 years of age. Bill was born in Spokane and raised in Pasco. He attended Pasco High. There he was a member of the school band, playing drums and he played on the tennis team. One of his classmates was Mike Burke #3140. Shortly after graduation in 1962, Bill enlisted in the Army Reserves and played in the division band and later was assigned to a Military Police unit for eight years. Bill joined the Department on September 16, 1963 as a cadet. Three years later he became a police officer immediately attending Academy Class #51. After Academy graduation, he was assigned to East Central for four years working second and third watch. These shifts were ideal for Bill to start his family life. He married Carolyn in 1968. As children arrived, Bill decided he needed a regular business hour assignment with a small pay raise of \$25 per month. So, he transferred to the property crimes detectives. He spent fifteen years in C.I.D. frequently assigned to various task forces. In 1985, he requested to go back to patrol. There he was a wealth of knowledge with all the informants he developed working follow up cases. He became a leader in his squad over the next ten years. On January 1, 1995, he returned to the detectives for two years and then back to patrol for seven years. On June 23, 1999, Bill was promoted to sergeant assigned to the East Precinct. He was a great teacher and mentor to his squad members. He retired for service after doing 41 years on the Department. All during his time he was known as a cop 24/7. He had police resource books, the SMC and RCW at home always researching how to solve a unique crime or community problem. He even had a police scanner on so he could help keep track of



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what was occurring in his district during his off-duty hours. He lived and breathed police work. Bill loved the outdoors. He enjoyed hiking, camping, geocaching, rock hounding and fishing for cod and salmon. He so enjoyed all these activities that he moved his young family out of Seattle to Preston onto a 5-acre plot with a log home. His four kids loved living in the rural setting. When on patrol, Bill's uniform faithfully consisted of wearing the 8-point hat, Wellington boots, a six-inch service revolver and his pipe. When off duty, his civilian attire was always cowboy boots, an old western hat, the six-inch revolver which he carried in his bowling ball bag and his pipe. All his hobbies he continued in retirement and he added one more – helping his neighbors. He was a true grass roots community activist, but not a political or paid one that was looking for a headline. Bill is survived by his four children Heather, Jim, LaDonna and Julianne along with thirteen grandchildren and his neighbor/fishing buddy, Mark, who always caught more fish than “Wild Bill”.

**Dick Johnson #2519**, retired Seattle Police Patrolman passed away on October 20, 2021, at the age of 74. He was born and raised in the Greenwood neighborhood. He always wanted to be a police officer just like his father Leonard Johnson #330, who was a captain on the SPD. Dick attended St. John's Catholic Elementary school with classmates Dan Stokke #3240 and Tom Grabicki #3516. They attend Blanchet together. While turning out for football, Dick injured his neck. He graduated in 1965 and 6 months later he became a Seattle Police cadet. He was a cadet for 3 years and during this time he joined the Army Reserves. He married his wife, Arlene, on August 19, 1967. She was a clerk in the Records Bureau. Dick was commissioned as a police officer on December 10, 1968, and was assigned to Georgetown. He was very proactive. Dennis Law liked to follow him to take photos for the neighborhood newspaper. Three months later he attended Academy Class #58 under the command of Roy Skagen #2204. Between class breaks, Dick signed up for the Marching Drill Team. After graduation he was assigned to Wallingford third watch. He teamed up with John Kristof #3122 to work 3 B 7. In 1973, Dick went to Hawaii with the Marching Drill Team to participate in the Aloha Day Parade.

Afterwards, he noticed he was having trouble walking but ignored his symptoms. He went back to work and turned out to quarry for the canine unit. In 1975, he was next up to go to K9 when he was diagnosed with a disability that prevented street duty. He tried several staff assignments but all he wanted to do was to be a “street cop”. The Department reluctantly determined his condition would only worsen. Dick was retired after nine years on the Department in 1977. Dick did not quit life. He enrolled at the U W and got a teaching degree. He became a substitute teacher at Northshore, Lake Washington and Shoreline school districts. Finally, he landed a permanent job at O'Dea High. He was also the assistant football coach. He coached Dan Melton's #2711 son, Don. After five years this job, it became too difficult with the worsening disability. Dick got a desk position with KLM Accident Investigations for the next four years. By the early 1990's, his condition confined him to home.. He was very attentive to his children's activities. He loved to follow sports, especially watching his grandson Brandon wrestle in high school and he won the heavyweight state championship. Dick is survived by his wife of 54 years, Arlene, daughter Brandy, and sons Cameron and Lance, eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

### SPOUSES:

**Dorothy Danbom**, wife of retired deceased Seattle Patrolman Bill Danbom #810, passed away on October 19, 2021, at the age of 95.

**Barbara Witkowski**, wife of retired deceased Seattle Police Detective Lieutenant Tom Witkowski #2318, passed away on November 26, 2021, at the age of 82.

**Marylou Johnson**, wife of retired Mounted Officer Mike Johnson #3024, passed away on October 31, 2021, at the age of 80.

For Complete Obituaries, go to:  
[www.rspoa.org](http://www.rspoa.org)

*MAY THEY REST IN PEACE!*

## Where Are They Now?

**Isabelo ( Bill ) Alcayaga Serial #4297**

**Date of Hire: 10-30-79 Academy Class : 100**

**Date of Retirement: 5-3-2006**



**What were some of your memorable SPD assignments and why?**

**Enforcement Unit T-6 Squad:** Being able to work the entire city. Having the opportunity to work Special Events, not just at the stadiums, but Seafair, parades, fun runs, community events (Ballard Seafood festival, Greenwood car show etc.) and actually interact with the general public in a positive way. But mostly the men and women of the unit that made the job fun, and knowing that we all could depend on each other, both on the job, and even after shift. We were “Friends” too. **EVOC Instructor:** Whether it was with new hires at the Washington State Patrol Academy, the SPD Street Skills refresher, or the Traffic or SWAT refresher training, it was very satisfying to get the “thank you” from the officers for the reminders on how to drive fast using the skills they learned over the years, and apply them safely. **In Car Video Coordinator:** Being involved in the implementation of the In Car Video System. Working with all involved, from the vendors, IT personnel, car shop and radio shops, training unit, video unit, Quartermaster, and Precinct Commanders. It was a long and sometimes frustrating project, but very satisfying to see it completed.

**What do you miss most about SPD?** I think it is the “bond” you form with others that wear the badge and do the job that is not truly understood by the general public. It has been referred to as “The Brotherhood, The Thin Blue Line, but whatever you choose to call it, it is a feeling you have for one another and without hesitation you would go to that person’s aid, if needed. For me there was even another side of SPD that most would never have an opportunity to see. For 10+ years I had the privilege of working in the Video Unit and was able to see the groups of civilians that literally kept the department running. It takes a small army of individuals from the Station Master, quartermaster workers, IT staff, precinct admin staff, mechanics and more behind the scenes that we take for granted. Hard workers, yes. Great Friends, absolutely.



**LIFE AFTER SPD:**

**What did you do, where do you live?** I officially retired as a Police Officer in May 2, 2006, but went right back to work the very next day for SPD as a civilian in the Video Unit. The In-Car Video Program now went from a pilot project to department wide program and I was convinced by my wife, Karim Miller, and Don Smith that it was time for a change. I initially promised to stay on for 5 years, which ended up being 11. I finally said it was enough when I reached my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. In 2017 I retired for good. My beautiful wife and I sold our retirement home on 5 acres in Covington, left most of our life long friends, and moved to Sequim Washington and haven’t looked back.



**Hobbies and Activities?** Our move to Sequim was to a house located on the 11<sup>th</sup> fairway of a golf course, so I have tried to take up that game called golf. Theresa and I have done 32+ cruises, and are looking forward to more once the Covid thing gets under control. Our annual trips to Hawaii and



(Where Are They Now Continued)

Mexico are also on hold for now, but hopefully they will begin again in the near future too. Since my Wife is a Financial Advisor, I have taken her advice ( several times ) and we have bought a home in Green Valley, Arizona and spend time there. While there we also spend time with Dan and Sally Bryant who are the tour guides and have taken us on hundreds of miles of road trips in the area. Duane and Ronda Lewis are also a hoot to visit with and Duane gives me golf lessons. We also have a cabin on Hood Canal and its only an hour away from Sequim so we go there for a quick get away on weekends.

**Picture Quiz**

**Can you name this Motor Officer from 1966?**



**PICTURE QUIZ ANSWER**



Motor Officer JJ Hill #2143 who retired as a Sergeant.

**War Stories**

By Detective Cloyd Steiger, SPD Retired, #4313

I've investigated many officer-involved shootings over the years, many of them fatalities. There was always an inquest held in King County District Court when handling a fatal shooting, where I was called to testify about the investigation. I've testified in several high-profile cases in my career and have been cross-examined by some top-notch defense attorneys. I enjoyed testifying-the back and forth, like a game of chess. One rule I always follow when being cross-examined is only to answer the question you are asked. Don't offer anything that isn't asked of you. It's served me well over the years.

I was called to an officer-involved shooting early one morning in January in the early 2000s. A subject had attempted to break into his estranged girlfriend's home in the middle of the night. She had a restraining order against him. She called the police.

Officers arrived, and a foot chase ensued, culminating in an officer shooting the suspect. He died at the scene. I arrived at the scene, which could accurately be described as a dark and stormy night. Rain fell as I exited my car and approached the scene. I examined the deceased body of the suspect and made a note of everything I saw. Several months later, an inquest was held.

Lem Howell was an attorney in Seattle. Much of his career involved suing the Seattle Police Department for alleged wrongs. He represented the family of the decedent in this case. I was on the stand, having on direct examination, described the scene.

Howell cross-examined me.

"Detective," he started. "You said that when you arrived, it was very dark and rainy. Is that correct?" "That's correct," I answered.

"When you got out of your car," he continued, "could you see the officer's flashlights on the top of the hill?"

"I could not," I answered.

Howell looked at me, flabbergasted.

"Are you telling me you couldn't see the officer's flashlights?" he said, incredulous.

"I could not see them," I repeated.

Howell was apoplectic.

"You're telling this court you could not see the flashlights of the officers on the hill when you got there?" he repeated.

"Mr. Howell," I said. "Are you asking if I could see the beams of light from the flashlight? I could see those. I couldn't see the flashlights."

I thought he was going to explode. Only answer the question you are asked!

### The Call Box



office to see what is available and make a reservation. SPRA co-sponsors the Annual Retired Officer's Banquet and also the GRAM Christmas party, held each year at the SPD range. (Pavilion). Our employees, Cynthia and Traci, have been with us for several years so hopefully you all have had a chance to meet them in person, and if not, then over the phone. They really enjoy assisting our members with making sure to take advantage of all of our benefits. By now many of you are aware, that we have moved our offices down to the duplex on the range property. We are in the duplex just to the north of the range office. Please stop by the office if you are in the area or just give us a call if you have any questions or just to say hello. 206-726-9095

**Go to:**  
**[www.reliefassociation.org](http://www.reliefassociation.org)**  
**for more info on SPRA!**



## From the Police Museum

By Officer Jim Ritter, SPD Retired, #4710,  
 President: Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum



In 1909 Seattle hosted the world's fair, also known as the AYP (Alaska-Yukon Pacific Exposition). Although the event would attract hundreds of thousands of people from throughout the world, it would also be an irresistible attraction for the nation's criminals determined to victimize those in attendance.

Seattle's police force was not big enough to monitor the myriad of crooks drawn to the AYP, so SPD solicited the assistance of other agencies. Those shown in this famous group photo atop what was likely the old Katzenjammer Castle (City Hall) were not only SPD detectives, but those from other agencies, including a variety of east coast city police detectives. The old King County courthouse can be seen in the background atop First Hill, where Harborview now stands.

If you have any historical photos or items you would like to share with the police museum, please contact me at [jamesSritter@gmail.com](mailto:jamesSritter@gmail.com) or at 206-949-9143.





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**Fallen SPD Officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the months of December and January.**

**December**

**Arthur K. Ruchhart**

EOW: 12-27-1914

**Lawrence E. Kost**

EOW: 12-12-1915

**Ellsworth W. Cordes**

EOW: 12-31-1932

**John T. Clancy**

EOW: 12-28-1949

**Nick B. Davis**

EOW: 12-18-1984

**January**

**Volney L. Stevens**

EOW: 1-14-1921

**William T. Angle**

EOW: 1/21/1921

**Neil C. McMillan**

EOW: 1-21-1921

**James O'Brien**

EOW: 1/21/1921

**Arthur B. Luntsford**

EOW: 1-20-1923

**Editor's Corner**

**By Rich O'Neill  
SPD Retired #4451**

Happy New Year! 2022 is here, ready or not! It was so nice to see so many at the RSPOA/RAP Christmas Party on December 8th at the Nile. It is often said that old friends can go a long time without seeing each other, but once together, they can pick up right where they left off as if they saw each other yesterday. That was so evident at the party as the old stories and laughs were shared.

January means that the Washington State Legislature will be back in session. There is talk about a bill that would use funds from the LEOFF 2 Benefit Improvement Account to create a Tiered Multiplier Benefit Improvement. For active LEOFF 2 officers their multiplier for years 15-26 would increase from 2% to 2.5%. For already retired LEOFF 2 officers they would receive a lump sum payment of \$20,000. This only affects LEOFF 2. As with most legislation, it can be amended, changed, or not make it to the governor's desk. RSPOA President Jerry Taylor does a good job of keeping an eye on all retirement issues in Olympia and he will let us know if this issue or any other issue pops up. Check your emails.

I'm not a fan of New Years resolutions, but I would like to propose one. Take out your calendar for the year and mark the 2nd Wednesday of each month for the entire year. Write down RSPOA 11:30am at the Nile. Each month we try and have a guest speaker, a great lunch and a cash raffle. It is a chance to see each other at least once a month. If you live too far away, routinely check out the RSPOA website (www.rsboa.org) and if you can, plan on attending the Retired Officer's Banquet on the 2nd Wednesday in September. (September 14, 2022). I know one retired officer who each year travels from Hawaii to attend the banquet!

I hope you have a wonderful, safe and healthy new year!

**RSPOA CALENDAR**

Monthly Meeting Jan 12 11:30 Nile

Monthly Meeting Feb 10 1130 Nile

RAP meets every Thursday at the Nile, 11am.

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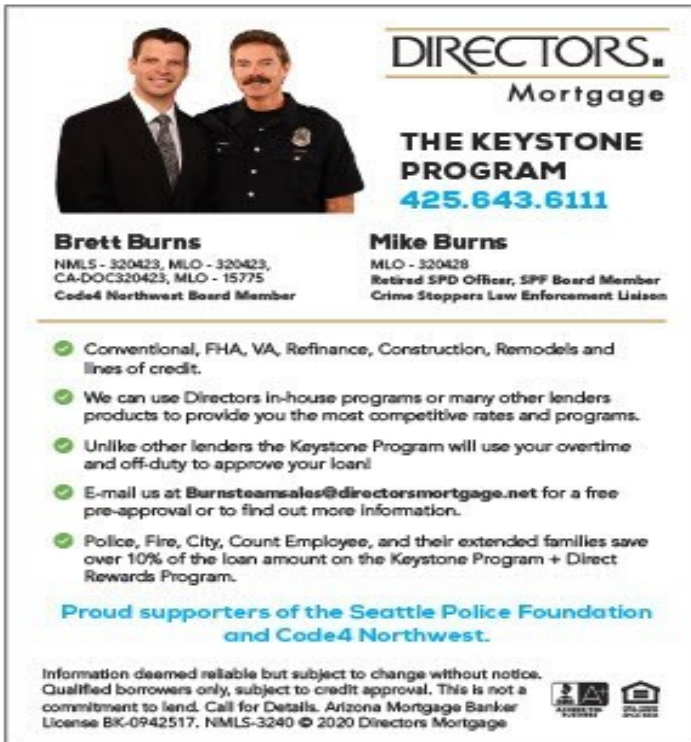
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