

The Call Box



Official Publication of the Retired Seattle Police Officers Association

November, 2023 Volume 4, Issue 6

THE 79th ANNUAL RETIRED OFFICERS' BANQUET

“ Oh, What a Night it Was!”



On Wednesday, September 20th, 2023 the 79th Annual Retired Officer's Banquet returned to the SPAA Range Pavilion and the place was packed. Members of the SPD Mounted Unit greeted the crowd of almost 400 as they lined up outside. Once inside, the retirees and their guests were amazed at the decorations. Floor to ceiling curtains and strings of lights "fancied up" the place. The 40 tables were covered in either blue or white tablecloths and the police themed centerpieces were courtesy of former PEO Marianna Matthews. The bar was open and hopping with four professional volunteer bartenders. New for this year, was a backdrop mural of the Seattle Waterfront. In front of that mural was a SPD Traffic Motorcycle. It was a great spot to get a few photos. Also new this year were banners depicting the academy classes from the 1930's all the way through the 1970's. Many thanks to the SPD Photo Unit who designed the banners. Classes from the 1980's and beyond were displayed on cardboard posters on tables throughout the room. Near the stage was another table-top banner honoring all of the SPD officers who were killed in the line of duty. Small blue votive lights gave a somber glow to the display. As the crowd enjoyed appetizers and drinks, an old film of the SPD Marching Drill Team was projected onto the wall behind the stage. The SPD Honor Guard presented the colors as Elaina Cote (daughter of retired SPD Joe & Debbie Cepeda) sang an amazing rendition of the National Anthem. Charlie Scoma, the SPD Chaplain, offered a prayer thanking everyone in the room for their many years of service. During the buffet dinner, former SPD and current SFD, Steve Olson, entertained the crowd with his guitar and amazing vocals. Following dinner, RSPOA President Jerry Taylor welcomed those gathered. Master of Ceremonies, Kevin O'Neill, welcomed all of the VIPs, including former King County Sheriff and candidate for Washington State Governor, Dave Reichert. Rich O'Neill urged everyone to make sure they join the RSPOA when they retire for many reasons, but especially because the RSPOA protects our pensions in Olympia! A list of the recent retirees, who were present, were read aloud and they came forward for a group picture and to be congratulated on their retirement. The lights were then lowered for a solemn presentation of the Last Ring. The names of those SPD officers who passed away since the last banquet were read aloud as their pictures were projected on the stage wall. SPD Piper Aaron Stoltz then played Amazing Grace as the crowd stood in silence. Several new things at this years banquet included awards for the "highest serial number in the room" and "farthest traveled" (details on page 3). Also new this year, was the showing of old photos. They were projected on the stage wall throughout the night. Then it was time to honor the 3 lowest serial numbers in the room. Marty Spotankse took the bronze medal, John L Sullivan won the silver and for the third year in a row, Phil Cruse took home the gold medal. Elaina Cote returned to the stage to sing, God Bless America, as all of the veterans in the room were asked to stand. As the official program festivities ended, Steve Olson continued to paly for those enjoying the bar and the chance to talk with old friends.

It truly was a very memorable night!

(More banquet on Page 3 & Page 9)

The Call Box



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President's Message

By Jerry Taylor, President, RSPOA



RSPOA the Future

We have recently experienced the plague that severely impacted the organization. We were, for the most part, able to continue our meetings but, did cancel one Retired Officers' Banquet. The real impact has been more hidden. First was a caterer change at the Nile. We were suddenly presented with significant increases in food costs and room rental fees. As we attempted to negotiate a more reasonable fee structure, we were simply pushed out. That followed by our attempts to move our meetings to a new venue. First, we tried a restaurant in Montlake Terrace. Nice folks but, the venue just did not work. Then we moved to the Shoreline Elks. They were very helpful and attempted to meet our needs. Unfortunately, the Elks did not have a full-time kitchen staff and was attempting to provide services with volunteers. After a couple of months, it became apparent that the Elks would not work well for RSPOA.

In the meantime, RAP which was facing the same venue challenge, worked out an agreement with the Nile to provide the meeting room at a rate they could afford. RAP met the cost by raising the meeting dues from \$1 to \$6 and returned to the Nile. Since meals at RAP were ordered from a menu and paid directly, by the member, the situation permitted the Nile to rely solely on the room rental and direct meal sales off the menu. This \$20+ increase has not had any adverse impact on the attendance at the RAP meetings.

The RSPOA has been faced with a more difficult challenge. Our meetings are generally larger than RAP and do not lend themselves to individual orders from a menu. Hence, we use the buffet approach. We advise them of the anticipated attendance, and they provide the lunch. The main problem is that we often do not know how many will attend any given meeting. While attendance is normally in the 40 -50 range it is not uncommon for us to have sixty or more. For example, our November meeting speaker is Dave Reichert. In October he drew 500 people to a fund raiser in Bellevue. The room rental rates for the large meeting room at the Nile are well beyond our budget. Additionally, since we provide a buffet we have to provide a service number to the Nile and we have to pay for that number even if fewer show. Providing the number of anticipated attendees drives Nick crazy, but he generally does a magnificent job of selecting the number. We were able to strike an agreement with RAP whereby we share our monthly meeting with them. That kept our room charge at an acceptable level and lessened the burden for RAP. So our meetings have moved from the second Wednesday of each month to the second Thursday of each month and have relocated to the Nile.

I started out discussing the impact of the plague, so I guess I should explain how that impacts our meetings and lunches. Actually, it impacts just about everything when trying to run an organization. Inflation hit. The price of everything went up. The buffet cost increased. We have only been collecting \$10 a head for lunches. That does not cover the cost. Since we first moved to

79th Annual Retired Officer's Banquet

LOWEST SERIAL NUMBERS IN ATTENDANCE



Phil Cruse #1287 was the lowest serial number and received the Gold Medal for the 3rd year in a row! Phil was hired on 10-16-51 and retired on 8-2-77



John L. Sullivan #1346 was the 2nd lowest serial number and received the Silver Medal. John was hired on 4-24-52 and retired on 7-11-77.



Marty Spotanske #1534 was the 3rd lowest serial number and received the Bronze Medal. Marty was hired on 1-4-54 and retired on 12-30-83.

HIGHEST SERIAL NUMBER & FARTHEST TRAVELED



Officer Arpy Aslanyan #8805 won the award for highest serial number in the room. Pictured here with Phil Cruse #1287



A crowded stage of officers who traveled from out of state to attend the banquet, was narrowed down to the final three who all came from Florida. Here, Mike Gregg #3020 congratulates the winner, Rich Bell #6692, as Mike Brasfield #3071 concedes the victory.



RSPOA President Jerry Taylor welcomed the crowd to the banquet.



NEWLY RETIRED

FROM THE PENSION OFFICE

POLICE PENSION OFFICE NEWS:

1. The Annual Banquet was well attended. A big round of applause and many thank you's to organizer's Rich and Kevin O'Neill.
2. Attention Snowbirds: Don't forget to call us regarding updating your mailing address. Contact Lisa at 206-256-5127 or lisa.porter@seattle.gov
3. The 2023 Medicare Reimbursement form will be mailed to your address on file, on December 1, 2023. As a reminder, Annual Reporting Forms will be mailed in April 2024.
4. The last LEOSA dates for 2023 are November 14th and December 5th. LEOSA lines shoot at 1000 and 1400 at the SPD Range. Guns must be inspected prior to going on course. Arrive at least 45 minutes early.

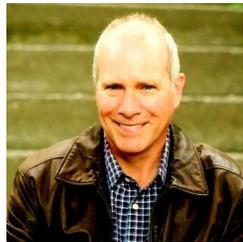


Last Ring



Doug E. Carlson

#6121, Retired Seattle Police Officer, passed away on April 19, 2023, at 64 years of age. Hired: 8-4-95, Class #437, Assignments: Patrol South, Southwest, Field Training Officer. Retired: 2-28-19 after 24 years of service. Doug is survived by his wife, Esa, son Rory, father Gerald, and sisters, Joni and Amy.



Robert "Bob" Martinson

#3379, Retired Seattle Police Canine Sergeant, passed away on June 27 at seventy-six years of age. Hired: 4-10-70, Class #64. Assignments: Patrol West, North, Canine, Academy Instructor, 1984 promoted to Detective, Juvenile, Aide to A/C Grayson, 1987 promoted to Sergeant, Special Patrol Unit, Canine Sgt, North Patrol. Retired: 12-30-95 after 25 years of service. Bob is survived by his wife, Debbie, son, Adam, daughter, Robyn and three grandchildren.



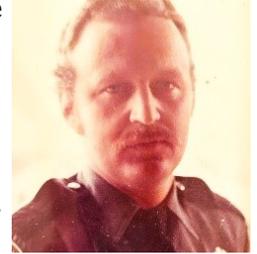
Please visit the RSPOA website to read the complete obituary for each Last Ring. www.rsboa.net



Last Ring

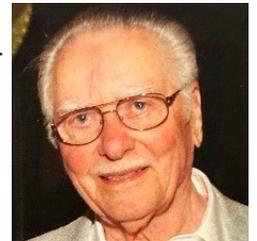


Dave Estes #3584, Retired Seattle Police Officer-Radio Dispatcher, passed away on June 6, 2023, at the age of 77. Hired: 5-13-71, Class #68. Assignments: Patrol South, Central, North, TRU, Street Vice, Patrol Chief Admin Detail, Radio Dispatcher. Retired: 7-8-96 after 25 years of service. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Evangeline, adult daughters, Julie, and Anna, and one granddaughter, Nadia.



Charles "Chuck" Layman

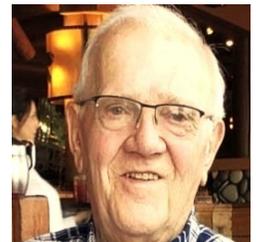
#1584, Retired Seattle Police Detective Sergeant, passed away August 3, 2023, at 96 years of age. Hired: 9-23-54, Class #33. Assignments: Patrol, Traffic Motorcycles, 1961 promoted to Detective, Traffic Investigation Squad, Auto Theft, 1969 promoted to Sergeant. Retired: 6-2-75 after 20 years of service. Chuck is survived by his wife of 75 years, Lavone; sons Charlie and Mike, daughters Christine and Linda, as well as nine grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.



Robert "Bob" M. Avery #2121, Retired Seattle Police Officer, passed away on July 29, 2023, at 86 years of age. Hired: 6-12-61, Class #43. Assignments: Patrol West, Harbor Unit Diver. Retired: 4-21-68 after 26 years of service. Bob is survived by his wife of 38 years, Darla, sons Greg, Steve, and Ryan, and daughters Debra and Michelle, as well as ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



Jerry Jorve #2197, Retired Seattle Police Detective passed away on June 17, 2023, at the age of 85. Hired: 10-16-61, Class # 44. Assignments: World's Fair Detail, Patrol, Traffic Motorcycles, Motorcycle Drill Team, Patrol Central, South, North, 1970 promoted to Detective, Backgrounds Unit, Auto Theft, Robbery, Felony Warrants. Retired: 2-19-92 after 30 years of service. Jerry was preceded in death by his brother, Dennis who passed in 2020. Jerry is survived by his wife of almost 52 years, Karen, daughter, Sara, and two granddaughters, Hannah, and Emma.





Last Ring



Survivors:

Carol Caldwell, passed away on October 11, 2023, at the age of 86. Carol was widow of retired Seattle Police Officer Jerry G. Caldwell #2270, mother to retired SPD Officer Jeff Caldwell #4075, sister-in-law to retired SPD Officer Tom Caldwell #1845 and great aunt to active-duty SPD Officer Tommy Caldwell #7718,

Friends:

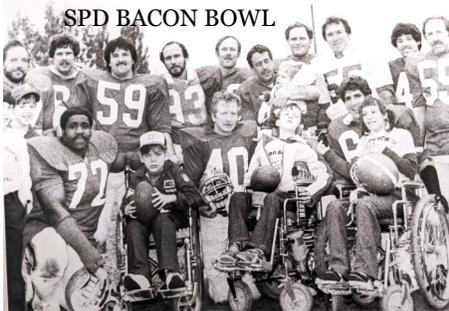
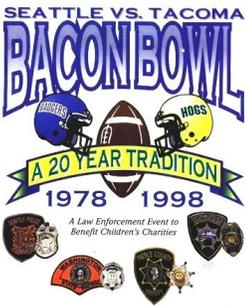
Dennis Hanks #2764, former SPD Patrol Officer passed away on August 25, 2023, at 81 years of age in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Dennis was hired on September 11, 1967. He resigned on October 18, 1974, to work for the Chelan County Sheriff's Office.

Harriet Benjamin, ex-wife of deceased retired Seattle police patrol sergeant Lee Benjamin #2174, passed away on September 3rd at the age of eighty-four.

Harriet was a successful real estate agent and an active member of the local law enforcement community. Amongst other things, for many years, Harriet invited officers into her home on the 4th of July providing sandwiches and chili to the officers who were working. In addition, Harriet founded and served as President of the Bacon Bowl Association for 26 years. The association donated over 2.7 MILLION dollars to local children's charities, especially Mary Bridge Children's Hospital. She is survived by her sisters Emma and Margaret, and brother Mike, her sons, Lance and Lyle, and their spouses Ginger and Polly, her grandchildren Adam, Hayley and spouse Matt, Connor and Troy; and her great-grandchildren Paige, Bryna, Anika and Ronin.



A celebration of life was held on September 18 at the Police Range Pavilion. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Mary Bridge Children's Hospital.



Merry Christmas from Heaven

A poem by John W. Mooney Jr.

I still hear the songs,
I still see the lights,
I still feel your love
On cold wintery nights,

I still share your hopes
And all your cares
I'll even remind you
To please say your prayers.

I just want to tell you
You still make me proud.
You stand head and shoulders
Above all the crowd.

Keep trying each moment
To stay in His grace
I came here before you
To help set your place.

You don't have to be
Perfect all the time
He forgives you the slip
If you continue to climb.

To my family and friends
Please be thankful today
I'm still close beside you
In a new special way.

I love you all dearly
Now don't shed a tear
Cause I'm spending my
Christmas with Jesus this year.



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

WAR STORIES

By Detective Cloyd Steiger, SPD Retired, #4313

In April 1998, at about 10:15 pm, my partner, John Nordlund and I were called to a homicide scene outside 515 22nd Avenue. The victim had been shot several times. Fire Department medics had transported him from the scene to Harborview Medical Center, where he died soon after arrival. We eventually determined that the victim was from Tacoma and went by the name, Buddy. His grandparents had raised him. We were still working on the murder three days later, when I called his grandparents' home.

An elderly-sounding woman answered the phone.

"I'm Detective Steiger from the Seattle Police Department," I said. "I'm investigating Buddy's murder."

I heard a scream on the phone.

"Buddy's dead?" she yelled.

I had presumed (apparently in error) that she had been notified of Buddy's death by the Medical Examiner's Office. After a very uncomfortable moment, where I apologized and gave her my condolences, she calmed down. She told me what she knew about Buddy's last night alive. Based on her information, we were able to track down one of Buddy's friends. He had driven Buddy to Seattle that night. We picked that friend up and brought him in for questioning.

Only a short time into my interview, I was convinced this guy was the killer. We talked about his life. He'd been a gangbanger since he was thirteen.

"I know what you're going through," I told him softly. "You're too old for this shit." (He was 26.)

"Your nerves are constantly on edge," I said. "You're looking over your shoulder all the time, either for the police or for someone trying to kill you. Aren't you tired of it? It's time to stop this life and get on with it."

He stared at me, not saying anything at first. Finally, he said in a near whisper, "Man, it's like you can read my mind."

It was true. I'd spoken to scores of people just like him before.

Eventually, he confessed to killing Buddy—another stupid murder for no reason.

RSPOA CALENDAR

RSPOA Monthly Meetings are now on the 2nd THURSDAY of each month, 11:30am AND back at the Nile!



Monthly Meeting
Thursday, Nov 9th, 11:30am
Guest Speaker: Dave Reichert

Happy Thanksgiving	Nov 25
SPAA Kids Christmas at Range	Dec 9 , 12-4pm
Monthly Meeting	Dec 14
Merry Christmas	Dec 25
RAP meets every Thursday at the Nile, 11 am.	

RSPOA October Meeting



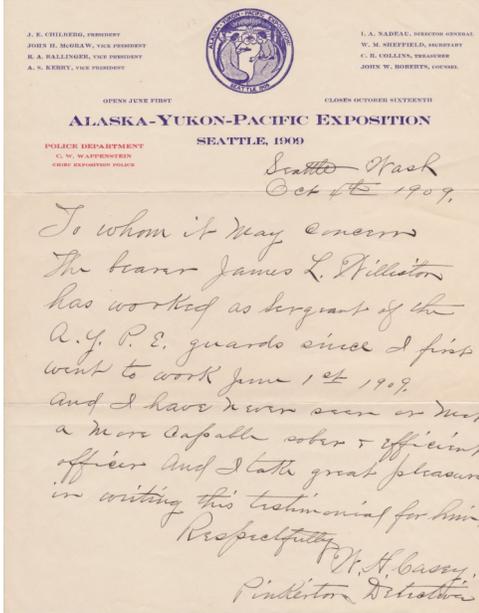
Jerry Taylor thanks Lynnwood Police Chief, Cole Langdon, for speaking at the October meeting. A nice crowd was on hand at The Nile to hear the Chief.



From the Police Museum

By Officer Jim Ritter, SPD Retired, #4710

President: Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum



When Seattle hosted the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition (AYP) in 1909, it was touted as one of the largest World's Fairs in history, attracting enormous crowds and an equally enormous number of criminals. To deal with the high volume of thieves, robbers, and assorted miscreants, Seattle Police request-

ed the assistance of the Pinkerton Detective Agency, which provided additional detectives and services to assist the SPD with this monumental task.

In addition to Seattle police officers and detectives, the AYP employed a guard force of approximately 20 officers to walk the grounds and maintain security. These guards were under the control of the SPD, were armed, and had limited police powers. Upon the conclusion of the AYP, many of the guard's applied to become Seattle Policemen. One of those who likely applied was the Sergeant of the AYP Guards, James Williston, who received this original letter of recommendation from Pinkerton Detective Supervisor W. H. Casey, who touted Williston's abilities as "capable, sober and efficient". Williston was an exemplary representative of the guard force, and his performance during the AYP would likely have offered him significant employment opportunities, as a result.

If you have any historical police related items that you would like to share with the Police Museum, please contact me at: jamesSritter@gmail.com, or at #206-949-9143.

Encourage Family & Friends to subscribe to The Call Box. \$36 per year for 6 issues. Mail to: RSPOA P.O Box 25268 Seattle, WA 98165

The Nile, we have had no room cost. Now we do. Now we are publishing the Call Box on a bi-monthly basis at a cost of about \$3,000 an issue. Our last Retired Officers' Banquet cost almost \$20,000. We saved a significant amount of money by returning to the Range and produced an outstanding event. Everything costs money and everything is costing more as inflation pushes the prices up.

We believe that events like our monthly meetings and the Banquet are very important. Our members seem to be very happy to have the Call Box being produced on a regular basis. These are the things that RSPOA does. A new session of the legislature starts in January, so it becomes incumbent on us to follow the introduction of bills that might impact us and to encourage even a possible repeat of the benefit enhancement we received this year. That effort will have costs as well.

All of this is simply to alert you to the fact that we will most likely be requesting a dues increase for 2024. If we are going to continue to provide the services and activities as we have for so many years, it will be necessary.



Unidentified SPD Officer walks the beat downtown, 1960's

Where Are They Now?

Jon “Greg” Pote #4257

Date of Hire: 8-13-79

Academy Class #115

Retirement: 6-30-2011

Memorable Moments

My first assignment was second watch David Sector with Sergeant Bernie Miller. This was very interesting after growing up in the suburbs of Tacoma. I was there three years before I wanted to work in different areas and moved to the Relief Squad. I was lucky enough, for the 28 years I worked patrol, that I enjoyed every squad I was in. However, my time on the Relief Squad was the most memorable. We had a large squad to also cover foot beats, so we were able to work a lot of Vice and Narcotics operations. I enjoyed being a field training officer and a member of the CISM team during this time. In 1986, I was involved in a shootout with a bank robber on Queen Ann Hill. We won. I moved to the North Precinct near the end of 1990. for the next 17 years. I enjoyed working on CPT. I got to know the people in the community and it was a new challenge. I spent the last four years in TRU. The day shift hours were a welcome change!



Partners & Supervisors

I usually worked a one-man car; mainly because I didn't like the way anyone else drove. Fred Carmony worked an adjoining district with me. He never knew it, but he was my mentor. Both humorous and cantankerous, he took complete care of his district; right down to the parking violations in the 40 block of Clay Street. I worked a lot on the foot beats with Marc Olson, my best friend since 5th grade. After that, we worked METRO together – A LOT! In CPT, Jim Van de Bogart and I worked Boy Sector together. We brought a new meaning to problem solving. When I was working first watch, Mike Deacy and I worked closely together, especially at 0600 when we had breakfast together everyday at the Ballard Smoke Shop with an abusive waitress (LOL – no swearing allowed) and a band of interesting citizens to banter with. I had many outstanding supervisors, too numerous to list. However, the one that stands out the most to me is Steve Butler. He was a huge support for me and my wife after my shooting.

Favorite Police Chief

Chief Fitzsimons was my first and most memorable chief. He was pretty strict, but he wasn't a flake like we were about to experience. The morale in the department was at its best when Herb Johnson was the interim Chief. He put an end to a lot of the nonsense that was going on at the time. I wish his time had lasted longer.

What Do You Miss the Most About SPD

Driving fast in someone else's car and putting dirt bags in jail are the two parts of the job I miss the most. My favorite part of the job was investigating car accidents – the bigger cluster the better!

Life After SPD

After I retired, we moved to Snohomish where the kids could shoot their guns in the back yard. After they were finished with school, we sold our house and moved to Smokey Point. We also purchased a house in Aiken, South Carolina, where our daughter's family lives.

My Family

Patty and I have been married for forty years (unless she kicks me out before November 5th). Our daughter was married in 2015. Her husband was in the





Elaina Cote National Anthem



SPD Honor Guard



Full House



Academy Class Banners



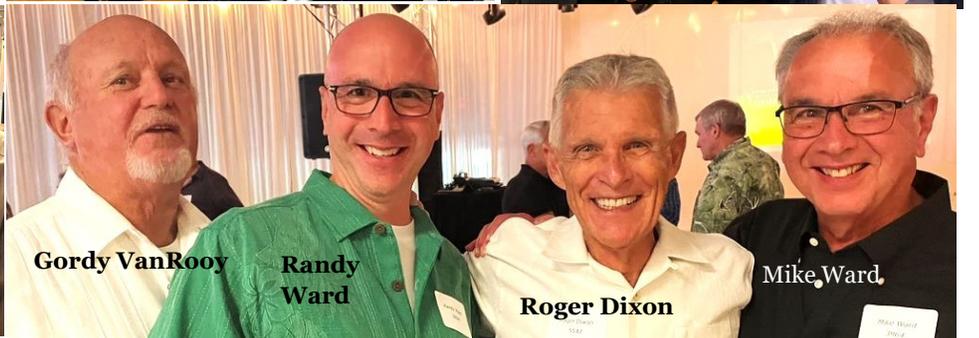
Kevin O'Neill & Steve Olson



Chaplain Scoma & Colleen Nordlund



Roy Skagen & Neil Low



Gordy VanRooy

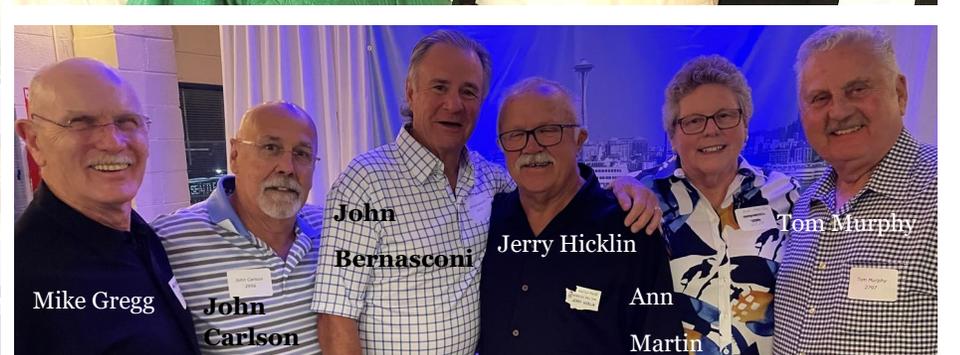
Randy Ward

Roger Dixon

Mike Ward



Dave Reichert & Friends



Mike Gregg

John Bernasconi

John Carlson

Jerry Hicklin

Ann Martin

Tom Murphy



Sandy Bulpin



Pat & Dick Hybak, Frank & Carol Kampsten



Fun Night with Friends

Air Force until they settled in Aiken. We have three beautiful granddaughters. Our son lives locally and works for Boeing.

Hobbies and Activities

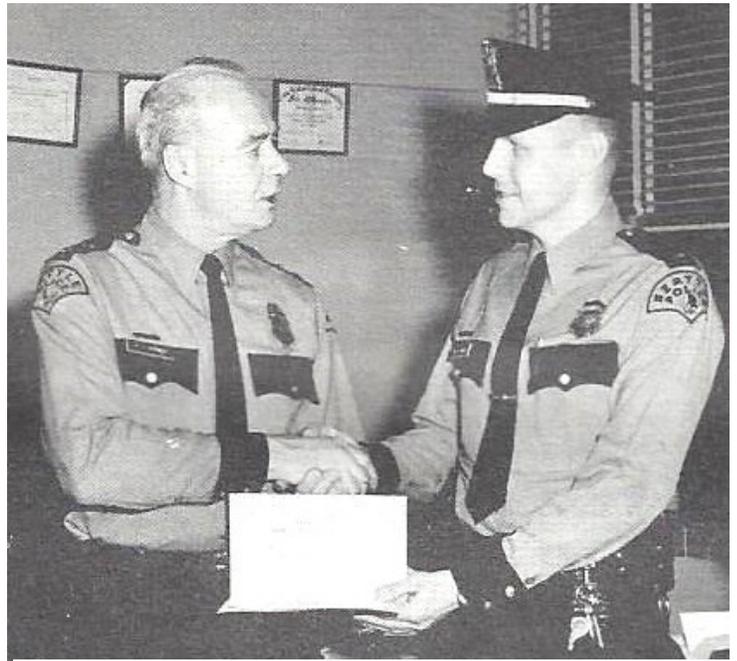
Sprint Car races and sporting events have always been a family favorite. We have always had Seahawk tickets and we enjoy local sports such as the Silver Tips and the Aqua Sox. For the past 20 years, I have played drums in the Praise Band at two different churches. After Marc Olson passed away, I was looking for more activity in my life and I applied to be a volunteer for the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office. I started in February of this year and was told I WAS going to be the North Precinct Volunteer Coordinator. We do mail runs and we service patient care trackers (GPS devices). As coordinator, I am the call out person if someone's device fails, which nets me a take home car. I also deploy a radar trailer wherever I want in my area. Even on our street! Our duties will expand, but we need a lot more volunteers (hint, hint). I am a RAP past president and enjoy attending as many events as possible, as well as RSPOA. We also enjoy traveling and cruising as much as possible.



Picture Quiz

Can you name this Chief and Lieutenant from 1969?

Answer Below



Happy Thanksgiving!



From RSPOA

Call me next week. Right now I'm working on a cold case.



Picture Quiz Answer



That is Chief of Police Frank Ramon congratulating Lt. Roy Skagen (who retired as an Assistant Chief)



Fallen SPD Officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the months of October and November.



OCTOBER

- David Sires 10-16-1881**
- William T. Rumble 10-29-1947**
- Jerry L. Wyant 10-26-1976**
- Timothy Q. Brenton 10-31-2009**

NOVEMBER

- James Wells 11-28-1897**
- Trent A. Sickles 11-26-1935**
- Theodore E. Stevens 11-27-1935**
- Con B. Anderson 11-27-1936**
- Red H. Hull 11-15-1945**
- Robert R. Allshaw 11-11-1968**

Editor's Corner

By Rich O'Neill SPD Retired #4451

2023 is fast approaching the finish line and soon the holidays will be upon us. The 79th Annual Retired Officers Banquet is now in the books. As you've read and seen in this Call Box, it was a very fun night. We returned to the SPAA Range for the first time in a few years. An event as large as the retired banquet, does not happen without people rolling up their sleeves and helping out. I would like to mention a few "Thank-You's" and this is NOT a complete list. First and foremost, was the RSPOA Board who showed their confidence in me and my brother, Kevin, to organize and run the banquet. Next is Fran Smith #4952 and the SPRA Board who generously supported the banquet with much needed funds. Fran and her husband, retired SPD Steve Smith #4953, helped with setting up the pavilion and also stayed around until the wee hours to help clean up the place. So did retired SPD Micheline Kane #6022. Stephanie Coleman, from the pension office, did an outstanding job putting together the photos and slideshow for the Last Ring presentation. Former PEO, Mariana Matthews #4908, donated the supplies and designed all of the table decorations. This year, we had academy class banners for all of the decades up until the 80's, as well as for SPD Officers Killed in the Line of Duty and they were designed by Kathy Durkee #8143 in the SPD Photo Unit. (We hope to get the academy banners for 1980-2000 for next year's banquet). She also helped with the banquet programs. Last but not least, much thanks goes to my brother, SPD retired Kevin O'Neill #5206, who not only did his amazing job as Master of Ceremonies, but helped with just about everything, including hanging lights and "latrine duty!"

Next year will be the 80th Annual Retired Officer's Banquet and we are already discussing ways to make it very special. I would ask a favor. If you have any comments, positive or negative, about this years banquet, please shoot me an email at richo@rspoa.org. We want to tweak a few things for next year and would like to hear your ideas. For next year's banquet we would like to form a Banquet Committee to help with all of the things that need to be done. Some of the tasks can be done from your computer. Other tasks include procurement, reservations, set-up, cleanup, etc. So, if you re interested in helping to make next year's banquet the best ever, please send me an email. All are welcome! Retired, non-retired, spouses, adult children, etc. "Many hands make light work!"

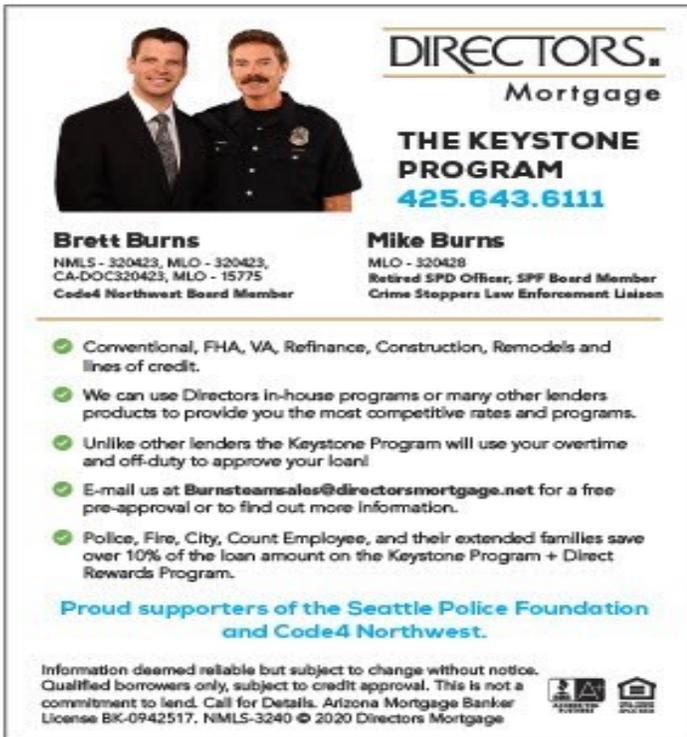
Lastly, let me be the first to wish you and yours a very Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas! The Call Box will return in January!

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

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