



The Call Box



Official Publication of the Retired Seattle Police Officers Association

March 2023 Volume 4, Issue 2

FROM CRIME REPORTER TO MAYOR A CONVERSATION WITH DENIS LAW

Q. Denis, where were you born and raised? What schools did you attend?

I was born in Seattle and raised on Beacon Hill. I attended Cleveland High School.

Q. What were some of the jobs you held as a young person?

Besides delivering the Seattle Times, my early jobs included working at a drive-in restaurant, washing baking trays in the bakery department of a local supermarket and working for a nursery.

Q. What did you do after High School?

While attending Seattle Community College, I delivered windshields for Seattle Auto Glass to their shops in Pierce and King County and worked at a Chevron service station. It was during this time, that I happened to come across an apartment fire while driving to school. I took a quick photo of flames coming from the second floor and met a Seattle Times photographer who arrived late and offered to take my film. The Times used my photo the next day and paid me \$10! This was the event that set the course for my career in the newspaper industry.

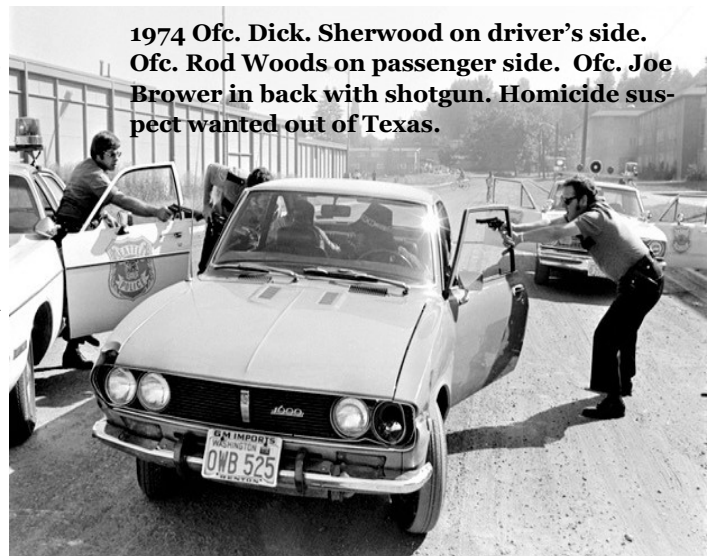
Q. How did you get involved in covering crime stories and SPD?

Motivated to consider becoming a news photographer, I taught myself how to use a camera and began selling photos to the Times and Associated Press on a frequent basis. The media, back in those days, were primarily interested in police and fire incidents and routinely purchased my photos. Later, while considering a job offer at the Times, I decided to explore other options rather than working for a large company and got involved in community newspapers.

Q. Many of us remember you when you were with Beacon Hill News. What were some of the other news outlets/publications that you worked with?

My job at the Beacon Hill News provided the opportunity for me to learn every aspect of community newspaper publishing, from advertising sales, the business side, production and circulation to, of course, gathering and reporting local news. After a couple years, I left to work for the owners of the North Central Outlook in Wallingford for a short time, but later returned to the Beacon Hill News to work with the owners who were like a second family to me. As we expanded into other areas of Seattle, I became a co-owner of the company and ultimately we owned more than a half-dozen community newspapers throughout Seattle.

Q. You had the knack for getting on the scene quickly and capturing some incredible pictures. How were you able to do that?



1974 Ofc. Dick. Sherwood on driver's side. Ofc. Rod Woods on passenger side. Ofc. Joe Brower in back with shotgun. Homicide suspect wanted out of Texas.

The Call Box



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President's Message

By Jerry Taylor, President, RSPOA



Between 2020 and 2022, the Seattle Police Department lost a third of its police force with 525 officer separations. In January 2023, the department lost another 12 officers. After the first week of February, total separations this year went up to 15. This might be good for RSPOA—it increases our potential membership pool. But it is a disaster for the citizens of Seattle and even those who just

might choose to visit. All of this is the product of the effort by the City Council to cut police spending. The City managed to send a pretty clear message that they do not trust or respect their police officers. The message continues to be that they will try to punish their police officers for anything they can find.

Recently it was discovered that the department was using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to review the body cam video from officers. This was done without notifying the officers or the Guild about the program and with the knowledge that AI can't identify sarcasm, nor does it understand the full context of interactions. This surreptitious action was but another signal of disrespect and mistrust from the City to the officers. Obviously, this message does little to encourage officers to remain or new recruits to enlist.

I joined the Seattle Police Department in 1966. We had population just over 550,000 and more police officers than we have today. Now we have a population of 775,000 and under 900 deployable officers. All our leaders seem confused as to why crime rates are increasing and why it is so hard to recruit new officers.

Seattle's violent crime rate reached a 15-year high in 2022, surpassing the record set in 2021, Priority one response times increased as well – the average now exceeds ten minutes. Some non-priority calls get no response at all. Violent crimes are up across the board but non-violent crime is up as well. We can now claim record car thefts.

Most people do not even bother to report minor thefts. People who attempt to intercede in thefts are often attacked themselves.

We cannot continue down this path yet we seem to find no leader willing to step up and take action to correct the problems that plague Seattle. King County wants to invest 8 billion dollars to “solve” the homeless problem by building more housing. That solution has not worked in the last 10 years and cannot be expected to suddenly be a cure. It takes leadership to recognize that the homeless problem is not housing, but rather, addiction and mental health. Yet no one seems willing to propose solving those problems. Instead, we just build more housing—that is easier than addressing the real problem. Seattle has a real chance to make headway in addressing these problems. Seven city council seats are up for election. So far, we are not seeing any moderate candidates. They are the only hope. A conservative candidate would have little chance in Seattle.

(From Page 1,- Law)

By breaking every traffic law in the book! I was fortunate to win a lot of journalism awards over the years, especially in photography, and it would drive me crazy at award-events whenever judges comments included, "Was at the right place at the right time to get this shot!" I was rarely at the right place at the right time. I was fortunate that most patrol units in the area were also speeding to the call and I escaped ever being stopped for my reckless driving!

Q. Please share with us some of the most memorable crime scenes that you worked over the years?

There were many memorable scenes. During my career in the newspaper business, I witnessed more incidents than most cops and fire fighters, since I responded to countless calls every week, mostly "priority-one" type calls, while patrol officers were in there districts consumed with handling countless calls and paperwork. One unforgettable incident was very early in my career. I arrived at a burglary call in Rainier Valley where three officers had a suspect in custody in the backseat of a patrol car. A group of about 25 of the suspect's friends came out of a community center where they were playing pool, armed with pool cues and balls, demanding their friend be released. After a short stand-off, one youth struck an officer on the head with a pool cue, knocking him to the ground with blood streaming down his face. A second officer ordered the crowd back at gunpoint and the assault suspect started to run down the street. The third officer shot the suspect. He survived and was convicted of assault. For a moment, during the chaos, I thought I had been shot. (see photos of the incident on this page)

Another involved a traffic officer in a wild pursuit with two bank robbers. One suspect fired multiple shots at the officer during the chase and they ultimately got caught up in traffic at the old I-90 tunnels. One suspect fled on foot and the driver remained in the driver's seat with the traffic officer holding him at gunpoint, ordering him not to move. He reached down towards the floor and the officer shot him in the head. I was fairly close and I can't tell you how hard my heart was racing at that moment. I got photos of the second suspect being arrested and medics unsuccessful attempt to revive the driver. There were many wild cases over the years. Burglary in progress calls were daily events; armed robberies and pursuits with stolen cars occurred very frequently and drug-related crime often resulted in shootings and homicides. I covered hundreds of shootings and homicides during my newspaper career. Like most officers experience, I was most affected by calls where children were hurt or killed.

Q. Any funny stories from crime scenes that you can share?

1973, On scene of assault on an officer

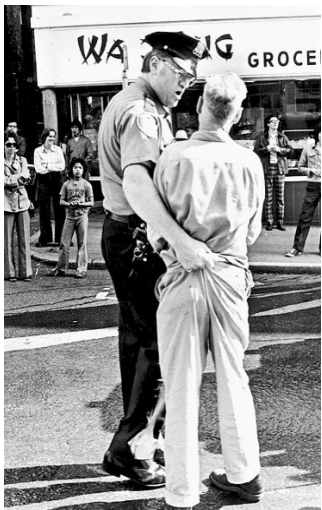


Ofc. John Nichols injured in the above assault.



Unidentified officer with bank robbery suspect.

Again, very early in my career, I responded to a small hotel fire in the International District and took a photo of Sam Buckley, a long-time beat cop, who walked out of the hotel, holding a drunk by the seat of his pants as he led him away from the scene. The confused man continually walked into the hotel until Sam intervened. It was a humorous sight to see.



Another fond memory was finding Ron Rispoli and Fred Miller parked on the Seward Park Loop road, cooking a couple steaks at the rear of their car on a hibachi barbecue. It was hilarious.



FROM THE PENSION OFFICE

Pension Office News:

1. The Annual Reporting Forms to be notarized, will be mailed out to the members around April 1, 2023.
2. 2023 LEOSA dates have been revised: February 14; March 14; April 11; May 9; June 13; August 8; September 12; October 10; November 14; December 5, 2023. There will not be a July date. LEOSA lines shoot at 1000 & 1400 at the SPD Range. Guns must be inspected prior to going on course. Arrive at least 45 minutes early.
3. The SPOG contract negotiations continue.
4. Reminder to send in your 2022 Medicare Reimbursement forms. They are available on the RSPOA website or contact us at email: policepension@seattle.gov or call the office at 206-256-5128.

Any change of address information can be emailed to policepension@seattle.gov or contact Lisa Porter at 206-386-1286 option 2.



Last Ring



Eric and is survived by his loving wife of 62 years Jolene, their children Shannon, Stacy, Shelly, and Angela as well as six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Eric M. Norberg #2605, Retired Seattle Police Detective Sergeant passed away on September 20, 2022, at 77 years of age. Hired: 8-29-66, Academy Class #55. Assignments: Patrol North, Detective in Accident Investigations, promoted to Sergeant in 1992 and continued in AIS. Fraud & Financial Exploitation Unit, Retired: 6-2-04 after 37 years of service. Eric was predeceased by his daughter Joanne and is survived by his wife of 56 years, Gayle, their daughters Theresa, Heather, and Erica; 12 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

George Sorensen #1863, Retired Seattle Police Patrol Officer, passed away on September 19, 2022, at 89 years of age. Hired: 9-2-58. Academy Class #39. Assignments: Patrol, King Sector & Belltown Foot Beats, Retired: 5-2-83 after 24 years of service. George is survived by his wife of 67 years, Jean; their children Tim and Theresa, four grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.



Last Ring



Marc Olson #4256, Retired Seattle Police Lieutenant, passed away on April 19, 2022, at the age of 64. Marc was hired in August of 1979 and attended Academy Class #115 with his friend Greg Pote #4257. Assignments: Patrol South & West Precinct. Promoted to Sergeant and worked Patrol East, West and North. He was promoted to Lieutenant and worked in headquarters in an administrative assignment and also investigations. In 2010, Marc got his “dream assignment” as the Harbor Commander. Marc retired in 2015 after 36 years of service. Marc is survived by his daughter Marsha and son Jon, parents Marlys and Ted Olson and his loyal companion Augustus – “the dog he never wanted.”

Charles E. “Charlie” Mittmann #2125, Retired Seattle Police Officer, passed away on September 9, 2022, at 86 years of age. Hired: 6-26-61 and attended Academy Class #43. Assignments: Patrol, Traffic Motorcycles, Air/Harbor Patrol, Academy Instructor. Retired: 7-14-78 after 17 years of service. He was predeceased by his son

Roy Burt #2574, Retired Seattle Police Patrol Officer, passed away on September 29, 2022, at 86 years of age. Hired: 5-5-66. Academy Class #51. Assignments: Patrol, Detective in Burglary. Retired: 10-16-86 after 20 years of service. Roy comes from a family of SPD officers including his Uncle, Vernon Burt #473 and his cousin, retired Lieutenant Owen Burt #3562. He was predeceased by his wives Judith and Carolyn, daughters Heidi and Tamara and brother Frank. He is survived by his five children, Cornell, Orion, Noel, Emma, and Kiana, five grandchildren and sister Jean.

Charlie C. Villagrancia #4431, Retired Seattle Police Patrol Officer, passed away on September 19, 2022, at 67 years of age. Hired: 5-13-80. Academy Class #124. Assignments: Patrol South and Southwest, Detective in Gang Unit. Retired: 10-31-18 after 38 years of service. Charlie is survived by his wife of 42 years, Adela, son Charles Jr, daughters Jeanette and Jade, as well as 5 grandchildren.

George Stablein #2534 retired Seattle Police Officer, passed away on October 17th, 2022, at eighty years of age. Hired: 1-31-66. Academy Class #50. Assignments: Patrol, foot beats. Retired: 9-2-78 after 12 years of service. George is survived by his wife Carol, his son George Jr. and daughter Lenee’, and four grandchildren.



Last Ring



Greg Zatrine #4974, Retired Seattle Police Patrol Officer, passed away on September 29, 2022 at 65 years of age. He was hired on December 2, 1985, as a Parking Enforcement Officer. He later became a police officer and was assigned to the West Precinct. Assignments: Patrol West and West Precinct Front Desk Clerk. Retired: 9-13-12 after 27 years of service. Greg is predeceased by his dad, Homer. Greg is survived by his mother, Ardis, sisters Barbara, Nell and Janelle, and his brother Eric.

Dale Douglas #2159, Retired Seattle Police Major, passed away on October 24, 2022, at 87 years of age. Hired: 10-2-61. Academy Class #44. Assignments: Patrol, promoted to Sergeant, Technical Services Bureau, promoted to Lieutenant in 1969, Inspections Bureau, promoted to Captain in 1973, South Precinct, promoted to Major in 1980, Inspectional Services, Special Operations, Goodwill Games Chairman of Law Enforcement. Retired: 3-21-95 after 33 years of service. Dale is survived by his wife of 36 years, Carole, and his daughters, Debbie and Kim.

Wife:

Mary Williams, surviving spouse of deceased Seattle Police Homicide Detective Albert Williams #4071 who passed away in 2021, passed away on November 21, 2022, at the age of 73.

Lee Cook, wife of retired Motorcycle Officer Glen Cooke #4675, passed away on February 13, 2023.

Friend:

Ethel Baggen, passed away on January 28, 2023, at 98 years of age. Ethel was hired by the Relief Association in the mid 1970's to manage the dependent medical. She retired in the early 1980's. Her son is retired Patrol Officer Ken Baggen #2523.

Seattle has always been a moderate liberal city. It did well under that leadership. Let us hope there are some of those folks willing to step up in the next election. I don't live in Seattle anymore and probably never will again. But, if we get good candidates, I will support them and contribute to their campaigns. We all should. We all contributed our working careers to protecting the citizens of Seattle only to see our efforts discarded and demonized by the far left "progressive" leaders. I want Seattle back before it is completely demolished.

In the legislature, Democrats appear to be unconcerned that their disastrous 2021 anti-police package has unnecessarily turned thousands of Washington State residents into crime victims. In the Senate, the Chair of the Law and Justice Committee, Senator Manka Dhingra (D – Redmond), refused to hold a public hearing on two bipartisan bills ([SB 5034](#) and [SB 5352](#)) which would have lifted many of the 2021 police pursuit restrictions which allowed 3,100 suspected criminals (according to the Washington State Patrol) to flee police questioning in 2022 (an average of 8.5 a day) and free to commit more crimes.

In the House, 20 Republicans and 20 Democrats co-sponsored a bill ([HB 1363](#)) which lifted nearly all of the 2021 police pursuit restrictions. Yet, last week the Democrats on the House Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry gutted the bill to again restrict police officers from pursuing suspected criminals in several crimes, including vehicle theft. Criminals can keep stealing cars and catalytic converters and using stolen cars to smash storefronts, without fear of being pursued. Essentially, all the attempts to correct the anti-police bills have failed to move forward. Apparently, that is what the voters want.

On a lighter note, I want to encourage everyone to come to our meetings. We have had an outstanding list of speakers, with more on the way. Chief Diaz will speak in March and the chiefs of the Washington State Patrol and Everett P.D. are also scheduled to speak in upcoming months. If you watch channel 13, you may notice that Brian MacMillan is the weather person there. Brian is the son of Don MacMillan and Teri McMillian (now Crist). He will speak at our May meeting.

As far as I know the benefit enhancement reached everybody without many glitches. If you are having any problems let me know. As of now, I do not have any pending concerns. Remember to save \$1,000 of it, just in case we need a donation in the future to support action to secure another enhancement.

Please visit our website at www.rspsa.net for the latest information.

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

From the Police Museum

By Officer Jim Ritter, SPD Retired, #4710,



REFLECTIONS OF A CENTURION

In June of 2001, I had the wonderful opportunity to interview 104 year-old Seattle Police Officer Frank Guth at his home on Oahu, Hawaii. Frank was the last sworn chief clerk in the history of the department, which at the time, was one of the most coveted, and powerful positions within the SPD. The chief clerk's job required a college education, excellent written and communication skills, and business acumen to oversee the police department's budget. During that era, Seattle's police chiefs relied on their chief clerk to assist them in making financial decisions that could stretch the SPD continually tight budget and oversee the civilian and sworn clerks that were under their com-

mand. The chief clerk during that time was equal to any patrolman on the force and was armed and had full arrest authority. Frank was born in 1896 and hired by the SPD in 1923, working alongside older cops hired during the territorial days on the city's "frontier force." For his age, Guth's memory was clear, and he reflected about the comradery within the police department and of the social changes of the era and spoke of his first glimpse of an automobile and airplane. He said that Seattle's General Strike was the first in the nation involving labor, and that Prohibition and World War II were also very challenging for the police. After 30 years of service to the SPD, Guth retired in 1953. Following his retirement, the chief clerk's position was civilianized. During the interview, Frank fondly reminisced over his career and recalled that horses and wagons could still be seen on the city streets competing with autos and pedestrians. Guth remembered working his entire career in the old Flat Iron building that housed SPD headquarters and how the Yesler Street trolley rang its claxon bell so loud as it passed the courtroom, that the police judge was forced to stop the proceedings until the trolley passed. Frank smiled as he spoke of how the newspaper's police reporters would drink with the cops. He remembered how the criminals feared the mere sight of an approaching policeman. In his final statement, Frank added, "Things were handled differently back then, and unfortunately, at my age, I've forgotten more things than I've remembered, but those were great times." Although I have conducted hundreds of interviews with retired police officers over the past 40 years, this one was different. I knew that Frank Guth was the last of his generation that could ever provide me personal insight on how things use to be during his time on earth. Frank died in November of 2002, at age 106. He will be remembered as a man who enjoyed his life and career, and who never took either for granted.

If you have any police related photos, or artifacts that you would like to donate, or sell to the police museum, please contact me at #206-949-9143, or at jamesSritter@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE

**79th ANNUAL RETIRED OFFICER'S
BANQUET**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

AT THE NILE SHRINE CENTER

**Details will be announced in the coming
months.**

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CONT. LIC. # BETTERC052DT

Q. Most police officers are a little skeptical of those in the media, but you developed relationships with many in law enforcement. How did you accomplish that?

I don't blame them and I developed my own skepticism of media during my time in city government. The key was to devote the time to get to know the officers, which for me, created very strong, trusting relationships. I spent countless hours riding with guys and frankly, got some of my best shots during those times. Officers felt confident that photos, like the one I took of Ron and Fred barbecuing by their patrol car, would never be seen by the public.

Q. Who were some of the people that you got to know and enjoyed working with on SPD?

Way too many to name. It started primarily in the South Precinct until we expanded with our newspaper group to other parts of the city. I got to know officers at every precinct, every division, and built relationships with many commanders and chiefs. I remain in contact with a number of those guys today.

Q. How has crime reporting and the media in general changed since you started?

There isn't any real crime reporting these days. The few reporters who remain, primarily regurgitate press releases and have no clue on what to ask political or police leaders as it relates to growing crime problems and the impacts of a failed criminal justice system. The internet stripped most of the advertising dollars from print media, which became the demise of the industry as we once knew it. Television is all flash in the pan and sensationalism with very little investigative reporting taking place. News staffs have shrunk to very low levels and this is detrimental to having a truly informed public, any accountability, and has a negative impact to our quality of life in metropolitan areas.



Q. You served as the Mayor of Renton. How did that come about?

After my partner and I sold our newspaper group in Seattle, I started a new community newspaper company in Renton and expanded into Kent and Auburn. About four years into the venture, my wife and I bought on home on Lake Washington in Renton and I got very involved in the community, from chamber and Rotary president to serving on different boards and foundations. While attempting to convince a friend of mine to run for mayor (retired Renton deputy police chief and longtime city council member), he twisted it to a point where I somehow was convinced to run for the Council. I won the election in 2003 and ran for mayor in 2007. Somehow I won that election and was suddenly faced with having to sell my company. I moved into the mayor's office in January, 2008 and retired at the end of 2019.



Q. What was it like going from reporting on crime as a media person to being responsible for a city and its police department?

Having run my own business for most of my adult life, the transition was not that difficult other than size. I suddenly had 10 department administrators working for me, lots of employees, a large budget and ultimately 104,000 residents to serve. My years of experience covering city hall and particularly all the years I worked closely with police and fire provided me with a strong foundation to work with my chiefs and other administrators. We embraced the responsibility to improve service levels to the public and the accountability to solve problems, including taking control of neighborhoods under siege by moving out drug dealers and thieves. We went after slum landlords and property owners, reduced chronic violence at problem restaurants and bars, which required closing a few down, to addressing the local homeless issue before it got out of hand like it did in Seattle. It was very rewarding to work with a group of dedicated city employees who, when treated with respect and appreciation, stepped up to daily challenges of attracting new businesses and investment while improving the quality of life in the city. Sounds like a campaign speech!

Q. Tell us about your retirement and life after politics?

During my last year in office, my wife and I purchased a lot in Anacortes overlooking the San Juan islands and the ferry terminal, where we built our retirement home. We love all the amenities this community offers, from waterfront activities to thousands of acres of parks and trails. This has provided me the opportunity to improve my photography skills.

THANK YOU DENIS FOR THE INTERVIEW AND ALL THE PHOTOS!

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Michael R. Petras #2903

Class # 57

Hired: 5-14-68 Retired: 11-30-93



MEMORABLE SPD ASSIGNMENTS:

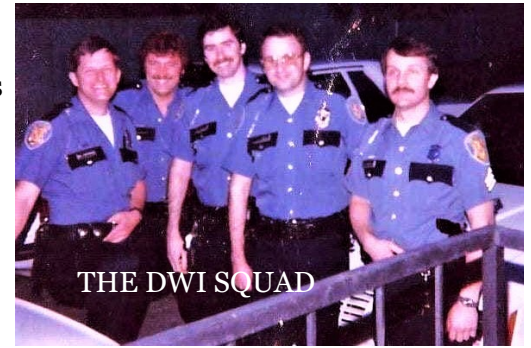
I started out as a Police Cadet and that's where I first met former Cadets, Mark Sigfrinius and Mike Severance. During our careers, we crossed paths many times working in various units on the department. The academy classes during the late 60's and early 70's produced 100's of new officers. (I know they can't do that today).

My first regular partner was Roy Burt #2574 (before the FTO program) and he was a great instructor, teaching me the ropes on how to be street smart. I probably shouldn't tell this story, but it is memorable. Roy liked to eat rabbit meat and he knew that at the north end of the Arboretum, near the 520 floating bridge ramps, there were 100's of rabbits roaming the park. We would drive thru the park at night and have our night sticks ready to fling them like a boomerang out the window at the hopping critters. Roy saw that I was pretty accurate but it would be even better if I sat on the hood to get the perfect angle and get more. We did that, (dumb and dumber) and got plenty of rabbits which he took home, gutted and cleaned them to fix rabbit stew. (I'm sure glad the cell phone camera was not invented yet.)

The early 70's were a turbulent time all over the country and Seattle was no exception. In fact, during the spring one year, Seattle had over 20 pipe bombings and many other devices were found, which had not been detonated. One evening, I was on patrol with officer Monty Parades. As we approached 23rd and E. Union 2 bombs were detonated. One, at the Jack in the Box, which was under construction and the other was across the street at Hardcastle Real Estate Office. Both Monty and I had served in Vietnam. We both yelled "Incoming" at the same time as we ducked, just about clunking our heads. Monty swerved the patrol car, slamming on the breaks! Neither one of us could hear and there was glass and smoke all over the place. What an experience! After working "The Hill" for 2 years, I was able to transfer to the old fire station called the Wallingford Precinct. I worked with many great officers, but TC (Tom) Miller and I became great friends and partners. During one summer, the portable concession trailers around Green Lake were getting broken into at night and all the candy and snack food were being stolen. Our leader, Sgt. Ted Japar, wanted us to catch the thieves. TC and I had the idea that if we brought our bikes to work and rode them around the paths in plain clothes we might be able to catch them. This was the 1970's, way before SPD had bicycle units. We caught the juveniles who were breaking into the trailers, making our sergeant happy! Another summer evening, Sgt. Japar had to gather two squads to break up a civil disturbance in the University District. There were about 100 students protesting, yelling and blocking the street. This was the usual occurrence which we had to deal with on a daily basis. Sgt. Japar had a megaphone to announce to the crowd that they were an unlawful assembly and if they didn't disperse they would be arrested. Our 2 squads had our riot gear, (plastic Walmart helmets & the 4 foot ironwood sticks.) We were ready to follow Ted (Sgt. Japar). Well naturally, after the 3rd warning, the crowd got louder and we were being pelted with rocks and bottles. The next command from Sgt. Japar was priceless.....all he said was.....CHARGE! The crowd was dispersed and NO prisoners were taken. I suppose this wouldn't be acceptable in today's environment!

It was nice having a job that had so many diverse units that you can transfer into to see if you liked it. That's why I transferred into "The Dungeon," also known as the Communications Center (Radio). It was located on the 2nd floor of the Public Safety Building with no windows. I learned dispatching from long time Chief Dispatcher Dick Lorance and Academy mate, Gary Green, and that Sigfrinius guy was there also. Taking 9-1-1 calls and dispatching is one of the most stressful jobs on the police department. The group of civilian folks

that work there are the best. I was there the day Mount St. Helen's blew her top. What a crazy day that was! I also tried my skills as a Detective in the Background Investigation Unit and also the Burglary and Theft Unit. Both of these investigative units gave me a great insight into how the entire department works together with many great officers and civilian employees. I enjoyed my entire SPD career and I think the 3 years I spent in the DWI (DUI) squad was the most enjoyable because of the great leadership working for Sgt. JJ Hill and Sgt. Keith Stringfellow (String). We had a great group of guys like Jerry Harris, Mark Sigfrinius, Rich O'Neill, Cory Ness, Brian Petrin, Jake Magan, Jim Muir, John Gergich. JJ was also able to secure the 5 liter Ford Mustangs for our entire squad and they were quite fast! I know we made the day for the many patrol officers who asked for a "450 unit" and we showed up to take the drunk driver off their hands. One night, I stopped a vehicle that was weaving lane to lane with no headlights on. When I asked the driver for his ID, I recognized the name of this young man as well as his face. He was Reggie Rogers, a defensive tackle for the UW Huskies, 6' 6", 280 lbs. I called for a back up for safety reasons. Mark Sigfrinius arrived to back me. When Mark saw Mr. Rogers, he said to me, "I hope he is a happy drunk, because he could pick up the both of us and throw us across the street." Reggie ended up being a gentle giant and we had no concerns arresting him for DWI. He was eventually chosen in the first round of the NFL Draft by the Detroit Lions. In 1987, he was involved in another DWI where he ended up killing 3 teenagers in an accident in Detroit. Reggie passed away in 2013.



In May of 1989 the danger of police work hit home for me and every police officer in the city. Radio announcing "HELP THE OFFICER, Officer's Been Shot!" My cadet buddy and long time friend, Mark Sigfrinius, had been shot. Mark is a very resilient guy and had the faith and will to live and make it thru the long recovery process. Our Traffic Unit Lieutenant, Joann Hunt, gave me the assignment of Liaison Officer at Harborview Hospital to assist Mark's family and give updates. This was before there was "Go Fund Me internet stuff." Mark and his family received hundreds of get well cards and donations to support his recovery. After many months of rehabilitation, Mark was released from Providence Hospital in Everett. I felt honored to pick Mark up in my SPD traffic car. With a full Seattle Police Motorcycle escort Mark was taken home to his loving family.



WHAT DO I MISS MOST ABOUT SPD

The comradery, the brotherhood and knowing that we were all in it together. As a police officer, we had a front row seat to "The Greatest Show on Earth".....good or bad.

LIFE AFTER SPD I spent another 10 years working as a civilian in the 9-1-1 center. I then joined the Washington State Liquor Control Board and completed 9 years as a officer for them. (that's 44 years in law enforcement.) My wife, Kathy, and I have been married 57 years (yep, the same number of Super Bowls.) Kathy didn't realize for many years that's how I kept count of the anniversary. We love to cruise and have been throughout the Caribbean, Alaska, and many ports in Mexico. We moved to Ocean Shores in 2017 and love living here at the beach.

HOBBIES AND ACTIVITIES

I enjoy bowling and golfing and both are 5 minutes away from our house. We are also just a short walk to our ocean beach. We've enjoyed taking our 4 grandsons camping and we have been to many campgrounds all over Washington, Oregon and Canada. We also take them to the latest action movie that is released. It's family fun that makes retirement great!



Mike & Grandkids

RSPOA MEETINGS

January & February

Photos by John Nordlund

In January, Snohomish County Sheriff Adam Fortney was the guest speaker and discussed issues facing Snohomish County.



Lt. Randy Ward, his Dad, Mike, and Rich O'Neill

Sheriff Fortney

In February, SPOG President Mike Solan was the guest speaker and discussed issues facing SPD and the Seattle Police Officer's Guild.



SPOG Sec-Treas. Ben Hughey

SPOG Pres. Solan

WAR STORIES

By SPD Retired Detective Cloyd Steiger, #4313

In the continuing saga of Kayla N., we kept trying to determine where she and her pimp dumped the body of the unknown victim in this presumptive homicide. Kayla ran hot and cold. I'm pretty sure she was bipolar. We went on several more field trips. She was inconsistent about where they dumped the body, at one point saying they went to Shilshole Marina, weighed the body down, got on a boat in the middle of the night, and pushed him overboard.

Another twist came in the case when I got a call from a Narcotics detective from the Tri-Cities.

"I've got a snitch," he said, "who told me he was present when some people from Seattle brought a body over and burned it in a pit at an asparagus farm. He said there was a guy he knew and a girl named, Kayla." My partner, Jason Kasner, and I jumped in a car and drove to Pasco. We had arranged to meet the informant at a Dennys there.

He seemed legitimate and gave enough to make me believe him. He pointed out the farm. There was no way we could get near it without being seen. I went to the airport and rented a plane, along with a pilot. We flew over the site, and I photographed it from the air. We went back to get a warrant. You should have seen my female captain's face when she saw the airplane rental on the expense sheet. Priceless!

We brought cadaver dogs, the newly-formed CSI Unit, and Forensic Anthropologist Kathy Taylor. We spent the day in one-hundred-degree weather going through the pit. They found lots and lots of bones—all animal.

In the end, we could never identify the victim in this case. Without a known victim, you can't prosecute a no-body murder. Despite hundreds of hours of work, we stopped looking. The victim's blood is in CODIS, the DNA database, but if he is dead, there cannot be a hit, except by a familial search.

Forensic Genealogy could trace his family tree to find relatives who could tell us about a missing person. That could solve the case.



Editor's Corner

By Rich O'Neill, SPD Retired #4451

Fallen SPD Officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the months of February and March:

FEBRUARY

- Judson P. Davis 2/23/1911
- Fred D. Carr 2/25/1973

MARCH

- Charles O. Legate 3/17/1922
- Olof F. Wilson 3/31/1935
- Frank Hardy 3/12/1954
- John E. Bartlett 3/9/1968
- Gary Lindell 3/13/2002
- Jackson V. Lone 3/16/2005

It is March and the yard and garden are slowly starting to come back to life. My favorite seasons have always been Spring and Summer. Just something about everything waking up after a long winter's nap! I'm also a baseball fan and as the season starts, "Hope Springs Eternal!" Yes, even for Mariner fans who have been waiting since the inaugural season of 1977 for a trip to the World Series! Last year, they finally made the playoffs, so maybe this year? Having spent many years in traffic, I always enjoyed the warmer weather and getting to work all the special events. Especially on payday!

So much has changed over the years in Seattle and it is sad to hear from many families who simply do not venture into the city for special events anymore. The usual reason is that they just don't feel safe walking in areas with open drug dealing and tents, littering the streets. I can remember taking visiting relatives into the city and being kind of proud to show off the place. Pike Place Market, Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle Center, and even Pioneer Square. I still recall one time in the early 80's when my Mom was visiting. She was born and raised in New York City. She was walking down 5th Avenue in Seattle and she said, "it is so clean, you could eat off the streets!" I've often thought how sad she would be to see it now!

So, can it change and go back to being a clean and safe city that is fun to show off to tourists? Most retirees and veteran officers may be pessimistic, but they know that things "could" be turned around. It would take just good old fashioned police work with an emphasis from city leaders, prosecutors and judges on Law & Order! Whether or not that happens depends on Seattle voters. Have they had enough of all these social experiments? I guess we can try and remain hopeful that one day, it could happen. Just like watching the Seattle Mariners play in the World Series!

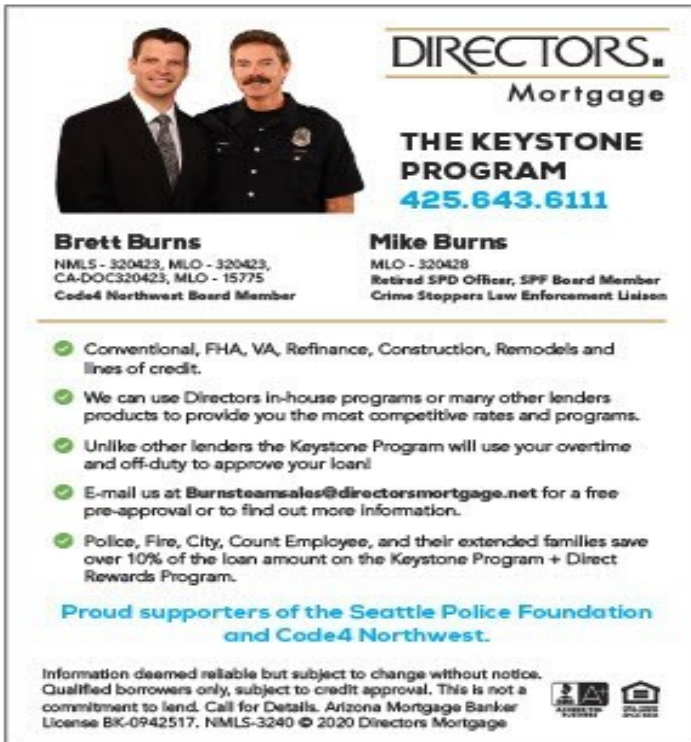
Until the May Call Box, enjoy retirement and the Spring!

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On Page 6
Sons of Retired SPD Terri MacMillan

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