



The Call Box



Official Publication of the Retired Seattle Police Officers Association

September, 2024 Volume 5, Issue 5



Looking Back With Sergeant Verlin Judd

Serial #2269

Hired:6-18-62 Retired:6-13-97



Q. Where did you grow up and what did you do before joining the SPD?

I was born in Oklahoma and lived there off and on until I was 10 years old. My parents divorced after WWII and my mother relocated the family to the small town of Springdale in Northeastern Washington, where my grandparents had bought a farm. I left Springdale at the age of 17 when I enlisted in the US Army. I completed basic training at Ft. Ord, CA in the spring of 1954 and our entire unit was shipped to Germany, including one of my fellow trainees, Herbert Johnson Jr. After basic, our company was loaded onto planes and flown to Camp Kilmer, NJ. Three days later we boarded a troopship and sailed out of New York harbor on Easter Sunday of 1954. I was assigned to Company B, 16th Inf. Regt. 1st Infantry Division based in Schweinfurt, Germany. In June of 1955, the entire Division rotated to Fort Riley, Kansas where I served out the rest of my enlistment. I was discharged in Nov. of 1956 and returned to Springdale, where I spent a year doing odd jobs, unloading RR boxcars, digging ditches, and janitorial work in Spokane. In 1958, I saw an ad that the Boeing Airplane Company was hiring in Seattle. My brother-in-law and I drove over, applied, and I was hired. I spent four years at Boeing in different jobs. I did not relish working at Boeing and began taking night classes at the UW with the idea of becoming a teacher.

Q. What made you want to be a police officer?

I was in the habit of searching the want ads to see what else I might enjoy working at and saw an ad that simply read "Seattle Needs Policemen." This motivated me to make the trek downtown to apply. It took almost three months to get through the process. There was a written exam along with a recall element, a fitness exam, a medical exam and finally an interview.

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

No, the group I was hired with were given a three-day orientation, which consisted of one day of firearms instruction. I reported to the South Precinct (Georgetown) where I spent the next nine months before I was assigned to the academy.

Q. What was your academy class number, where was the academy held and who were some of your classmates?

I was in academy class #46, which graduated in April of 1963. Some of my classmates were Gerry Adams, Duane Hoekstra, Arnie McGinnis and Duane Christensen. There was a total of thirty-three, including two women, Jacqueline Phillippy and Marilyn Richardson. Lt. Corr was the academy commander. Sgt. Benner oversaw training along with academy instructors Officers Wallbom and Ron Noble.

Q. What were some of your assignments and which ones did you enjoy the most?

The Call Box



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President's Message

By John Nordlund President, RSPOA



I hope everyone had a great summer. My front lawn reflects the lack of rainfall, but there is nothing like sunshine and clear skies. With the end of summer and the arrival of fall comes the annual events that I look forward to.

First up is the annual R.A.P. picnic in August at the range. Attendance is not like it used to be but again, this year we shared the facilities with Duane Hendrix's cigar smoking group. What a great bunch of guys. Their "War Stories" are much more recent than ours. Enthusiasm for Bocce Ball has waned, leaving the playing fields that Nick and I so precisely laid out unused.

Next comes the retired officers' banquet. Again, I must thank Rich and Kevin O'Neill for the countless hours they spent in hopes of making the 80th banquet the most memorable. Thanks to Vice President Terri MacMillan and Marilyn McLaughlin for preparing the gift baskets for the silent auction. I asked Roy Skagen to invite George Tielsch to attend the banquet. The Chief is now 94 and his mobility is limited, preventing his attendance. He wanted to let everyone know that he was honored and grateful for the invitation. Council Member Joy Hollingsworth accepted my invitation to attend. Joy is the current chairperson of the police pension board. She, along with her fellow councilmembers, are trying hard to undue the damage done to the city and the police department by the previous council. They have a challenge in front of them. Hopefully, a lot of people will welcome Joy and share their thoughts with her.

And finally, the end-of-the-year golf tournament and banquet being held at West Seattle Golf Course. Jerney Farkas did a great job in leading the association. I wonder at the end of the banquet someone might suggest a little "Four Five and a Lovely" just to let some of our newer golfer's experience in the words of the late Jim McKay "The thrill of victory and the agony of defeat." Probably not, but I wish that our still working officers could enjoy the job like we did without having the "Inspector General" hovering over their every move. And remember listening to officers discussing their family problems when radio would interrupt with a broadcast "somebody has an open mike".

I look forward to seeing everyone at the monthly RSPOA meetings at the Nile.

Retired Banquet	Sept 14 3:30pm SPAA Range
Monthly Meeting	Oct 10 11:30 Nile/Speaker Edmonds Chief Michelle Bennett
Monthly Meeting	Nov 14 11:30 Nile/ Speaker SPD Chief Sue Rahr
EARLY WARNING: CHRISTMAS PARTY , Thursday Dec 19th 11:30am at the Nile. Details to come!	
RAP meets every Thursday at the Nile, 11am	

President Nordlund Makes Appointments to the RSPOA Board of Directors

RSPOA President John Nordlund appointed Terri MacMillan #3969 to serve as Vice-President. Terri will fill the vacancy created when John became President, following Jerry Taylor's resignation. Jerry had served as the president for over 20 years. Terri has served on the RSPOA Board of Directors for many years!

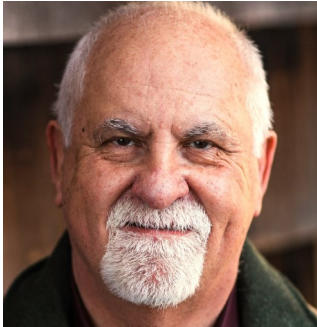


John also appointed two new Trustees. Mike Ward #3964 and Cloyd Steiger #4313 will join the board of directors .



Both Mike & Cloyd have been regular attendees at RAP and the monthly RSPOA meetings. Cloyd becomes the third LEOFF 2 member to join the RSPOA board.

The appointments were approved by the RSPOA board.



ARIZONA SPD CONTINUES THE 931 TRADITION

More than 75 retired SPD gathered again this April in Gilbert, Arizona for the 3rd Annual "AZ SPD 931". The event included a day of golf and then a gathering at the Catching Flights Bar & Grill. Event organizers were Sally Bryant, Kim Seth Anderson and Todd Jakobsen.



The Golfers! L-R: Landy Black, Aaron Sausman, Chris Gough, Todd Jakobsen, Mike Deacy, Shane Anderson, Ed Haynes, Eddie Rivera, Travis Testerman, Eric Sano, Brian Hanson, Joel Nark and Mark Oliphint.



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AZ SPD 931



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Christian MacMillan

FROM THE PENSION OFFICE

BY STEPHANIE COLEMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1. UMR Simple Reimbursement Form: if you are requesting reimbursement for an out-of-pocket expense, please be sure to use the current UMR Simple Reimbursement form. The form has UMR's PO BOX on it. There is not a physical address for mailing. Please be sure to keep a copy for your records in case the US Post Office loses it, and you have to resend it to UMR. You can contact us at policepension@seattle.gov to have a copy emailed to you; give Cassie a call at 206-206-684-3375 or you can go to the RSPOA website and download the form at: https://rspoa.org/pdf/UMR_SIMPLE_REIMB_FORM.pdf
2. If you received a letter from Optum RX (our pharmacy carrier) stating that your over the counter "OTC" prescriptions will no longer be covered at the pharmacy, please disregard. The letter was sent in error and there are no changes to your UMR/RX medical & RX coverage. Optum will be sending a retraction letter sometime soon.
3. The results of the 2024 Police Board Trustee Election are in. Dan Oliver was the sole nominee for the position. Having received 255 valid votes, Dan will serve in this position until June 30, 2027.
4. Reporting Forms: We still have outstanding reporting forms. Please complete these ASAP and return them to us, as we are preparing them for the auditor. Cassie will be contacting those who have yet to turn in the documents. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated in ensuring that the office maintains auditor clearance.



Last Ring



Joseph "Joe" Sanford #1896, retired Seattle Police homicide detective sergeant, passed away on March 12, 2024, at 88 years of age. Hired: 1-2-59. Class #39, assignments: Patrol Wallingford Precinct, 1967 promoted to Detective, 1969 promoted to Sergeant, Organized Crime Intelligence Unit, Narcotics, Robbery, and Homicide. Retired: 1-23-91 after 32 years and he never used a sick day! Joe was personally selected to create and start the new Seattle Municipal Court Marshall's Office, with Joe as Marshall #1. Joe retired from the City Marshalls on 1-21-98. Joe was a founding member of the CORPSE group that meets in Port Townsend as well as our local RAP (Retired/Active Police) group. Joe is survived by his wife of 71 years, Faye. His sons Joe Jr., Bill and Mike; 16 grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren. Joe was predeceased by his daughter Kathy.



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

Legal Beneficiaries:

Judy Laphorne, widow of retired patrol officer Robert Laphorne #2407, passed away on July 13th at the age of eighty-two.

Marie Buckwalter, widow of retired patrol officer William Buckwalter #2018, passed away on July 19th at the age of eighty-three.

Spouses:

Jan Sullivan, wife of retired police detective John L. Sullivan #1346, passed away on June 24, 2024, at 94 years of age.

Ronda Andrews, wife of retired patrol officer Gary Andrews #3769, passed away on June 28th at seventy-two years of age. Gary and Ronda were married for fifty-two years upon her passing.



Last Ring



September 11, 2001

“Never Forget”

Friends:

Yolanda F. Velasco #6558, passed away on June 21, 2024, at 69 years of age. Yolanda was assigned to SPD Records Unit and was hired on August 16, 2000, and retired on after 21 years on May 5, 2021.

Pam S. Cain #5645, passed away on April 13, 2024, at 74 years of age. Pam was hired on January 28, 1991, and retired after 16 years on February 20, 2007. Pam was assigned to SPD’s IT Unit.

For Complete Obituaries, go to:
www.rspoa.net



Total number killed on 9/11 in New York:
2,753

Number of firefighters and paramedics killed:
343

Number of NYPD officers:
23

Number of Port Authority police officers:
37

*Many more have since passed due to the affects of working that day at Ground Zero.

After the tragedy of September 11th, police officers and firefighters from around the country responded to New York City to assist. Many officers left one of their patches as a part of a memorial. SPD was there!

War Stories

By Detective Cloyd Steiger, SPD Retired, #4313

A woman was found dead on the staircase of the St. Regis Hotel downtown (or, as I like to call it, Seizures Palace). At first, it was believed to be an overdose dump, but the next day, when the Medical Examiner started the autopsy, they found a bullet hole in one of her armpits, which hadn't been noticed before. Uh, oh.

Mike Ciesynski and I were assigned the case. We went to the St. Regis and spoke to people who told us that the victim liked to hang out with a group of guys in one of the rooms in the building.

It was about ten o'clock in the morning when we stopped by that apartment. When the door opened, we saw four men sitting in the apartment. The smoke level from their smoking was about at waist level.

We started asking questions about the victim. One of the guys looked very nervous, sitting at a table slamming shots of whiskey and chugging beer.

When we left, Mike and I talked.

"We need to talk to that guy a little more. Let's ask him to come in for a chat."

We prepared a fake lab report. In it, we said that the victim had been tested for DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), and some were located. The DNA was determined to belong to Johnny (not his real name). It ended with "Conclusion: Johnny killed [the victim] .

Russell Weklych, BS MAKR, signed the report.

The guy came in and we took him to an interview room. I handed him the report. "Read this," I said. He took the paper and read it. "I don't do acid!" he said.

I didn't realize what he was talking about. He pointed to the word acid in DNA.

"Just read this line," I said, pointing to the conclusion.

He started crying. We've got him, I thought.

"I've heard about this happening, but I never really believed it!" he said.

"Heard about what?" I asked " About people going to prison for a crime they didn't commit!"

I stood up and helped him to the door.

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www.reliefassociation.org

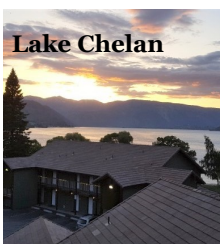


The Seattle Police Relief Association has some wonderful condos for rent at great prices. To enter the drawing and for more information go to

www.reliefassociation.org.

Occasionally, there are cancellations at the condos. To get your name on the list to be called in case there is a cancellation, contact Traci Speziale at 206-817-3807.

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Lake Chelan



Whistler, BC



Sun River, OR



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From the Police Museum

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

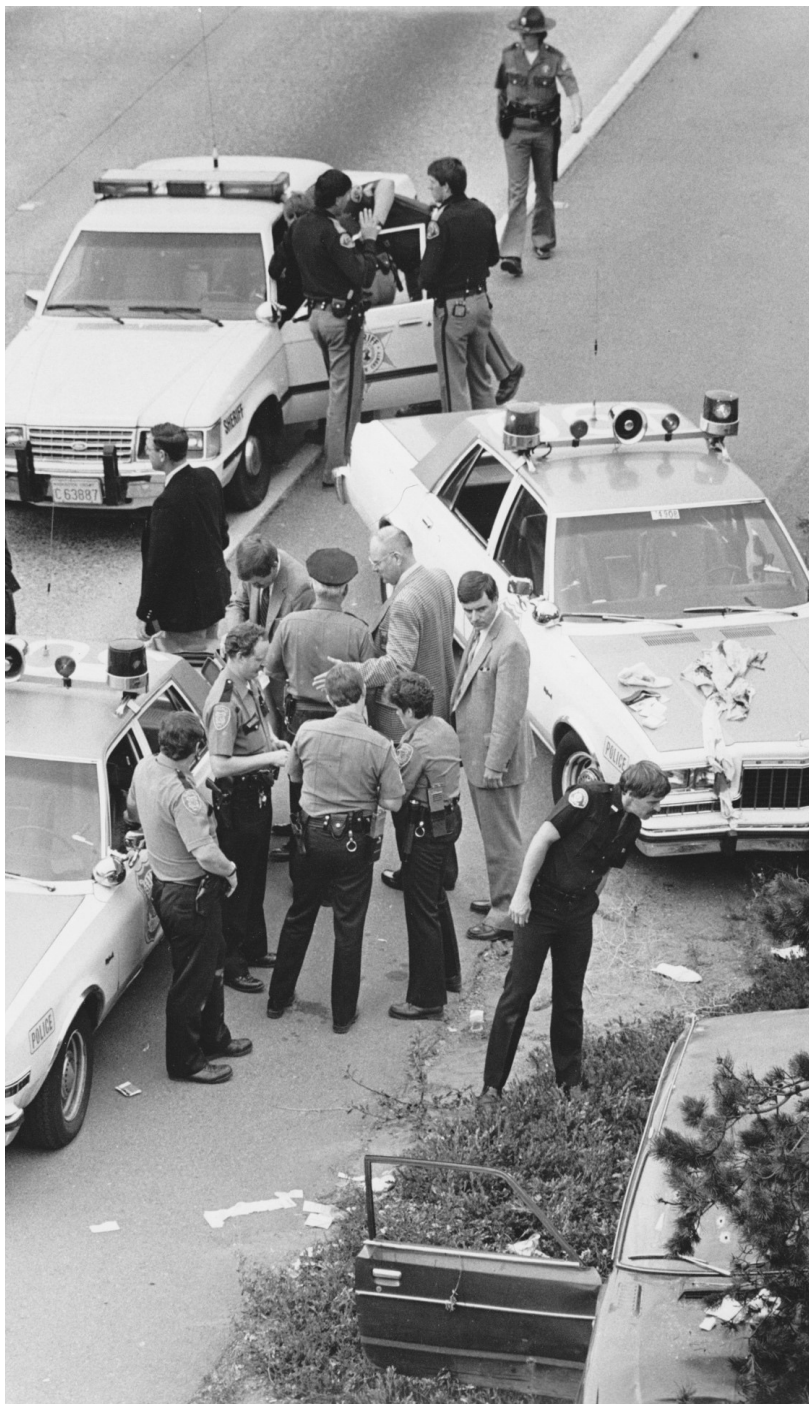
Tragedy, Teamwork & Technology

As you are all aware the dangers of policing are ever-present and we are constantly reminded that our next traffic stop could be our last.

This photograph was taken on October 1, 1985, at the scene of the attempted murder of a Snohomish County deputy sheriff who was shot in the face with a shotgun while pursuing a suspect southbound on I-5 in Seattle. When SPD officers intercepted, the suspect was shot and thankfully the deputy survived. This was yet another example of SPD assisting fellow officers from outside jurisdictions.

This photograph contains a variety of unique historical points of interest that the young officers of today would be horrified to conceive of. These archaic 1985 oddities include SPD patrol cars that had white wheels, Federal "Twin Beacon Ray" light-bars, Motorola "Convert-a Com" (Jerk & Run) radios, no prisoner cages, push bumpers, AM/FM radios, or computers. The SPD patrol cars in this photo were Dodge Diplomats equipped with 318 engines, 4-barrel carburetors, and the traditional 1971 blue and white color scheme. As if this were not "old school" enough, remind the rookies that patrol cars from that era had windows you had to crank to open and close and that we all carried 6-shot revolvers (many of which were WWII surplus)! The SCSO car was a 1984 Ford LTD (the 4-door version of the Mustang).

Of equal interest are the officers, and detectives at the scene of this incident. At the risk of misidentifying some of these individuals-here goes: Mike Brasfield, Rudy Sutlovich, Dave Estes, John Gray, and Don Cameron. I believe the trooper in this photo is future WSP chief, Annette Sandberg. Can you assist in identifying the others?



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

I worked patrol for eight years, four of those were in the south precinct (Georgetown) and four in the north precinct (Wallingford). For the first couple of years north, I rotated shifts and then spent the next two years on third watch. My time in the north precinct was very active. The sector I worked in with my partners ran from N45th on the north to Lake Union on the south and from Fremont on the west to University Way on the east. There were the “spring rites” that occurred around the UW, “panty” raids into the sororities by fraternity members. The late sixties were the era of the “beatniks,” “hippies” and the “flower children.” Drugs of choice were LSD, Meth, and Marijuana. LSD often led to strange behaviors by the users. My first partner was Romero Yumul until his transfer to a follow-up unit. After that, my long-term partners were Bernie Miller then Steve Perkins. In 1968, Lt. Neil Moloney interviewed me for an assignment to the academy as a training officer. I was accepted and became a training officer for class #55, along with Gerry Adams and Ivan Cross. Sgt. Larry McCready was our supervisor. The academy was held on the 2nd floor of the Public Safety Building. In 1969-1970 I was in the Investigations Bureau Administrative Unit – Training coordinator for the Criminal Investigation Division. In 1970, I moved to the Auto Theft Unit until I was promoted to sergeant on Sept.19th, 1970. I then moved to the Investigations Bureau Administration Unit. In 1971, I transferred to the south precinct as a patrol sergeant and in 1972-1973, I moved to the Central Precinct and became the supervisor of George Sector, which ran from Madison Street in the north to S McClellan on the south and from the freeway on the west to Lake Washington on the east. In 1973, I was assigned to the Technical Services Bureau as an administrative aide to A/Chief Neil Moloney. From 1973-1975 I went to the Special Operations Bureau as administrative aide to A/Chief Roy Skagen. In 1978-1982, at the request of Capt. Romero Yumul, I accepted his request to transfer to the Training Division as a supervisor of the Advanced Training Unit. Due to a shortage of instructors in the Basic Unit, I was called on to teach report writing to recruit officers. In 1982-1983, I was back in patrol in the West Precinct on 2nd watch relief squad, until being asked to take the place of Sgt. Al Gerdes in the Operations Bureau Administrative Unit. My responsibilities were to coordinate the FTO Program and the Emergency Response Team. From 1985-1986, I went back to the CSO Unit under Lt. Roy Wedlund pending my transfer to the Commercial Security Unit of the Crime Prevention Bureau, which happened in 1986 and lasted into 1989. From 1989-1993, I moved to the Inspections and Policy Section Inspection Unit. We did audits upon request for other units of the SPD and prepared reports for their commanders. This was a two-person unit; my coworker was Dave Kannas.



Q. Can you share any interesting stories you have as an instructor at the academy?

My experience from basic training officer to my time in the Advanced Training Unit was quite different. 1978-1982 was a period of considerable change to approaching issues on the street. Domestic violence was a hot political item at the time and methods of handling those were being criticized and legislation was pending. We brought in outside instructors to lecture on these issues, which were not always well received by the rank and file.



Q. You worked for many police chiefs. Who was your favorite and why?

I worked for seven Police Chiefs. I did not think about them too much as they were not part of my day-to-day activities. George Tielsch was the most popular chief in my mind. As a representative of the Sergeants Association, I have a picture of me presenting him with a desk pen set when it was known he was leaving the department.



Q. Who was some of your supervisors and which ones did you enjoy working for the most?

I did not have any issues with the supervisors I worked with. Those who stand out in my mind were Sgt. Mackie, my very first sergeant in the South Precinct, Sgt. Don Kelsey North Precinct, Sgt. Lischke in B/T, Harry Schneider in the CID Administrative Unit, Bob Davis A/T, Jim Yearby CSO, Joe Tolliver CSO – Commercial Security Unit, Roy Wedlund CSO Unit, Mike Brasfield Training Section, Al Rasmussen Operations Bureau Administrative Unit. Assistant Chiefs Neil Moloney and Roy Skagen.

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

B/T and/or Auto Theft cases were not that exciting. I had one case of a juvenile burglar, who was the son of a then Deputy Chief. Don't steal a classic car such as a 1956 Chevrolet Impala and park it in your driveway in one case. These folks have clubs and one of those members spotted the car parked in the driveway and called the owner who called the police. I received a case on two juveniles who specialized in stealing VW bugs. They would steal one, drive it until it was low on gas, then park it behind another one and steal it. I was able to clear seven cases by pulling reports and backtracking addresses of reported stolen VW's. Ironically, after being booked into juvenile custody they were sent home and upon returning to work on a Monday morning the sergeant asked me to go up to the city jail and talk to a couple of guys who had been booked over the weekend after being stopped by a patrol unit on Queen Anne in a stolen VW. They were now telling the jailors that they were juveniles. They had lied to the arresting officers about their age and were booked as adults. Apparently, being locked up behind bars in the City Jail was not the experience they liked. When I arrived to question them, I immediately recognized my two juvenile auto thieves.

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

My view would be technology. From receivers in the trunk of the patrol cars, not to mention the switchboards in the precinct; Call Boxes: in the south precinct where I walked beats in West Seattle and Columbia City they were handsets you picked up and called in every hour to the switchboard at the precinct, unlike the telegraph system downtown. I could go on; AFIS, DNA, computers, cell phones, and so on.

Q. What did you do when you retired?

I retired on June 13, 1997. Shortly after retirement, I received a call from Herb Johnson who had also retired and was the Safety Director of North Seattle Community College. He was leaving and needed someone to fill that position temporarily until the college could find someone to permanently fill the position. This was to only last a month, but ended up lasting six months until Jeff Caldwell was hired as the permanent director.

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

I really think being a police officer was a good fit for me. I enjoyed the autonomy you exercised as an officer. I would not discourage anyone from considering a career as a police officer. I will say it is a different scenario out there. Crimes involving firearms were rare in my experience on patrol. Now, it seems, they are an everyday occurrence.

Q. Tell us about your family?

I met my current wife in late 1969 and we were married September 11, 1970. We will be celebrating our 54th year. I have two boys from my first marriage; from my second marriage, I adopted two children who continued to accept me as their father, even though that marriage ended in divorce. I now have two granddaughters, a grandson and two great granddaughters.

After retirement I bought an old motor home from my brother and took it on a major trip around the western U.S. In 2001, my wife Donna and I embarked on a three-month trip around Europe and happened to be in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 9/11, 2001.



Our most recent trip was to Florence, Italy for a 50-year anniversary celebration of the Tuscan Region of the International Police Association. We rented a car to follow in the footsteps of my stepfather, who had fought in the Apennines at the battle of Mt. Belvedere with the 10th Mountain Division in WWII. This took us north from Florence to the north end of Lake Garda then back south to the village of Lizzano Belvedere where the staging area for the coming battle had been located.

Thank you Verlin for the interview and congratulations on a great career!

RAP SUMMER PICNIC

The RAP Summer Picnic was held at the SPAA Range on Thursday August 15th. RAP President Pepper Pramhus did a great job organizing the event! Good Food, Good Friends and a Good Time had by all!



RSPOA MEETINGS

JULY & AUGUST



The July guest speaker was Vivian Olson. Vivian is a 1989 graduate of the Air Force Academy and is currently the president of the Edmonds City Council. The August guest speaker was Brian Burnett, who retired after serving in law enforcement for over 25 years, 12 of those years as the Chelan County Sheriff. Brian is running for a seat in the Washington State Legislature in District 12. There was a full house at each meeting and everyone enjoyed a nice lunch. The RSPOA meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Nile Country Club in Mountlake Terrace. 11:30am start!



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Fallen SPD Officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the months of August and September.



AUGUST

- Harold E.S. Williams 8-21-1931**
- Joselito A. Barber 8-13-2006**

SEPTEMBER

- Albert C. Shaneman 9-14-1913**
- Matthias H. Rude 9-24-1910**
- Edwin Wilson 9-24-1919**
- Robert L. Litsey 9-25-1924**
- Lyle F. Tracy 9-8-1928**
- Emory R. Sherard 9-15-1928**
- Eugene W. Perry 9-12-1930**
- Walter G. Cottle 9-29-1930**
- Ralph H. Ahner 9-13-1932**
- David P. Richards 9-1-1967**
- Dorian L. Halvorson 9-24-1976**

Editor's Corner

By Rich O'Neill
SPD Retired #4451

Fall is approaching and you have undoubtedly seen all the political signs and the commercials. As far as TV is concerned, I think political ads were the reason the "mute" button on the remote control was invented! That said, we can't sit on the sidelines as this is a crucial election for the state of Washington and especially for police officers. Our state is not in good shape and crime and lawlessness are rampant. One only needs to drive down I-5 and see all of the graffiti, tents and garbage. Criminals, when arrested, are released quickly and there are those who still advocate for closing jails! State spending is out of control, taxes are high and yet our roads are in disrepair.

The chief law enforcement officer in the state for the past 12 years is now wanting to be governor. Attorney General Bob Ferguson has been in office for 12 years while things have gotten worse. He did not oppose the legislation that came out after 2020, that made it harder for police officers to do their job. Matter of fact, he actively charged police officers in criminal court as some kind of "accountability!" To watch his TV ads though, you would think he is pro-police and the next coming of Joe Friday or Dirty Harry!

Former U.S. Congressman and King County Sherriff, Dave Reichert is running against him. Dave worked the streets and knows how difficult it is to be a police officer. As a congressman in Washington, DC., Dave worked with both parties to get things done.

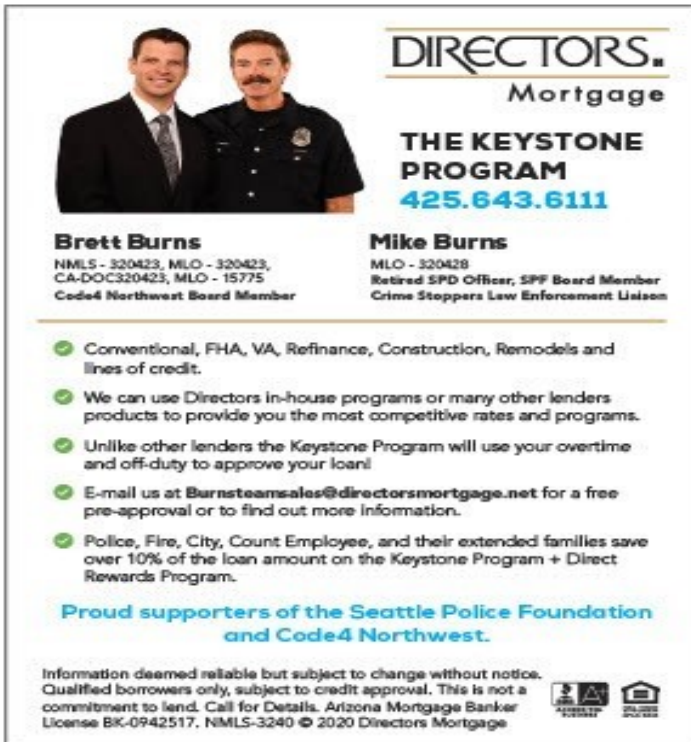
I am not about to tell anyone how to vote! I just urge everyone to truly educate themselves on the issues. Don't take the word of the talking heads in the media and the stuff that comes out of the campaigns. Ignore the letter (D or R) that is after their name. Look at their position on the policies that affect all of us. Look at their track record! In my mind, the most important issue is Public Safety! If you don't feel safe, nothing else matters! Lastly, just VOTE and encourage your neighbors, friends and family to vote! Thomas Jefferson once said, "We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."

The 80th Annual Retired Officers Banquet is on Saturday September 14th at 3:30pm at the SPAA Range Pavilion. I hope to see you all there!

RSPOA

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