



The Call Box



Official Publication of the Retired Seattle Police Officers Association

January, 2023 Volume 4, Issue 1

CATCHING UP WITH DON VERT #2168

Hired: Oct. 2nd, 1961 Academy Class: #44 Retired: Oct. 14th, 1986

Don, where did you grow up and what did you do before joining SPD?

I was born and raised in West Seattle. Enlisted in the Air Force in 1956 after high school. I was stationed at Amarillo AFB. I married Linda, mother of our two daughters, in 1958. I was discharged in 1960 and worked several jobs including Boeing and the Post Office before testing and being hired by SPD in 1961.

What made you want to be a police officer?

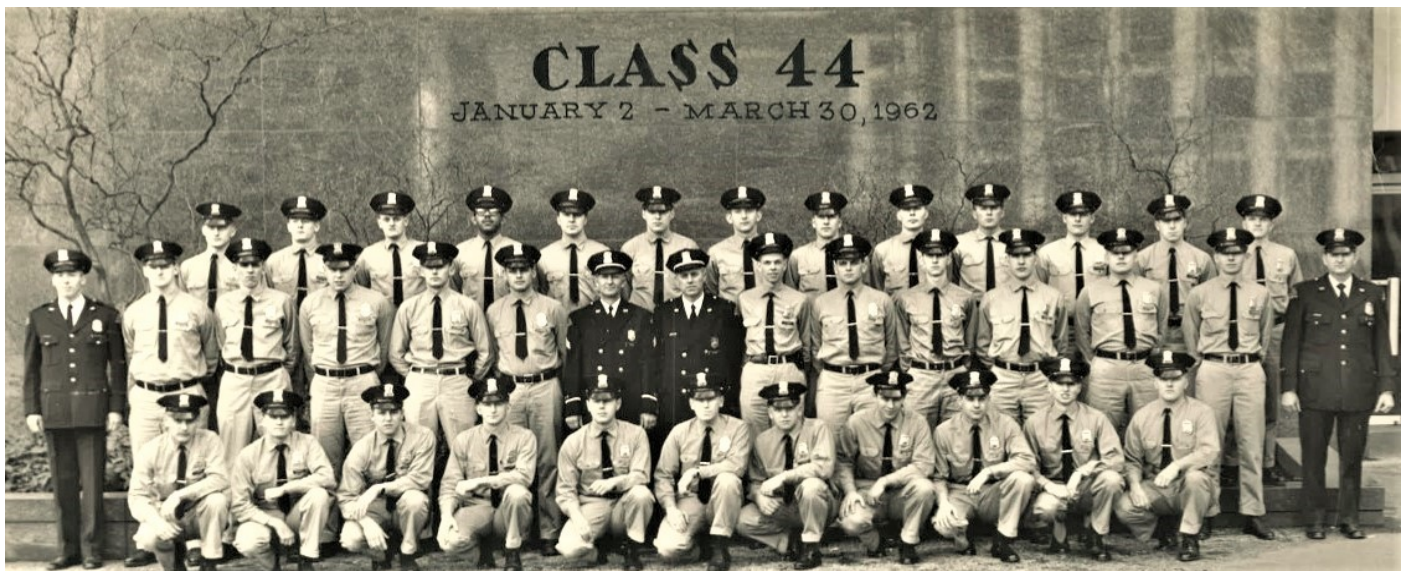
My dad became a King County Deputy Sheriff when I was a boy and his work influenced my interest in Law Enforcement.

When you were hired, did you go to the academy right away?

My first assignment in SPD was the City Jail before joining Class #44 in 1962. Dan Cameron, Larry Grout, Dale Douglas, Roy Skagen, Bob Neal, Roy Wedlund and Auggie Zampardo were among my classmates.

As an officer, what were some of your assignments and which ones did you enjoy the most?

I enjoyed working Patrol with several partners, but mostly with F. Jim Johnson and especially the Special Patrol Squad now called S.W.A.T. We worked in street clothes on strong arm robberies, stake outs, on view criminal activity. We worked stake outs as a result of killings involving transit and cab drivers and execu-



Top Row: A. Baird, J. Taggart Jr., G. Trettevek, D. Bown, T. Dolan, R. Sprinkle, R. Parke, P. Knapp, D. Applegate, J. Richardson, W. MacPherson, R. Neal, L. Habryle. **2nd Row:** J. Moore, D. Hartwig, V. Adams, R. Wedlund, H. Haines, D. Cameron, Sgt. A. Benner, Lt. R. Corr, B. Mayhle, J. Mooney, R. Kelley, R. Goad, R. Skagen, D. Douglas, D. Blackwood, **Front Row:** J.L. Norvell, D.E. Clark, L.D. Benjamin, W.J. Converse, B.K. Gray, L.D. Grout, R.A. Gonstead, A. Zampardo Jr., P.B. Hurd, **D.P. Vert**, G. Jorve

The Call Box



RSPOA
P.O. Box 25268
Seattle, WA 98165

President

Jerry Taylor

jerryt@rspoa.org

Vice President

John Nordlund

johnn@rspoa.org

Secretary/Treasurer

Nick Bulpin

nickb@rspoa.org

Trustees

John Sullivan

johns@rspoa.org

Terri MacMillan

terrim@rspoa.org

Dan Melton

danm@rspoa.org

Jeff Caldwell

jeffc@rspoa.org

Joe Bouffiu

joeb@rspoa.org

Dan Oliver

dano@rspoa.org

Rich O'Neill

richO@rspoa.org

President's Message

By Jerry Taylor, President, RSPOA



A Thousand Cuts

In China in the year 900, a new form of execution was established. Even though it was seldom used, it lasted until 1905. Now known as "Death by a Thousand Cuts" it was a combination of torture and execution. It is also possible to talk about death by a thousand cuts when discussing the idea of creeping normalcy, or the idea that small changes over time seem less dangerous than one

large change. For example, when a person in business talks about death by a thousand cuts, he or she typically means that something is slowly being destroyed rather than being destroyed all at once. In some cases, the final result does not even seem objectionable to the injured party.

For police officers and, indeed, for the citizens in general we are seeing this attack on our entire social structure. Let's take the concept of police reform as just one example. In the 2021 session of the Washington State Legislature, a number of bills were passed under the guise of "police reform." The net effect of these so-called reforms was to fundamentally change law enforcement in Washington State. There were fourteen of these laws passed in 2021. These laws made Washington more dangerous and put all citizens at risk. Taken one at a time and simply reading the bill title, they don't necessarily seem so bad. In totality, they destroy the ability of law enforcement to do their job. **HB 1001, HB 1054, HB 1088, HB 1089, HB 1140, HB 1223, HB 1267, HB 1310, SB 5476, SB 5051, SB 5066, SB 5259, SB 5263, SB 5353.** (For details about these bills and links to the legislation go to <https://rspoa.net/?p=489>)

SB 5051 has seemed to get little attention, but it is a very large threat to every police officer. Essentially, this will allow the Criminal Justice Training Commission to deny or revoke certification of a police officer. This change empowers the CJTC to initiate independent investigations and to act outside of the wishes of the employing agency. In the past, when discipline was taken against an officer, the commission was informed. In those instances where the employing agency thought the misconduct was egregious, that agency could request that the CJTC revoke the individual's certification. This is a serious situation because the same law increased the Commission membership to 21 people, all appointed by the Governor. Under the previous system the officer would have certain protections provided by contract or local civil service regulations. Also, the CJTC was smaller and populated by members with extensive experience in the criminal justice system. This law bypassed those provisions and subjects the officer to possible political persecution. The revocation of certification is a really big deal. It means that the individual can not be employed as a police officer in the state. Given that employment as such in any jurisdiction anywhere would require a background investigation, that would reveal the revocation and it effectively means the individual's career is cancelled. Anyone who has ever worked as a police officer knows that circumstances can change in a matter of seconds.

tions of gas station attendants. We made prostitution arrests when approached, as we had a serious prostitution problem in Chinatown. Our squad, along with patrol and traffic officers, were able to resolve the problem.

Tell us about some of your assignments and your work on the “Grand Jury” case?

I took the first department detective’s test and was assigned to Check/Forgery in the mid-1960s. Jim Johnson and I were placed on active duty and attended the U.S. Army Polygraph School in Fort Gordon GA, in March, 1970. While at that school, we learned of an alleged pay-off scandal within the Seattle Police Department. While at Fort Gordon, I was promoted to police sergeant. Upon my return, I was assigned to Patrol, East Precinct. Later, I was assigned to the Investigative Task Force, investigating transcripts from the Federal Grand Jury. I felt the vast majority of our officers and detectives were hard working, ethical men and women, serving our community well. Jim Whalen and I were partners, along with other Detective Sergeants conducting interviews regarding the findings of that Grand Jury. While assigned there, I was able to testify as a character witness for a very competent detective during his Superior Court trial. I was pleased for him and his family in the Not Guilty verdict. I have conducted over 300 polygraph exams, involving criminal investigations, pre-employment and others. I also worked Crime Prevention, Polygraph and Check/Forgery during my work as a Detective Sergeant. While in Crime Prevention, I developed two organizational charts bringing Crime Prevention from the Mayor’s Office to the Chief of Police. This resulted in Chief Fitzsimons establishing the Crime Prevention Bureau.



March, 1962. Don holding his daughter, Donna, who grew up to be an SPD Detective.

Who did you admire on the Seattle Police Department and why?

I have worked with too many officers, detectives, supervisors and commanders to name all those who I respected. A few do come to mind: F. Jim Johnson, Jim Vaughan, Ted Gormely, Mike Brasfield, Frank Moore, Rod Jackson, Roy Skagen, Dave Grayson, Mike Slessman, Riley Brice, Gunner Otness, Hal Fogus, Romero Yumul, Joe Sanford, Vern Thomas and Bill Kramer. I also respected the civilian women, Grace Powers, Vera Dewey, Arla Simon and Penny Randall, to name a few, who supported our reporting process.

What is the best advice you ever got as a young officer?

The best advice I got was from my dad, which was to always conduct myself in a way where I could look him in the eye and feel comfortable with my actions. Also, whenever possible, resolve situations in favor of the citizen.

Any memorable calls or cases that you were involved with, that you would like to share?

Working car 123 was a kick and Jim Johnson and I worked well together as partners. There was a disturbance call to a newly opened restaurant. The inside waiting area was very crowded and a young lady behind the counter pointed to a tall young man who had passed by me and was leaving. A fight ensued outside and we used a choke hold to subdue him after my uniform was torn and my revolver grip ground down from wrestling him on the cement. It turned out he was high on acid. He apologized in court and made full restitution for the damage he caused. Another situation was responding to a sleazy hotel after a clerk complained about a tenant acting strange. We opened the tenant’s door and were surprised to see a shot gun in his hands. After a short command he lowered his weapon. We were relieved. The most interesting case I worked as a Detective in the Check/Forgery Unit was one where a man was paying for Travelers Checks from the First National City Bank of New York, then going to another bank and stating they were lost and/or stolen. He received replacements and then cashed those checks at another bank. He was flying all over the country with this scam. I allowed a retired NYC Detective to accompany me while working the Seattle and King County cases. I got a commission from the County to work that jurisdiction. Time passed with no arrest. One afternoon, Jim Whalen asked me to go with him after work to sit in the lobby of a United Airlines ticket agency. We waited for his suspect to show up. The suspect knew Jim, so he waited in the back offices. I got bored and struck up a conversation with a lady behind the counter. I noticed a piece of paper with the suspects name in my NYC case. He was flying to Denver, CO. I rushed back to headquarters, got a photo of the suspect. The lady who sold him the ticket identified my suspect. I got a telephonic arrest warrant and he was arrested after the plane landed. What a stroke of luck. Gunner Otness and I flew to Denver and brought him back to Seattle. Later, when Jim Johnson and I had a long weekend during Polygraph School, we flew to



Sgt. Vert in 1970

FROM THE PENSION OFFICE

Pension Office News:

1. The Annual Reporting Forms to be notarized, will not be mailed out until April 2023.
2. LEOSA dates for 2023 have been announced: February 14, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, October 10, November 14, December 5, 2023. 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 4% SPMA raise is effective on January 4, 2023, and will be on the January 30, 2023 pension checks for all affected.
4. The SPOG contract negotiations continue.
5. Reminder to send in your 2022 Medicare Reimbursement forms. They are available on the RSPOA website, or contact us by email: policepension@seattle.gov or call the office at 206-256-5128
6. City of Seattle 1099 forms will not go out until approximately January 30, 2023. Reminder, if you are Line of Duty Disability pension you will NOT receive a 1099 from the State DRS but you will receive one from the city. The city does not have an exemption letter from the IRS, so they are mandated to send out the 1099 regardless of your disability pension.

All of us in the pension office wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Stephanie, Jan & Lisa

RSPOA EMAILS?

Do you get RSPOA emails? If not, contact Nick Bulpin to make sure we have an updated email address for you. (206-919-6425 or bulpin@comcast.net)

Emails contain important information like Last Ring notifications as well as timely information on pension & legislation issues in Olympia.



Last Ring



Hans Marx #2612, retired Seattle Police Detective, passed away on August 1, 2022, at 79 years of age. Hire Date: 9-19-66, Academy Class #52, Assignments: Traffic Motors, Motorcycle Drill Team, Patrol, promoted to Detective in 1983, Checks & Forgery. Retired 1-2-93 with 27 years of service. Hans is survived by his sister Marlene, and his nieces Lisa and Jennifer.

Dick Sherwood #2902, retired Seattle Police Detective Sergeant passed away on August 18, 2022, a few days after his 82nd birthday. Hire date: 4-30-68, Academy Class #56, Assignments: Patrol South, Traffic Enforcement, Motorcycles, promoted to Detective in 1989, Promoted to sergeant in 1990, West Burglary/Theft. Retired: 12-29-95 with 27 years of service. Dick is survived by his son John; daughter Kim, six grandkids, two great granddaughters.

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

For a complete version of each Last Ring, please go to www.rsboa.net

A call for service that is mundane and routine can rapidly morph into a life and death event. When this type of change crosses over to an area that becomes political, the pressure to take some action against the officer often becomes overwhelming. The protection provided by contract and Civil Service rules help to mute that political pressure and insure a fair treatment for the officer.

This law essentially eliminated that protection. Why anyone would work as a police officer in Washington State, under such restrictions, is beyond my understanding.

We need to work with our legislators to correct errors made in rapidly passing the 2021 police reforms.

2023 RSPOA CALENDAR

Monthly Meeting Jan. 11 1130

Monthly Meeting Feb. 8 1130

Monthly Meeting Mar. 8 1130

Monthly Meeting April 12 1130

Monthly Meeting May 10 1130

Monthly Meeting June 14 1130

Monthly Meeting July 12 1130

Monthly Meeting Aug 9 1130

Monthly Meeting Sep 13 1130

Monthly Meeting Oct 11 1130

Monthly Meeting Nov 8 1130

Monthly Meeting Dec 13 1130

All meetings at the Nile. \$10 admission for a great lunch, guest speakers and the "Guich Raffle." RAP Meets Every Thursday at the Nile at 11am

The Retired Banquet will be announced as soon as the banquet hall is reserved.

PICTURE QUIZ

Who are these three arresting a burglary suspect?



GRILLED CHICKEN

QUIZ ANSWER



K-9 Office Gary Kuenzi, Capt. Larry Farrar, & Sgt. Jim Johnson.

RSPOA DECEMBER MEETING

A large group gathered at The Nile on December 14th for the RSPOA monthly luncheon meeting. Everyone was greeted at the door with the news that the lunch was free, courtesy of RSPOA. President Taylor called the meeting to order and then Sec- Treasurer Nick Bulpin gave the financial report. Retired Officer Jim Ritter was introduced as the guest speaker. Jim gave a very informative slide show presentation about the police museum. After a few questions, it was time for the "Guich Raffle!" Everyone then enjoyed a delicious lunch and a few libations. (Photos by John Nordlund)



Large group listening to Jim Ritter talk about the police museum



Cloyd Steiger enjoying the Guich Raffle with John Guich



Kathy & Ken Jakobsen with a photo bomb by Mike Burke



Terri MacMillan, Marlynn McLaughlin, Mary Hallowell



Larry Jackson, Stephanie Coleman, Rich O'Neill, Mark Wubbena



Terrie MacMillan, Jim Ritter & Roy Skagen



Recently Retired Micheline Kane

PICTURE QUIZ

Who are these twin brothers? Each went on to serve on SPD. As you can tell, their mother liked to dress them the same!

Hint: They are mentioned in this Call Box



Something to make us go HmMMMM

Do you realize that 1980 and 2023 are just as far apart as 1937 and 1980?

PICTURE QUIZ ANSWER



John Moffat, left, William (Bill) Moffat, right. They are now 70. Both retired as Captains, John from the Narcotics Section after a long tour in the Traffic Section, Bill as the South Precinct Commander.

NYC and that retired detective took us out to dinner. We felt quite naked riding the subways without our weapons.

What is the biggest change in policing since you started your career?

Two issues bothered me during my career: Reducing two manned patrol cars to one and when F. Jim Johnson was not promoted and I knew he was well qualified. There are no stats indicating how many officers were saved from assault or how many situations were resolved peacefully because of a second officer on the scene. I was promoted to Lieutenant in 1981, only after being given the green light by my friend, Jim Johnson, who was 6th on that list.

Any advice that you would give to a young person thinking about a career in policing today?

My best advice for anyone thinking about a law enforcement career is to find a jurisdiction with leaders who support “the work” and then go for it. I suggest if you want to prepare yourself by attending a university, you choose a major unrelated to Law Enforcement. This is because not every applicant makes it through the hiring process.

Looking back on your career, is there anything you would have done differently?

I am not much on “Monday Morning Quarterbacking.” I would not have done anything differently.

What did you do when you retired?

When I retired in 1986, I worked in the Smith Tower as a King County Police Officer. They were experiencing problems in the Veterans and Public Defender offices. During that time, I worked for Pinkerton. I was authorized, by the Pentagon, to conduct covert surveillance's following tractor/trailer rigs carrying hazardous material from military installations to other destinations. Retired Detective Sergeant Riley Brice and I were trained for that work in Chandler, Arizona. I terminated that job after moving to Mesa, AZ in 1995.

Towards the end of my career I was coaxed into taking up skiing. I joined the SPD Ski Club and at the end of the second season I told the members I would not be able to go with them on the out-of-state trip that they planned. I had promised my brother and sis-in-law to go to White Fish, MT on the same week that they were leaving. No more was said and while sitting in the King Street Station waiting to board the train, the Ski Club appeared. I became a fair intermediate skier, because of the efforts of those folks including Jim Johnson, Dean Quall and Rudy Sutlovich. There was another trip at the end of the season when I was called to the front of our skiers and stood next to a woman skier. I could not imagine why I was called up there but perhaps recognition for my improved skiing. Wrong!! I was surprised when she smashed a chocolate cream pie in my face.

Tell us about your family?

Kathy and I have been happily married 28 years and have been retired in Arizona since 1995. We spend our winters in Mesa and summers in the White Mountains at 7300’ where it is much cooler. We enjoy golf and traveling to visit family and friends. My eldest daughter, Donna Stangeland, retired as a SPD Homicide Detective a couple of years ago after a wonderful career. Youngest daughter, Kathy, lives in Montana and doing well. We are proud of our adult grandchildren, three girls and two boys. We are also proud of my twin brother, Dave, who retired from higher management at Boeing.



What do you miss most about being on SPD?

I miss the wonderful folks I worked with! I am pleased it was then and not now!!! Happy Trails to Everyone!!

Don

**Encourage Your Friends & Family To
Subscribe To The Call Box**

Yearly Subscriptions are just \$36.00

Send to RSPOA PO Box 25268

Seattle, WA 98165



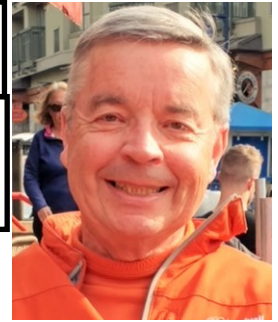

Rich Lamb
Broker
Cell: (425) 293-6521

1909 214th Street SE #205
Bothell, WA 98021
Office: (425) 481-8888, Fax: (425) 487-3759

Where Are They Now?

JOHN M. MOFFAT Serial #3522

Hired: 11-10-70 Academy Class # 73 Retirement: 6-15-95



What were some of your memorable SPD assignments and why?

I was green as grass when I started as a Cadet at age 18. My high school buddies, Joe Higgins and Dale Johnson (later Garnica), talked me into taking the cadet test. We all planned to do it. It was offered every month. They decided to wait a month and I didn't get the word. That was the last test for years. I reported to special detail, greeted by Sergeant Merle Dickhaut in late 1970. I recall sitting alone in the Georgetown police station, as the clerk, on New Year's Eve, 1971. Some of my friends called from a party. I did wonder if what I had done was wise. Still, Higgins and Johnson were vacationing in Germany as MPs at US Army expense, and I was in Seattle. That seemed good. Later that year, I sat with the other 19 year old cadets while Selective Service drew the draft lottery numbers. I was 247 of 365. That wasn't good, and bad meant a year in Vietnam. I was lucky. My academy classmate, Rod Hamlet, had done service in Vietnam, and was still pretty tightly wound. A table fell over in the gym one day, and while we all looked stupidly around Rod had already found shelter and cover, he'd been on the receiving end of too much unfriendly fire. Rod was a gentle soul despite that. Johnson and Higgins became SPD officers about six years later! My twin brother Bill was back from the Air Force and went for a few "ride-along" missions with me. He could distinguish what I was doing from actual work. He became an officer about the same time as Higgins, and worked with him as a partner. Arguably, they made the community safer. Second Watch was convenient as President Nixon was paying for your college if you agreed to work as a police officer for seven years after graduation. I was one of many who got a degree in police administration from Seattle U. A full schedule of college classes and a 6-2 "Corning Plan" shift made for very, very long days and weeks. While I was 2 Queen 6, with Marcus Taylor, I met Sally, my wife of 44 years. I worked with Tony Enders, Larry Miller, Joe Collins, Ed Kearny, Dave Prideaux, Larry Jones and my wonderful Sergeant, Sam Meln. I don't think Sally was very impressed when my idea of a date was to take her to night municipal court, so I could testify. She was shocked one day when she leaned in the patrol car window to give some sassy remark to pipe-smoking Marc and instead found Student Officer Debbie McMullin at the wheel. I hope my work as her FTO contributed to her great career. Once I backed her on an armed robbery call at the Black Angus. When I entered, she had already tackled the guy and was kicking his posterior. I loved working basic training as it was wonderful to meet so many new officers from SPD and around the state. I went from an easy day shift there to 2nd Watch, East Relief, 6-2 schedule, as a new Sergeant, but had a terrific squad. East was still housed on the third floor of the PSB, so I spent a lot of time driving the James Street hill. I oversaw the construction of the East Precinct and was First Watch East LT in 1985. I had the help of good Sergeants - Ron Aslett, Gordy VanRooy, Don Hillard, and the gang of pirates that worked for



Class 73: D. Carroll, R. Hamlet, R. Beavert, R. Kirkbride, W. Hume, R. Nilsen, J. Moffat, T. Fasnacht, E. Macomber, E Moser & L. Allen

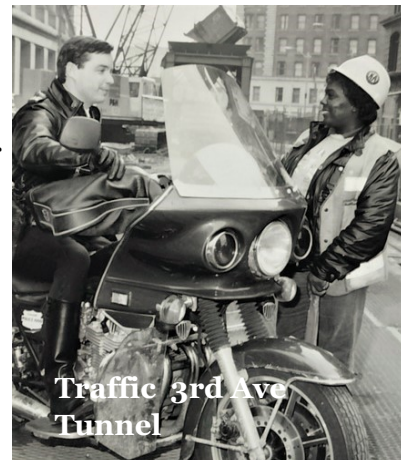


1970's Occidental Park with Emmett Kelsie

Second Watch was convenient as President Nixon was paying for your college if you agreed to work as a police officer for seven years after graduation. I was one of many who got a degree in police administration from Seattle U. A full schedule of college classes and a 6-2 "Corning Plan" shift made for very, very long days and weeks. While I was 2 Queen 6, with Marcus Taylor, I met Sally, my wife of 44 years. I worked with Tony Enders, Larry Miller, Joe Collins, Ed Kearny, Dave Prideaux, Larry Jones and my wonderful Sergeant, Sam Meln. I don't think Sally was very impressed when my idea of a date was to take her to night municipal court, so I could testify. She was shocked one day when she leaned in the patrol car window to give some sassy remark to pipe-smoking Marc and instead found Student Officer Debbie McMullin at the wheel. I hope my work as her FTO contributed to her great career. Once I backed her on an armed robbery call at the Black Angus. When I entered, she had already tackled the guy and was kicking his posterior. I loved working basic training as it was wonderful to meet so many new officers from SPD and around the state. I went from an easy day shift there to 2nd Watch, East Relief, 6-2 schedule, as a new Sergeant, but had a terrific squad. East was still housed on the third floor of the PSB, so I spent a lot of time driving the James Street hill. I oversaw the construction of the East Precinct and was First Watch East LT in 1985. I had the help of good Sergeants - Ron Aslett, Gordy VanRooy, Don Hillard, and the gang of pirates that worked for

us. Officer Grant Ballingham was on that team and may be the last person that is still on the J-O-B all these years later.

Captain Mike O'Mahoney brought me into traffic to oversee the Metro Tunnel Project, with a big increase in staff, and an ugly chore of reducing it after it was over. I'm sure there are some who are still sad they got the boot and would like to give it to me. It wasn't fun for me, either. However, it was my work on pedestrian safety enforcement that brought national attention and my post SPD career. I had a great time working with Lieutenants Steve Brown, Chris Kohler and Brent Wingstrand. My most important contribution to traffic was one day when I unilaterally and without authority, told Communications we were dropping the 7 Tom xx and 8 Tom xx call signs and changed them to "Tom" for Traffic and "Paul" for PEOs. Some things endure. Another enduring thing that was overdue for elimination, was the



"Cone Detail" for a motorcycle officer on the afternoon reversible lane across the First Avenue South Bridge. One day we just stopped doing it, never to do it again. Finally, after yet another fatal crash at the top of the westbound on-ramp from Fourth Avenue S to the Spokane Street Viaduct, I ordered the ramp barricaded and closed. I was instructed to reopen it and declined. I said that it should not reopen until a qualified traffic engineer certified it as safe. It never reopened and I am certain that this saved a few tragedies. In 1994, Chief Norm Stamper asked if I liked working traffic. I said yes, I love it, resulting in my transfer to Narcotics. It reminded me how ugly the world could be and was a tough and challenging job. We did some great work. My abrupt retirement saved my friend Gene Hunt from dying #1 on the Captain List. That made me happy. On my last week of "Duty Captain," I was called out to a homicide in Rainier Beach. A convenience store clerk had been shot to death in a hold-up. We watched the replay on his security system, but couldn't overturn the ruling on the field. I had also been Duty Captain the night Officer Antonio Terry was murdered. I realized I was ready to go. Twenty five years had gone by in a flash.

What do you miss most about SPD?

Like most, I miss the people who really were like family. The world misses Pat Moriarty, we all love Jocko, I miss my SPD ski club friends. Mary Stowe, Gene Hunt, Jules Werner, Jerry Adams and Bruce Edmonds are all people that I worked for early and later supervised. I tried to be as good to them as they had been to me. I learned a lot from Chief Pat Fitzsimons, Lt. Charlie Lindblom and Sgt. JJ Hill. I always liked the special events, Seafair and the sports that went with traffic. I could easily list another 300 people who were special to me, I have not forgotten them.

LIFE AFTER SPD: What did you do, where do you live?

I left SPD to become Director of the Washington Traffic Safety Commission and worked on safety programs to eliminate traffic deaths and injury, "Click it or Ticket," for example. That led to a job as Regional Administrator for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, running safety programs in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington states. It was a slightly larger area than my four square mile 2Q5 beat! I got to work with cops from across the country and many of my old friends from SPD, such as Dick Belshay and Eric Michl. I have to say that the City of Seattle was the best employer of all those I have experienced and they are still sending checks. Gracias! I called it good after 47 years in government service and retired to help the *Cherry Baroness*, my wife Sally, with her cherry farm. We've sold a lot of cherries to SPD folks, delivered near the SPOG office and to a number of Seattle grocery stores. We live in Zillah, a small town south of Yakima, 140 miles from Seattle and 25 years back in time.

Hobbies and Activities?

Instead of snow birding, I look forward to winter and I still love to ski. I have a weekday pass at Mt. Hood, a three hour drive from where I reside. The farm keeps me busy as diesel mechanic, irrigation plumber, pump repairman, electrician, driver, ditch digger, licensed pesticide applicator and more. I completely rebuilt the old farmhouse. I still like to shoot, and shoot every day I can. I was the top shooter in my academy class and shot a 250 max score on the recent LEOSA shoot. "Don't let the old man in!" advised Toby Keith. I'm doing my best.

War Stories

By Detective Cloyd Steiger, SPD Retired, #4313

(Continued from the November issue) (Inside the Benton/Franklin County juvenile detention center.)

"I shot him in the head," Kayla Niles said with a deadpan look.

Okay, I thought. That changes everything.

I was sitting with a fifteen-year-old girl who'd just admitted, with her attorney present, that she'd killed a man in Seattle.

Kayla explained that she and her "boyfriend" (pimp) moved drugs in Seattle. They were in room #35 at the very inaptly named A-1 Motel, with a man she didn't know. Her pimp accused him of ripping them off for drugs. Her boyfriend had beaten the man badly. He then pulled out a handgun, gave it to her, and said, "Shoot him." She did.

I returned to Seattle and went to the A-1 Motel. I asked to see the register. I looked up the date the girl told me. Kayla's pimp was registered in room #35 on that date. I got a search warrant for the room and returned with crime lab personnel who scoured the room for evidence. Bev Hemmick, from the lab, came out. "We found traces of high-velocity spatter in the wall." High-velocity spatter can be caused by a gunshot. They had enough to develop a DNA sample. They found it was a male. The donor was not in CODIS, the DNA databank.

I had Kayla transferred to Echo Glen in Snoqualmie, so I'd have easier access. By then, Jason Kasner was new in Homicide and worked the case with me. The problem with the case is we had no idea who the victim was. To prosecute, we had to find out.

Kayla told us that they put the victim in the back of a friend's car after they killed him. They drove him to a park late at night and buried his body. Unfamiliar with Seattle, she didn't know where the park was.

We were driving her around one night. Jason looked at her and said, "You haven't eaten. You must be hungry. Do you like Dicks?" Realizing Kayla wasn't aware of the restaurant, Jason shouted, "It's a hamburger place!" (To be continued....)

From the Police Museum

By Officer Jim Ritter, SPD Retired, #4710,

The Black Box That Changed Everything

From the mobile police radio's introduction in the 1930's, and extending fifty years beyond, the only option for talking with our fellow officers and dispatchers from our



patrol cars had been to grab the radio mic and relay information. As demand for police services increased throughout the 1970's & 80's, so did the number of radio transmissions per minute. Seattle PD's radio usage eventually increased to such critical levels, that the FCC deemed this as potentially endangering officers' ability to call for assistance during emergencies.

Fortunately, technological advancements of the era allowed Motorola to introduce the in-car Mobile Data Terminal, or "MDT" that would assist in alleviating these officer safety concerns. First installed in SPD patrol cars in 1989, these futuristic devices would forever change police communications by allowing officers to significantly increase effective communication. Additionally, the MDT allowed for more efficient access WACIC, NCIC, DOL, and other data bases that had previously required time-consuming processes, human error, and unnecessary delays. Most impressive was the red "help" button that allowed dispatchers, through GPS, to locate our location during life-threatening situations. Most of us serving during 1989, remember the sight of these ominous new devices and the apprehension and curiosity that went with them. They soon became an irreplaceable form of police technology that paved the way for future advancements that made our jobs easier and safer, such as cell phones, in-car cameras, and the ability to immediately identify suspects.

If you have any historic police items you feel would be of interest to the Police Museum, please contact me at: jamesSritter@gmail.com, or at 206-949-9143.



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

Editor's Corner

By Rich O'Neill
SPD Retired #4451

Welcome to 2023 and the first Call Box of the new year! The Call Box is issued every other month or six times a year. If you are a member of RSPOA, the Call Box is free and is delivered to your home. If you are not a member of RSPOA, you can subscribe for just \$36 per year. Members are reminded to alert RSPOA if your address changes and for those "snow birds," please make sure you have your mail forwarded to your winter or summer residence, so you don't miss out on any Call Box issues. As the volunteer editor, I am always looking for new ideas and articles for the Call Box. I have really enjoyed interviewing and highlighting some of our retired members. If you know anyone who would make an interesting interview, please pass along their contact information to me.

At the end of this month, all Leoff 1 and Leoff 2 retired members will be receiving a "benefit enhancement check." I hope everyone does not take this for granted and recognizes all of the "behind the scenes" political work that went on to make this a reality. RSPOA President Jerry Taylor deserves a huge Thank You for all his efforts on this issue!

Speaking of politics, the fall elections are over and the Republicans took control of the House of Representatives and the Democrats maintained control of the Senate and of course, the White House. What is very obvious to me after the national elections, is that both parties need a change in leadership. While they are at it, I hope they don't continue promoting candidates that are approaching 80 years old. I can't imagine any company that was hiring for the most stressful job on earth (POTUS) would even consider applicants near 80 years of age. It's time to pass the torch!

Locally, Seattle voters will have a real opportunity in 2023 to change the direction of the city. Seven of the nine Seattle City Council positions and all seven Municipal Court Judges are up for re-election. If the voters continue voting for the same, like-minded candidates, the city we all loved will continue on its declining path. The litmus test should be this and this alone: Is this candidate good for Public Safety and do they stand for Law and Order?

So, we will see what 2023 brings! I wish you all a safe and blessed new year!

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

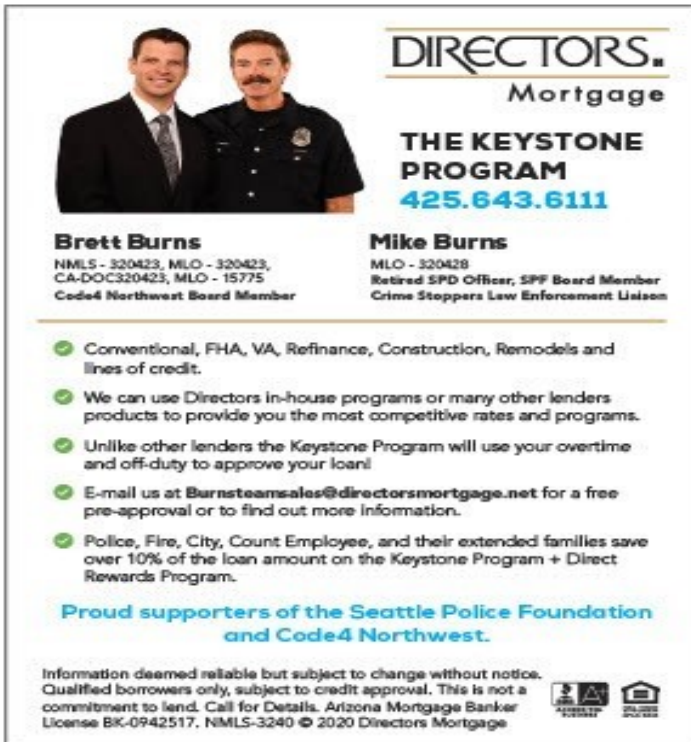
Arthur B. Luntsford

EOW: 1-20-1923

RSPOA

C/O Nick Bulpin
P.O. Box 25268
Seattle WA 98165

**PRSR STD
 US POSTAGE
 PAID SEATTLE
 WA
 PERMIT NO. 1949**



DIRECTORS.
Mortgage

THE KEYSTONE PROGRAM
425.643.6111

Brett Burns
 NMLS - 320423, MLO - 320423,
 CA-DOC320423, MLO - 15775
 Code4 Northwest Board Member

Mike Burns
 MLO - 320428
 Retired SPD Officer, SPF Board Member
 Crime Stoppers Law Enforcement Liaison

- ✔ Conventional, FHA, VA, Refinance, Construction, Remodels and lines of credit.
- ✔ We can use Directors in-house programs or many other lenders products to provide you the most competitive rates and programs.
- ✔ Unlike other lenders the Keystone Program will use your overtime and off-duty to approve your loan!
- ✔ E-mail us at Burnsteamsales@directorsmortgage.net for a free pre-approval or to find out more information.
- ✔ Police, Fire, City, Count Employee, and their extended families save over 10% of the loan amount on the Keystone Program + Direct Rewards Program.

Proud supporters of the Seattle Police Foundation and Code4 Northwest.

Information deemed reliable but subject to change without notice. Qualified borrowers only, subject to credit approval. This is not a commitment to lend. Call for Details. Arizona Mortgage Banker License BK-0942517, NMLS-3240 © 2020 Directors Mortgage

**Years of Experience Serving
 The Law Enforcement Community**

“Recognized, Respected and Recommended”

- 🔑 Representing Buyers and Sellers in King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties.
- 🔑 Have helped hundreds of officers achieve homeownership, through expert and aggressive negotiation skills.
- 🔑 Offering a unique program with incentives, only available to Law Enforcement! *Ask me for details*
- 🔑 Assisting Buyers and Sellers attain their real estate goals in any market. My knowledge and years of experience help simplify the process.
- 🔑 Multiple year recipient of Seattle Magazine’s 5 Star Award and named “Best in Client Satisfaction”.





SUE HAMMERMASTER
— MASTERING YOUR MOVE —

Managing Broker

Wife of Retired Officer Brad Hammermaster

Call me direct: 425-417-5733

Email: sue@suehammermaster.com

www.suehammermaster.com



