OFFICIAL BALLOT 2016
Houston Police Retired Officers Assn.
READ INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

Mark One, and ONLY One box in each position.
Vote for a nominee OR write in a name.

- President
  - Steve Rayne

- 2nd Vice President
  - M.D. Beale

- Board Secretary
  - Sue Gaines

- Board Position #1
  - Steve Toth

- Board Position #3
  - Jim Ashby

- Board Position #5
  - Bob Barnard

- Board Position #7
  - Anthony Kivela

Ballots Must be Returned by August 8, 2016

Blast from the Past:
An Unexpected Landing (8/23/1970)

A police helicopter Saturday was flying over the southwest part of Houston when its engine suddenly lost power. The pilot, J. W. Coon, made an emergency landing in a field one mile north of Westheimer at Wilcrest about 12:30 p.m. Saturday.

Neither Coon nor the observer on board, E. L. Rich, was hurt. The helicopter was returned to Hobby Airport on a flatbed truck.
When I turn on the TV news every evening, or read the Houston Chronicle newspaper every morning, I am bombarded by visual or printed messages about police action, some good, but mostly negative. I think that we all, both whites and people of color, can agree that “all” lives matter. But the “black lives matter” seems to get an unusual amount of coverage by the media. We know that sensationalism is what draws attention, and indirectly sells space in the newspaper and advertising time on TV. But I believe that all of this attention has fostered an increase hatred toward police, and a breakdown of law and order.

Within a matter of one week, we have seen increased attacks on police officers in Texas and other parts of the nation. Five officers were assassinated in Dallas, Texas, with several others wounded, one being a black female officer. In Baton Rouge, Louisiana, just this week (at the time of writing this article), three police officers were assassinated and three others were wounded, after responding to a false report of gun fire near a store. This was purely an ambush set up by a man who had become “radicalized”, not by ISIS, but by the main stream news media with it’s daily bombardment of news items depicting bad judgment actions by a few police officers out of the tens of thousands of police officers all over the U.S.

Now, is it any wonder that police officers feel that by wearing their uniforms, they have put a “target” on their backs. And, is it any wonder that there is a feeling of abandonment and no support from the very citizens that police are sworn to protect in all instances, both small and large, misdemeanor and felony.

In light of these recent developments, some police departments have gone back to 2 man patrol cars, while other departments leave it up to the discretion of the individual officers as to when they will pair up on patrol. This is a prudent decision on the part of command, but is difficult to implement when a department has diminishing number of officers due to retirements and lack of recruiting and training. Recruiting, training and retention, with retention a major problem when a department does not maintain a high level of benefits to it’s officers, is a great problem.

Among the benefits today, without a DROP program, officers look at base salaries, health insurance and lastly, “retirement.” It takes a few years on the job before today’s officers begin to think about retirement. It has on many occasions been said, pun intended, young officers think about extra jobs and paying child support before retirement. But as some of those officers start getting close to the twenty year mark in their careers, they begin to see the importance of a good retirement benefit, particularly since they will have little or no Social Security benefit in their future.

It is vastly important for us to maintain a “Defined Benefit” pension plan, especially ours that has a COLA (cost of living adjustment) written into the law that protects it from wanton invasion by politicians who wish to reduce or eliminate the plan, and replace it with a 401k type of pension that would not sustain a retiree for the long term.
HELLO TEXAS SUMMER!!! Two months ago we had our almost common spring floods and now it is 95 degrees in the shade with 90% humidity. The calendars say summer is about three months long. However, in Texas it usually feels like summer starts in May and runs into November. Thank God for air-conditioning!!

Depending on when this issue of the Retired Badge is mailed out to you, the following events may be about to happen or just did happen. On August 11, 2016, three important activities will occur during our monthly HPROA meeting. First, is the counting of the ballots you sent in to elect the President and half the Board of Directors for your HPROA. The second important activity will be a special memorial ceremony to acknowledge all of the HPROA’s Vietnam War Veterans with a gift and to also acknowledge the 50th anniversary of the start of that war.

“Operation Lone Star” President Jim Conley will do the memorial. The third activity, and to some the most important, is eating the free lunch that will be provided by Operation Lone Star and the HPROA as a way to honor our Vietnam vets.

This year all but one of the current board members, including myself, decided to run for re-election. Ron Headley decided not to run for re-election to our board this year. Ron has been a strong, steady and conservative member of our board and he will be missed. Ron will continue to serve on our Family Assistance Committee. THANK YOU Ron for your years of service to our organization!! As you can see from the ballot you should have already received and hopefully returned to us, our current Parliamentarian, Anthony Kivela, is running for election to Board Position #7 to fill the position that Ron Headley is vacating. We always encourage interested and dedicated members of our organization to run for these volunteer positions and welcome their participation. Your HPROA currently has a good group of directors who work well together and have some fun doing it.

I want to thank Bob Schields for again being our Nominating Committee Chairman and E.J. Smith for being our Election Committee Chairman. Also, my thanks goes out to the volunteers who helped stuff and stamp the ballot envelopes at the July meeting and helped count the ballots at the August meeting.

On Saturday, June 25, 2016, we had our annual East Texas Reunion in Crockett, Texas. Our guest speaker, again this year at the reunion, was one of our Associate Members, Clyde Black. Clyde is a Justice of the Peace for Houston County. He welcomed everyone to Houston County (Crockett) and talked of his time on HPD. Our second guest speaker was Houston County Judge Erin Ford. He welcomed us on behalf of the County Commissioners Court. I want to thank E.J. Smith and his wife Delores, and Matt Potell and his wife Rosalie. They came up a day early to help my wife Vickie and I set up the convention center.

I also want to thank Sue Gaines and Barbara Cotton who volunteered to work the front door greeting our members as they arrived. I want to acknowledge all the work done by my wife Vickie. This year she again made the floral table centerpieces that looked so beautiful and were given to one lucky member at each table. I also want to thank her for all her work organizing and running the silent auction that made a little over $1,400 dollars for our Family Assistance Committee. Last but not least, I want to thank Rosalie Potell, Sue Gaines, Delores Smith and Barbara Cotton who helped during the reunion and silent auction.

Our meal was again catered by The Moosehead Cafe of Crockett. As in the past, the meal was delicious and the brisket just melted in your mouth. I was again complimented several times about the quality of the meal. All seemed to have a good time and we have the Crockett Civic Center already reserved for next year’s reunion on Saturday, June 24, 2017.

Your HPROA is a family of volunteers who work to keep our retired police family informed and together. We will continue to look out for our retirement benefits, get needed information out to you as quickly as possible and try to have some fun while we do it. Come join us and get involved and have some fun.

Steve
For Members and Their Families

What would happen to your retirement savings if you needed long term care???

7 out of 10 –
More than half of Americans after the age of 65 are likely to need long term care services. ¹

Long Term Care Pays –
For out of pocket expenses you incur for care at home, in the Community, and in a long care facility such as an Assisted Living or Nursing Home, up to the Maximum Daily Amount you select. Benefit increase options are available to help meet future costs by keeping up with inflation.

¹T. Thomson et al, Long Term Care Perceptions, Experiences, and Attitudes among Americans 40 or Older (The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs, April 2013)

Address Change

Most retired officers are somewhat settled in their lives and in their homes. However, occasionally some of us find it necessary to make changes and move. Should you do so, please advise the HPROA of your new location. The HPROA can better serve you if we know where you are.

HPROA’s mailing address: P.O. Box 130787, Houston, TX 77219.
Phone numbers: (713) 802-2967, toll free number 1-866-856-7252.
Email: www.hpdretired.com

CALL (713) 802-2967 TO JOIN HPROA TODAY

Call Garland Cole 512.327.3456.
Call M.D. Beale 713.419.7455.

For more information, call:
Garland Cole 512.327.3456
M.D. Beale 713.419.7455

¹The Retired Badge August - September 2016 Edition

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VFW Stands for Veterans of Foreign Wars

There are many retired officers and active officers that do not know that there is a Houston Police VFW Post. It was established on May 27, 1962 by HPD Officers who were WWII and Korean Veterans.

This is the only Police Department in Texas that has their own VFW Post.

Now the Post has retired officers and active officers who served in South Vietnam, Korea, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

The Post monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 11:30 am at The HPOU Building, 1602 State St., on the 1st floor at the big conference room, past the elevators.

If you served in the military and are interested in knowing more about our Post, please call me. I am now the new Post Commander.

My cell phone number is 832-381-7305 and email address is steveraymond@msn.com

Thank You

Steve R. Benavides, Post Commander

This is Your Retired Badge

Any member or family member of HPROA is allowed and encouraged to submit articles for publication in this newspaper. Opinions, events, war stories, family announcements... all are welcome and enjoyed by our members.

Submissions will only be edited as necessary to protect your HPROA from legal liability.

City of Houston Human Resources
Insurance Department Contact Numbers

HPROA Board Member Steve Toth has provided the below contact numbers for HPROA members who might have questions regarding their health insurance.

Contact Phone Numbers for Retirees (Benefits)

| A-F | Maribel Gomez | 832.393.6101 |
| G-M | Alicia Solis  | 832.393.6102 |
| N-Z | Kemp Lenued   | 832.393.6103 |
| Front Desk: | 832.393.6000, Option #4 |
| Email Address: | retireebenefits@cityofhouston.gov |

Dental through City of Houston
Dwayne Cook 832.393.6157

CIGNA at City of Houston

| A-F | LaKeith Johnson 832.393.6192 |
| G-L | Maria Rodriguez 832.393.6193 |
| M-R | Ivan Flake 832.393.6191 |
| S-Z | Sylvia M 832.393.6194 |
| | MyCigna.com 800.997.1406 |

Life Insurance at City of Houston
Elizabeth Rodriguez 832.393.6114
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Houston Police Retired Officers Association Honors Six of Their Own

By Earl D. Musick and Nelson J. Zoch

Saturday, June 25, 2016, the Houston Police Honor Guard traveled to Crockett, Texas to honor retired police officer James (Jim) A. Shirley and some of the original members of the honor guard. Jim came through the Houston Police Academy No. 18, in 1956. Jim honorably retired on November 17, 1978. Other original members honored were David E. Freytag, John D. Harlan, Douglas M. Hudson, Roy A. Henley and Jim L. Scott.

Why was it important for the Houston Police Retired Officers Association (HPROA) to honor members? Calvin Coolidge, the 30th president of the United States once said, “No person has ever been honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.” Those original members of the Houston Police Department Honor Guard gave countless hours of their time during their careers making our police department look good.

Retired officer Jim Shirley told the group how the honor guard came about in the mid 60’s, while he was assigned to the Houston Police Academy’s Training Division. One of his duties was daily inspection of the cadets to assure a sharp uniform appearance much like our country’s armed services. Jim’s military experience made him the perfect fit for this assignment.

Between Jim and Harry the cadets, coming through the academy, were razor-sharp. However, looking the military part would not be complete without marching and chanting and Jim made sure we proficient in that area. Each morning, while in the academy, we marched and chanted after inspection and before classes.

My favorite cadence was, “I don’t know, but I’ve been told Herman Short is getting old. Am I right....” As Jim marched his police classes around the station he noticed that people liked it. While marching at the back of the station he noticed employees would line the windows in the police building and watch. While marching the cadets downtown crowds of people stopped and applauded.

Jim then put together a group of police officers who were very sharp looking and accomplished at marching. The marching part kept me from Jim's consideration, since I probably had more problems keeping in step than my fellow academy classmates. These officers, Jim put together, volunteered their time and came from many divisions within the department.

Under Jim’s leadership, they marched in parades, at funerals and other police events. These officers would become the Houston Police Department Honor Guard. Six of the original members were honored at the HPROA reunion in Crockett for what they gave to our department.

Continues on Page 7
A Good Man

I sit today with my brother-in-law of 56 years. I met him 60 years ago. He is 6’4”, approximately 150 pounds (normal weight 230 pounds). He was born and raised in Leon County, Texas. His Dad left home to work in Houston as few job opportunities existed in Leon County.

My brother-in-law became the “man of the family”. He had a younger brother and four younger sisters. He hunted, fished, maintained the home place, including care of all animals to feed the family. He met my sister-in-law, my wife Delores’ sister, 56 years ago. They were married and moved to Houston. He worked for Goodyear Rubber in Pasadena for 22 years and then went into business repairing oilfield valves. He invented a valve seal adopted by the Gulf Oil Company and used throughout the country.

After expanding the company, he sold to another and retired but continued as a consultant for several years.

For the last two years, he became the caregiver for my sister-in-law who was battling cancer rendu osler weber syndrome, a little known bleeding disorder. When told she had little time left, she opted for home care. My brother-in-law was excellent in his caregiving, 24/7, not realizing that he had suffered a heart attack. He just complained of exhaustion. My sister-in-law recently passed away and my brother-in-law’s health worsened. He slept little and refused to eat stating he was not hungry. Finally, exhausted, we rushed him to a hospital where he was told he had the heart attack and needed open heart surgery. But, in his weakened condition and considering the onset of dementia, the chances of survival or at least severe dementia were too great.

He opted to go home to spend his remaining days (now estimated to be six months) as had his wife. His heart is at 30% efficiency and he is sometimes delusional, but otherwise welcomes visitors. I have stated all of the above to simply tell the story of a “Good Man” where life has seemingly come to a trials end. Not so.

He is an elder of his church, has always been a giving, caring person and certainly recognized his Savior. We, his family and friends will be at his side until he is called home. This, my friends, is repeated constantly as I listen to our Family Assistance Officers at our monthly meetings. While life is a short story, love and concern for others is volumes.

Till next time,  
E.J.

Sergeant Jim Armstrong is now in charge of the honor guard. HPDOA owes Jim and his current members Gene Sealy, Tiffany Jefferson, Ronnie Blake, Scott Irwin, Derek Sonnier, John Brodie and Demetra Hammons a huge thanks for their participation in our tribute to Jim and the other original members.

I was glad I didn’t miss this reunion because I learned some history about the Houston Police Department and it also gave me a chance to thank Jim Shirley for the impact he had on my life. It was sad that the attendance was so low. Please don’t let low attendance occur again in the future. I can almost guarantee you will enjoy the fellowship from attending and you will see retired members who played a small part in your life.

Jim also played a role in creating the HPD flag. Writing the article to give tribute to Jim, I felt the following excerpt from a previous article written by Nelson J. Zoch needed to be repeated.

James relates that in around 1966, he was working at the Academy when an idea struck him that HPD was in need of an identifying symbol to carry with them as they attended officer’s funeral as well as parades. He and a number of other Officers made up a very well-organized Honor Guard, even though it was likely not departmentally sanctioned at the time. James and these fine Officers apparently just took it upon themselves to represent their department.

They both approved of this and suggested that he run it up the flag pole to the Chief at the time, Herman B. Short. And, so it was approved at that level. Now, he was perplexed as he admitted that he had no artistic ability to do an official version. He knew Officer Joe Ruffin, a man of great artistic abilities that worked in Planning and Research. He recruited Officer Ruffin, who after several rough drafts, brought it to the point that James was thinking about from the beginning. And, so it came to pass and it was purchased for the Department.

A photo of that flag being held by retired Officer James A. Shirley and another Officer accompanies this story. Thank you James, for all of your efforts at professionalism through these many years and for thinking of this flag design. Also, thanks to retired Officer Logsdon for this photo.
On Tuesday, March 1st, the Houston Racquet Club was the place to be for the annual Surviving Spouses Luncheon hosted by the HPROA. We were delighted to have 111 honored guests. We want to express our gratitude to our sponsors for their kindness and support.

Bob and Ruth Landauer – Sponsors
They are just the finest sponsors a lady could have. They are a vibrant couple with enormous compassion.

Christina Wissner, Catering Manager and Staff
The entire staff never missed a beat even when we brought in a 105 pound German shepherd. They worked in orchestrated unison to make sure our lunch was flawless. Our diets quickly flew out the window after consuming chilled tomato bisque; braised pulled short ribs on a bed of Yukon Gold smashed potatoes, seasonal vegetables and finished with a pan gravy; and we topped that off with bourbon cake, whipped cream and seasonal mixed berries.

Entertainment
Officer Greg Smith and Gunnar
Houston Police Department K-9 Detail
These two officers make a striking couple and are absolutely first class. We really were treated to an informative talk about the K-9 Unit. Gunnar is a 105 pound, solid black German shepherd, with titanium teeth. He was gentle, cuddly and posed for endless pictures. When Officer Smith divulged some of Gunnar’s arrests and statistics it became quite evident that he definitely has an on/off switch. They have our utmost respect and we wish them both long and successful law enforcement careers.

Friends of HPROA
Where would any of us be without our friends? Their monetary donations are such a blessing. Alan Helfman – River Oaks Chrysler Jeep, HPOU, Jerry & Linda Jones, Margaret Landa – Female Officers Reunion, Steve Lyons, EJ & Delores Smith, Fred Walschburger, and Shirley Wood. Benefiting from this kindness was Karen Collman, Terry Gallemore, Janice Jeske, Sylvia Kimbrel, Corrine McDade, Maxine Short, Alice Todd, Idabel Walden, Maria Witrich, and Shirley Wood.

Houston Kennel Club, Inc.
1300 North Boulevard Houston, TX 77006
Tom D. Pincus, President and Amiko Allen, Corresponding Secretary
With just a phone call and without hesitation, they agreed to purchase Pet Oxygen Masks for the entire HPD K-9 Detail. They presented a $2,500 check, through the Houston Police Foundation, to Officers Smith and Gunnar.

HPD Chaplain and Honor Guard
Chaplain Monty Montgomery is a warm embrace with encouraging words. Melissa Saldivar Hamilton is the voice of our national anthem. Our opening ceremonies were performed with pride by Sergeant J.R. Armstrong and Officers R.S. Blake, T. Jefferson, J. Lucero, A. Mulato, and D.G. Sealy.

HPD Quilt
Vickie and Steve Rayne have crafted this quilt for the past 10 years. Tammie Felchak-Oatis became the last recipient of their talents. Priceless, sums the quilt up in one word and we will miss this piece of history.

Houston Police Officers’ Union
Our working brothers and sisters know just how to make our day. The Union gave us a wonderful donation and it was presented by Joe Gamaldi, 2nd Vice-President.

Luncheon Favors
A million hugs and kisses for providing our honored guests with these luncheon mementos. They went hand in hand.

Bookmarks and FROG pins: Terry Gallemore
Terry made the crocheted cross bookmarks and supplied the Fully Rely On God pins.

Books: McKenna Jordan and Brenda Jordan
Murder By The Book, 2342 Bissonnet Houston, TX 77005
713-524-8597
McKenna and Brenda donated the murder mystery books. They truly gave us a variety with 14 titles from 13 authors. McKenna is the proud owner of the bookstore and her mom, Brenda, is a happy employee. McKenna’s parents are retired HPD officers, Harold (deceased) and Brenda Jordan.
Luncheon Flowers
The Orchid Florist  11548 NW Freeway  Houston, TX 77092  713-812-1807

Brenda Rodriguez and her staff have never disappointed with the table arrangements. Eighteen of our shortest honorees took home the lovely centerpieces.

Luncheon Name Tags
Dorothy and Jim Ashby make sure we know who we are.

Luncheon Photos
Wayne Wendel, F/11 Photography, 18307 Long Key Drive, Cypress, TX 77433  281-213-4151
waynewendel@yahoo.com     http://birdshooter.smugmug.com

Wayne captures us in the best light and on our best side, say cheese.

NDV Engraving
Nicholas D. Vagi   21145 FM 529 #111   Cypress, TX 77449   713-898-0583

Nick was able to laser etch Gunnar, HPD K-9 and the HPD shoulder patch on the dog bowl that was presented to our speakers. It was striking and will definitely make Gunnar the talk of the K-9 Detail.

Travis County Kennel Club, Inc.
Danelle Brown, President     Austin, TX

Within 48 hours of a phone conversation, Danelle, had a contact and a donor for the Pet Oxygen Masks. The Travis County and Houston Kennel Clubs are helping to save the lives of HPD K-9 officers and other beloved animals in the Houston/Harris County area.

On behalf of the Luncheon Committee; Cathy Buckles, Barbara Cotton, Gail Erickson, Terry Gallemore, Sue Gaines, Dee Leal, Rosalie and Matt Potell; I want to thank every honoree that attended and every donor that helped to make a memory at the 2016 Surviving Spouses Luncheon. This was my last luncheon to host, but I have left you in great hands.

Stefanie Leonard
Luncheon Committee
HPROA Event Calendar: August, September, and October 2016

Thursday, August 4, 2016
HPOU General Membership Meeting

Thursday, August 11, 2016
HPOPS Board Meeting

Thursday, August 11, 2016
8:30am HPROA Board Meeting
9:30am General Membership Meeting

NOTE: August 11 is ELECTION DAY AT THE HPROA MEETING AND A COMPLIMENTARY MEAL WILL BE SERVED.

Thursday, September 1, 2016
HPOU General Membership Meeting

Thursday, September 8, 2016
8:30am HPROA Board Meeting
9:30am General Membership Meeting

Thursday, September 8, 2016
8:30am HPROA Board Meeting
9:30am General Membership Meeting

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2016, FREDERICKSBURG HILL COUNTRY REUNION. MAKE YOUR RV PARK AND MOTEL RESERVATIONS EARLY.

Thursday, October 6
HPOU General Membership Meeting

Thursday, October 13, 2016
HPOPS Board Meeting

Thursday, October 13, 2016
8:30am HPROA Board Meeting
9:30am General Membership Meeting

New Members of HPROA
June and July 2016

Approved at the June meeting: 

Approved at the July meeting: 

In July, Mark West was approved as an Associate Member sponsored by David Lovett.

It is more than obvious that the HPROA Membership Chairman, Roy McDonald, is doing a tremendous job in his efforts to increase the membership of HPROA. Thanks, Roy, for all of your continuing hard work.
Dallas Police Chief David Brown said this about his police officers and the evil-tragedy that recently occurred in Dallas, Texas: “They ran towards gunfire when others were running away.” I couldn’t help but think how applicable that praise was to the many life threatening events that occurred throughout my career in the Houston Police Department (HPD).

With all the recent events occurring in the past months it appears that police officers have been targeted by radical groups or individuals set on destroying the police and our American values. Police officers traditionally have been referred to as “the thin blue line” because it is the police officer who stands between good and evil, between order and chaos.

On July 7, 2016, Dallas police officers were assigned to maintain order and prevent chaos at an anti-police protest. While performing this assignment five police officers were ambushed and killed. Seven other police officers were wounded in the ambush.

While family and friends mourned the tragic deaths of these brave Dallas police officers, another warrantless attack on the police occurred in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
In this attack, three police officers were ambushed and killed. Three other police officers were wounded by a radical gunman with no regard for human life. From all accounts, each police officer responding to this scene fought bravely until the very end.

The tragic events of July demonstrate how important the police officer is in maintaining an orderly society. Standing between good and evil the “thin blue line” was damaged, but not broken and from these tragedies came an outpouring of support for our police officers.

Police officers have always experienced gun related deaths, but never to the extent as in recent years. Thanks to Nelson J. Zoch’s book Fallen Heroes of the Bayou City, we can read about Houston police officers who gave their lives for a job they took very serious.

At the close of 2014, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund reported gun related deaths of U.S. law enforcement officers rose by 56 percent compared to the previous year, with about one-third of those officers being killed in ambushes.

According to the report, the most deadly states were California, Texas, New York, Florida and Georgia. According to their statistics fifteen officers were shot and killed in an ambush during 2014, more than any other circumstance of fatal shootings.

Our police officers are under more scrutiny than ever before. Cameras are constantly recording a police officer’s every move. Each time a Houston police officer is required to use deadly force he is subjected to numerous investigations by the Harris County District Attorney’s Office, the HPD Homicide Division, HPD Internal Affairs Division and a Harris County Grand Jury.

In some cases the Federal Bureau of Investigations and a federal grand jury also join in the investigation. It is not uncommon for the media to also join in questioning the police officer’s every move.

When a police officer is forced to take a human life the experience is extremely traumatic. It is something you never forget and even after countless years the memory of the event is as fresh in your mind as if it just occurred.

On Friday night, November 10, 1972, Steven L. Clappart, a friend I have known since high school, was forced to take a human life and he still recalls in detail the events of that night. Steve and his partner Jerry L. Wright were riding unit 620 on the night shift when they on-viewed an auto theft and shooting.

Steve and Jerry were at Richmond and Mandell waiting for a traffic light, at approximately 11:40 p.m. Their attention was drawn to a blue car spinning its tires in the U-tote-em parking lot. They observed the car back up and leave the parking lot going south on Mandell at a high rate of speed.

They observed a white male chasing another white male toward the vehicle which stopped to wait for the white male. Steve and Jerry immediately headed toward the disturbance and saw the white male wearing red trousers catch up to the other white male wearing dark pants. Jerry stopped the patrol car behind the blue car and the two white males were illuminated by the patrol car’s headlights.

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Steve saw the white male in the dark pants had a large caliber pistol and he saw him shoot the male wearing the red pants. After shooting the victim he turned to run as Steve was getting out of the patrol car. Steve yelled for the male with the gun to stop.

The male then turned and raised the gun to shoot. Steve fired six rounds at the suspect, who fell to the ground after Steve’s final shot. The suspect was still gripping the pistol in his hand. The events of that Friday night unfolded so quickly and Steve only had split seconds to react to a suspect pointing a .44 magnum pistol at him. Had Steve hesitated things might have ended differently and Nelson might have written about Steve in his book.

Today, the radicals use police shootings to justify protests, riots and chaos. The media refers to many shootings as questionable and everyone reacts before the investigation into the shooting is completed. A police officer has never faced the scrutiny they now face with everyone second guessing whether deadly force was justified.

In 1972, Houston Homicide Division investigated every police shooting and their investigations were very thorough and complete. Detective J.W. “Moose” Clampitte and Detective Johnny L. Bonds were assigned to investigate Steve’s shooting and they found Steve fired his weapon in defense of his life and had no other alternative.

The male in the red pants was identified as Rodolfo L. Davila and interviewed at the hospital by Officer W.H. Dodson and Officer J.W. Cashion. Mr. Davila sustained a gunshot wound to his right leg just above the knee and was admitted to Northwest Memorial Hospital.

Mr. Davila told officers he had driven the blue ‘68 Impala to the U-tote-em to buy a pack of cigarettes. Because of a mechanical problem, he left the car running in front of the store with the headlights on. As he was coming out of the store he saw a male backing up his vehicle at a high rate of speed and out onto Mandel Street. The car drove about 50 yards and then stopped.

Mr. Davila saw another male running to the car and he ran after this male. He was able to catch him as they got to the car. When Mr. Davila grabbed the male by the shoulder, the suspect turned with a large gun in his hand and fired once.

Mr. Davila fell to the ground and crawled under a car parked in the street. He saw an officer arriving and heard what he believed to be four shots but he could not see who was firing the shots.

The suspect with the gun was Gary Dale McBride, who was 21 years old at the time of his death. McBride died at Ben Taub Hospital from a gunshot wound to his head. From where he fell, he was approximately 50 feet from Steve when he raised the gun to kill a cop. At the time, he was on probation and had several arrests dating back to November 14, 1970.

The driver of the stolen car was Michael “Mike” Cogburn and he fled the scene in the car when the shooting started. A short time after the shooting, Officer D. O. Morgan found the car abandoned at Woodhead and Banks. The car had five bullet holes in the right rear of the car. This was the area where McBride had been standing when he pointed the gun at Steve.

On December 7, 1990, the common law wife of Cogburn wrote an interesting letter to Steve about what she knew about the incident. She said that Cogburn never straightened up and was later killed in a DWI accident.

In her letter she wanted to assure Steve that he had no other choice in taking her friend’s life. She told how her own life at the time was clouded with drugs and running with the wrong crowd of people. She credited Steve’s actions with helping her realize her life needed to change. In her letter she wrote, “Suddenly, all this crap - the drugs, the guns, the characters, the parties started to look a little more like the hell they really were.” While writing about the gun she wrote, “Everyone that knew him knew that thing would get him killed. You just drew the high card. I’m sorry.”

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The Retired Badge August - September 2016 Edition

The Current History of Class #14

HPD Academy class graduated on August 20, 1956. As near as can be determined, there were forty-one men who finished their training prior to “hitting the streets”. Twenty-eight from this class served HPD in some capacity for twenty years or more to earn their pension.

Thirteen of these graduates left HPD for one reason or the other. Their whereabouts are unknown. They were J.H. Alyee, G.C. Brogdon, W.E.J. Cox, N.P. Craig, J.A. Hamermiller, J.M. Jackson, M.D. Jordan, L.D. Lee, C.H. Schatelowitz, Joseph Schultea, H.W. Wesley, W.E. White.

Actually, one of these, Joe Schultea, left HPD after only three years and became a long-serving Chief of Police in one of the West Side Village Police Departments just as Tom Pickens had done previously. Fortunately, there were no Line of Duty Deaths from this class.

However, less than one week after this class graduated, Joe Schultea’s very close first cousin, Officer Bobby Joe Schultea, was shot and killed in the LINE OF DUTY on August 25, 1956.

This was a very sobering moment not only to the Schultea family, but to all member of this class. In addition, Class #15 was to begin shortly after Class #14 graduated. Ironically, Officer Bobby Joe Schultea’s widow, Jimmie Schultea, as well as another cousin, Weldon Schultea, were set to enter this class. They both succeeded through extremely rough times and served HPD for over twenty years.

Those that earned their pension and have passed away are, along with their approximate years of service in addition to the year of their death are: Willie Boswank, 23, 1988; Julius Bujnoch, 27, 1994; Gene Cox, 30, 2009; John Duggan, 24, 1989; Alfred Dulaney, 24, 1980; John Florio, 35, 2001; William (Bill) Friedrichs, 29, 1988; E.A. (Andy) Geffert, 1978; Barnell (Barney) Halm, 21, 1992; James Harper, 26, 1995; Claud Hill, 26, 2007; Tollie A. Humphries, 16, 1972; James Paulk, 34, 2003; Robert Riemenschneider, 20, 2013; John Roescher, 34, 2000; and Carol Wright, 26, 1982.

Records were somewhat confusing on Andy Geffert as he had also been listed previously as having been a member of Class #10. It is possible that he left and then returned. In any case, he served honorably having retired in 1978.

Twelve members are still alive and hopefully enjoying their pensions, families, and twilight years. They are: J.M. Albright, 31 years; John Collins, 21 years, Bobby Foster, 21 years, Richard W. Lee, 33 years, Carrol Lynn, 21 years, James Pierce, 34 years, Albert Pivonka, 24 years, Eli Rivera, 21 years, Sidney Serres, 32 years, Richard Vandel, 23 years, Charles (Chuck) Walker, 23 years, and Milton W. Wilson, 31 years.

At the time of the incident she was pretty strung out living in a Chevy Vega with four other strung out junkies. She claims she turned her life around, got away from the drugs and the crowd she was hanging around and went back to college.

From all accounts it appears she is living a very successful and productive life. As she said in her letter, “This is a happy ending - so far.”

As I reminisced with Steve about this shooting, I decided it is a story that should be shared.

Things were a lot different back then and some things remain the same. Jerry and Steve went toward the disturbance very much like the Dallas policemen who ran toward the shooting.

Nelson Zoch
6/22/2016

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### Birthdays & Anniversaries

#### AUG

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Application for Membership and Membership Benefits are on pages 22 and 23!

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B.S. from Bandera

By Chuck Smith

Howdy from Bandera. I have been keeping a lot of Doctors in business for a while and haven’t felt like writing. Fooled them, I’m still looking at the green side of the grass. Thought I would try my hand again even though LeRoy and Clyde aren’t here. I’m going to send this to all the “Caregivers” out there who have their hands full caring for spouses. There’s a special place for you up there.

Dot has been my caregiver for the last couple of years and all of you that know me know I would not be any trouble to care for (my opinion NOT Dot’s). I don’t know what I would do without her but I have noticed she is getting awfully bossy as time goes by.

It may be she is just getting older but don’t tell her that! The ole gal is pretty sharp. She plans our Dr. visits a little before noon, that way we can go out for lunch when we get out of the Dr. office. Enough about my Caregiver, even though I wouldn’t be here if it weren’t for her.

Bandera is a very unique place and I’ll bet I can find a new LeRoy and Clyde here. I have seen several “prospects” but have not talked to any of them yet. The R.V. park where we live has a lot of winter Texans that come in in October and they stay until around the 1st of April. Being from up North, some of them think a little different but most are real fine folks. I’ll bet I can find a LeRoy and Clyde replacement from that bunch. Anyway, it will be fun trying.

Bandera is sometimes known as a quaint little drinking town with a hunting problem. It’s also the “Cowboy Capital”. Now we don’t have a lot of cows but we sure have a lot of “cowboys”. Used to when hunting season rolled around the town was packed with hunters and some drinkers, well a lot of drinkers. If anyone out there is looking to buy a business, there is a large beer joint for sale. I don’t know if the prior owner made any money but he sure did the business.

On weekends there were horses, cowboys and cowgirls, motorcycles, and motorcycle mamas all over the place, it’s a sight to see. I think they gave discounts for tattoos!

I am hoping to start on home-hemo dialysis in August. It will be a lot better than what I am doing now. I’ll be doing one treatment a day for five days and then have TWO days off. We plan to head for South Padre Island, go to Dirty Al’s, eat oysters on half shell, boiled shrimp and maybe drink some rum and coke. Dot says if this all works out, come October we are going dancing again. I can’t wait..

If any of you old campers still get out, come on up, we would love to see you and just sit around and tell old war stories.

If you don’t camp anymore give me a call so we can keep in touch!

Later,
Chuck,
936 544 6557

Blast from the Past:
Burglary Suspect is Killed by Patrolman (4/8/72)

A Houston policeman shot a burglary suspect to death Saturday night in the L-K Pump Valve Co., 6952 Lawndale.

The officer, F. V. Robertson, went to the firm about 11:15 p.m. to answer a silent alarm.

Robertson entered the front of the building, while his partner, C. F. Epperson, went to the rear.

Robertson had looked around inside the building and was returning to the front door when he heard a shot. He looked into a workshop and saw a man brandishing a gun.

The man fired, but missed Robertson. Robertson fired his shotgun, wounding the man. When the man continued to level his gun at him, Robertson fired a second time, hitting the man again.

The man was pronounced dead at the scene. His identity was not determined, but his age was estimated at 40.
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A Great Way to Stay Socially Engaged

By Anthony Kivela

One prime collateral benefit of being a member of the HPROA is the social connections that we are able to maintain through interacting with fellow members. In addition to taking advantage of what the HPROA offers in social networking (monthly meetings, the three large annual reunions, Surviving Spouses Luncheon, et al.), there are other noteworthy ways to stay connected with old work contacts - other than just running into your ex-coworkers at the credit union or at funerals.

I am aware of at least three quasi-regular meetings held for people who have worked in various patrol divisions that are structured for the primary purpose of just getting together to tell old war stories (and lies!). Moreover, membership and dues are not required...you can just show up unannounced!

NORTHEAST DIVISION: About five years ago, HPROA member and “Mobile Cop Shop” owner, J. R. KNOTT along with some other former Northeast retired officers, decided that they were getting tired of only seeing each other at solemn funerals. An idea was hatched to meet monthly for a non-structured breakfast gathering. Anybody who had worked Northeast, whether it was for a one-week rotation or for an entire career are welcome. Heck, if you are a current or retired officer and can just spell “Northeast”, even though you never worked here, you will be welcome!

The group meets on the first Saturday of each month at 7:30am at the Golden Corral Restaurant for breakfast (9663 FM 1960 Bypass Rd. W., Humble, 77338), which is a mile or so east of the Eastex Freeway. When I attended this past month, there were approximately 25 retired officers who had worked “The Rock”, all laughing about old times. It’s an understatement to relate that a good time was had by all. One attendee even drove from near Ft. Worth to make the meeting and two more from Crockett. And, for you tight-wads or sack-draggers, they offer a cut-rate senior discount, including free coffee and orange juice!

SOUTHEAST/PARKPLACE: After he retired in 2006, Woody Phifer started the “Southeast Lunch Bunch” as a breakfast gathering and it has since evolved into a periodic casual lunch meeting with 25 to 50 retired and active officers attending. I spoke with him and he related that anybody is welcome and you are encouraged to bring someone with you. They usually meet on the last, or second-to-last, Friday of the month, at 11am at varying places that are located in S.E. Houston. If nothing else, it sounds like some good eating, as they have met at Pappasito’s Cantina, AMICI Ristorante, Central Texas BBQ, T-Bone Tom’s, Floyd’s Seafood House, and Abe’s Cajun Market. At the Christmas meeting there is a Toys-For-Tots gift program. And, if you are a U.S. Marines Corp. admirer...Yes, you will be happy to learn that the Marines stay and eat lunch with everyone. To quote Woody: “To some, Christmas is about other people’s presence” and “You know you’re getting old when Santa starts looking younger!”

Based on how techno-savvy you are, you will be placed on either the email list or phone call roster for future meeting places / dates. Additional notifications are sent out on the “Retired” Facebook group if that is your preference.

MAGNOLIA: Woody mentioned that some of the officers who attended the Southeast Lunch Bunch broke off and started a Magnolia Lunch Group. He related that Ismael “Iffy” Flores and his wife Rebecca coordinate the meeting details. If this is of interest to you, he can be contacted via the HPROA Members directory.

If anyone is aware of any other retired fellowship groups, I apologize in advance for leaving them out. Nevertheless, I would encourage you to let our website magician, Jim Ashby, know the details and if you’re nice to him, he might blast it out to the membership via a Frontpage email announcement. Better yet, jot the specific details down in a simple email and forward them to the Retired Badge Editor, Nelson Zoch and they can be published and read by our members. Or lastly, if you are interested in starting a casual meeting for retired/active officers from any other division, just pick a date and place, and test the waters. There will likely be more interest that you might expect, all it takes is just making the first step toward that end by choosing a date and a location.

If you need further details on future meetings, you can contact Woody Phifer or Ray Smith, both are listed in the HPROA directory.
From the Entertainment Committee

Hello, Retirees and friends. I guess there is no weather that is perfect for us. I believe just a couple of months ago neighborhoods were flooding and now our temperatures are nearing 100 degrees. Unbelievable! Can we ever really catch a break? Unfortunately we have no control over Mother Nature. The only thing we can do is stay cool indoors and if you must be outside, be sure and drink plenty of water!!

Well, our Crockett Reunion on June 25th that was hosted by Steve and Vickie Rayne turned out to be a pretty good reunion. Aside from Steve and Vickie Rayne going one day early, so did E. J. Smith and his wife Delores, Charlie Brenham, myself and Matt. We had a very good time setting up decorations and the auction items. We did have some laughs. This is what being around friends is all about.

Thanks to them for helping out on Friday and Saturday before the meeting started and helping during the Silent Auction. Vickie, you did a wonderful job on the table decorations, thank you for all the time you put into this and our organization.

The Reunion had a total of 118 guests. It was wonderful! Again, there were people we had not seen in awhile and I mean awhile. A joy it was to see these faces. It seemed like everyone was enjoying themselves visiting and just having a great old time. Sometimes we wish there was more time to visit, but at these events time is of essence. There was great BBQ with all the trimmings and plenty of bargains at the Silent Auction. Thank you to all of those that donated your items and of course we must not forget those who purchased these great finds. These donations made a total of $1406.00 which went to Family Assistance.

I would like to also thank Sue Gaines, Barbara Cotton and Stephanie Leonard for helping out with the Silent Auction. Thank goodness for these ladies (known as Busy Bees). Thank you, ladies!!!!

Our next reunion is coming up on October 29, 2016. It is our Fredericksburg Reunion to be held at the Pioneer Pavilion at Lady Bird Johnson Park in Fredericksburg Texas. It is being hosted by Lamar and Dee Kimble. If you are thinking about attending and going a day or so early, make sure to make your reservations early at a nearby hotel. There are quite a few hotels, but they do get filled up at this time of year. (Halloween, Fall weather). Hope to see you there!

Rosalie and Matthew Potell

The Passing of a Brother

This past week R.C. “Tut” Rich went home. Tut was ready to be reunited with Betty, his wife of many years. He had put his business in order some time back. Tut and Dot and I visited quite often when we still lived in Crockett.

After Betty passed away, Tut would come over sometimes and eat with us. Dot always called him when she fixed Chili and they would sit on the porch and talk about their flowers.

After Dot and I moved to Bandera, we would call each other about once a week. He had called me a couple of days before he died. He always called to see how I was doing.

We talked about the upcoming reunion. He was looking forward to going. For those of you that don’t know, it was Tut Rich that started the Crockett Reunion. He and Betty ran it for a few years and then turned it over to Jack and Linda Guy and Dot and myself. Dot and I ran it for about 14 years.

It’s hard seeing all your “Brothers” pass away but at least you can think back about all the good times we had. Tut will be missed, just like all the other Brothers that have gone on.

Tut was a Mason. He was past Master of the Grapeland Lodge. I sat in lodge with him several times along with LeRoy and Clyde.

We are hoping to make the Hill Country Reunion in October, good Lord willing and the creek don’t rise.

Later, Chuck
Still Not Enjoying the Benefits of Membership in the HPROA?

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
OR ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER CORRECTION

Name _______________________________________________ Employee # __________________

Spouses name: _______________________________ Date Of Birth __________ Date Of Retirement __________

Address ________________________________________________________________

City __________________________ State __________ Zip Code __________ E-mail __________________________

Home phone (____) ___________ Work phone (____) ___________

(please circle) MALE FEMALE MARRIED SINGLE WIDOWED

If you are a widow and have remarried, please give full name of deceased spouse:
_________________________________________________________ (deceased officer)

I am presently enrolled in the D.R.O.P. program. (circle if applicable) YES NO

I understand that suggested membership is $100, ($75 yearly dues and a voluntary contribution of $25 or more will be made to the PAC (Political Action Committee fund) for a total of $100 or more. Yearly membership will be renewable annually and a reminder will be mailed prior to that date each year.

I am a person receiving a retirement benefit from the Police Officers Pension System, City of Houston, or presently enrolled in HPD D.R.O.P. and hereby apply for membership in the HOUSTON POLICE RETIRED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (HPROA).

Please fill in amounts and mail with CHECK payable to HPROA or CREDIT CARD INFORMATION. DO NOT SEND CASH.

Circle one: MasterCharge VISA Discover American Express Annual Dues $ 75.00

Name on card ___________________________ PAC Donation + $ ________

Billing Address ________________________________ Total Amount $ ________

City, State, Zip ________________________________

Card Number ___________________________ Exp. Date ______ Signature ________________________________

HOUSTON POLICE RETIRED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 130787
Houston, TX 77219
Phone/Fax (713) 802-2967
OR Toll Free 1-866-856-7252
HPROA Benefits

In June of 1994, during an annual get together of retired HPD officers in Crockett, Texas the Houston Police Retired Officers Association was born. It was born out of the need for retired officers to have the same type of organized representation that active duty officers have. The HPROA was created to give retired officers an official organization to represent them regarding matters affecting their pensions and medical benefits.

The HPROA is an independent association of retired HPD officers and is not a part of any other association, union or organization. The HPROA is a separate entity that respects and will work with other police groups to accomplish its goal. That goal being: to protect and if possible improve the pension and medical benefits of retired HPD officers or their surviving spouses.

The HPROA is governed by a board of directors elected from within its membership and answers only to the membership of the association.

Why should I join the HPROA?

Membership Benefits

I. ACTIVE REPRESENTATION IN AUSTIN
   • Registered lobbyist working to protect existing pension benefits

II. ACTIVE REPRESENTATION AT CITY HALL
   • “Health Insurance
   • City’s obligation to contribute to Houston Police Officers Pension System

III. SOCIAL EVENTS AND GATHERINGS
   • Promoting fellowship among retirees by sponsoring reunions in the spring, summer and fall of each year, throughout the state
   • Providing a lunch, each year in August, at the annual HPROA election meeting
   • Sponsoring the Annual Surviving Spouse Luncheon to honor the families of all HPD officers who have passed away
   • Sponsor Police Week Memorial Reception

IV. FAMILY ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE
   • Current updates on members who are sick or shut-ins
   • Provide medical equipment for members in need
   • Participate in funeral visitations and arrangements
   • Present a brass memorial plaque to surviving spouse of deceased member

V. OTHER BENEFITS
   • Optional TMPA “Right to Carry” legal defense insurance
   • Website updates on local, state, or national events that effect retired officers
   • “The Retired Badge” (the official newspaper of the HPROA
   • Active and involved Political Action Committee (PAC)
   • Discounted Insurance Services
   • Members only directory
   • Email notification

Do I qualify for membership?

Eligibility for membership, in the HPROA, is based on the requirement that an applicant is honorably retired from the Houston Police Department, or is their surviving spouse, and qualifies to receive a pension benefit from HPOPS or the City of Houston Municipal Employees Retirement System. The benefit can be a monthly retirement payment, a surviving spouse’s monthly payment or the HPOPS member is currently enrolled in the DROP program.

How do I become a member?

1.) Applications may be submitted online at www.hpdretired.com by credit card only.
2.) Complete application form found on the next page and mail along with your membership fee.
3.) Contact the HPROA Office at 713-802-2967 or toll free at 1-866-856-7252 and request an application by mail.
4.) Mail application form, found in the Retired Badge (official publication of the HPROA.)
5.) Pick up an application at the HPROA monthly meeting held the second Thursday of each month at the KC Hall 607 E. Whitney.
The “Prayer Warriors” Protecting Our Officers...

By Anthony Kivela

Sunday morning, May 29, started out as a typical sleepy weekend morning in steamy Houston with the temperature creeping to 90 degrees. It would soon become dreadfully steamier and not-so-sleepy due to the actions of a deranged active shooter.

But, first the pre-story: Earlier that morning, Alisha Will, widow of Kevin Will who was killed in the line of duty, was looking forward to being baptized in HPD Chaplain Monty BLAIR Montgomery’s church, Freeway Manor Baptist Church, where he has expanded and shared his “Back-The-Blue” ministry as its lead pastor. Chaplain Montgomery will ask those who know him to call him by his middle name “BLAIR”. Through social media and personal contact, Blair invited all HPROA retired officers and active police officers to hear him preach and witness Alisha’s baptism. Although I am a practicing Catholic, having heard BLAIR previously preach, and always feeling renewed from my few previous visits to his church, my wife and I decided to take the road trip in order to visit with his congregation once again.

As usual, under Blair’s direction the service at Freeway Manor started out loving and welcoming. Nobody in the parish was aware of the living hell about to touch the lives of many Houston police heroes and innocent Houston residents. By the grace of God, the wife of one of those attending the baptism services at Freeway Manor received a call from her police-husband that a number of police officers were pinned down by high-powered rifle fire and an active shooter was trying to end the innocent lives of as many people that he could. In the middle of the service, this was relayed to Chaplain BLAIR who interrupted his service to inform the congregation of the pending carnage. Chaplain Blair asked that the entire congregation to all immediately become “Prayer Warriors” for the officers who were at the cusp of possibly losing their lives and pray for potential civilian victims as well. Fervent prayers were faithfully directed as a dome asking the Lord to protect all innocent lives, especially those of our Brothers-in-Blue.

After the incident was terminated by the demise of the shooter, news was released about the near-death encounters of numerous first-responders during that Sunday’s active shooter incident. There was no doubt whatsoever about the power of prayer. After hearing about the aftermath of the shooter story, everyone who was present during Pastor Blair’s service knew prayers were answered that morning, and later they saw the evidence. The suspect fired an astounding excess of 200 rounds directly at our officers. The suspect had no idea that these officers were shielded by a “dome of prayer” being requested by Pastor Blair. Later, we were all confident that the Lord answers prayers. As depicted on an attached photo, one of the responding HPD officers shop’s windshield and hood received 21 direct high-powered rounds where the officer was seated. Miraculously, no shots hit the officer. The deranged suspect fired a high-powered rifle at HPD’s fox helicopter unit that was responding to the scene and trying to assist officers who were pinned down by a hail of bullets.

21 rounds hit the patrol car’s windshield and hood! The officer’s car was uninjured.

High-powered rounds that hit HPD’s helicopter! It miraculously safely landed!

Continues on Page 25
Benefits

I recall, as many of your surely recall, making application for a position with the City of Houston Police Department. Being very young, I was interested in a job that would pay a regular salary as I had held jobs in construction, that while paying higher salaries, were sporadic at best.

I did not pay much attention to the benefits stated as in sick leave, vacation days, and pension. Heck, I was not sickly and certainly did not need time off. I wanted work with regular pay. After all, I was newly wed and had a baby in tow. As time progressed, the benefits issue kicked in. Especially, time off and thoughts of eventual retirement. The pay was still not much, but steady work and retirement might afford me a chance at second employment and a second small pension. Then, maybe in old age, my wife and I could manage.

But, then things changed. We needed more police, the city was growing, and outside jobs had better pay and benefits. So, eventually our pay and benefits increased. We were promised great rewards for staying on the job. We agreed to contribute to our retirement benefits program and the city administration agreed to contribute also. We fulfilled our agreement. The city administration did not.

Today, there are those who quickly assign blame to the employee groups for expecting promises to be fulfilled. They fail to recognize the failure of past administrations to fulfill their funding agreements. Groups attacking employee organizations use media as their sounding board and push for politicians to simply erase promises for benefits unfulfilled. Their statement is simply “Well, those on pension no longer serve the public”.

Ladies and gentlemen, please pay attention, speak to your legislative supporters, stay aware by following the biased media and by all means, thank God for our standard bearers who battled for us. Namely, the Houston Police Retired Officer’s Association, the Houston Police Officer’s Union, the Texas Municipal Police Administration, and the Texan’s for Secure Retirement. We must stand together and protect our interests and back our supporters.

See you at the next HPROA meeting and we’ll discuss the above.

Till next time,
  E.J.

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The circling fox helicopter received a reported 5 shots to its fuselage, belly, and tail rotor while it traveled at 110 knots (90 mph). Very accurate on the shooter’s part. One shot could have brought a tragic end to our innocent officers, but the helicopter was able to safely land without any injury to its pilot or tactical flight officer. Moreover, a Deputy Constable received a shot to his ballistic vest at 400 yds. away and he was saved from certain-death only by his armored breast plate.

Everybody has varying degrees of faith and belief. My faith was strengthened that Sunday morning after I saw pictures of the bullet holes on the helicopter and patrol car. There is no doubt that prayer once again protected our brother officers in blue. Pastor Blair’s job is oftentimes thankless and he is busier than many realize. I recall him relating that in a recent short eight-day period, he performed funeral services for six of our members. He always asserts how much he loves us and he does so much for our brothers and sisters in blue, rarely asking for anything in return, other than support and prayer.

The next time that you see him, thank him for what good he does for all of us, the time that he spends away from his own family, for his prayers for retired officers, and for support for our street cops who are performing their duties. And, if you happen to need a fill-up of Faith, visit him at Freeway Manor Baptist Church, 2300 Rodney St, Houston, TX, 77034, any Sunday morning at 11am. In lieu of that, he probably wouldn’t mind a call or text letting him know how you feel about him if you have the time; Cell # (832) 596-8083.
Killer of Officer John M. Cain Sentenced To Die after 5-Year Homicide Investigation

By Nelson Zoch

On Friday morning, August 4, 1911, at approximately 3:30 a.m., Officer John Morris Cain was on patrol duty as a Houston police officer. Officer Cain’s assignment, a very dangerous and lonely one, was at the North Side Railway Crossing, actually described as the crossing of the International/Great Northern and the Southern Pacific Railroads intersection as it existed in 1911 in Houston. This exact location was difficult to pinpoint in 2006, but it was believed to have been in the northeast quadrant of the city near Nance Street.

An investigation later determined that Officer Cain was very apprehensive about working this assignment alone. His partner of previous nights, Officer Myers, had been removed from this location to another assignment due to manpower considerations. Cain, while having been an officer for less than a year, was apparently very aware of his dangerous assignment and had requested another assignment or, in the alternative, not to work this area alone on the night shift.

Later, Officer Cain was reported to have been involved in a conversation with several citizens regarding their business at this location at this hour. These citizens, Richard Tolson and Rosa Mason, explained the nature of their business to the satisfaction of the officer. Just after this interchange, an unknown Negro couple, standing nearby, immediately reported this shooting and remained at the scene to describe what they had observed.

Night Chief Heck, along with Detective Kessler, Chief of Police Voss, and six other officers responded immediately to the scene to begin their investigation. This was truly a whodunit.

The Houston Post of August 5, 1911 described Officer Cain’s condition:

WAS CONSCIOUS TO THE LAST: “Up to the time of his death almost, Cain was conscious and conversed with his wife, other relatives and friends, realizing all of the time that he could not live. He gave an accurate description of the negro that did the shooting and told of the circumstances that preceded the infliction of the fatal wound, the story being corroborated by the negro man and woman. Chief Voss and other officers called at the infirmary all during the day and talked to the wounded man, and at once detailed extra men to search for the negro, determined that he shall be captured.”

Interviews with the critically wounded Officer verified what the witnesses had told investigators. Then, at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, August 4, 1911, Officer John Morris Cain passed away. He was thirty years old.

Investigators had early on concluded that the suspect had left town. However, they were at a loss to determine which direction, as passenger trains were very popular in these days and ran day and night in and out of Houston.

The untimely death of Officer Cain cast gloom over the entire police department. During his connection with the department, he had done duty in almost every section of the city and was well liked by all who knew him. He was considered an efficient officer, fearless and always on the job, prompt and courteous in his dealings.

John M. Cain was born on March 4, 1881, in Bastrop County, near Paige, Texas. At the age of twenty, he came to Houston and engaged in the dairy business, later worked as a motorman for the Houston Electric Company, and was at one time appointed as a deputy constable under Constable Frank Smith. In September 1910, he joined the Houston Police Department.

He was survived by his wife, his mother, three brothers, and four sisters. Two of his brothers, James and Albert, lived in Houston and were motormen. The other brother lived in Austin and the four sisters lived with their mother near Paige, which is in eastern Bastrop County.

Officer Cain was a member of the Woodmen of the World, Willow Street Camp Number 64 and this organization took charge of the funeral.

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The service was held at 4 p.m. Sunday, August 6, 1911, from the officer’s home at 1404 Cook Street. All of the officers of the Police Department attended in a body and assembled at the Police Station at 3 p.m. They were met at the home by the Woodmen Lodge members, who also attended as a body.

The funeral cortege was one of the longest in the city in many months and the floral offerings were many. The procession to the cemetery was strikingly impressive, with the mounted police officers and other members of the department being led by Chief of Police John A. “Duff” Voss and Reverend Ammons. Burial followed at Magnolia Cemetery, located at what is now West Dallas and Montrose/Studemont. Active pallbearers were Gordon Murphey, S. M. Habermacher, J. H. McNutt, C. A. Lomax, C. M. Wilson, and Duff Voss, the Chief of Police. Honorary pallbearers were T. R. Carr, Ed Carr, G. Wilson, Wilbur Engle, Leon George and James Ramsey.

Since the tragic death of Officer Cain and during the funeral and mourning process, the investigation into this capital murder continued. It was in the days that followed Officer Cain’s funeral that the thought regarding this whodunit murder slowly sank in; Could it be actually possible that this terrible crime would never be solved? The murdered officer gave a reasonably good description but would not be available in court. The Negro couple who observed part of this crime, therefore, would become crucial witnesses if anyone could be placed before them. Even in 1911, the authorities became aware of how critical other items of physical evidence would be.

Days upon days piled up. Leads came in and were checked out with the same negative results. Frustrations mounted, but Chief Voss and the local sheriff, as well as the entire forces from both departments, were convinced that sooner or later this murderer would be captured.

In the first three weeks, there were four newspaper accounts of arrests/detainments recorded in various parts of Texas – including Conroe, Montgomery and Rogers – of suspects believed to be the killer. All were checked out thoroughly and proven to be unworthy of prosecution. In most or all of these incidents, investigators from Houston had to arrange railroad travel schedules in order to further investigate these leads.

The days, months, and even years passed. One can only imagine the thoughts that went through the mind of Chief Voss and his successor: Will the senseless murder of Officer John Morris Cain go unsolved? The year 1914 passed with the accidental shooting deaths of Houston Officer Isaac Parsons and Harris County Deputy Arthur Taylor by two Houston officers. Morale must have reached a low point with this incident coupled with the unsolved murder of Officer Cain.

In the great State of Texas, there existed an individual by the name of Houston Sharp, a Negro male. He came from a family of four children, the father of which was a minister. His two sisters and one brother chose the upward path and became teachers and leaders. Houston, on the other hand, went another direction. He attended Prairie View Normal, but was expelled of eight cases of burglary, resulting in sixteen years in the penitentiary. He escaped amid a storm of bullets from the prison guards. Houston Sharp, already of much renown throughout Texas for his many acts of misdeeds, was in the Texas Prison System in Huntsville on a burglary conviction of fifty-eight years.

Sharp in the back. Somehow, this “cat with nine lives” survived. He was convicted and sent to Huntsville. However, due to his injuries, he was moved to the hospital farm and escaped five months later.

Shortly after this incident, Grimes County Sheriff Tom Lacey and Montgomery County Sheriff Ellis attempted to arrest him from a train, but Sharp escaped in a volley of gunfire.

- Sharp was finally captured in a post office in the eastern Montgomery County town of Fostoria. Officers shot Sharp five times with a .32 pistol, once with a .45, and a citizen assisted the lawmen by shooting Sharp in the back. Somehow, this “cat with nine lives” survived. He was convicted and sent to Huntsville. However, due to his injuries, he was moved to the hospital farm and escaped five months later.

- Grimes County Sheriff Lacey attempted to arrest Sharp, but Sharp overpowered the Sheriff and took his pistol. During the fight, Sheriff Lacey nearly cut off the “pistol hand” of Sharp. Sharp, who claimed to have suffered a total of sixteen gunshot wounds during his criminal career, was found later to be missing all of his fingers on one hand from the encounter with Sheriff Lacey.

- Sharp was convicted in 1913 of eight cases of burglary, resulting in sixteen years in the penitentiary. He escaped amid a storm of bullets from the prison guards. Houston Sharp, already of much renown throughout Texas for his many acts of misdeeds, was in the Texas Prison System in Huntsville on a burglary conviction of fifty-eight years.

- It was in prison while serving this term that he told of killing a Houston police officer. He told several fellow Negro inmates from Burleson County that he had killed Officer Cain. This was reported by these inmates, even though, just as is the case today, they likely had their own well being in mind.

Throughout his career, one law officer in particular, Harris County Detective T. Binford, proved to be the nemesis of Sharp. Detective Binford, who had suspected Sharp at one point during the five years after Officer Cain’s death, eventually began tracking Sharp’s movements before and after the murder.
**Killed in the Line of Duty**

### August

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 8, 1886</td>
<td>Henry Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 3, 1911</td>
<td>John Morris Cain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 23, 1917</td>
<td>Rufus H. Daniels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 23, 1917</td>
<td>Horace Moody</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 23, 1917</td>
<td>E.G. Meinecke</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 23, 1917</td>
<td>D. Ross Patton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 23, 1917</td>
<td>Ira D. Raney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 23, 1924</td>
<td>J. Clark Etheridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 18, 1946</td>
<td>Howard B. Hammond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 25, 1956</td>
<td>Robert J. Schultea</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 23, 1959</td>
<td>John W. Suttle</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 4, 1963</td>
<td>Charles R. McDaniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2, 1975</td>
<td>Francis Eddie Wright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 16, 1979</td>
<td>Charles Baker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 18, 1982</td>
<td>Kathleen Schaefer</td>
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### September

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<tr>
<td>September 17, 1925</td>
<td>E.C. Chavez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 13, 1929</td>
<td>Ed Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 20, 1930</td>
<td>Edward Fitzgerald</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 20, 1930</td>
<td>William Phares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 19, 1973</td>
<td>David Huerta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 12, 1983</td>
<td>William Moss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 20, 2000</td>
<td>Jerry K. Stowe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 21, 2006</td>
<td>Rodney Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 21, 2006</td>
<td>J. Clark Etheridge</td>
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</tbody>
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*Continues from Page 27*

He determined that there was a gap right around the week of August 3, 1911. When confronted with the suspicion of him being the murderer of Officer Cain, Sharp confessed. However, he later withdrew his confession, saying that he had been threatened with a “broken neck” if he did not sign the statement. In the summer of 1916, nearly five years after the murder of Officer John M. Cain, Houston Sharp was charged with murder.

The Houston Post of September 7, 1916 said that Sharp’s trial began and the confession, after a difficult fight, was introduced into evidence. During the proceeding, Houston Sharp took the stand and denied his confession, stating that it was coerced under the duress of having his neck broken. He said that he was at home for the birth of a child on the night the officer was killed. When it was proven that the birth actually occurred two weeks prior, he stated that he must have been mistaken.

In recapping this crime, his confession, which was considered by the court, he indicated that upon his being confronted by Officer Cain, he turned and fired one round from his.41-caliber pistol. He felt like he had hit the officer and fled from the scene on foot, arriving later that night at a woman’s residence in the Second Ward. Police located this woman, who testified at the trial that Houston Sharp had arrived at her boardinghouse the night of the murder and had shown her a pistol.

She said the barrel was hot and smelled as if it had been recently fired. She hid it for him that night, with Sharp leaving with it again the next morning. The Post, on September 8, said that Sharp’s fate was in the hands of the jury, which was locked up for the night. One day later, the paper said that there was good news for Sharp—that he will not be required to serve the remainder of his fifty-eight-year sentence. The bad news was that he will face a death sentence for the 1911 murder of Houston Police Officer John Morris Cain. The verdict was that Houston Sharp was to be sentenced to death by hanging.

In 2004, Officer Cain’s gravesite was located at Magnolia Cemetery, tastefully marked with the standard Woodmen of the World marker. This marker makes the usual note of date of birth and date of death, but nothing as to how this life was ended. Convict records were thoroughly searched at the State of Texas Library in Austin. From there, this story becomes even stranger. Records show that a 40 year old Houston Sharp, Negro Male 40, born in 1875, was convicted of Burglary, Horse Theft, and Theft over $50.00 and received in the prison system in December, 1916. He had twenty-one cases and received two years on each which sentences were to run cumulative, a total of 42 years. This was three months after he was given the death penalty for the Murder of Officer Cain. On a sentence that by TDC records was not to expire until December of 1957, Houston Sharp was pardoned in July, 1925, thirty-two years early.

While this entire scenario seems unbelievable, the following article was located in the Galveston Daily News of July 18, 1925: “Houston Sharpe, of Burleson and Grimes counties, served twelve and one-half years of a forty-two aggregate sentence on twenty-one charges of burglary and theft over $50.00, recommended by pardon board and by R.M. Wood, chairman of the committee on teachers of Sam Houston State Teachers College, Huntsville”. It appears that the murder of Officer John Morris Cain fell by the wayside. One can only guess what really occurred here, knowing that his parents and siblings were notable in education circles at Prairie View A & M College. As of this writing, no information has been located regarding a date of death for Houston Sharp.
There is probably nothing more precious than the gift of friendship. Just take some time to contact your friends and let them know how much they mean to you... relive your memories, share in your joys and pass on a smile and hug. Your call, visit, and smile might be the best medicine that they receive that helps them make it through the day. Keep these retirees in your prayers and let us know when we have a retiree who is in need of our thoughts, prayers, and assistance.

Fred Eicholtz: (6-2-16 pk) We visited with Fred by phone today and he reports that he was in the hospital last Monday being treated for a cracked rib due to a fall. He is now at home recovering, but sore. He plans on making the meeting next Thursday. Give him a call.

Guy McMenemy: (6-2-16 nf) Guy reports this morning that he was diagnosed with cancer on his eyelid at M.D. Anderson yesterday. He will undergo tests and examinations for 3 weeks and then will undergo surgery on 6-29-16 to remove the effected portion of the eyelid. He is at home and will be an outpatient until surgery. Keep Guy in your prayers.

Jack Talley: (5-28-16 nf) Jack was released from St. Luke's Hospital on FM 249 Thursday and is under hospice care at his daughters home on Triechel Road west of Tomball which currently has some water issues. Jack is recovering from vocal chord cancer radiation treatments so he has trouble swallowing. He is on oxygen but able to walk with aid of a walker. It is difficult to understand him on the phone but family is asking any retiree who knows or worked with Jack to come by and visit after the water recedes. (Note: Jack passed away June 2, 2016. Please keep Jack’s family in your prayers).

Forrest & Sue Turbeville: (5-28-16 nf) Forrest reports that after the downpour on Friday, they had about 2-3 feet of water throughout their home which was flooded in the April flood. They are in a one bedroom apt a few miles from their home. Dealing with the new damage and with FEMA and flood insurance folks is really stressing them out. Tough times ahead and we need to keep them in our daily prayers. Forrest and Sue wished to express his appreciation to the members at the last meeting for their generosity, kindness, and prayers. Forrest said Sue and he were lucky enough to have three families, his immediate family, his church, and his HPROA family.

Mike & Kathy McDonald: (5-28-16 nf) We visited with Mike this afternoon and his home is surrounded by Spring Creek flood waters but now receding. His game room took on some water along with a room containing his police memorabilia. He is unable to get out until the water recedes but he is toughing it out. Keep them in your prayers.

James “Pinky” Wiggins: (5-28-16 nf) Wiggins and wife, living near the McDonalds, are also under water and were brought out by boat this morning. James also had shoulder surgery about 2 weeks ago. Lift up your prayers for the Wiggins who have some tough times ahead.

Steve Vaeza a few days ago. He has had bad health problems lately. He is out of the hospital after his last surgery, he said he has had around 10-15. He is hard to understand because of a back surgery. You might pass this on to family assistance. You might put this on the web site along with him phone no. He would like to hear from anyone. His phone no. is 713-857-3866. He does not have a computer so he has no way of keeping up with what is going on. Thanks, JV St. John.

“Iffy” Flores: (5-8-16 nf) He had his MRI done but is waiting for results which will hopefully reveal the cause and nature of his many strokes. Dr’s have changed his BP meds which are making him dizzy but are supposed to level off and he will get used to it. Also waiting to see if he has to go on dialysis or not. Otherwise, he is feeling fine. Lift up your prayers for Flores and give him a call at 281-598-2156.
Lloyd Smith: (7-6-16 nf) Sue Gaines visited with Lloyd and his daughter Tracey Tuesday at Lloyd’s home in Porter. Lloyd is in hospice care as is Tracey’s husband but she is providing almost full time care for Lloyd as his condition is at end of life level. Tracey is exhausted and needs some relief and that is not forthcoming. If someone within our membership who might live in the Porter area and be able to give her a hand, no matter how brief, it would be a blessing.

She can be contacted at 832-724-3183. Everyone can help by lifting up your prayers for Lloyd, Tracey and her husband.

Sue Turbeville: (7-1-16 nf) Forrest reports that Sue has undergone numerous tests since being admitted to Willowbrook Methodist hospital on June 30. She was admitted after experiencing difficulty breathing and high blood pressure. At this point, fluid on the lungs is the biggest medical problem with some other lesser issues. She continued to undergo a full physical examination during her stay. Sue has now been released and is at home. Please keep her & Forrest in your daily prayers.

DEATHS DURING THE MONTHS OF MAY AND JUNE 2016

JERRY E. WILLIAMS
(MEMBER)
MAY 6, 2016

JACK WESS TALLEY
(MEMBER)
JUNE 2, 2016

YOUR FATHER KNOWS WHAT YOU NEED BEFORE YOU ASK HIM – Matthew 6:8 niv

THERE ISN'T A CERTAIN TIME WE SHOULD SET ASIDE TO TALK WITH GOD – GOD IS PART OF OUR EVERY WAKING MOMENT ... Marva Collins

EVERY DAY HOLDS THE POSSIBILITY OF A MIRACLE...anom

Phil Tippen: (7-10-16 nf) Phil is scheduled to have his pacemaker/defibrillator implanted on Monday, 7-25-16 at St. Luke’s, Medical Center. He will also relocate on 7-18-16 from his Woodlands address to the Heritage Oaks Senior Living facility, 903 Longmire Road, Conroe.

He invites you to call him at 936-900-8382 and keep him in your daily prayers.

Guy McMenemy: (7-2-16 nf) We visited with Guy last evening by phone. He was at home recovering from 4 hour surgery at M.D. Anderson the day before, Thursday, to remove a malignancy in the right eyelid. He reported that the surgeon was confident that they were able to remove the malignancy entirely. At the time we talked he was not feeling any serious pain or discomfort.

Remember Guy in your daily prayers and give him a call at 281-469-2819 and ask him about his surgery.

Sue Turbeville: (7-3-16 nf) Sue was released from hospital today and is now at home recovering with oxygen assistance. Forrest also reports that a contractor has begun to put their house back together. Keep them both in your prayers.

DEATHS DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE

HIPOLITO A. GALANO
(MEMBER)
JUNE 18, 2016

YOUR FATHER KNOWS WHAT YOU NEED BEFORE YOU ASK HIM – Matthew 6:8 niv

THERE ISN'T A CERTAIN TIME WE SHOULD SET ASIDE TO TALK WITH GOD – GOD IS PART OF OUR EVERY WAKING MOMENT ... marva Collins

EVERY DAY HOLDS THE POSSIBILITY OF A MIRACLE...anom

CALL TO ME AND I WILL ANSWER YOU AND TELL YOU GREAT AND UNSEARCHABLE THINGS YOU DO NOT KNOW, Jeremiah 33:3

EVERY DAY HOLDS THE POSSIBILITY OF A MIRACLE...anom
PLEASE KEEP ALL OF OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

Don’t forget that our committee has medical equipment available for use. We have hospital beds, wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, shower chairs, potty chairs, crutches, and walking canes. If you have information about a retiree or family member that has a need for any of this equipment, PLEASE notify a member of the Retired Officers Assistance Committee.

Our Committee Members are:

Forest Turbeville  281.356.8800  Ron Headley  713.253.5749
Nelson Foehner  281.351.4669  Doug Bostock  281.890.7610
Ray Smith  281.731.1588

Family Assistance and Burial Fund Contacts

Family Assistance Unit:
Senior Police Officers Michael Newsome, 713-308-1237 and Jorge R. Lucero, 713-308-1240.

If unavailable, contact the HPD Command Center, 713-308-1500.

Burial Fund:
713-308-1226. Leave message for someone to contact you.

This is Your Retired Badge

Any member or family member of HPROA is allowed and encouraged to submit articles for publication in this newspaper. Opinions, events, war stories, family announcements... all are welcome and enjoyed by our members.

Submissions will only be edited as necessary to protect your HPROA from legal liability.
MEASURING FINANCIAL STRENGTH

There are several factors that measure successful financial strength and, Houston Police FCU has all of them. With over $611 million in assets and 25,000 member strong, we are a major financial institution offering one of the most attractive service packages available.

Here are some of the awards we received in 2015:

• Top 200 Healthiest Credit Unions Award  
  -Deposits Online, LLC

• Largest Houston-Area Credit Union Ranked by Total Assets as of June 30, 2015  
  -Houston Business Journal

• Top 10 Local Bank and Credit Union Savings Rates Ranked by Primary Share Savings Account Rate  
  -GOBankingRates

Our success is due to our member support and our philosophy of “people helping people”. Thank you, our members, for making us one of the strongest financial institutions in the area.