

The Call Box



Official Publication of the Retired Seattle Police Officers Association

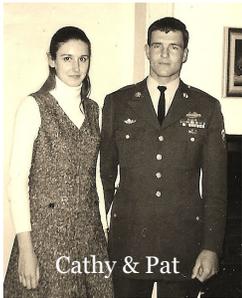
March 2026 Volume 7, Issue 2

A Chat with Retired Officer Pat Wright #3115

Hired: 4-15-69 Class # 60 Retired: 7-30-83
Soldier, Police Officer, Family Man

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

Thanks for sending the questions. This sticky old memory needs prompting. Seattle was my home until the last few months of high school. I graduated from Issaquah High School while working part-time as a hod carrier. There was little time to contemplate the future as my draft notice arrived while I was still in class. After training, I was assigned to Vietnam as a rifleman in the 173rd Airborne Infantry for two years. I got scuffed up a few times which allowed for some recuperation time in Japan. A couple of the more notable events were Operation Junction City (the only combat jump during Vietnam) and the battle of the slopes (Hill 875 near Dak To).



Cathy & Pat

What made you want to be a police officer?

When I was discharged, I went back to construction, but my new bride was not thrilled sleeping in my parents' basement and watching me fall asleep in the early evening. The city was hiring bus drivers and police officers. I knew I didn't want to drive a bus.

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

No, it was early spring in the late 60s, and demonstrations and riots were being kindled frequently, so it was soon all hands on deck. After a few months, Class 60 began on the second floor of the Public Safety Building. By virtue of the alphabet, Jim Yoshida and I had our heads pressed against the back wall of the classroom. The other side of that wall was the target wall of the indoor range. The thumps behind our heads kept us from falling asleep in class. Summer came and the riots hit hard once again, and Class 60 hit the bricks. When things cooled down in the late fall, Class 60 resumed. This time it was on the second floor of the Georgetown precinct. It was above the fire department. Fire warmed up their trucks under us every morning and Class 60 fought dozing in the fumes.

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

After a few years in patrol everyone has war stories. Mine range from slapstick to lethally serious. They should remain in that sticky mess.

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

Technology. I don't want to sound like I started in the dark ages, but you decide. My first assignment was to 3rd Watch Patrol West Precinct. For a rookie, that meant working in the hole. The hole could be a circus or you might spend your shift doing secretarial duties, or driving the old Black Maria. You might also end up filling relief on one of the Pioneer Square or First Avenue Beats, which I began doing with regularity thanks to Lenny O'Neil. On the beats, if dispatch needed you, the hole could flash the street lights. When it was

(Continued on page 3)

The Call Box



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President's Message

By John Nordlund President, RSPOA



Is Spring in the air? At the time of this writing, I am still waiting for the first significant lowland snowfall. Maybe we have escaped the winter snow. By now, it will be known if the legislators compromised our pension through the passage of SHB-2034. I know there is language in the bill stating our current LEOFF pension will not be changed and that the new pension law will not go into effect until 2029, but just the idea that politicians would raid a well-funded pension to help fill the money gap in a poorly planned state budget, is just not right. The contract between the state and the retirees has been violated and it will not go unchallenged. Hopefully, everyone wrote messages to their district representatives and senator objecting to this assault on the LEOFF pension system.

Our monthly meetings continue to be well attended. Thanks to everybody who takes the time to attend. Thanks to Bob Kettle for speaking at our February meeting. Eric Barden is scheduled for March and reps from Behind the Badge will speak at our April meeting. At the February meeting, Lady Bug Catering served the buffet. Lady Bug will be on site for this fall's retired officers' banquet and promises there will be plenty of food. More on the banquet in Rich's column.

A final word about Judi Smith. In January Judi passed away. Back in 1968, her late husband Jerry and I were in the same academy class, number 56. In later years, Jerry became the mayor of Mountlake Terrace and Judi was an important member of the community. Judi never missed an RSPOA meeting and she was at RAP every Thursday, always laughing and smiling, enjoying all her friends in the police family. It was a pleasure to have known Judi, she was a special lady and she is missed.



January Meeting saw John Nordlund congratulate outgoing SPOG Pres. Mike Solan and welcome Kent Loux to the position.



February Meeting's guest speaker was Seattle City Councilman, Bob Kettle, who spoke about the SPOG & SPMA contracts.

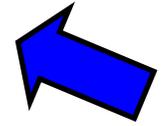
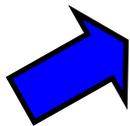
SAVE THIS DATE!

82nd Annual Retired Officers' Banquet

Saturday, October 3rd, 2026

SPAA Range Pavilion

(Ticket information coming soon)



your code, you would go to your call box and call in. There were portables, but they were limited and they had to be checked out at the property room. Beats didn't qualify because we had call boxes. Imagine my amazement, when a few years later, I found myself sitting at the Chief Dispatcher console with a wide array of dispatchers and operators receiving and dispatching calls in front of me by both phone and radio. There wasn't even a button to flash the street lights.

What did you do when you retired?

I tried my hand at a number of different jobs, most of them in the construction line, but the one I liked best was working for a chandlery firm as a driver/stevedore. The best description of that job was like a cowboy bringing home the herd. The sailors on those ships loved to see me coming.

Looking back over your career, is there anything you would do differently?

Oh, of course, but remembering and publishing my mistakes is not a favorite hobby.

Tell us about your different assignments on SPD. Which one did you enjoy the most and why?

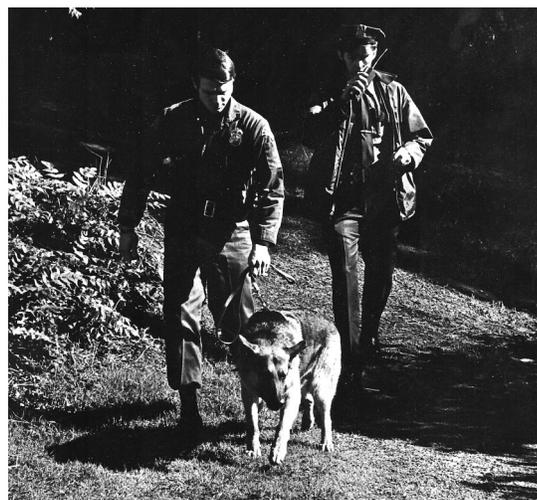
Like almost everyone, I started in Patrol and when the opportunity came up I jumped to the beginning Canine Unit. Arno was my dog and on our first day on the street Arno made the first canine arrest. The arrest was for assault and robbery. Unfortunately, an elderly lady's hip was broken in the incident, but Arno got his man. My suspect got away temporarily. That evening, Chief Tielsch was hosting a party to introduce the new Canine Unit to the media. It was Christmas time and Arno's mom dressed him in a jaunty red bow for the occasion. Arno was, of course, a big hit.

Arno was my only police dog. He was family. When he retired Arno lived out his remaining years happily with his family.

After Canine, I went to Radio and Patrol Administration. Then I was moved to Public Information. In a while, Al Schrader moved into the office. Al was one of the funniest people I ever met and he could really sing. We would go to coffee or lunch, and I would end up laughing until my ribs hurt.



Al Schrader
#1897



March, 1972. Pat with K-9, Arno and Officer Phil Davis #3077 (on radio).

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

George Tielsch because he had innovative ideas and he didn't let them lay around undeveloped. Herb Johnson because he was always thinking about the troops.

Who were some of your partners?

Emett Kelsie. When Emmett spoke, I listened. I learned how to be a cop from Emmett.

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

Most everything I could say would be irrelevant, except, "Keep your nose clean."

Tell us about your family.

My wife, Cathy, of 57 years became a geophysical oceanographer and later a hospital administrator. We adopted a young Ethiopian girl and today she is a supervisor at Microsoft. While our daughter was growing her career, I had the privilege of caring for our two grandsons one week a month while she traveled for work. This continued from preschool through high school. Today our grandsons are both graduates of Ivy League colleges (Wharton and Yale) and working in finance in the tech industry. You bet, I'm proud of our family.

What do you miss most about being on SPD?

Like most everyone else, I miss the camaraderie. Some of the most interesting people in the world work right next to you.



Emett Kelsie
#2794

FROM THE PENSION OFFICE

BY STEPHANIE COLEMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1. Leoff 1 Boards – Many LEOFF 1 Disability Boards have vacant member representative positions. Without a LEOFF 1 police officer or firefighter serving, members may not have direct peer representation when medical claims, disability benefits, and retirement matters are reviewed. I encourage you to check with your city or county to see if they have a LEOFF 1 Disability Board and whether they need a police or firefighter representative. These positions are usually filled by active or retired LEOFF 1 members. In some areas, there are no LEOFF 1 members available, and LEOFF 2 members have been asked to serve instead.

By volunteering, you can help ensure LEOFF 1 members in your community are properly represented and supported.

2. Moving and or a Snowbird? Remember to let us know where to send your US Mail to. All mailings are sent to the current address you have on file. If you move, we need to know. Please contact Lisa Porter at 206-256-5127 or Lisa.Porter@seattle.gov

3. Honoring those who served - One of the most meaningful things we can do is honor those we served with. While we are notified when a LEOFF-1 member passes, we do not always learn about the passing of LEOFF-2 members or civilian colleagues. If you hear of a passing, please email me at stephanie.coleman@seattle.gov so we can include them in the Call Box and recognize their service. Thank you for helping ensure no one is forgotten.

You may notice that some of the names listed in this issue reflect passings from 2025. I recently subscribed to the **Association of Retired Seattle City Employees (ARSCE)** newspaper and received several past editions, which included death notices we had not previously received. You can find them at www.ARSCE.ORG.

4. Annual Reporting Forms - We will be mailing out the Annual Reporting forms on April 1. Please be sure to get these back to us as soon as possible. We plan to be at the Nite the first three Thursdays of the Month to notarize forms for you if you attend. Please bring completed forms with you to the meeting.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Patrick S. Fitzsimons #4192, retired Chief of Police passed away on December 16, 2025, at 95 years of age.

Sonny Hancock #1961, retired Seattle police sergeant, passed away on December 24, 2025, at 95 years of age

John L. Sullivan #1346, “Radio Jim” retired Seattle detective, passed away on January 13, 2026, at 96 years of age.

Ronald Sylve #3537, retired Seattle police lieutenant, passed away on January 29, 2026, at 79 years of age.

William Kroon #1840, retired Seattle police lieutenant, passed away on January 29, 2026, at 94 years of age.

Leroy Reed #1691, retired Seattle police sergeant, passed away on February 7th at 94 years of age.

Patrick Dempsey #2219, retired Seattle police detective, passed away on February 7, 2026, at 92 years of age.

Carl Christensen #2480, retired Seattle police officer, passed away on February 11, 2026, at 80 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!



Last Ring



John Larson, Jr. #2060, retired Seattle police detective, passed away on December 24, 2024, at 87 years of age. Hired: 7-25-60, Class #42, Assignments: patrol Georgetown, Traffic Motorcycles, Patrol west Seattle, Mayor's Security, 1976 promoted to Detective, IIS, Auto Theft. Retired: 9-15-90 after 30 years of service. John passed away on Christmas Eve 2024. He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Marjorie, his children Jennifer, Brian and Colleen as well as three grandchildren and one great grandchild.



Larry Brotherton #5284, retired Seattle police sergeant, passed away on December 9, 2024, at seventy-five years of age. Hired: 9-7-88, Class #224, Assignments: Patrol, CPT, Gang Squad, Anti-Crime Team. Retired in 2014 after 26 years of service. Larry passed away on December 9, 2024, in Port Charlotte, Florida. He is survived by his wife, Alice Faye; and his children, Larry Brotherton, Jr., Angelic Sparks, Matthew Hammerle, Richard Levans as well as nine grandchildren, ten great grandchildren, and many whom he considered family.



Steven Quint #4059, retired Seattle Police Lieutenant, passed away on December 15, 2024, at the age of 69. Hired: 12-10-75, Class #85, Assignments; Patrol East, patrol West, Research Unit, 1980 promoted to Sergeant, South Pct., 1984 Promoted to Lieutenant, 1st west Pct, Seattle Center, Academy, Retired: 10-17-89 after 12 years of service. Steve is survived by his sister Susan, brothers Robert and Howard, and seven nieces and nephews.



Gone But Not Forgotten
May They Rest In Peace

Visit www.rspoa.net for complete obituaries

Legal Beneficiaries:

Judi Smith, spouse of deceased retired patrol officer Jerry Smith #2876, passed away January 10, 2026 at 84 years of age.

Melissa Forsell, spouse of deceased retired Seattle police sergeant detective Phillip Forsell #2323, passed away on January 15, 2026 at the age of 76.

Lenora Hanson, spouse of deceased retired Seattle police officer Vincent Hanson #1632, passed away on January 28, 2026, at the age of 80.

Millicent DeForest, spouse of deceased retired Lieutenant Bob DeForest #1483, passed away on February 3, 2026, at the age of 97.

Colleagues and Spouses:

Gary Mikelson #3310 served with SPD from 1970 to 1978. He retired from the Port Townsend PD in 1992. Gary passed away on January 27, 2026.

Pat Wendt #4569, retired Parking Enforcement Officer passed on January 30, 2026.

Julia Monet #3729, retired Parking Enforcement officer passed away on June 8, 2025.

Antonia Concepcion #3857, retired Police Data Technician, passed away on May 24, 2025

Gloria Tortorice #2971, retired Administrative Specialist I, passed away on June 3, 2025

Verita Pullins #5375, retired Administrative Specialist I, passed away on March 5, 2025.

Friends:

Kathleen "Kitty" Peterson, Police Pension Office, passed away September 27, 2025.

SPD AZ ANNUAL "931"

Date: April 16, 2026

Time: 1300-1600

Address: Ovation at Meridian Club House
39837 N Maddox Road, Queen Creek, AZ
85140

Cost: \$20, BYOB

Contact Kim at 206-794-7393 for reservation

WAR STORIES

By Detective Cloyd Steiger, SPD Retired, #4313

I read about the murder of Sylvia Durante, a young waitress who worked at the original Red Robin at Eastlake and Fuhrmann. She hadn't shown up for work one night in the fall of 1979. Friends went to her apartment on Bellevue Court East. A manager let them in. She was found dead, bound and gagged on her bed, having been raped and murdered.

The case was initially assigned to Dan Melton and Gary Fowler in Homicide. They worked hard on the case, but it still wasn't solved when I read about it in 1996.

I ordered the case file from the vault. There could be something that could be done now. The case file was in a large box. I saw how much work Melton and Fowler had put in. Some fingerprints were found. I sent them through to AFIS to see if there was a match now. There wasn't.

Another interesting fact was in the file. A known serial killer, not known at the time of the investigation, Randy Woodfield, AKA The I-5 killer, had stalked a nurse from University Hospital the same week as Sylvia's murder. Perhaps he'd killed her, I thought. Woodfield was serving life at the Oregon State Penitentiary. I thought about just going there and asking him. He had nothing more to lose. I decided to work on the case in my spare time. The problem was that I rarely had spare time.

I was in the Homicide office on a Sunday, alone, when the main phone line rang. I answered. There was an older man on the phone. "Our daughter was murdered years ago. We just came into town and wondered if we could speak to someone about it."

"Is this Mr. Durante?" I asked. There was a pause, and then he said, "Yes." I told them to come to the front door of the building, and I'd meet them. I brought them into the office and pulled out the file. They were pleased to see how much work had been done. I told them I would continue to work on the case.

Eventually, the Cold Case Detail was formed. My old partner, Greg Mixsell, went there. I told him about the case.

"You have to work this one," I said.

He took the file and eventually resubmitted all the evidence. DNA was recovered that wasn't available at the time of the investigation. It matched a suspect. William Bergen Greene was charged with the murder.

When the case went to trial, and Greene was convicted, I saw Sam Durante in the courtroom.

It was very satisfying.

From the Police Museum

By Officer Jim Ritter, SPD Retired, #4710

We Have Your Number!

As our more senior members are aware from their youth in the SPD, call boxes were still an integral part of policing. Seattle was one of the first major cities to install these dynamic communication devices in 1890 and utilized the Gamewell Police Telephone and Telegraph System for the following 80 years. Historical records indicate that as of January 1, 1922, Seattle had installed hundreds of police callboxes throughout the city, each being assigned a large brass number plate on the front door indicating the geographic location, or "beat." By the early 1970's, modern communications had made the antiquated 100-pound cast-iron callboxes obsolete, and they were ordered to be removed. City electricians wasted no time in throwing the boxes into a large pile, destroying most of them in the process. Before their disposal, a small number of officers were "tipped off" about the box's demise and managed to rescue a small number of boxes prior to their disposal. It is estimated that fewer than 20 SPD call boxes exist today, with less than 10 being complete with their brass number plate and internal telegraph system. The Police Museum has 6. The photograph below depicts callbox numbers and their corresponding locations in Precinct 1 (downtown), with additional pages containing locations from throughout the city. If anyone has a callbox and would like to know the location it served, please contact me, and I will be happy to assist.



POLICE PATROL BOXES PRECINCT NO. 1	
Box 12	1st Ave. and Yesler.
Box 13	Railroad Ave. So. and Washington St.
Box 14	1st Ave. S. Bet. R. R. Way and King St.
Box 15	Washington St. Bet. 2nd Ave. & Occidental.
Box 16	4th Ave. So. and Main St.
Box 17	1st Ave. So. and Connecticut St.
Box 18	4th Ave. S. and King St.
Box 19	6th Ave. S. and Yesler Way.
Box 20	Maynard Ave. and Dearborn St.
Box 21	2nd Ave. S. and Jackson St.
Box 22	1st and Seneca St.
Box 23	3rd Ave. and Union St.
Box 24	4th Ave. and Pike St.
Box 25	3rd Ave. and Madison St.
Box 26	Western Ave. and Columbia St.
Box 27	Railroad Ave. and Madison St.
Box 28	Western Ave. and Union St.
Box 29	3rd Ave. and Cherry St.
Box 30	Western Ave. and Seneca St.
Box 31	3rd Ave. and Battery St.
Box 32	1st Ave. and Cedar St.
Box 33	12th Ave. S. and Jackson St.
Box 34	5th Ave. and Cedar St.
Box 35	2nd Ave. and University St.
Box 36	Railroad Ave. and Union St.
Box 37	Bell Street Dock.
Box 38	1st Ave. S. and Main St.
Box 39	Westlake Ave. and Harrison St.
Box 40	1st Ave. and Pike St.
Box 41	1st Ave. and Virginia St.
Box 42	5th Ave. and Pike St.
Box 43	Broadway and Denny Way.
Box 44	Westlake and Roy St.
Box 45	4th Ave. and University St.
Box 46	7th Ave. and University St.
Box 47	7th Ave. & Stewart. (S. E. Co., Dispatcher)
Box 48	2nd Ave. and Madison St.
Box 49	1st Ave. and Madison St.
Box 50	7th Ave. Bet. Cherry and Columbia St.
Box 51	Terry Ave. and Terrace St.
Box 52	Yesler Way Bet. 13th Ave. and 20th Ave.
Box 53	17th Ave. and Jefferson St.
Box 54	12th Ave. and Yesler Way.
Box 55	5th Ave. and Washington St.
Box 56	5th Ave. and Union St.
Box 57	14th Ave. S. and Massachusetts St.
Box 58	Jefferson Park Golf Links
Box 59	Terry Ave. and Madison St.
Box 60	Broadway and Madison St.
Box 61	16th Ave. and Madison St.
Box 62	Denny Way and Madison St.
Box 63	Yesler Way and Interlocken Blvd.
Box 64	14th Ave. N. and Harrison St.
Box 65	19th Ave. N. and E. Prospect St.

If you have any historical police items (photographs, documents, uniforms, badges, or other items you would like to share, donate, or sell to the Police Museum, please contact me at 206-949-9143 or JamesRitter@gmail.com.

FAREWELL TO THE CHIEF



Patrick S. Fitzsimons, 95, passed away peacefully on December 16, 2025, in Seattle—on what would have been his late mother’s birthday. He died overlooking the city he served with honor, where he restored trust, morale, and effectiveness in the Seattle Police Department as Chief of Police from 1979 to 1994.

Pat was born in New York City to Irish immigrants, Patrick and Mary Fitzsimons, both from Dublin. He graduated from Fordham University, served in the U.S. Marine Corps, and went on to earn his law degree from Fordham Law School. It was there he met his future wife and lifelong partner, Olga, beginning a bond that lasted over sixty years.



PATRICK S. FITZSIMONS
13 APRIL 1930 – 16 DECEMBER 2025
FUNERAL MASS
7 JANUARY 2026
CHAPEL OF ST. IGNATIUS
SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

*Whether you think you can, or you think you can't -- you're right."
-- Henry Ford*

He joined the New York Police Department in 1957 as a patrol officer and rose through the ranks to Assistant Chief before being appointed Chief of Police in Seattle. Along the way, he completed a fellowship at the Harvard Center for Criminal Justice in 1973 and lectured at several universities.

Pat’s leadership in Seattle earned national attention. He was elected Chairman of the Major Cities Chiefs Association and retained an emeritus title after his retirement. FBI Director Louis Freeh appointed him to lead several national boards, where Pat helped shape the FBI’s crime reporting standards and modern communications infrastructure.

Pat was relentless in his work and unwavering in his commitment to the community. He had a lifelong love of basketball—coaching, refereeing, and mentoring youth—and was deeply engaged in church and civic life. He attended services across denominations and visited every neighborhood in Seattle as part of his outreach.

Together, Pat and Olga were a force—mentoring, coaching, and befriending thousands. They quietly and generously supported churches, schools, universities, and charities, always giving anonymously.

But Pat’s proudest role was as Olga’s partner who passed in September 2024. Their love was visible to everyone around them. In recent years, Pat overcame every obstacle to be by her side. He longed to be reunited with her and was ready for that next journey.



Chief Fitzsimons and Chief John Diaz



The Chief with Ofc. Roy Ellis and Ofc. JD Elliott



This picture was taken by A/Chief Roy Skagen when he had lunch with the Chief in late 2024. Chief Skagen gave him a RSPOA pin.



The SPD Honor Guard stands guard at the Chief's funeral mass at St. Ignatius Chapel at Seattle University.



SPD Motorcycle Unit escorted the Chief to his final resting place at Calvary Cemetery in North Seattle.



Olga, Rich O'Neill & the Chief at a retired banquet

MARC THE NARC

By Retired Officer Buzzy Katzer #3159



As I mentioned in the closing of the January 2026 issue, I was morphing from Cadet to Officer and working with the 2nd Watch partnership of Marty Espinoisa #3003 and Dick Niemiec #2991. They worked a plain clothes car and by this time, I had acquired the nickname “Buzzy.” One day I was on patrol in Rainier Valley and got called back to the Georgetown Precinct. Marty and Dick cleared it with my Sergeant, I think it was Ed Stovall #1698. Marty and Dick had a snitch in South Park, a young gal named Maria. Maria had an infant daughter and she lived with her grandmother in an apartment in the 8800 blk of 14th S. Also living in the apartment were her two brothers. The estranged father of her baby lived in the area, but is not relevant to this story.

I changed out of my uniform and grabbed the keys to my Mustang. Marty and Dick led me to South Park and introduced me to Maria. She was a cute, young Hispanic girl. We hit it off immediately. My role would be her new boyfriend. My Mustang would be an added bonus to my cover. Maria would be a source to a major drug dealer in South Park. He was a bedridden guy named, Thomas S*****. He was reported to be selling drugs, especially one named Purple Dome, a hallucinogen. I made a buy and shared my reports with the Narcotics Unit. A Detective there would work the case. Meanwhile, I hung around with Maria, her grandma and her brothers. Maria and I drove around in my Mustang and did a bunch of posing. I would later make another buy from some other dude. But a significant part of this story was that Maria’s brothers, who knew I was a cop, introduced me to some other dudes that lived in the complex. Those dudes were thieves. I wiggled my way into their trust. They had a plan to break into a warehouse in Tukwila that housed high-end photography stuff. It was called Trek Photography and was located on Trek Boulevard. It was near a railroad spur. They would hide a stolen pistol in the railroad ballast. They also had a stolen Mustang. In fact, they let me drive it around South Park, I guess because I had a Mustang. Here it gets interesting...they hid the car in another big apartment complex just south of the city limits. I took note of the license plate number and later, when I was back at the precinct, I logged in to the computer system and put an alert in the system. In effect, if an officer ran the plate, he would get a message saying “leave this car alone, it is under surveillance by SPD and is part of an active investigation.” This was fun..!!

Anyway, this little gang planned a date for the break-in. I wouldn’t be part of it, but the two brothers would. They had grandiose plans for how to subvert the alarm system and get inside. They claimed to have a fence already lined up to sell the loot in Alaska. They would use the stolen car for transportation and they had already planted the gun. We were ready.

We had our own taskforce on stake-out that included: Marty, Dick, a couple other SPD guys, and about four Tukwila guys. So, they hid out in the weeds surrounding Trek, in a steady rain. That went on for two nights. Maria and I drove to Tukwila P.D. and sat with Tukwila Chief of Police, John Sheets, in his office and listened in on his police radio for details. On the second rainy night, the gang showed up. I heard radio transmissions that were nearly comical. One officer reported seeing one of the bad guys throw rocks at an alarmed door and a radio call came in from ADT, the alarm company. I suggested to the Chief to intervene and keep his units at bay. Another Officer announced that one of them managed to get inside. Then all hell broke loose. The guys on stakeout closed in, along with two K-9 units. Everyone was running, some away, some chasing. One guy got bit and unfortunately it was one of the brothers. One of the bad guys, a minor, managed to get away but was later arrested. The stolen car and gun were recovered. No property was stolen and three of the gang were put in jail. The brothers were spirited away such that the gang dudes wouldn’t suspect them, or peripherally me.

What a thrill that event was for me, a young patrolman.

RSPOA

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP FOR NON-SWORN SPD RETIREES

Per the RSPOA By-Laws, a person is eligible to be considered for "Associate Member" status if that person worked for and retired from the Seattle Police Department. This non-voting membership is \$50 per year. Associate members will receive the Call Box newsletter and be included in all RSPOA announcements by email.

RSPOA APPLICATION FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Please fill in completely.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Birthdate: _____

Hire date: _____

Retirement Date: _____

Job title while on the department: _____

Serial # _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Dues are \$50 per year, Please mail this form and a check to:

RSPOA

16215 38th Ave NE

Lake Forest Park, WA 98155

Questions? Contact Nick Bulpin at bulpin@comcast.net or (206) 919-6425

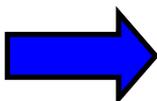
PICTURE QUIZ

Can you name this officer?



Answer

Upside
down



RSPOA CALENDAR

March 12 11:30am Meeting at The Nile

Guest Speaker: Former D/Chief Eric Barden

March 17 St. Patrick's Day

April 9 11:30am Meeting at The Nile

Guest Speaker: Behind the Badge Reps

RAP meets every Thursday at 11am at The Nile.



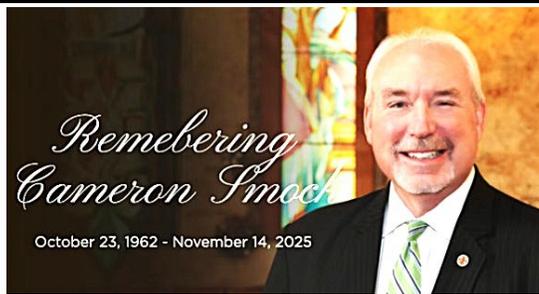
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Picture Quiz Answer

A Life of Service Behind the Scenes

Remembering Cameron Smock

By Gary Fox, Kent PD (retired) and Ty Elster, Seattle PD (retired)



The officers in the photos are from left, front to back:

- Ty Elster, SPD Honor Guard (retired)
- Frank Kampsen, SPD Honor Guard (retired)
- Clayton Powell, SPD Honor Guard (retired)
- Gary Fox, Kent PD Honor Guard (retired)
- Rick Armstrong, Kent PD Honor Guard
- Justin Davis, Kent PD Honor Guard

In 1994, as the Seattle Police Department mourned the line-of-duty death of Officer Antonio Terry, a quiet but transformative act of compassion set a new standard for how fallen officers and their families would be honored in the Pacific Northwest. That moment marked the first time Cameron Smock—then Director of Bonney Watson Funeral Home—became involved in a Line of Duty Death (LODD). It was also the first known instance of a funeral home assuming the full financial responsibility for honoring a fallen officer, caring for the family, and supporting the department, without charging a single dollar. What began as an unprecedented gesture became Cameron Smock’s life’s work. Deeply affected by the experience, Smock emerged as a tireless advocate for law enforcement families. He committed to waiving all funeral-related costs associated with LODDs and personally contacted funeral homes throughout the Pacific Northwest, urging them to do the same. He organized seminars and provided instruction on how funeral professionals could best support families and police departments during what are often the most painful and overwhelming moments of their lives.

Although he wasn’t in law enforcement, Smock’s impact on law enforcement was profound. Over the years, he became a trusted and respected presence within the LE community, eventually joining the Board of Directors of the Behind the Badge Foundation, an organization dedicated to supporting law enforcement families. He later served as president of the foundation’s board, continuing his advocacy well beyond his professional role. Those who worked with him often remarked that Cameron Smock had done more for law enforcement than many sworn officers. While he was not a “brother in arms,” he was affectionately regarded as a favorite cousin—steadfast, compassionate, and unwavering in his support of the law enforcement family.

Cameron Smock passed away after a battle with cancer in November, 2025. A celebration of his life was held on December 6, 2025, at Highline Christian Church in SeaTac, where family, friends, and members of the law enforcement community gathered to honor a man whose service left an indelible mark.

In a testament to the respect he earned, the Seattle Police Honor Guard and the Kent Police Honor Guard served as pallbearers and rendered civilian honors—an uncommon tribute that under-

scored the depth of Smock’s connection to the profession he served so faithfully.

Cameron Smock’s legacy lives on not in headlines or medals, but in the countless families he helped carry through unimaginable loss, and in a standard of compassion that continues to guide how fallen officers are honored today.



Fallen SPD Officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the months of February and March.

FEBRUARY

- Judson P. Davis 2-23-1911
- Fred D. Carr 2-25-1973

MARCH

- Charles O. Legate 3-17-1922
- Olaf F. Wilson 3-31-1935
- Frank Hardy 3-12-1954
- John E. Bartlett 3-9-1968
- Gary Lindell 3-13-2002
- Jackson V. Lone 3-16-2005

Editor's Corner

By Rich O'Neill SPD Retired #4451

So much to write about this month, but I've narrowed it down to these:

1. The Washington State Legislature is continuing to propose bills to take funds out of the Leoff pension system. The latest bill passed the House and is now in the Senate. It is **HB 2034** and it would remove BILLIONS from Leoff 1. Although I am a LEOFF 2, I know that if they are successful with raiding Leoff 1, Leoff 2 will be next. Email and call your legislators and tell them to vote NO! If you are out of state and not a Washington voter, you should still call and voice your opinion. Our pensions need to be left alone!
2. The Legislature is also considering a bill that would give a state board the right to remove a sheriff that was elected by the people. They obviously don't like that some counties elect their sheriff. These sheriffs answer to the voters and can't be controlled like appointed police chiefs can be. The chief serves at the pleasure of the mayor. This is **SB 5974**. Let the legislators know your opinion on this proposed bill.
3. Due to scheduling issues, the Retired Officers' Banquet will be held on **Saturday, Oct 3rd** at the range pavilion. (we previously said it was September 26). Last year, we saluted the Motorcycle Drill Team. This year, we will be saluting, "Women in Policing." Seattle has a long history of women police officers. As with the drill team, we hope to display pictures, artifacts and memorabilia from all the decades. If you have photos or other items, please get them to me or Terri MacMillan. You will get them back!
4. Lastly, I had the privilege of attending the funeral for Chief Fitzsimons at St. Ignatius Chapel on January 7th. Retired Captain Jim Dermody gave a wonderful eulogy that honored the Chief, not just as a law enforcement leader, but as a person. In late 2024, A/Chief Roy Skagen told me how he had lunch with Chief Fitzsimons and how touched he was to receive a RSPOA pin. Chief Skagen encouraged me to write to him, so I did. I wrote a short letter in which I thanked him for hiring me in 1980 and taking a chance "on a 21 year old guy recently out of the Army." I thanked him for his words of wisdom as we were hired: "keep your sense of humor, nobody likes a cop with a big badge, keep outside interests and the classic, don't wreck my cars." I told him his contributions to SPD will never be matched and his decision to hire me allowed me to have a wonderful career and to provide for my family in ways I could only imagine when I was growing up. May he rest in peace!

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Contact Rich O'Neill or
Nick Bulpin for info.

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