

2026.....HAPPY NEW YEAR!.....2026



The Call Box



Official Publication of the Retired Seattle Police Officers Association

January, 2026 Volume 7, Issue 1



RSPOA RETIRED SEATTLE POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

STAY CONNECTED TO YOUR RSPOA IN 2026!



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John Nordlund



Vice-President
Terri MacMillan



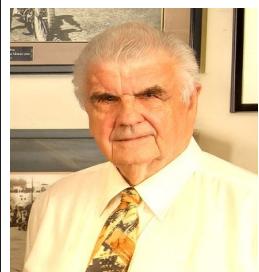
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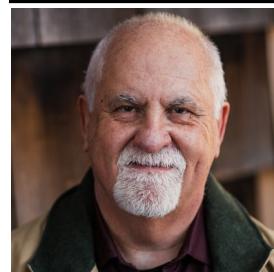
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2026 RSPOA Monthly Meetings

11:30 am at The Nile Country Club

Guest Speakers, Catered Lunch

January 8th, February 12th, March 12th, April 9th

May 14th, June 11th, July 9th, August 13th, October 8th

November 12th, December 10th.

RAP Meets every Thursday at 11am at the Nile.

The Call Box



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President's Message

By John Nordlund President, RSPOA



By the time you receive this issue of the Call Box, a new year will be upon us. I hope most everybody has had a joyful holiday season but, keeping in mind those affected by the terrible flooding. The big issue last year for the RSPOA and continuing into the new year is the legislature's assault on the LEOFF 1 pension system through Senate Bill 5085 and House Bill 2034. Fortunately, the bills did not pass but, were sent to the Select Commission on Pension Policy (SCPP) for further review. I, along with several other RSPOA members and retired firefighters, attended the SCPP hearings in Olympia. In the end, the Commission made no recommendation concerning passage of the bills but, returned them to the legislature. The teachers did not receive this decision well. It was fun to listen to attorneys from Ice-Miller, the State's own law firm, informing legislators that any excess funds in the LEOFF 1 pension could only be used for the benefit of the retirees. For passage, there is language in the bills requiring I.R.S. approval. Ice-Miller informed the legislators that due to staffing, it would be up to six months before the I.R.S. would even acknowledge receipt of the intent letter and another six or more months for any ruling. This is good news for us, but the issue is far from over. The teachers want the money for their COLA's, and they have a strong voice in Olympia. We have joined forces with the retired firefighters. If a bill is passed and signed by the governor, a lawsuit will be filed. We simply cannot let the state infringe on the LEOFF 1 pension.

I was saddened to learn that Chief Fitzsimons had passed. For many years he led the department. The chief was always in attendance at the Retired Officers' Banquet. Last year, I sent out forty-five "Sad News" messages. It is so important that we stay in contact with our friends and fellow retirees. A good way to do that is by attending the monthly RSPOA meetings. Our January speaker will be Mike Solan. February, we have City Councilman Bob Kettle and in March, retired Deputy Chief Eric Barden. By then, spring will be in the air and another golf association season awaits.

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

**82nd ANNUAL RETIRED OFFICERS' BANQUET
AT THE RANGE PAVILION!**

Pension Law Demystified

This article originally appeared in [The Dispatch](#), which is the publication for the Retired Firefighters of Washington.

The Role of Actuaries — Why Their Assumptions Shape How The SCPP Determines How The LEOFF 1 “Surplus” Should Be Used.

When most people hear the term actuary, they think of math whizzes buried in spreadsheets. But for every pension system—especially the Law Enforcement Officers’ and Fire Fighters’ Plan 1 (LEOFF 1)—actuaries are the quiet architects of financial stability. Their work defines whether a plan is considered fully funded, overfunded, or in trouble. And at this stage in the LEOFF 1 pension fund story, the actuaries’ judgments may carry more weight than anyone else’s.

How Actuaries Project Pension Liabilities

In plain English, actuaries forecast how much money the plan will need to pay every retiree—from today until the very last LEOFF 1 widow or dependent passes away. They take into account expected life spans, investment returns, inflation, cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs), and even patterns of disability or survivor benefits. To do this, they create mathematical models—what’s called the present value of liabilities. That figure represents what would be required today, in one big pot, to cover all future pension checks if every assumption proves true. When the value of the plan’s investments exceeds that present value, we call it a surplus; when it falls short, it’s a deficit. But there’s a catch: those results depend entirely on assumptions about the future. A change of just one percent in the expected rate of return or in life expectancy can swing billions of dollars in either direction.

Why Assumptions Matter So Much

For example, in the 2024 Actuarial Valuation Report cited in the LEOFF 1 Study, the plan showed roughly \$6.6 billion in assets against \$4.1 billion in present value liabilities—an apparent \$2.5 billion “surplus.” Yet when actuaries project those liabilities into the future—accounting for everyone’s remaining lifetime—the total liability may rise to \$8.1 billion (using alternate assumptions). In those circumstances that means there’s still about \$1.5 billion left to be accumulated before the last dollar is paid. In other words, “overfunded” doesn’t mean the pension has extra money lying around. It may simply be ahead of schedule in its long-term savings plan. As the study explained, a plan at 100% funding is on time; above 100% means ahead; below 100% means behind. None of those situations guarantees that future contributions—or legislative oversight—are no longer needed.

Actuaries and the Legislative Process

The Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP) depends heavily on the Office of the State Actuary (OSA) to provide unbiased, technical assessments. The OSA is not a policy advocate—it doesn’t decide how pension funds should be used—but it provides the numbers that drive those policy decisions. This year, as the SCPP prepares its report to the Legislature (due January 2026) on Senate Bill 5085 and House Bill 2034, actuaries’ assumptions will directly shape the debate. Both bills touch on the idea of using the so-called LEOFF 1 surplus. But as the Office of the State Treasurer cautioned, changing assumptions—like reducing the expected rate of return—could make that “surplus” appear smaller or even vanish altogether. That’s why the actuaries’ role is so pivotal. They provide the reality check before any “surplus” can be declared, and their models determine whether it truly exists in the first place.

Why Retirees Should Care

For LEOFF 1 retirees, the stakes couldn’t be higher. If the Legislature accepts a narrative that LEOFF 1 is overfunded, it may open the door to proposals to “reallocate” or “repurpose” funds—ideas we strongly oppose. Yet legislators rely on actuarial reports to guide their understanding of what’s safe or fair to do. A cautious or conservative assumption by the actuaries—say, projecting longer life expectancies or lower

FROM THE PENSION OFFICE

BY STEPHANIE COLEMAN, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

1. **Pension checks** are sent on the last business day of the month both for the City of Seattle and DRS. The 2026 schedule is as follows: January 30, February 27, March 31, April 30, May 29, June 30, July 31, August 31, September 30, October 30, November 30, December 31.

2. **Address Changes** - if you're a snowbird or have moved, please contact Lisa Porter to update your mailing address. It's vital we keep your current mailing address up to date! Contact Lisa Porter at 206-256-5127 or Lisa.Porter@seattle.gov.

3. **Your picture** - We have a nice photo display board in our office and noticed we are missing some of your pictures. Please send your pictures to us at Cassidy.fitzsimmons@seattle.gov or you can text them to her at 206-819-4492.

4. **Pay slips** - We have received word that your city pay slips will resume being printed and mailed to your current address on file; we are waiting confirmation of the pay period that this will start in, but we're hoping January!

5. **Tax Documents** - 1099R by federal law are required to be to you by January 31; if you do not receive your 1099R for your city check after this date please contact Lisa Porter at 206-256-5127. Reminder: If you are a Line of Duty Disability Pension, you will NOT receive a 1099R. If you are inquiring about your 1099R from DRS / for your LEOFF check, please call DRS at 1-800-547-6657.

6. **Retired Officer's (RSPOA) Dues** - Approximately 90 of you have your RSPOA dues coming out of your city check and some of you have it out of your State/LEOFF check. For those 90 or so of you having deducted from your city check, that \$120 will come out of your January 2026 check. Questions about RSPOA dues should be directed to Nick Bulpin at 206-919-6425.

7. **2026 LEOSA Qualification Dates**

January 20, February 11, March 23, April 17, May 22, June 11, July 27, August 20, Sept 14, October 5, November 13, December 8.

To schedule your shoot time please contact Emily White in SPD HR at 206-684-5454 or

Emily.white@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 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. All shoots are at 1000 hours and 1400 hours.

RECENTLY DECEASED

William Rhodes #1142, retired Seattle police captain, passed away October 14, 2025, at 100 years of age.

Orville "Riley" Brice #1826, retired Seattle police sergeant, passed away December 4, 2025, at 93 years of age.

Cary Parkes #1895, retired Seattle police lieutenant and administrative assistant to the chief of police, passed away December 12, 2025, at 91 years of age.



Writing a Last Ring takes time, particularly in gathering information. If you can help honor our friends and co-workers by sharing a memory—whether it's good, difficult, funny, or historical—please reach out. Your contributions are invaluable.

Contact me at 206-348-8018 or email stephanie.coleman@seattle.gov to share your stories. Note that some submissions may be edited for brevity. Thank you!

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



Last Ring



Clay Monson #4904, retired Seattle police lieutenant, passed away on December 26, 2024, at 60 years of age. Hired: 5-6-85 Class #183, Assignments: Patrol 2nd West, ERT/SWAT, Promoted to Sergeant, Traffic DUI Squad, Traffic Motors, North Precinct Patrol, Promoted to Lieutenant in 2005, North Precinct, East Precinct Watch Commander. Retired: 6-30-2015 after 30 years of service. Clay is survived by his wife Stacey, his sons, Bo, Dillan, and Callan. Daughters, Paige, Brooke, and Ellie. His granddaughter, Blake, five brothers and two sisters and numerous family and friends.



Dan K. Melton #2711, retired Seattle police detective, passed away December 4, 2024, at 80 years of age. Hired: 6-12-67, Class # 53, Assignments: Patrol, promoted to Detective in 1970, SAU, Homicide, Intelligence. Dan served on the boards of many organizations including the RSPOA. Retired: 1-4-98 after 31 years of service. Dan is survived by his wife of 58 years, Tana; their son Don and daughter Lydia as well as two grandchildren.



Joseph "Joe" Nicholas #2683, retired Seattle police patrol officer, passed away on December 1, 2024, at 85 years of age. Hired: 3-28-67, Class #53, Assignments: Patrol, Promoted to detective in 1970. Burglary/Theft, CID-Special Assault, Media Relations, Personnel-Polygraph, Seattle Center, Explorer Advisor. Retired: 5-2-94 after 27 years of service. Joe is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Lorraine; their two sons Tim and Rob as well as two grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



Frances James "Jim" Johnson #1979, retired Seattle police patrol sergeant, passed away on November 9, 2024, at 91 years of age. Hired: 2-29-60, Class #41, Assignments: Patrol, City Jail, Special Patrol Unit, promoted to Detective in 1969, Public Relations, Narcotics, Background Unit, Promoted to Sergeant in 1977, Seattle Center, Juvenile, Patrol South. Retired: 4-28-92 after 33 years of service. Jim is survived by his sons, Tim and David; his daughter, Patricia as well as four grandchildren and one great grandchild. Jim was predeceased by his wife of 63 years, Vera; their son Michael and daughter Cheryl.



Legal Beneficiaries:

Luann Vanderlaan, spouse of deceased retired Seattle police detective Henry Vanderlaan #3134, passed away on October 6, 2025 at the age of 81.

E. Marilla Kemmis, spouse of deceased retired Seattle police officer Kay Kemmis #1886, passed away on November 3, 2025 at the age of 92.

Sherry Perry, spouse of deceased Seattle police officer Timothy Perry #2602, passed away on September 25, 2025 at eighty-two years of age.

Colleagues and Spouses:

Judy Waltier, spouse of retired Seattle police officer (chief dispatcher) Dave Waltier #2633 and mother of retired Seattle police officer Scott Waltier #6166, passed away on November 13, 2025 at 79 years of age.

Margaret "Maggie" Weyers, spouse of retired Seattle police officer Gary Weyers #2939, passed away on November 17, 2025, at the age of 77.

Arla Simon #2512, administrative staff in the Chief of Police office, passed away on November 30, 2025, just four days shy of her 84th birthday. Arla was hired on August 19, 1965 and retired on January 6, 2004. She was fondly known as the "go to" person in the office and her support was greatly valued by everyone.

Ray T. Nakanishi #3046, fiscal manager, died August 27, 2025 at 84 years of age.

**GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN
MAY THEY ALL REST IN PEACE!**

investment returns—makes the system look less flush, reducing the pressure to divert assets elsewhere. An optimistic assumption, on the other hand, could create a misleading picture of abundance.

The Quiet Power of Numbers

It's easy to think of actuaries as technicians crunching numbers in Olympia. But in truth, they are the keepers of the pension system's integrity. Their tables, models, and forecasts set the boundaries of what lawmakers believe is possible. As the SCPP continues its study, the Office of the State Actuary's October response will likely be the linchpin of the final report. The committee cannot make credible recommendations without those numbers. The actuaries' professional judgment—guided by prudence, accuracy, and independence—will determine whether legislators see LEOFF 1 as a secure, well-managed plan or as a tempting source of "free" money.

For retirees, it's crucial to understand this: the health of your pension depends as much on actuarial honesty as on legislative intent. The numbers don't just describe reality—they shape it.

Bottom Line

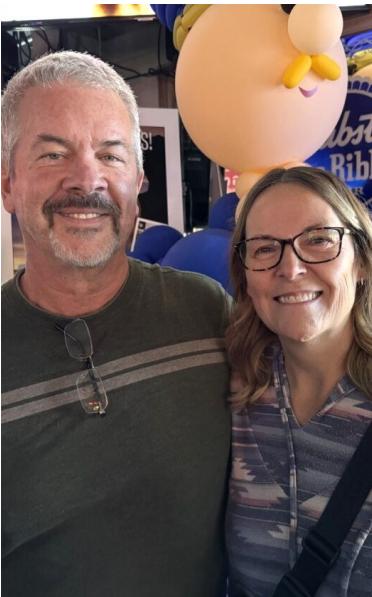
Actuaries don't make laws, but they set the financial ground on which those laws stand. As the SCPP prepares its 2026 report, the actuaries' analysis will carry enormous influence over whether LEOFF 1 remains protected—or put at risk in the name of "budget surplus."

A LEGEND RETIRES AFTER 40 YEARS!

A retirement party was recently held at the Marco Polo in Seattle for SPD Detective Fran Smith #4952. Fran, who is also the President of the Seattle Police Relief Association, retired after 40 years of service! She served in numerous units throughout her career and finished up in the Internet Crimes Against Children Unit.



Detective Smith is presented with a plaque honoring her 40 years of service!



Fran #4952 now joins her husband, Steve #4953, on the "retired side of the road!"

Can You Help the Banquet?

- ◊ Do you know a business who would like to be one of our sponsors?
- ◊ Can you recommend a caterer who can handle 450-500 people?
- ◊ Do you have contact with a beer or liquor distributor?
- ◊ Do you know anyone in the special event equipment rental business?

Contact Rich O'Neill at **206-992-9516**

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Christian MacMillan

WAR STORIES

By Detective Cloyd Steiger, SPD Retired, #4313

I was in the Homicide office on Tuesday, November 22nd, 1994, at about eight in the morning when a call came into the office.

Officers were at a Rainier Valley address off of Lucile Street. A woman was leaving to go to work. When she stepped out of her house, she saw a dead man in her front yard. Even for Rainier Valley, this was an unusual occurrence.

I responded to the scene, along with Greg Mixsell and other detectives. We arrived and found that this man, who appeared to be a transient, had been shot in the back. We processed the scene.

Later in the afternoon, we developed two possible suspects. We took them into custody. They were both about seventeen.

I interviewed the first suspect, who cracked pretty quickly.

"That guy," referring to the other suspect, "is crazy. He just walked up and shot that dude for no reason!"

I later interviewed the second suspect. He was a cocky punk. He denied being involved. I put my hand on his shoulder, trying to be the understanding, fatherly figure.

He looked at me. "Take your hand off my shoulder.

By then, I had had enough of this guy.

"Tell you what, tough guy," I whispered in his ear, "why don't you take it off?"

He just stared at me, not making a move.

We booked them both, but the prosecutor wouldn't charge them based solely on a co-defendant's statement, and they were later released.

A couple of weeks later, I was called in the middle of the night to the Happy Valley restaurant on Rainier Avenue.

I pulled up at the scene. There was a body covered by a yellow police blanket in the lot.

I spoke to a patrol officer.

"This guy," he said, pointing to the dead guy, "walked in at closing, pulled a gun, and tried to rob the place. The owner's son had a weapon of his own. He shot the guy, who ran out the door and collapsed."

I walked up to the body and lifted the blanket.

"Ha! Perfect!" I said.

The dead guy was the punk who had killed the transient.

I had two Exceptional Clearances.

From the Police Museum

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

Seattle's General Strike

Throughout history, the City of Seattle has been classified as a "War Effort City", meaning its vast resources in shipbuilding, steel manufacturing, and aircraft production were essential to the United States government. Following the war, Seattle's shipbuilding unions called for a 5-day General Strike from February 6-11, 1919, involving 65,000 union members to bring non-violent attention regarding low wages, health care, and other work-related conditions in the shipyards. This was the largest strike in U.S. history and involved the collaboration of 101 additional unions along the West Coast that supported Seattle's workers in solidarity. City leaders became fearful that such a large event could be political grounds for a revolution and requested military assistance to assist with crowd control and policing the city.

This photograph depicts soldiers being issued their Seattle "Special Police" stars and .45 caliber semi-automatic pistols by SPD quartermasters. It is unknown if these are Washington National Guard troops or federalized army units. Regardless, this was a truly rare sight, all under the watchful eye of a veteran Seattle Police Sergeant.



If you have any historical items that you would like to share, donate, or sell to the Police Museum, please contact me at jamessritter@gmail.com, or at 206-949-9143.

MARC THE NARC

By Retired Officer Buzzy Katzer #3159



This will be the final chapter of my “Mark the Narc” stories. It will morph into my early years as an Officer working 2nd Watch out of the illustrious Georgetown Precinct.. Siberia as some called it..

I graduated from Academy Class #67 and was assigned to 2nd Watch at Georgetown Relief Squad. Like I mentioned, Georgetown was thought of as Siberia. I was still going to court on some of my drug buys as a Cadet. The following event occurred some time after I hit the streets. I got subpoenaed to Traffic Court #4, His Honor, Charles Johnson presiding. I was sitting in the cop row of seats, awaiting His Honor to enter and I felt tapping on my shoulder. I turned around and saw a familiar face, it was the guy I busted up in the Magnolia area, Gary R. K. He grinned and asked me to step outside so he could tell me something. Beings as I was in uniform and armed, I went outside with him. He was excited as he spoke. He said he was now working for B.N.D.D. (The Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs; the forerunner of what we now know as D.E.A.) He told me about how he was an informant and how one time he hid in an empty refrigerator box spying on some big dope deal. I thought what a twist of fate this was. Later, I talked with some of the Detectives from Juvenile Narcs and they had heard about this. They said he was probably still doing his business with school kids in Magnolia, but he learned of a pharmacist on Mercer Island that was trying to cut in on his turf, so he decided to work with the Feds to get rid of that guy. Ain’t that something?

During those early patrol days, working in the valley, I would come across some of the kids I knew from my time at Rainier Beach. Some encounters were surprisingly pleasant; a few weren’t, but nothing ever came of them.

Anyway, during my early days at Georgetown, I met two officers that worked a plain clothes car in Sam Sector. One of them was named Marty Espinosa and he was one of the best Officers I worked with. I think his serial number was #3003. The other was Dick Niemiec #2991. (As most of you older folks know Dick would later marry my Mom, Norma.) Anyway, Marty knew of my career as an undercover narc cadet and decided to use me in some of the cases he and Dick were working on. At times, I was called in from my patrol duties and assigned to Marty and Dick. I’d change into my civvies and get in my Mustang and head into whatever adventure they had planned for me. Some of those stories will come later.

For those of you that have read these accounts, I hope you enjoyed them, and were able to reflect upon how police work in Seattle was so much different over fifty years ago. Maybe some excerpts from those accounts reminded you of those old times or some of our former colleagues.

As time and space permit, our esteemed editor, Rich O’Neill, has agreed to include some of those later stories in upcoming editions of the “Call Box.”

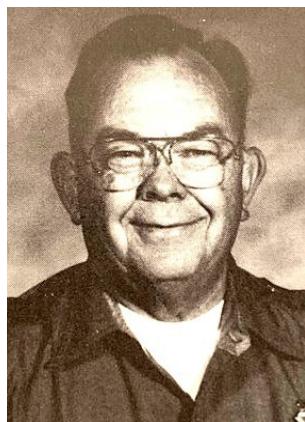
PICTURE QUIZ

Can you name these SPD Officers?

(Hint: One worked Harbor and the other Georgetown)



Answers on Page 9



RINGING IN

By RSPOA Secretary-Treasurer Nick Bulpin

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in 2008. It is very relevant today, as the department still faces hiring challenges.



Chief Frank Ramon

The Seattle Police Department is currently experiencing difficulty in attracting qualified officers. I have a possible solution, why not resurrect the most successful program ever developed, the Police Cadet Program. Police Chief Frank Ramon instituted the Cadet Program in 1959. It was designed to entice qualified people. Too young to be a police officer, into law enforcement before they were lured into another profession. To qualify for the program you had to be a high school graduate between the ages of 19 and 21. You were required to pass a typing test of 30 words per minute within six months of your hire date. You were required to take monthly tests based on the police manual and periodic training bulletins. The cadet was assigned to serve in a clerical capacity in the Central Complaint Bureau. At Precincts One, two and Three., they served as patrol clerks. They also served in the city jail, property room, ID Bureau, detectives and the Records Bureau.

The cadet was required to wear a moon tan uniform. He had no police powers and was forbidden from carrying a firearm or the use of the department firing ranges. The cadet served for 32 months or until the age of 23 when it was possible to take a test to be promoted to Police Officer. If the cadet reached the age of 23 prior to completing the 32 month program ,he would compete for hiring with other candidates outside the program. The usual assignment was for four months in each capacity with the exception of the jail and patrol where they would spend six months. At one time, the cadet program lowered the minimum age to 18 and the program was extended from 32 to 36 months. The cadet had to meet the minimum standards of height, strength, physical ability which were the same standards required of those applying for a position as a police officer.

What this program did, was not only attract potential police officers, but gave the cadet vast experience with the inner workings of the department. The cadet had the opportunity to decide if police work was in his future. It also gave the department a chance to observe a potential employee and judge him on his merits.

The program lasted from November 1959, until November 1975. Ninety-seven cadets were involved in the program, most of whom became very good police officers. Many of them climbed the ranks within the department. Another benefit of the program is the time served as a cadet could be applied to eventual retirement. There were three classes of cadet: (A) hired under RCW 41.20 and completing the program before 1971, when LEOFF came into effect. (B) hired under RCW 41.20 and completing the program after 1971 and (C), those hired after 1971. The program was cancelled in 1975 as the city deemed the program was too expensive.

The main reason Chief Ramon instituted the Cadet Program was to get high school graduates interested in police work. The next reason was, with the World's Fair on the horizon in 1962, the cadet would free up sworn officers that were doing clerical work and allow them to return to the street and prepare for the World's Fair.

So, my solution would be to reinstate the cadet program for the same reasons as mentioned above and put more officers on the street.



Big Happenings in 2026

- ◆ Seattle is a host city for the **2026 FIFA Men's Soccer World Cup**, hosting six matches at Lumen Field from June 15-July 6.
- ◆ Its also America's 250th Birthday on July 4th.

Picture Quiz Answer

Sgt. Donald Grasby #1525
Officer Mike Crist #3389

RSPOA MEETINGS NOVEMBER & DECEMBER



MORE DECEMBER PHOTOS



In November, Randy Trettivek, son of Jerry Trettivek, #2155 gave a very informative talk on senior living options and the costs associated with each option.

DECEMBER CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

December 11th was the Annual Christmas Luncheon. Everyone had a great festive time. Everyone, except the pig that was on the buffet table!



A full house enjoyed the festivities and a great lunch!

Kevin O'Neill played the Christmas tunes and even sang a few, like Elvis, of course.



Sandy "The Grinch" Bulpin & John Nordlund



Ken & Kathy Jakobsen



Stephanie Coleman & Annette Scheneck



Sandy & Nick Bulpin with Tim Devore



A tasty catered lunch.



The pig has seen better days!



Shawn & Eleanor O'Kinsella



Festive Tables



A crowd favorite is the Guich Raffle. Several attendees went home a "little richer!"



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

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

Editor's Corner

By Rich O'Neill SPD Retired #4451

Happy 2026! Back when I wrote police reports, I used a lot of "white-out" correction fluid during the month of January. That first month, I was always writing the previous year for the date. Now, the computer probably enters the correct date for the officers!

It is said that the best New Years Resolution is not to make any New Years Resolutions! I'd like to suggest an exception to that rule. As the Call Box front page headline states, Stay Connected With Your RSPOA in 2026! The RSPOA offers many ways to stay connected. First, is make sure your dues are up to date, so you stay on the email and Call Box list. The emails throughout the year keep members updated on important information regarding our pensions or upcoming social events. The emails also inform members of the "sad news" when a retired officer passes away. Stephanie Coleman, in the pension office, alerts us when there is a funeral service for that retired officer. I know it means a lot to the families when former colleagues show up to honor their loved one.

You can also stay connected by attending the monthly RSPOA luncheons or the weekly RAP meetings. Both are held at the Nile in Mountlake Terrace which is right off the freeway. I know of members who pick up some of our "more senior members" and drive them to the luncheons. Where else can you get a catered lunch for \$10?

There are also officers who get together for coffee on a regular basis. Ask around and I'm sure you'll find a group near you! Heck, there is an ever growing group of SPD retired in Arizona who get together and socialize.

We have a significant number of retired officers living in assisted living facilities. Many of them would love to have a visitor to chat with and reminisce about the old days. Contact our pension office and they can let you know who would love to have a visit. The important thing is to stay connected!

Another way to stay connected is to make plans to attend the **82nd Annual Retired Officer's Banquet** this fall. The date has been set for **Saturday, September 26, 2026** and, once again, we will be at the SPA Range Pavilion. We have sold out the last two years which is great. Where else can you go to one event and see so many of your former co-workers?

The song we hear every New Year's Eve, Auld Lang Syne, asks "Should old acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind?"

I say, absolutely not! Don't forget the old acquaintances!

STAY CONNECTED IN 2026!

Wishing you a Happy & Healthy New Year!

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