



The Call Box



Official Publication of the Retired Seattle Police Officers Association

July 2024 Volume 5, Issue 4

Retired Sergeant Joe Cordas #1878

90 Years Young, His Life Story Up To This Point!

Joe was born in Raymond, Washington and moved to Seattle when he was 11 days old. His father was in the Army, so he lived with his grandparents in Georgetown near the old precinct. They eventually moved to Kent and lived there until WWII started in 1941. They later moved to south Seattle near White Center and he went to Mountain View Elementary School through the 7th grade. Joe attended Cooper School and West Seattle High School when the family moved to Delridge Wy near Bethlehem Steel. On his 18th birthday, Joe joined the Marine Corp. After boot camp, he was sent to North Carolina and trained as a heavy equipment mechanic. Joe was then sent to Korea until April of 1955.

Joe was discharged in May 1955 and stayed in California where he met and married his wife, Sylvia. Joe and Sylvia moved back to Seattle and he took a job at Stack Steel Co. down on Lander Street, near the old Sears. It was a very dirty job. Joe remembers one day when he blew his nose and saw the handkerchief was black! He made up his mind to look for other work and noticed that SPD was hiring. Joe was hired on January 2nd, 1959 and was assigned to Class #39 on the 2nd floor of the old Public Safety Bldg. While in the academy, Joe lived a couple of houses from Chan Kirchner, a narcotics detective. On weekends, Joe worked under cover buys. He made one buy from a woman in the U district who was selling marijuana to UW students.



Row 3 (L-R) R. Ottersen, C. Sorensen, **J. Cordas**, R. Treson, C. Scheuffele, J. Sell, A. George, C. Lambert, D. Cameron, L. Coney, R. Johnson, G. Miller, R. Mobile, J. Ehli, R. Carroll. **Row 2:** J. Farrell, D. Doering, W. Dutcher, W. Hingten, J. Tolliver, B. Baughman, J. Tershin, K. Devaney, F. Jones, R. Wenger, T. Caldwell, C. Parkes, H. Schneider. **Row 1:** E. Bisson, C. Hendrickson, R. Stallman, R. Andersen, F. Espinoza, D. Brasiel, B. Thompson, T. Burns, J. Sanford, W. Stewart, C. Kennon

He bought what was called "a lid". A Prince Albert tobacco can, for \$5. She had much more. He signaled the detectives who arrested her and believe it or not she received a 5 year sentence. Times have sure changed! After the academy, Joe was assigned to traffic, but he didn't like it much and after about 6 months transferred to three wheelers. He worked with Harold Anderson, Gunnar McCoy, Hal Hartsell, Howard Johnson,

The Call Box



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President's Message

By John Nordlund



Welcome to Summer. First, I would like to thank all the people who have sent messages or congratulated me in person, on becoming president of this great organization.

By now, everybody eligible has received their retro pay. Once again, thanks to Mike Solan and his negotiating team for the SPOG contract and acknowledgment to the City for the ratification of the contract. I realize negotiations is always a work in progress.

I hope everyone has marked Saturday, September 14th on their calendar as that is the date of this year's 80th Retired Officers' Banquet. Rich and Kevin O'Neill are busy at work making this year's banquet special. Thanks to the Relief Association for co-sponsoring the event. What a great opportunity to meet with friends, both old and new. Doors will open one hour earlier at 3:30 pm. I bet Phil Cruse will be honored for having the lowest serial number and who will have the highest? As a side note, Michael Burke and I started to attend the banquets in 1970. That year, Mike was awarded a table center piece for having the highest serial number (3140) in the house. R.I.P. Michael.

We are pleased with the attendance at our monthly meetings. Guest speakers have been scheduled for the remainder of the year. However, at times the buffet lunch has not been up to our expectations. Nick is always in discussions with the Navi's catering staff, in an effort to serve a good lunch that falls within our budget.

The Seattle Police Golf Association is in mid-season. Jeremy Fakas is doing an excellent job as the Golf Association president. In June, the 9th Annual Steve Sparby Memorial Tourney was held at High Cedars in Orting. The weather was great. It looked like you could reach out and touch Mount Rainier. Bruce Wind, along with help from Mike Hori and Charlie McClure, have hosted each event honoring Steve. A fun time was had by all.

Wishing everyone a great summer. Thanks...

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Seattle, WA 98165



You Are Invited To The
80th ANNUAL RETIRED OFFICERS' BANQUET



Presented By
**RETIRED SEATTLE POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION
&
SEATTLE POLICE RELIEF ASSOCIATION**

WHEN?

Saturday, September 14, 2024
Doors & Bar open at 3:30 pm
Buffet Line Opens at 5:15 pm
Program, Awards & After Party



WHERE?

SPAA RANGE PAVILLION
11030 East Marginal Way S
Tukwila, WA 98168



COST?

\$40 for Guests, Active Officers & Non RSPOA Members
FREE for RSPOA Members with Current Dues
Catered Buffet Dinner with Appetizers & Dessert
Open/Host Bar & Door Prizes \$\$\$\$

TICKETS?

NO TICKETS AT THE DOOR! NO EXCEPTIONS!

For Ticket Reservations, email : RETIREDSPDBANQUET@YAHOO.COM
or Text 206-992-9516 or 206-218-8920. Include your name, serial # and the name of any guests.

Mail your check (\$40/each) for non-RSPOA members to:

RSPOA, 16215 38th Ave NE Lake Forest Park, WA 98155

Deadline to Reserve Tickets: SEPTEMBER 1, 2024. The caterer needs an accurate headcount. RSPOA is charged by the headcount we give to the caterer.

DON'T WAIT! ORDER YOUR TICKETS NOW!
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MARK THE NARC

By Officer Mark E. "Buzzy" Katzer , SPD Retired #3159

Chapters 3 to 5 (Rainier Beach High School)

Before we executed the insertion, Pat resigned. He had submitted a request for a "Leave of Absence" from the Department, but his request was denied. So he resigned. Another Cadet from those original guys interviewed was brought into the unit. Mike Fann #3493 joined our little unit. He would be the guy going into the school. Here's a note: the only person in any school we investigated would be the Vice-Principal. No one else. Mike attended classes and I picked up litter in the park and mingled with the crowd. I made some hopeful contacts. In fact, I made some "buys." I think Mike did too. Here's how that worked. When I made a buy, maybe marijuana or speed (an amphetamine) or a "red" (a barbiturate) I'd slip off campus and go to headquarters. Once there, I'd hike across the street to the Public Safety Building and go down to the basement where our lab was located. I'd have a preliminary test done on whatever drug I bought to make sure it was "good stuff." If it wasn't, I'd have to return to the dealer and put on an act of hostility. If I didn't do that, the dealer would be suspicious of me. Anyway, after the preliminary analysis, I'd go back to our little office in the Arctic Building and start writing reports. There was a particular strategy we used in writing these "Buy" reports. First, we went through the Com Center and generated a case number. Technically it was called a "S.I.N." Single Incident Number. We called these reports "Majors." Ergo, all following reports related to this incident would be connected. Second, for location of the incident we used a generic Census Tract Number and described the location as "Seattle Area." Third, for time of event, we submitted an overly extended date and time. Fourth, for the suspect description we entered another vague utterance. Fifth, for evidence, we said unknown vegetable matter suspected to be marijuana, or small white tablets suspected to be amphetamines, or red capsules suspected to barbiturates. There were other vague descriptions of things like heroin, acid, cocaine. We filed these "Majors" with the Records Bureau. Follow-up reports could, and would be filed using the same incident number and later after completed analysis of any evidence, that report could be attached. Any of these documents could be attained by an attorney for some drug dealer. He/she could review this information and try to determine if his/her client had made a drug sale to a narc. Since these reports were so vague, the attorney would have no success. We also wrote officer statements. These reports were not available to defense attorneys. In these statements, I would record every detail of the buy I had made.. suspect name, place of purchase, date and time, likely type of drug. I would put a copy of all these reports in a file folder for our office. One of the detectives would review these reports, okay them and "Slick" would sign them. Our plan was to build a file of these reports and later, present them in bulk to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office for warrants to be issued. Then, we would amass our forces and serve multiple warrants.

One chilly midday I was doing my litter control duties. It was lunch break so there was a big group of students hanging around. A kid on a motorcycle drove past the crowd, slowed, and then threw a plastic baggie towards us. He hollered out something like "hey you f***ers, you can have this." Some guy picked it up and yelled out "it's a joint and some pot." A group of guys formed and someone said lets go over by the bathroom and smoke it. Then some guy said lets invite the janitor. (That would be me.) So they did, and I begrudgingly joined them as they migrated away from the street. A circle formed. Probably a dozen of my guys. The joint was lit and it started passing from one guy to the next. I knew of a trick; I could pretend to inhale from the joint by pinching it, and then exhaling frosty air. When it got to me that was what I did and passed the joint to the guy on my right. He was a really big guy. The joint went around again and when I did the same thing the big guy said "hey, you ain't smokin' that." I said "you're right, some strange kid throws us this sh*t for free..?? I don't know what he mighta put on it. I don't do stuff I don't know about." The big kid looked at the joint in his hand, pondered for a moment, then passed the joint to the next guy without taking a hit. The circle of guys had heard most of this and suddenly everybody wandered off. I guess I kind of ruined the party.

Oscar Harriman and others. After about a year and a half, he went to the Patrol Division and worked out of the Georgetown Precinct. After working the desk for three months, he was assigned Car 330 in West Seattle with Ivan Madzuma. Other officers that he worked with were Earl Widler, Steve Kuga and Jack Gottwig. Sgt. Giffen and Sgt. John Lietch were the supervisors. Joe eventually transferred downtown and worked Car 123 with Heldrop.

After a while Joe got to work one of his favorite assignments, the Special Patrol Squad! On that squad he worked with Orin Church, Gary Berman, Dick Reed, Bob Short, Stan Fridell, Riley Brice, the other John Sullivan and Roy Reed. The sergeants were John Lietch, Dixie Dunbar and later Frank Moore. Smoky Wessillius was the Lieutenant.

Joe partnered with Dick Reed for about three years. One night they were cruising under the viaduct and radio reported a cab driver had been robbed under the viaduct. They had just turned up the street and saw the robbers were running. They had the old model 12 shotgun, which were known to sometimes fire when a round was jacked in. Dick grabbed the shotgun and when he jacked the gun, it went off blowing a hole in a large window in a print shop. The robbers froze and were arrested.

When Joe was promoted to Detective, he was assigned to Burglary where he worked with Joe Duty and Billy Sands. He later worked in the Safe Squad, where Art Connelly was the Sergeant. Joe was partnered with George Pavlovich, who had a new joke every day and never told the same one twice.

Joe recalls working with George on a safe burglary at a loan company up on Fairview. The safe had been rolled into one of the small interview rooms and laid on it's back. The guy got a crowbar started in the door and stood on the bar, for leverage. Doing that he placed both hands on the smooth painted walls for balance. They dusted for prints and found ten perfect prints. He was ID'd as the suspect and was arrested.

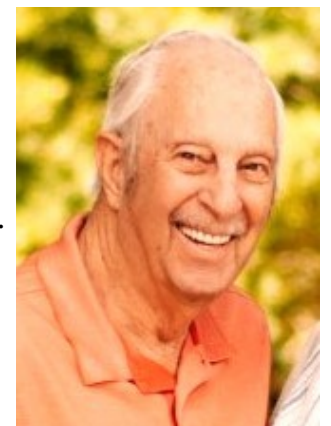
George and Joe put quite a few safe burglars in jail. Joe was promoted to sergeant in 1969 and was assigned to Vice. Tom Witkowski, Mike Patrick, Carl Ahl, Bill Bartlett and John Chytil were in the unit. This was the assignment that Joe liked the least. He said it was a "great crew but a crappy job."

After 14 months in Vice, Joe transferred to Intelligence and worked with Bob Short, Stan Fridell, Roy Reed and George Bechtel. George was under cover for most of the University demonstrations during the 70's and was later assigned to a squad at the airport. Detectives Doug Fritchey, John Chytil and Gail Richardson made many drug busts. They were so effective that they made the DEA look bad, so the DEA took over the assignment from SPD.

After Intelligence, Joe's next stop was in Narcotics. He worked with Bob Holter, Vic Heins, Dick Ingertilla, and Dan Stokke. While there, he was assigned to another DEA task force. He supervised six detectives. That was a 6 month assignment and then after some more time in Narcotics, Joe returned to Intelligence. Joe then went to Auto Theft, where he worked with Gary Lindell, Howard Johnson, Jerry Boyer and Jerry Jorve. Joe remembers one day in the office when an admin asked him how they know when a car is stolen. Joe picked up a pair of binoculars and looked out the office window to the street below. He focused on a Lincoln Continental with Louisiana plates which was parked outside the bail bonds office on 3rd Avenue. Joe ran the plate for stolen and sure enough, it was listed as stolen. The suspect was arrested and Detective Jerry Boyer was able to find out that it was part of a larger theft ring that focused on Lincolns. Detective Boyer was able to clear over 75 more cases. The admin was amazed! Joe said along with the Special Squad, Auto Theft was his favorite. After five years, Joe moved to Fraud and Explosives. He worked with Sgt. J.J. Jankauskas. The Lieutenant was Rod Jackson and some of the detectives were Steve Heard, John Moore and Jon Peterson. Joe thought he would be sent to Redstone Arsenal for training, but the Lieutenant said he was "too old" and that he would have to have "on the job training." Joe learned the bomb squad tactics well and retired from the bomb squad. Looking back, Joe said he was hired by Chief Frank Moore and retired under Chief Fitzsimons. Joe said his favorite Chief was Frank Moore, because "he was a man of integrity!"

After retiring, Joe built a house on some property near Mossyrock, WA which took him about a year. He did a lot of fishing in the Cowlitz river and enjoyed hunting. Joe helped start a food bank in the area and made many trips to Olympia to get food. Joe also served the elderly in the area as a handyman, which he did for over 20 years. For a few years, Joe snow birded to Arizona. He did this until the last few years when it got too difficult to travel.

Joe has been married to his wife, Sylvia for 68 years! They have 3 children, 9 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.



FROM THE PENSION OFFICE

By Stephanie Coleman

1. If you are a LEOFF1 member whose pension falls within the SPOG contract, you may have noticed a difference in your June 30 city check. Lisa Porter worked extremely hard to calculate and issue the retro payments for our members and survivors. It was a long process, complicated by an error that required her to start over once we received the corrected salary schedule, so please thank her for all her hard work! As a reminder, your city check covers any difference between your guaranteed rate (highest rank and years against the current contract) and your State LEOFF check. City checks "escalate" up or down to meet your guaranteed rate with either a new contract or the April 1 DRS COLA.
2. The 2024 Election closed on June 30th, 2024. An announcement about the position will come in the next call box.
3. We have several Reporting Forms outstanding, please be sure to return your documents! If you need another, please contact us at policepension@seattle.gov or call Cassie at 206-684-3375.
4. LEOSA Qualifications - Effective immediately the range has implemented a scheduling process for all future LEOSA Qualifications. To schedule your time please contact SPD HR at email SPD_HRAdmin@seattle.gov or you may not be able to shoot. SPD HR will no longer process LEOSA credentials by mail, it must be done in person. The remaining 2024 LEOSA schedule is as follows: July 16, 2024; August 14, 2024; September 11, 2024; October 9, 2024; November 5, 2024, and November 20, 2024; December 3, 2024, and December 17, 2024. Reminder that the range will no longer issue duty ammo for LEOSA shooters. Bring enough ammunition to shoot the course of 25 rounds or ammo can be purchased from the SPAA store. Guns must be inspected prior to shooting the qualification. Arrive at least 45 minutes early.



Last Ring



George Bechtel #3421, retired Seattle Police Officer, passed away on October 6, 2023, at 81 years of age. Hired: 6-29-70 Class# 65 Assignments: Undercover during civil unrest around UW, North Precinct Patrol, Crime Lab, Retired: 9-6-73 with 3+ years of service. George had suffered a severe off duty motorcycle injury forcing his retirement. George is survived by his wife of 63 years, Barbara, and two daughters.



Arvid Jensen #2359, retired Seattle Police Patrol Officer, passed away on December 25, 2023, at 83 years of age. Hired: 7-31-63 Class#47, Assignments: Patrol West and South Precinct. Station Master, Prisoner Transport Van. Retired: 2-15-2002 with 36 years of service. Arv is predeceased by his wife, Val. He is survived by his son Mark, daughter Lori, and two grandchildren.



Gerald "Jerry" Sampont #3193, retired Seattle Police Detective, passed away on January 17, 2024, at 79 years of age. Hired: 6-16-69, Class#63, assignments: Patrol West, Academy Instructor, promoted to Detective in 1980, Pawn Shop. Retired: 4-22-91 with 22 years of service. Jerry is survived by his wife of 54 years, Louise; his son Joseph; daughter Teresa and her husband Lynn, three grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. Jerry was predeceased by his son, Mike.



Paul "Bob" Jellen #3564, retired Seattle Police Patrol Officer, passed away on February 27, 2024, at the age of 77. Hired: 4-19-71, Class#68, Assignments: Patrol East & North. Field Training Officer, North Pct. Prisoner Van Driver. Retired: 6-30-14 after 43 years of service. Bob is survived by his son Jens, and his daughter Siri.





Last Ring



Joseph Higgins Jr.

#3981, retired Seattle Police Detective, passed away on March 9, 2024, at 72 years of age. Hired: 11-19-75, Class #79, Assignments: Patrol South, Field Training Officer, Patrol West, Patrol East, 1983 promoted to Detective, Sex Crimes, Green River Task Force, Gang Unit, North Precinct Walking beats. Retired: 8-4-90 with 14 years of service. Joe had suffered a severe head injury after being hit by a car while rendering aid at an accident scene. Joe is survived by his close friends Barbara & Sean.



Legal Beneficiaries:

Myo Shears, widow of retired Seattle Police Officer Bill Shears #2240, passed away on April 21st, 2024 at 86 years of age.

Georgia Hutchison, widow of retired Seattle Police Officer Dick Hutchison #2074, passed away on April 22nd, 2024, at 92 years of age.

Richard Miller, widower of retired Assistant Chief Cynthia Miller #4064, passed away on April 26th, 2024, at 69 years of age.

Norma Niemiec, widow of deceased retired Seattle Police Detective Dick Niemiec #2991, passed away on May 28, 2024, at 93 years of age.

Friend:

Boyd Brannan, a longtime member of RAP (Retired Active Police), passed away on June 1, 2024, at the age of 86. During his working years, Boyd was part of the security team for the telephone company and made many friends at SPD.

Please go to www.rspoa.net for more detailed obituaries for all those featured in the Last Ring.

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

TRIVIA QUIZ



McQ, starring John Wayne was filmed in 1973 on location in Seattle, Aberdeen, and the Quinault Indian Reservation in Washington. While filming the beach scenes, the crew stayed at the Polynesian Hotel (The "Poly") in Ocean Shores.

QUESTION: Which SPD Officer featured in the Last Ring had a small part driving a police car in the movie?

Answer at the bottom of the page.



A photo from summers gone by with the SPD Motorcycle Drill Team performing in downtown Seattle. Sadly, due to staffing problems, the entire traffic unit now has less than 12 officers and the Drill Team hasn't performed since 2019.

TRIVIA ANSWER: Several "real life" SPD officers appeared in McQ, including Arv Jensen!

FROM THE POLICE MUSEUM

By Jim Ritter,

SPD Retired Officer #4710,

Seattle's Super Sleuths



In the early part of the 20th Century, the Seattle Police Detective Bureau was in its infancy. Originally formed in 1890, with only one investigator, the sole Sleuth received no formal training, equipment, or technology to enhance his limited skills. Based on historical documentation, criminal confessions were obtained by whatever means necessary to stop crime and ease public fear. Over the next 25 years, very little changed and the success of these dedicated SPD gumshoes relied on their street skills to accomplish their goals. This photograph was taken in February 1915 in the old Seattle Police Headquarters (Flatiron) building. The picture reveals a table that supported, what is likely the manual press used to produce SPD wanted posters & bulletins. Among the standard equipment was a strategically placed spittoon on the floor and a typewriter eerily similar to models used by officers in the Public Safety Building write-up room in 1983!

The two unknown detectives in this photo would likely have laughed at the thought of future laws allowing for a suspect's right to remain silent, rules of evidence and DNA. The same would apply to modern SPD detectives who may grimace about their predecessor's investigative proclivities. These men and the men and women in SPD who have succeeded them, continue to pave the way for future generations of innovative professionals, who continue to hold society's increasingly sophisticated criminals accountable.

If you have historical items that you would like to share with the police museum, please contact me at 206-949-9143, or jamesritter@gmail.com.

WAR STORIES

By Cloyd Steiger,

SPD Retired Detective, #4313

"I ain't going back to prison," he said, rocking back and forth in his chair. "You're going to have to shoot me."

"Charles," I said dismissively. "We aren't going to shoot you." In the back of my mind, I wasn't sure. A patrol officer stood just outside the interrogation room in the Homicide office, a Taser ready in his hand.

This all started a few days earlier when I was called on a sunny Sunday morning. Hydro fans walking to the Seafair hydroplane race spotted a body off the side of the road in a wooded area just west of Lake Washington Boulevard.

After I arrived, I saw it was a nude female. When the ME arrived and we brought her up to the street, I noticed there was a racial slur written on her chest with a sharpie.

Three days of seat-of-the-pants work had culminated in us arriving at the girlfriend of the suspect's house. Charles "Peanut" Jackson was in bed at 3 AM. I used my size 12 universal key to enter.

We served a search warrant at his residence, the basement of his mother's house off South Genesee Street. The unkempt, slovenly basement was reminiscent of a scene from the movie, Seven. There were cans and bottles all over the room filled with urine.

Eugenio Ramirez and I were interrogating Jackson. It was about 4:30 in the morning.

"We were going to have sex," Jackson said. "I bought some beers. She grabbed a can, thinking it was a beer, but it was a can of piss. There was a piece of plastic and the cap from an airline liquor bottle in there, and it went into her throat. She choked. I tried to save her, but I couldn't"

"How many gulps," I asked, "do you think it took before she realized it wasn't beer but old stale piss she was drinking?"

We got a can of orange soda and a plastic back. We somehow found an airline bottle of vodka. Ramirez tore some plastic. "About his much?"

he asked.

Jackson said yes.

He wrapped the lid in the plastic and pushed it into the can. He took a drink. It didn't come out.

"More than that," Jackson said.

Ramirez gulped the entire can down and slammed it on the table.

"Your story is bullshit!" he said.

Yes, Charles. You are going back to prison.



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Terry Goodwin

terryg@duralasthomes.com

Chapter 5 (Rainier Beach High School)

Mike and I made many “buys” and we did our share of paperwork, with approvals by the detectives and a signature by “Slick.” But no arrests would be immediately forthcoming. The plan was to sit on all these cases and then just prior to the Christmas break present them in bulk to the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office for warrants to be issued. Further, juveniles named would be dealt with through the school system, adults would be dealt with through the courts. On a side note, by this time our little unit was relocated to the Juvenile Unit Office on the 5th floor of the P.S.B. We even saw Lt. Terry more often. A task force was assembled and met at the Georgetown Precinct in preparations for a series of raids on various addresses in the area. Mike and I were allowed to participate. Patrol Units were alerted. The Task Force dispersed, multiple units going to various locations. Houses were entered and arrests were made. Here’s a significant event.. one of the units went to a crash pad of kids in Rainier Valley. Detective Carlson was part of that raid. While clearing the house, she came upon a young girl lying in a sleeping bag with one of our suspects. I think his name was Randy. Barbara roused them and noticed that Randy was unresponsive. The girl said he always slept like that. But actually Randy was dead. We later learned he “od” on reds and Rainier beer. There will be a sequel to that event later on..

To be continued..



SPD Bicycle Officers ride in procession at the memorial for Officer Lexi Harris, who died in the line of duty on June 13, 2021.

RSPOA MEETINGS

MAY & JUNE

PHOTOS BY JOHN NORDLUND

The RSPOA Monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of every month starting at 11:30am at the Nile Country Club in Mountlake Terrace. There is a guest speaker, a catered lunch, a fun raffle and most of all, the opportunity to chat with your fellow re-tired officers.



Cherie Skager from the Seattle Police Foundation was the guest speaker for the May meeting and she gave a very interesting presentation on all the great things the foundation does to support the officers on SPD.



Former SPD legal advisor and HR Director, Mark McCarty, was the June speaker. Mark gave a very emotional talk on his efforts to gain line of duty death benefits for the family of fallen SPD Detective, Bryan Van Brunt. Bryan served for almost 20 years and passed on 9-13-2019.



Fallen SPD Officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the months of June and July.



JUNE

William H. Cunliffe	6-17-1911
James M. Forbes	6-21-1974
James H. St. Delore	6-21-1974
Antonio Terry	6-14-1994
Alexandra Harris	6-13-2021

JULY

Enoch E. Breece	7-31-1902
Henry L. Harris	7-04-1911
John F. Weedon	7-24-1916
Robert R. Wiley	7-30-1916
Amos J. Corner	7-05-1924
Harry W. Vosper	7-21-1949
James C. Brizendine	7-21-1955

Editor's Corner

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

This year the Retired Officers' Banquet will celebrate its 80th anniversary! Not many traditions have lasted 80 years, but the retired officers' banquet is one of them! Except for the covid year, when everything shut down, the banquet has been held. It is a great time to celebrate the incredible contributions of so many retired officers. These officers built the foundations that today's officers stand upon. It is a great time to come together, see old and new friends, share stories, "embellish" stories and have a few laughs.

This year the RSPOA will once again partner with the Seattle Police Relief Association. SPRA President, Fran Smith and the board of directors help make this event possible and we couldn't do it without their assistance.

My brother Kevin and I are honored to be entrusted with organizing this special event. This year, there are some important changes. First, the banquet will now be held on a Saturday. (September 14th) We are hoping this change means less traffic and travel time compared to a weeknight. Based on feedback from last year's event, we will be opening the doors at 3:30pm, which is an hour earlier than past banquets. The bar will be open and appetizers will be served as you enter. Dinner and the program festivities will also start an hour earlier. This should assist those who don't like to drive late at night. We also will be making changes to the buffet line, to hopefully shorten the time for everyone to get their dinner. There will be the "Guich Door Prizes" and some other fun surprises, including an "after party" for those who want to keep the party going! No tickets will be sold at the door, so please follow the instructions on page 3 to reserve your tickets. Last year, nearly 400 people attended the banquet and we were packed. Seats are limited, so don't wait to reserve your tickets. One thing is for certain: if you miss the banquet, you will regret it!

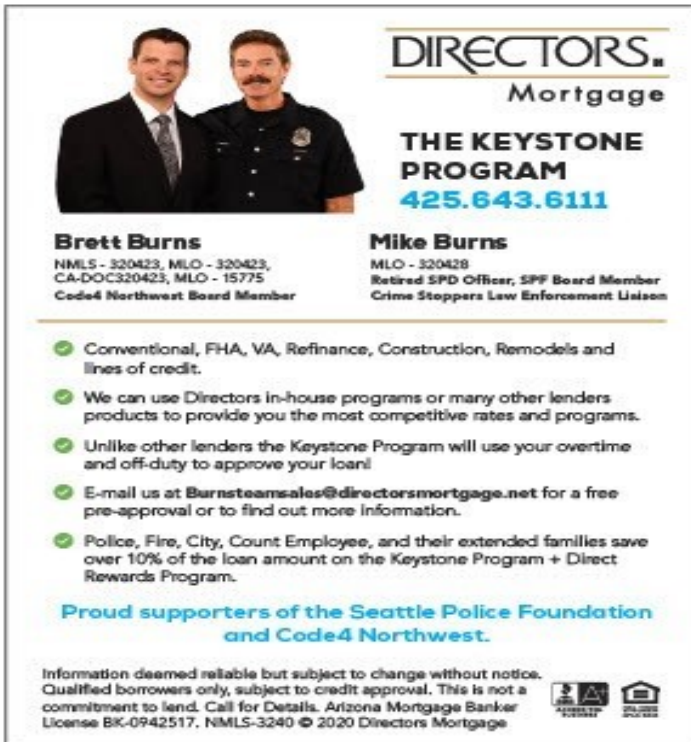
If you would like to help us in any way or if you have adult children or grandchildren who would like to assist us, please let me know. Many hands make for light work!

Have a great summer and please plan on coming to the 80th Retired Officer's Banquet on Saturday, September 14th at the SPAA Range Pavilion.

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THE KEYSTONE PROGRAM
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