In Memory of HPD Sergeant Steve Perez
Death in the Line of Duty
1956-2017
HPD, 1983-2017

HPOPS Trustee Election

There are five positions on the HPOPS Board of Directors for Police Officers, three active and two retired. The Board is also made up of two positions from City Hall, which consists of the City Treasurer and a Representative from the Mayor’s Office.

This year there are two positions that will be up for re-election. Those positions are currently held by Retired Officer Terry Bratton and active member Dwayne Ready. Both have announced their desire to continue to serve on the Board. Bratton is currently Chairman of the HPOPS Board. The other three positions are not up for re-election at this time.

Both of these men have done a tremendous job, especially this past legislative session. Both spent much time in Austin speaking to legislators on our behalf and working with both the HPOU and HPROA Boards throughout the lengthy session on HPOPS issues.

They were instrumental in the successes we had in Austin.

Bratton and Ready announced early with their desire to continue serving on the Board. There very well may be others who opt to run for these positions and new participation is always welcome. However, with the experience of these two men and their proven capabilities, the HPROA Board, at their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, September 14, voted to endorse the candidacies of both Chairman Bratton and Board Member Ready.

TO ALL HPOPS MEMBERS:
You will be receiving in the near future your HPOPS ballots in the mail. Please remember these two names on the ballot-TERRY BRATTON AND DWAYNE READY.

CALL (713) 802-2967
TO JOIN HPROA TODAY
Since I last wrote an article for this publication (August/September issue) many events have taken place here in Houston. Number one was the massive flooding that overwhelmed the city, caused by Hurricane Harvey, and which resulted in the death by drowning of Sergeant Steve Perez. Then came the notice from Mayor Sylvester Turner that he wanted to ask City Council to institute a temporary increase in the city’s property taxes in order to pay for the cost of the flooding from Hurricane Harvey. Also, the Houston Firemen had submitted their signed petitions to the City Secretary’s Office, with over 30 thousand signatures, calling for a vote on pay parity with Houston Police. The City Secretary historically has taken the position of “first in, first out” in verifying signatures on these kinds of petitions. Therefore, this issue will not be on the November ballot since the Secretary’s staff was already involved in verification of another petition, which called for a vote for 401k pensions for city employees. So, this question will have to wait until next year, or later.

Now, with the amount of devastation to homes and property, coupled with the cost of rebuilding homes and businesses, it seems to me that it will be untimely to ask the Citizens of Houston to agree with the size of increase that the mayor is seeking. This request is a question for City Council to make a decision on.

The reason I bring this issue up is that the mayor is also asking the citizens to vote on the pension compromise matter, which calls for a vote on Pension Obligation Bonds of one billion dollars. My question is, how will the people view that kind of city expenditure while raising property taxes.

I tend to think that the upcoming election on these issues will be most difficult at best.

With the future of the pension compromise becoming more and more cloudy, should the vote in November prove to NOT be in our best interest and fail, what will be future hold for all HPD members and retirees? First, the rescinding of all changes that were made in the benefit structure of our plan will take effect. This means that our plan will go back just as it was prior to July 1, 2017, with full restoration of benefits. However, there is no “claw back” for loses sustained from July 1, 2017, to the rescinding date.

After the rescinding occurs what can we expect in the future? Needless to say, that come the year 2019, there will be an all out effort by some in the State Legislature to pass laws eliminating DB Pension plans as we know them today. There will be an all out fight by public employees, through out the state, to preserve current pensions and pension plans. It will be US against THEM.

This will call for continuity on HPOPS Board of Trustees, those who have been dedicated to providing the best pension plan for all members of HPOPS, both active and retired. Because of coming events, and question about the future of our pensions, two current members of the Board have decided to run for re-election.

They are Terry Bratton, current retiree member on the Board, and Chairman of the Board, and Dwayne Ready, one of the original negotiating members with the city.

Bill Elkin, Executive Director

They appeared at the September meeting of the HPROA Board asking for an endorsement for their re-election to the HPOPS Board of Trustees. It was said that “continuity” is going to be necessary, not only because of the possibility that the pension bonds election might fail, which would mean a new fight in 2019 in Austin, and also because the Board must begin the process of planing of putting together the basics of a “cash balance” type plan should the compromise fail altogether.

The HPROA Board discussed the request from Bratton and Ready, and because of the future uncertainty regarding the pension bond aspect, the Board of Directors voted to endorse both Bratton and Ready for their re-election. It was felt that this was in the best interest of all members of HPOPS.
A Message from Stephen Rayne, President HPROA

“Water, water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink.” I know this phrase was related to a story about people adrift in a boat at sea. However, it seems to also be appropriate for the people along the upper Texas coast last month. Hurricane Harvey dropped about fifty one (51) inches of rain in the Houston area and record amounts of rain up and down the upper Texas coast.

Because of a “mandatory evacuation” order, I spent five days in a hotel room with my wife and her ninety-four (94) year old mother. The levees around Richmond, Texas held and we got to go back to a dry and undamaged home. Thousands of others were not so lucky. Some of our members answered a call for help from HPD.

They helped to staff the around the clock feeding of first responders at the HPOU building. A big “THANK YOU” to all of our members who helped during the storm. A poll of our members at the September meeting showed that of the over one hundred (100) members present, only two (2) had storm damage.

Our annual election meeting in August was very well attended. We had a record one hundred and sixty five (165) members attend. We had six (6) vendors at the meeting to offer their services and products to our members. They were our Long Term Care insurance policy, offered by your HPROA, Secure Legacy funeral planners, Georgetown Mortgage offering Reverse Mortgages, Liberty Mutual Insurance, Financial Destiny financial planners, and the Houston Police Credit Union. We had a great meal catered by the “Hickory Hollow” restaurant. Many war stories were retold and friendships renewed.

Our annual Hill Country Reunion is coming up on Saturday, October 28, 2017 in Fredericksburg, Texas. This is always a great get together for our members and their spouses. Lamar and Dee Kimble do a great job each year to make sure the reunion is enjoyable for all who attend. We will again have a silent auction and if you can bring an item (or 10) to be put in the auction, we would appreciate it. I hope to see many of you at the reunion!!

This year the City of Houston is again putting on a 5K run to raise funds to support “Assist the Officer” and “Houston Firefighters Local #341”. I was contacted about having our HPROA participate in this year’s event. I told them that most of our members could not walk 5 miles much less run 5 miles. I was assured they did not want us to run but to set up and display our “Traveling Wall of Honor Memorial”. This memorial contains pictures of and information about all HPD Officers who have died in the line of duty. This memorial was constructed by HPROA member Nelson Zoch and several others. The event was originally scheduled to be held on September 9, 2017. Hurricane Harvey flooded out this date. The “Heroes Run” is now scheduled for Veteran’s Day, November 11, 2017. Your HPROA will be there to display the wall. If you want to come down to City Hall on that Saturday stop by and say hi.

Since this is the last edition of “The Retired Badge” before the Thanksgiving holiday I want to wish all of our members a VERY HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!!

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.

Steve Rayne, President
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.

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

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

The Retired Badge is an editorially independent publication of the Houston Police Retired Officers Association (HPROA). It is published bi-monthly under the supervision of the HPROA Board of Directors. However, opinions expressed by individual Board members or any other contributor in this publication do not reflect the opinion of the entire Board of Directors of HPROA. Editorial submissions and other items of interest from HPROA members are welcomed and encouraged.

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE RETIRED BADGE ARE PAID FOR BY THE CONTRIBUTORS AND DO NOT IN ANY MANNER IMPLY AN ENDORSEMENT, WARRANTY, OR GUARANTEE BY THE HPROA.

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Mea Culpa

Mea culpa is such a simple word. The dictionary defines it as “an acknowledgement of one’s fault or error”. Simply put, “I screwed up” or “my bad”. It has been called to my attention that on one occasion, possibly two, the incorrect innocent person has been given credit in the Retired Badge for an article written by someone else. I have researched this, and yes, it happened and it is the fault of the Retired Badge editor, yours truly.

To Henry Pressley, I apologized to you over the phone and I publicly apologize to you by way of this article. E.J. Smith had prepared a rather humorous article regarding this confusion, but this issue was already full and it will be run in the next issue.

To E.J. Smith, I apologize to you for giving you credit for Henry’s stories. I do not know how it occurred, but it did. Sorry, Henry. I look forward to both of your contributions in the future.

Nelson Zoch

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)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A-F</td>
<td>Maribel Gomez</td>
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<tr>
<td>G-M</td>
<td>Alicia Solis</td>
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<td>N-Z</td>
<td>Kemp Lenued</td>
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<tr>
<td>Front Desk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email Address</td>
<td><a href="mailto:retireebenefits@cityofhouston.gov">retireebenefits@cityofhouston.gov</a></td>
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Dental through City of Houston

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dwayne Cook</td>
<td>832.393.6157</td>
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CIGNA at City of Houston

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>A-F</td>
<td>LaKeith Johnson</td>
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<td>G-L</td>
<td>Maria Rodriguez</td>
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<tr>
<td>M-R</td>
<td>Ivan Flake</td>
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<tr>
<td>S-Z</td>
<td>Sylvia M</td>
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Life Insurance at City of Houston

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Rodriguez</td>
<td>832.393.6114</td>
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From the Entertainment Committee

Hello Retirees and Friends,

Hurricane Harvey has definitely left a profound impact on Texas. While tragic, many have been uplifted by so many acts of kindness from friends and neighbors. We hope that you and your loved ones are safe and sound. Our prayers go out to all.

On August 10, 2017 we had our Annual Election Luncheon Meeting. We had a total of 165 members sign in. Many members came early to help E.J. Smith with the counting of ballots. Thanks to all that gave out a helping hand. When you get a group of retirees together, you just can’t help but reminisce about when we all were working. There was a lot of joking around and laughing. Getting together with such a group was just wonderful. That’s what we look forward to when attending our monthly meetings.

Lunch was a success. It was catered by our favorite, Hickory Hollow, and boy, was it good! We had a guest speaker David Smith from Georgetown Mortgage. Brad Levinton, their Area Manager donated $500 towards our luncheon and two $50 gift cards for door prizes. Stephanie Saucedo from Secure Your Legacy donated $500 towards our luncheon and two beautiful gift baskets for door prizes as well. Thank You cards were sent to them on August 18th for their gracious generosity.

Well folks, it is that time again. Our Fredericksburg Reunion on October 28, 2017 is being held at the Pioneer Pavilion located at Lady Bird Johnson Park in Fredericksburg Texas. Our Dear HPROA members Lamar and Dee Kimble will again host the event as many years in the past and as always, we are ever so grateful for their graciousness. The Reunion is from 10A-2P and the cost is only $10 per person.

With that you get a delicious catfish dinner with all the trimmings and visiting with great friends. We must not forget the Silent Auction. I urge everyone to get involved and donate any items that you no longer need which are in good condition. Bring them with you to the Reunion. It will be greatly appreciated. All proceeds will go to the HPROA.

Hopefull,y most of you have made your reservations. Let’s not forget Lady Bird Park has the RV Park with full hook ups. For reservations call 830-997-4010.

It is time for all of us to get away and have a good and relaxing time with friends. So let’s all plan to meet at Fredericksburg! Hope to see you there.

May all of you have a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving.

Rosalie and Matthew Potell

Holidays at HPD

How many major holidays were you assigned to work at the Houston Police Department? I know, we were forewarned and besides, we were young and so eager to “hit the streets” we would be willing to work 24/7s without complaint. After all, there was much work to be done and bad guys all over. Remember all the stories you heard during the academy.

Then you made it through and were assigned to work with a Senior Officer who by then had all the excitement he could stand and just looked forward to a quiet shift and go home.

No such luck. The holidays always seemed to be a great excuse for drunks to celebrate by driving, fighting, shooting, and cutting. That’s where we came in and ruined their holidays by placing them in a secure environment.

Of course, there were those who lost it all in the back seat of your chariot. That left you with the smell and trying to cleanse the car for the next shift. As time went on, you were the Senior Officer having to work the holidays with a rookie, wide-eyed and looking for excitement. All you wanted was the quiet shift and/or to be home enjoying the festivities and filling up on turkey, dressing, and all the trimmings.

As bad as we thought we were having it, you think back, after calling Homicide working a skeleton crew and seeing the expression on their faces on arrival. They were also veterans and your call not necessarily their first for that shift or maybe not the last.

So goes it today. The cycle continues. The rookies, the veterans, and Homicide are still there working the holidays. Thank goodness for them all. Would you do it again?

Till next time.

EJ
The only battle currently worth fighting between HPD and HFD is the “Battle of the Badges”, which is a well-publicized boxing match held throughout the nation between various police and fire departments. Aside from this, any battle between the police and firefighters over the Pension Obligations Bonds referendum is the fight that we need to avoid being actively involved in. Let me explain…

Recently there was discussion during the HPROA Board and Membership meetings about a few upcoming referendum issues:

• Police/Firefighters Pay Parity Issue, and the
• The Pension Obligation Bonds.

For those who haven’t heard, it appears that the firefighters/police parity issue is now a non-issue – for the time being. Based on the City Secretary’s inability to timely verify the signatures on the firefighters’ petition, all indicators are that this will not be on the November ballot as a referendum.

Nevertheless, there is still the possibility that some firefighters will be encouraging Houston residents to vote approving the Pension Obligation Bonds (POB’s), even though these bonds are being issued to pay for previous concessions that HPOPS made to the City of Houston.

The POB’s are not a pension bail-out, nor a loan; rather, they are for money that is rightfully due to all members of HPOPS. Fortunately, as this article is being written, there seems to be much more support for the passage of the POB’s than opposition to them. But ultimately, the passage of the POB’s is contingent on winning the referendum, and what side of the referendum people align themselves with can be political, and we all know the story of politics.

During the police/fire parity discussions, our Board of Directors was recommending that our members NOT openly campaign “for” or “against” the firefighters’ parity issue. In other words, that we take a neutral position as a group of retirees on their parity issue. The reasoning for this was that our foremost goal should be to devote ALL of our energy to fighting FOR the passage of the POB’s in November.

Following this line of reasoning, the HPROA’s recommendation is that if you are baited into a discussion of whether the police job is more important than the firefighters’ job, there is no benefit to battling the firefighters and tying it to the POB referendum. Since I was a rookie officer over 40 years ago, firefighters and police officers have worked together and have had mutual respect for each other’s different and difficult jobs.

There is no doubt that police officers and firefighters have radically different job descriptions. One can argue that police officers work more weekly hours than firefighters, while the firefighters’ reverse argument was that in recent years they have suffered more on-duty deaths. Regardless of what statements are true or exaggerated, neither group will win if we fight each other to death. The absurdity of an HPD vs. HFD conflict is analogous to the past fighting between the HPPU and the HPOU. Throughout this discourse years ago, the employee groups fought each other - to the delight of City Hall, and to the end-result of over a decade of NO pay increases.

In the end, we realize that remaining neutral is but a recommendation - nothing more - nothing less. All of us are entitled to our personal opinion on these issues. Nevertheless, as a group, our collective goal is the passage of the November POB referendum, with the long-term goal being the sustainability of our pension for ourselves and future generations of Houston Police Officers who are following our footsteps. That is the battle that we must fervently fight to win.
The Current History of Academy Class #21

Academy Class #21 began training on September 1, 1959. There were seventy young Officers who finished their training several months later. As usual, there were a number of them that left the department at various stages prior to completing twenty years of service and qualifying for an HPOPS pension. Those were J.E. Lewis, G.P. Whisenand, T.A. LaMance, J.B. Bianchino, S.M. Grizaffi, C.R. Harrelson, T.M. Blair, B.L. Miller, P.G. Griffin, J.W. Bannon, R.D. Ivy, S. Roy, K.R. Hill, J. Lohmann, R.P. Richards, J.J. Moore, A.F. Vanek, D.C. Lewis, D.E. Hanby, and J.M. Erwin. (20)

Forty-nine other Officers are listed in HPOPS records as having achieved their retirements. Of those, twenty-seven have passed on to their reward. They are, along with their years of service and year of death, are: Tommy C. Adams, 25 1999; Benny L. Alcorn, 29, 2004; ..


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Making Detective in the 70’s

The idea of becoming a big city homicide detective actually began when I was in high school. I grew up reading Sherlock Holmes and watching Dragnet on TV. The job looked like it was fun and challenging. However, there was little opportunity to be a detective where I lived. The small East Texas town of Vidor where I grew up had little employment opportunities. Little did I know that an opportunity would present itself in a few short years. Military service was one way out of a small town. The other option was college. I didn’t have the money to go to college, so I put the idea of being a police detective on the back burner and chose the military.

I enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1966. The USAF was the fulfillment of another life’s dream. I was following in my mom and dad’s footsteps. They were both in the Army Air Corps in World War II. While in the Air Force, I took advantage of educational opportunities at the air base where I was stationed and I was able to get 60 credit hours of college. I was working toward a degree in accounting because everyone said I could make a good living as a CPA. Business and accounting became my college course of study.

After four years in the USAF I was honorably discharged and I moved to Houston to continue working on my accounting degree. After several classes in business and finance I realized that I was just not cut out to be an accountant. I found myself with over two years of college in a field that I hated. My grades were above average but my heart was not into sitting in an office all day working numbers or working in a corporate environment.

My life changed dramatically when a uniformed Houston Police sergeant walked into the Gibson’s camera store where I was working part time. He had a roll of film to be developed. I asked him about becoming a Houston police detective and he kind of chuckled told me that the City of Houston was looking for fine young men just like me.

He gave me the address and phone number of the recruiting desk at the HPD Police Academy. I decided to look into this opportunity and I made arrangements to go in person the next day.

At police headquarters, I met an officer in recruiting and I told him that I was there to apply for detective. He smiled and laughed a little bit. He then told me that I had to start as a police officer and after a few years I could take the promotion exam for detective. I said ok, when can I start. I was going to do something that I had only dreamed of doing as a boy.

I was able to get my paper work in, pass my polygraph test, and I had my physical exam done in a week. I was accepted into class 52 beginning November 15th, 1971. We started with 70 cadets. The HPD Police Academy was sixteen weeks of academic and physical training. We lost a few cadets in training and Class 52 graduated 52 Probationary Police Officers. I finished second in my class and graduated in early March of 1972. I was assigned to the Accident Division, evening shift, 2:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

It was a great beginning but I had my heart on making Detective. To be eligible to take the detective exam in 1972 you had to have at least two years as a Police Officer. That meant it would be two and a half years of waiting to take the promotion test. In those two to three years, I decided to get my B.S. degree from Sam Houston State. I changed my major to Criminal Justice and graduated in 1974. That was one goal achieved and it made the next one even more desirable. I was ready for the challenge to become a Houston Police Detective. But first, I would get a taste of what it was like as an accident investigator.

While working the evening shift Accident Division, I got called to a one car fatal accident in the East End. The accident turned out to be a robbery-murder after finding a bullet hole in the driver’s head. The deceased driver was known to cash checks for laborers in the neighborhood and his wallet was missing. I called Homicide and I talked to a Detective Joe Reed.

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HPROA Event Calendar: October, November, and December 2017

Thursday, October 5, 2017  HPOU General Membership Meeting

Thursday, October 12, 2017  HPOPS Board Meeting

Thursday, October 12, 2017  8:30am HPROA Board Meeting  9:30am General Membership Meeting

NOTE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2017, HPOPS SEMINAR IN HUMBLE, TEXAS CIVIC CENTER. SEE HPOPS WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS.

NOTE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2017-ANNUAL HILL COUNTRY HPROA REUNION IN FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS. SEE ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE ARTICLE FOR MORE DETAILS.

Thursday, November 2, 2017  HPOU General Membership Meeting

Thursday, November 9, 2017  HPOPS Board Meeting

Thursday, November 9, 2017  8:30am HPROA Board Meeting  9:30am General Membership Meeting

Thursday, December 7, 2017  HPOU General Membership Meeting

Thursday, December 14, 2017  HPOPS Board Meeting

Thursday, December 14, 2017  8:30am HPROA Board Meeting  9:30am General Membership Meeting

My Granddog

Thanks to E.J. Smith, my phone won’t stop ringing with calls about my four-legged grandson whose name is “Saucy.” He’s a twelve-year-old beagle that acts like he’s four. Saucy’s red blood cell count is dropping, however, the vet thinks medication will control it. I sure hope so, ‘cause he’s a big part of our family. Just taking him for his walk is a major operation. You see, like all beagles, his brains are located in his nose. On our three-mile walk, don’t even think about running; he catches a scent about every ten yards and christens it. He never runs out of juice. I think he has more juice than Tropicana and Minute Maid combined.

So much for Saucy, now a little about E.J.’s granddog, whose name is “Beau.” Beau has his own internal clock and tells E.J. when it’s walk time. They hit the road and before you know it, it’s getting close to supper time at the Smith household. However, E.J. being the talkative sort, stops and jawbones with everyone he knows, which is everybody in Magnolia and Montgomery County. He informed me that one evening his lovely wife Delores had the audacity to serve him his dinner at less than the optimum temperature. He was, in fact, late, but still somewhat miffed to say the least, at having to eat a cold meal.

Having been a 35-year policeman, I thought, there’re two sides to every story, so I’ll just ask Delores what really happened. Well, to make a long story short, she responded that she tossed his doggone dinner in the trash can. Case closed.

E.J. is really a great guy and the kind of supervisor who led from the front and not from the rear. Being a soldier instead of a Marine, he must have made a simple mistake, and walked through the wrong door at the recruiting station. I gave him a hard time about that blunder, but related to him that he probably wouldn’t have passed the physical anyway. He then kinda bowed up and asked me why I would say such a thing. I simply replied that his head would not have fit into the jar.

Roger Dickson

P.S. Major Doug Hudson (HCSO) also has a head that definitely would not have fit into the jar! And I’m sure his mentor, Jimmy Williams, would concur.
During my career, in the Houston Police Department (HPD), I had the opportunity to work with some very good leaders and investigators. In the Robbery Division, there were some legendary detectives who crooks knew and feared. I will always remember the camaraderie we shared in the Robbery Division and what a great time we had.

As I look back on this period of my career, I realize the leaders in the Robbery Division were exceptional and were probably the reason I enjoyed working this assignment. These times were special and there were many significant investigations handled by the men and women of Robbery. Recently I was reminded of a historic investigation headed up by Lieutenant Donald (Don) J. McWilliams which covered an eight month period. Working with the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), Don and his men busted what may be the largest robbery and burglary ring in Houston’s history.

The investigation was one case Don never forgot. If you knew Don, he didn’t brag about his accomplishments, although he had many. When thinking about him, two quotes come to mind. The first quote is by John C. Maxwell, “A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way.”

When it came to investigations, Don had been there, done that, and was always willing to show his men the proper way to handle an investigation.

The second quote describes Don’s leadership style and probably explains why he was so successful and fun to work for. “A good leader takes a little more than his share of the blame, a little less than his share of the credit” Arnold H. Glasow . Don never received the credit he deserved and was always there for his detectives.

In January of 1979, a number of high dollar robberies started occurring in Houston. Dr. Morris Lepow and his wife were robbed in their home. The robbers took lithographs valued at $20,000, valuable paintings, jewelry and other property. The total loss in the robbery was over $100,000 and appeared to be set up, since the home invaders knew a lot about the victims and what property they had. During this same period of time, a series of residential robberies started occurring in River Oaks, Tanglewood and the Memorial area. All of these robberies were well planned and appeared to be connected. The losses started adding up and the property value taken in these robberies was over 4 million dollars.

Needless to say, the complainants were very well off, influential and politically connected. Questions were asked as to what HPD was doing about the problem and why hasn’t the Robbery Division solved the crimes. Don had to answer these questions as his detectives worked on the cases. As his detectives gathered evidence, Don started piecing together clues like a giant puzzle. Detectives working on the investigations were some of his most experienced robbery investigators. Detectives Steve Felchak, J. R. Wright, J.O. Parker, Wayne W. Lundy and Frank Converse were just some of the investigators working the cases and reporting their daily progress to Don.

In March of 1979, a major break in the investigations came. The FBI was receiving information about an organized robbery ring that appeared to be responsible for the robberies. Jack Gordan Franklin, a house renovation contractor, and Shirley Ann Keller had approached a person they believed to be a mafia go between and offered to provide stolen paintings, jewelry and artifacts from a recent robbery. Franklin owned the remodeling company that had remodeled the homes of some of the recent victims.

Continues on Page 13
It is unclear when the FBI came forward and shared any of their investigation with local authorities. However, from talking with retired detective Wayne Lundy, the FBI appeared to know a lot more about the robberies than they were willing to share. The Bureau’s reluctance to share their information may have been because another member of this organized robbery ring, Peter Thomas Luffred, was allegedly an FBI informant. As the investigation continued, robbery investigators linked Luffred to the group of robbers who were terrorizing victims in their homes and businesses.

In defending his client in court, Luffred’s attorney Ray Bass claimed his client was working with the FBI as an informant and Bass believed his client was a scapegoat, framed by other members of the organization. Luffred had told several people he worked for the FBI, including his mother. However, in Luffred’s presentence investigation the FBI told probation officers that Luffred was never on the FBI payroll, whatever that means. Many years after Luffred’s trial, his mother said her son worked for the FBI since discharging from the Marine Corp in 1967. Luffred’s involvement as an informant may never be known, but his involvement in the robbery ring was proven beyond a reasonable doubt during his trial.

By investigating German’s associates, detectives learned that Kirk Alan LeDuc was driving the get-a-way car when German was shot and killed. LeDuc was now a person of interest in the investigation and the pieces of the puzzle were starting to make since.

Robbery detectives learned German worked in the home renovation business owned by Jack Gordon Franklin and several of the home invasion victims, including Mr. and Mrs. Herzberg, had recently used Franklin’s construction company to do some work in their home.

Then on July 6, 1979, another break came in the investigation when James Steven Stewart and Kenneth Larry Castro were arrested in Ft. Worth attempting to pawn 15 rings taken in the robbery of a jewelry salesman in Houston. The FBI was now working with the detectives in the Robbery Division and Lieutenant McWilliams.

On July 19, 1979, Phyllis Holland, an acquaintance of Luffred, was robbed in her home. Robbers Kirk Alan LeDuc and Janet Gale Futrell, posed as business people to gain entry into Ms. Holland’s home. The robbers took diamonds, gold jewelry, silver, stereo equipment and Holland’s Lincoln Continental.

During questioning, LeDuc admitted his involvement and told authorities Luffred paid him and Futrell $1400 for doing the robbery. After LeDuc’s arrest, he cooperated with authorities and secretly recorded conversations with Luffred. He told detectives that Luffred recruited them back in May to rob his friends and associates. More and more of the pieces were coming together and the picture was getting clearer.

Although investigators established connections between Franklin, Luffred and several robberies, they did not have a strong case on either of these men. Just prosecuting the robbers would not stop future robberies, since Franklin and Luffred would recruit other robbers to do their dirty work. Harris County prosecutor Paul Mewis described Luffred as “one arm of an octopus” in this statewide robbery ring and he described Franklin as being equal to Luffred. So, I guess you might say Franklin was another arm of the octopus. Paul also described Luffred as a FBI informant who thought he had “a license to steal”. Paul, Don and his detectives were about to revoke this license and with the cooperation of the FBI they were building an air tight case on Luffred and Franklin.

Lieutenant Donald “Don” J. McWilliams with part of the 2.2 million dollar recovery
Based on all the evidence the Robbery Division had gathered, Harris County Assistant District Attorney Paul Mewis drafted two search and arrest warrants, which were reviewed and signed by Judge Frank Price. On Wednesday night, August 22, 1979, investigators executed the warrants at the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge, 7900 Katy Freeway. At that location, the police found property taken in several of the robberies and they arrested Jack Gordon Franklin, Peter Thomas Luffred and Robert Niell Serafine. An undercover FBI agent, posing as a mafia buyer, met with all three ring leaders and saw the stolen property in the room. The undercover agent gave a signal to the police officers, waiting around the hotel and they moved in for the arrest.

While making these arrests, Lieutenant Don McWilliams observed Shirley Ann Keller, who was listening to a police scanner in her car near the hotel. Officer Kirk Munden was assisting in the robbery investigation and he arrested and transported Keller to the police station. One of the search warrants was for Franklin and Keller’s town home at 14675 Perthshire. In that home, Police found stolen paintings, jewelry, silverware and other stolen property during the search. All together that night, Police recovered approximately 2.2 million dollars in stolen property which was taken in several robberies. Along with the stolen property, police also recovered bullet-proof vests, guns, hand grenades, walkie-talkies and a car equipped with police scanners.

Before their arrest, Franklin and Luffred bragged about being connected to the mafia. The investigation showed this group was highly organized with connections in several states, but no documented ties to the mafia. However, investigators established Franklin and Luffred were operating a highly sophisticated robbery ring and Serafine was involved with them in the organization.

Robert Neill Serafine claimed he was not part of the organization and was only a hired body guard for the attempted sale of the property. However, the evidence showed differently. On the day of Serafine’s arrest, he had hand grenades, pistols, guns, a dagger, a smoke bomb and armor piercing bullets. He was certainly well prepared for the meeting. His possession of the hand grenades brought federal charges along with the local charges for his involvement in the organized robbery ring.

While in federal custody, Serafine tried to take a federal marshals’ gun in an escape attempt. After the failed escape, the federal prosecutors added attempted escape to his federal charges. In federal court, his lawyer was able to make a plea agreement and Serafine pled guilty to attempted escape. After his federal plea, Serafine was turned over to Harris County for prosecution on the local charges.

Since Serafine had a previous robbery conviction in Illinois back in 1963, his defense of only being a body guard was not the best defense. Paul was able to show Serafine’s involvement in the organized robbery ring and Serafine was convicted of theft and sentenced to 20 years in prison on August 6, 1981.

One by one, Assistant District Attorney Paul Mewis tried and convicted each member of this organized robbery ring. Their convictions attest to the outstanding investigation by Lieutenant Don McWilliams and his detectives. Paul worked with the robbery investigators during every step of the investigation and his skill in the courtroom was unmatched by the expensive lawyers hired by the defendants.

Jack Gordon Franklin went to trial in the 176th District Court and the jury found him guilty of the theft. On April 23, 1980, the jury assessed his sentence at seventy five (75) years in prison. In a separate trial, Franklin’s accomplice Shirley Ann Keller was sentenced by a jury to a fourteen (14) year prison term. Paul left the district attorney’s office and established his own private law practice in 1982. After Paul left the office, Franklin’s lawyers appealed his conviction and the appellant court issued an acquittal on December 16, 1983, and Franklin was released from custody.

Kirk Alan LeDuc pled guilty to a reduced charge of robbery on June 3, 1980.
Because of his cooperation and testimony, the judge gave him ten (10) years probation. LeDuc’s accomplice Janet Gale Futrell also received a reduced charge and pled guilty to one count of robbery on June 10, 1980. Like LeDuc, Futrell received a ten (10) year probated sentence. However, she later violated her conditions of probation and went to prison on her robbery charge.

On March 28, 1980, Assistant District Attorney Paul Mawis convicted Peter T. Luffred for aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon, in the 176th District Court. The jury sentenced Luffred to ninety nine (99) years in the state prison. After Paul left the DA’s office, Luffred appealed his conviction and was granted a new trial. This time, Luffred negotiated a plea agreement and pled no contest to the robbery charge, receiving a fifteen (15) year prison sentence.

Before his conviction Luffred was a successful flamboyant business man running Maveric Investments. He had his own private jet and lived the good life, but it just was not good enough. He has always maintained his innocence and claimed to be an FBI informant, who was set up by an FBI agent. After his release from prison, Luffred began putting his life back together and rebuilding his wealth.

Then in October of 1986, Luffred went into hiding claiming his life was in danger because he had information about connections between organized crime and the FBI. The FBI was looking for Luffred because they had a federal warrant for his arrest. Their investigation involved connections in Florida, New York and Texas. Luffred was indicted on bank fraud charges in Houston on March 4, 1988 and he was arrested in California on September 12, 1989. Luffred was returned to Houston on the federal charges and he pled guilty to the federal charges of defrauding banks in Houston and Miami. The federal judge sentenced Luffred to seven (7) years in federal prison.

Luffred and the suspects involved in this highly organized robbery ring are extremely interesting individuals. The Houston Robbery Division cracked what is believed to be the largest robbery and burglary ring in Houston’s history. The detectives, working these investigations, built strong cases. Although the FBI played a major role in the investigation, Lieutenant Don McWilliams and his robbery detectives were responsible for recovering over two (2) million dollars in stolen property and breaking up a highly organized robbery and burglary ring. Prosecutor Paul Mewis worked with investigators throughout the investigation and successfully prosecuted the many suspects.

I want to thank Dinah McWilliams for bringing my attention to this historic investigation and my friend Paul Mawis, who was a tremendous resource in getting the facts for this story. History was made every day in the Houston Police Department and so much of this history is lost when we lose retired officers, who kept the history alive in their war stories. Documenting and writing about some of these war stories is my attempt at preserving some of the department’s past history. My apologies to the many officers and detectives that were not mentioned in this article. If you were involved in any part of this investigation, you did an outstanding job and deserved being mentioned.

Hopefully you enjoyed reading about one of the many outstanding investigations conducted by the Houston Police Department. I was not involved in the investigation of this robbery ring and wish I could have sit down with the detectives that were. Their input would have made for a more complete story regarding these historic recoveries and arrests.

There are fourteen retirees still alive and hopefully, enjoying the fruits of their labor on HPD. They are, along with their years of service: Willie E. Branch, 25; Donald E. Cotten, 30; Jon W. Dunn, 28; W.K. Graham, 22; Jack W. Guy, 25; Rufus R. Jones, 33; John M. Killgore, 29; Kenneth C. Knapp, 28; Robert W. Linder, 23; Thomas D. Mitchell, 29; James E. Montero, 29; Lem D. Sherman, 31; James D. Spann, 34; and Fred H. Walschburger, 28. (14)

The longest serving Officers from this class were Ben Bashaw and Charles Bullock with forty-five years followed closely by Raymond Garcia with forty-two. May the Good Lord continue to watch over these fine men.


There were no LINE OF DUTY DEATHS in this class. However, Glenn W. Ewton retired from HPD in 1988 and continued his law enforcement career as a Helicopter Pilot in the western states and was killed in a crash in 1991.

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Continues from Page 9

Nelson Zoch
August 26, 2017
### Birthdays & Anniversaries

#### OCT

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He told me that all the Detectives were tied up on shootings and I would have to make the scene myself. I swallowed real hard and said ok. I took my own photos, interviewed the witnesses and drew a diagram of the scene and handled the disposition of the body. Detective Reed instructed me come up to the 3rd floor, Homicide Division. and he helped me write the report from the official HPD Homicide outline. It was my first homicide scene and I was not even a Detective yet but it made me even more motivated to get promoted.

The City of Houston Civil Service finally announced the Detective exam for the summer of 1976. Along with the announcement of the date of the test, the source material that the questions would be taken from were listed. The four books were: The Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure of the State of Texas, The Houston Police Rules Manual, Fundamentals of Criminal Investigation by O'Hara and Community Policing, sarcastically called the “green bible”. I already had two of these books, Rules Manual and Penal Code, from the police academy and I got the other two the next day. Looking at the four books and all that material was intimidating. Some doubt began to “throw rocks” at my dream of making detective. I asked my supervisors in the Accident Division, Sgt. E. J. Smith and Sgt. Emil Silvia how they studied for the Sergeant exam. They both told me the same thing read the books, then read them again and then read them again. I took their advice. My confidence returned and I was determined to be ready for that Detective exam.

I read each book at least three or four times. I could almost tell you what was on any given page of each book without looking at it. Then it hit me! The Civil Service person who would make up the one hundred questions from these four books was not any smarter than me. He had to open these books and select facts and topics for questions as any average person would do.

I began going through each book and writing down questions on index cards with the answer on the back. By the time I had gone through the four books, I had over a thousand questions with the answer on the backside. I was going to be prepared for the test.

Word spread in the Accident Division that I was studying for the Detective exam and George Buehler, a Police Officer and Class 52 classmate asked if we could study together. It would be the beginning of a long friendship that would last for years. George and I would get together on our days off and we would study together asking each other questions from the index cards. The time finally arrive for the detective test. I was confident I had done everything possible to get ready for it.

The Detective exam was given in the Albert Thomas Convention Center. There were over two hundred officers who took the test. The test was 100 questions from the four books. I went quickly through the questions and I had no problem with the test. I think I was one of the first ones to finish and then I had to wait. The Civil Service test monitors graded the test immediately. I missed 10 questions that I should not have missed. I knew the correct answer and I just misread the question. I was really mad at myself for missing so many.

Promotion in the Houston Police Department in the 70’s was from a list of eligible candidates. Your ranking on the promotion list was based on three criteria: your test score, efficiency score and your seniority in grade. My test score was 90. Efficiency scores were given by each officer’s supervisor and it was generally a score of your job performance. However, it had more to do with your seniority and little to do with your effectiveness as a police officer. My efficiency score was 26 out of a maximum of 28. Your seniority score was based on the years in grade at your present rank. My seniority was the minimum, 2, with the maximum being 10.

I had a total score of 118 and by the end of the day after all the scores had been tabulated, I finished in the top twenty on the Detective list. At that point I didn’t know if I would make Detective or not.

There was no assurance that I would make detective from this list. It would depend on the number of retirements by detectives in the HPD and promotions of detectives to lieutenant. The list would expire in one year. The one thing I didn’t think would happen, and it did, was the creation of many more detective positions by the City Council.

I had my heart set on becoming a homicide detective and I decided to do some politicking when it looked like I would be promoted. I made an appointment to see the Homicide Division commander, Captain L. D. Morrison. I remember walking into his office and seeing his desk stacked with so many cases I literally could not see the top of the desk. I told him of my desire to work in the Homicide Division and to my surprise he said, “Well, let me talk to some people.”. I never heard any more from him and I was afraid I had blown it trying to circumvent police policy, I later learned that he had called my immediate supervisors for their opinion of me as a police officer.

As the year 1976 progressed, a number of police officers were promoted to detective and by March 1st I found myself at the top of the list. I was finally notified that I would be promoted to Detective on March 31st, 1977. Sgt. Silva told me that I would be going to the Homicide Division. I was so relieved and proud at that moment I let out a big, “All Right!”

On March 31st, 1977, I found myself in the Chief’s office along with new detectives, Wayne Jones and Hipolito Galano. Chief Pappy Bond gave each of us our new badges.
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I was handed my Detective badge, D688. I recall a sense of pride and relief at that moment. I had actually made it. I was told to report to the Homicide Division at 11:00 pm that Friday night.

I don't want to get too far ahead of myself, but George Buehler, did pass the test and he got promoted to Detective a few months after I made it. He was also assigned to the Homicide Division. Not to my surprise, I had written down every question that was on the test on those 1000 index cards. After our lateral promotion to Sergeant, George went on to transfer to the Solo Motorcycle Division and retired from there.

I didn’t wait until Friday night to go to the Homicide Division on the 3rd floor of 61 Riesner St. I was ready to start working. I immediately walked down to the third floor and met Lt. Breckenridge Porter, Day Shift Lieutenant. He welcomed me to the Homicide Division and then told me to go home. He didn’t have anything for me to do at that moment. Lt. Porter said that I would be working the night shift, 11:00pm to 7:00am and my partner would be Detective David Collier. I went home and got ready for my first night in the HPD Homicide Division.

The Homicide Division was the only Criminal Investigation Division that detectives rotated shifts on a monthly basis; days to evenings then to nights and back to days and so on. In addition, days off were also rotated monthly along with shifts. It was a crazy place to work. My first month I worked nights with Tuesday and Wednesday off. But it really didn’t matter at that point. I loved the job and never regretted going to work. I was finally a big city homicide detective.

My first night on the job was unforgettable. Friday night finally arrived and I got to work a little early and met some of the detectives on the night shift and Lieutenant H. W. Kersten, night shift supervisor. I learned that Detective Collier was in Austin attending the Texas legislative session. Collier was a HPOA director and he was lobbying for the Houston Police Officers Association. Lt. Kersten assigned me to ride with Detectives Doug Bostock and Danny Spurlock for the night. I was supposed to ride along and observe.

Lt. Kersten handed me three murder reports, cleared cases. He told me to read each one. I was to learn how to write murder reports by reading cleared cases. The Homicide Division had a 5x7 card with an outline how to write a homicide case. I began reading a recently cleared case that was over an inch thick by Detectives Jim Tucker and David Massey. These guys could write. Everything was described in intricate detail. It was like seeing a photograph with words. It began with Introduction; where they were when they were assigned the case, from whom they were assigned and time of the call, etc. The offense report covered every facet of the case from lighting to weather to witnesses to suspect interrogation. About 11:15 pm I was halfway through the case when Bostock said, “Put that up we have a scene, a shooting DOA on Wirt Rd.” It was time to go to work. I rode in the back of their 1972 Dodge Cornet to the scene in northwest Houston.

As we arrived at the scene, Bostock asked me to do the diagram and he and Spurlock would handle everything else. I got to work. I had a rough diagram drawn and I was finishing taking measurements when Bostock said let’s go. To my amazement they had their entire scene notes on the back of a 3x5 index card! I thought to myself, these guys have a really good memory.

I thought we were headed to 61 Riesner St, but we continued on to the east end and pulled into the D & D Ice House on McKinney and Milby. Not wanting to be an odd ball, I went in with them.

I was surprised to find most of the night shift Homicide inside having a cold refreshment, playing pool or cards. I got a coke and tried to look invisible. In the words of Sgt. Shultz on Stalag 13, “I know nothing, I saw nothing, I heard nothing.” We returned to the 3rd floor of 61 Riesner and I finished my diagram on a supplement report.

In my early days in HPD Homicide we had no computers. Reports were typed on manual Remington typewriters. There was one IBM electric typewriter, but someone was always using it when I was ready to do my report. It was at that point that I was so grateful to have taken typing in high school. It was the one high school class that actually applied to my job. I learned to bang out offense reports with the best of them.

Dave Collier would eventually return to work from his HPOA duties and I rode with him until September of 1977. The day shift primarily conducted follow-up investigation requests outlined on an inner office memo called a “yellow sheet.” I would later get paired with Detective Johnny Bonds whose partner, Eli Uresti, went to the newly formed Internal Affairs Division. Johnny and I would ride together for over a year. We often traded our months of night shift or day shift with officers who like nights. Bonds and I liked working evenings because of traffic. Rotating shifts and rotating days off ended when Captain Bobby Adams took over the Homicide Division. Everyone was glad that was over. I would eventually work the day shift, 7:00 am to 3:00 pm in Murder Squad 11 for the remainder of my police career.

A Houston Homicide detective in the 1970’s was a jack of all trades and master of none. We had no crime scene units (CSU) to photograph, diagram or collect evidence. In addition, the scene detectives had to write a description of the scene from his or her notes and take measurements of everything.
A History of the Houston Police Badge

By Denny Hair, HPD Retired

The history of the Houston Police Badge is as interesting as the history of Houston itself. In 1841, Houston’s police force was established with the hiring of Daniel Busley. Although Houston existed prior to 1841, it went through many changes and had no identifiable lasting law enforcement. Policing in the town of Houston was done by the sheriff and privately hired constables.

The town was not always policed from 1836 through 1841. During this time, Houston citizens were often on their own in protecting themselves and their property.

Starting with the hiring of Daniel Busley as the chief law enforcement officer of the town of Houston, the city aldermen paid his salary and the police officers, which was one or two at the time. The police officers were identifiable, but it was unclear how.

The assumption that they wore badges has always been one of speculation, but no city records have surfaced to substantiate that belief. Busley was called a city marshal, but was head of the Houston Police Force. These records are important because they show the Houston Police Department has operated continuously under the governing body of Houston’s elected city official since January 9, 1841.

Continues from Page 20

We could call for an officer on a Print Unit to lift latent prints. If the case was a real “whodunnit” we could ask the Lieutenant to request the HPD Crime Lab to make the scene. I began to carry my own camera, tape measure and paper and plastic bags for evidence collection. In the early 80’s Detective Bruce Frank was instrumental in the creation of the Homicide Division, Crime Scene Unit. The CSU Police Officers were highly trained in crime scene investigation and made the life of being a homicide detective much easier. The CSU took all photographs, measurements, collected evidence, drew a scene diagram and submitted evidence to the appropriate lab. Scene detectives could concentrate on handling witnesses and/or the suspect if he was still at the scene.

My time in the HPD Homicide Division would span 28 years. During my career, I had the privilege to work with some really great detectives as partners; Johnny Bonds, Jim Hall, John Kitto, Waymon Allen, Mike Peters, Fred Hale, and Mario Rodriguez. In addition, Day Shift, Squad 11, was filled with top notch investigators which are too many to name.

In 1984 the City of Houston eliminated the rank of Detective. We all became Sergeants. There would be no more Detective exam. Everyone got a Sergeant’s badge.

We were also issued uniforms, a duty holster, handcuff case and belt with keepers. We would still work plain clothes; however, we were told to keep our uniforms handy in case the City needed more uniformed officers. Likewise, we were now eligible work extra jobs in uniform. Police Officers began transferring to the Homicide Division and they were paired with Sergeants to work cases.

I retired from the Houston Police Department in 2005 after 33 years of service. I told my wife I’d retire when it wasn’t fun anymore. I had finally decided to leave the job I truly loved doing. I’ve been asked more than once why didn’t I try to make Lieutenant. The simple fact is I loved being a Homicide Detective. There is nothing like hearing your handcuffs click on a murder’s wrists or walking him down to the jail intake and hear that big metal door clang closed and you know your suspect will never see the light of day again. Supervisors didn’t do that.

I feel blessed to have worked in an occupation that is not like anything else. It is complex, challenging, frustrating at times, but so rewarding when you clear a case. I always looked forward to going to work and face another challenging case. One of my partners once told me, “Someone has to represent the dead and God chose us.”

The assumption that they wore badges has always been one of speculation, but no city records have surfaced to substantiate that belief. Busley was called a city marshal, but was head of the Houston Police Force. These records are important because they show the Houston Police Department has operated continuously under the governing body of Houston’s elected city official since January 9, 1841.

I thank God for calling me to such a career and the inspiration to achieve the rank of Detective. As we used to say in Squad 11, “In God we trust, all others are suspects.”

Promotions within the Houston Police Department have really changed since the 1970’s. Police Officers can apply to work Homicide and they just transfer to the Division and learn to work murder cases. Promotion from Police Officer to Sergeant only. There is no Detective rank.

I don’t know if officers have to study as hard for Sergeant as I did for Detective. I assume that it is. I’ve been told the promotion criteria has changed to allow more candidates to get promoted. I hope it is as rewarding to work there as it was for me. Rest assured there are plenty of Police Officers and Sergeants in the present-day Homicide Division who are working cases and after the bad guys just like my old retired friends. My only advise to them is to make us proud, be persistent and clear that case.

Wayne Wendel, Retired HPD

If you like the article or want to add to it contact me at:
waynewendel@yahoo.com

Comments are also welcomed.
The town of Houston, was for a time, the capital of the Republic of Texas, a sovereign country. As such, it had military, militia and Texas range riders called rangers who provided help in law enforcement. The office of city marshal became an elected position in 1843, and the police salaries were paid from town revenues.

Records of police duties are vary sparse and the city secretary’s minutes of alderman meetings with the elected mayors are missing from 1846 to October 1865. So, there are no official police records surviving until after the Civil War. Records form 1867 show there were 18 Houston police officers including the elected city marshal.

Around this time period, the police had uniforms and the elected city marshal was called the chief of police. He wore the title on a navy blue cloth cap with a gold embroidered wreath in front with the word “chief,” in gold. It should be assumed the police wore badges but one is not mentioned in the city ordinances.

Police Officer Youngst wore badge No 5. His badge was in the same configuration as the badges worn today by HPD.

Back in those days, the badges were handmade and police officers were responsible for having their badges made. They paid for their uniform, badge and gun. Tradition dictated the badge was to be silver, and many Mexican pesos were used since they were made with real silver. The badge was hammered out and the badge number was silver soldered on. This was not an uncommon practice as there are examples of this being done by the Texas Rangers, CSA Cavalry in the 1860’s and law enforcement sheriffs and marshals throughout Texas.

No record exists of who first wore badge number one, but it can be assumed badge number 1 was sometime prior to 1874. It can also be assumed that Herman Youngst was not the first officer to wear badge number 5, as there were 19 police officers including him on the police department in 1874. Badge numbers have been recycled for well over 100 years. In the late 19th century and the turn of the 20th century there was an effort to replace the badge with what was called the star badge.

The police officers hated them and after a short period of time, they were allowed to wear their silver shield badges once again. Early badges were made of brass and silver plated with the badge number silver soldered on. An example of this type of badge was believed to be worn by J.C Altopfer. His badge number was 45, and his badge now resides in the Houston Police Museum collection.

Sergeants of police and higher ranks wore a gold badge of their own design. They had it made and paid for it at their own expense. They became very ornate and had inlays of gold and sometimes diamonds. In rare occasions, when a popular police officer was promoted, his men would chip in and buy him a gold badge. This was true of J.M. Ray when he was promoted to Chief of Police. His three gold and silver badges now reside at the Police museum. Chief Ray’s daughter, Pearl Ray Cox, met with Denny Hair in 1984, and donated his scrapbooks to the Police Museum. She also provided the history of Chief Ray’s three gold and silver badges.
In later years, the silver badges were standardized and Nelson Silva Manufacturing was contracted to make the Houston Police badges. Nelson Silva stamped the badge out in brass and then silver coated the badge. This practice continued through the first half of the 20th century. The problem was the silver would tarnish and continued polishing would wear the silver off and the badge would have to be re-silvered. Also, the supervisor badges were all over the place in design and had gotten out of hand.

When Chief of Police Ray Ashworth took office in 1941 he issued orders on February 18, 1941, that all officers were to have a standard badge that was nickel plated and had either the number on it or their rank. The Chief would have a gold plated badge that simple said “Chief”. These new badges cost $5 and would be worn by all police officers by March 1st.

Chief Ray Ashworth also stopped the practice of badges being issued to everyone who worked in or around the department. Only sworn law enforcement officers would be allowed to have police badges. According to police records, there were over 1100 special police badges held by all kinds of people.

City employees, night watchmen, private detectives, bankers, payroll clerks, and a group of prominent citizens were carrying badges. These badges commissioned the holder with authority to carry pistols. The practice was stopped and all the badges were called in.

In 1955 it was determined that the Auxiliary Police (Volunteers and not regular officers) wore the same badges as regular Houston Police Officers. Chief Jack Heard pulled these badges and issued badges that said “Auxiliary Police”.

It has been said that the tradition of wearing a badge by police originated from the coat of arms worn by knights. These coat of arms displayed on the knight’s shield identified him and his allegiance to justice, chivalry and his royal leaders. Much like the police of today who swear to protect and serve, knights from the medieval era, were often sworn in and asked to protect the weak, defenseless and fight for the general welfare of all. When a police officer takes his oath, he is then given a badge.

The badge is worn over the heart for two reasons; first to remind the police officer of their pledge to protect and serve, second because the left arm was the arm that often held the coat of arms shield of knights protecting the heart and leaving the dominant hand to fight with a weapon.

The Houston Police Department has experienced the loss of many of its Knights in Blue who have given the ultimate sacrifice wearing our current badge. When a police officer is lost in the line of duty, we wear “Nemo Me Impune Lacessit” over our badge. It means “No one assails me with impunity”.
A whole lot of HPROA members preformed a tremendous support role for fellow-retirees and others following the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Everybody knows the story and I won’t bother repeating it here. Whether it was helping support our over-worked and worn-out active officers at the HPOU, or strong-backs stepping up to help those in need of flood repair, the HPROA members were there to lend a willing and helping hand. That’s just what police officers do in time of need, and it doesn’t stop once we retire. 

It would be impossible to individually thank each person who courageously or generously assisted others during this catastrophe, so a blanket pat-on-the-back is offered to all who responded to the “Assist the Officer” call.

Also noteworthy and the reason for this article, is to remind everybody that the HPROA is there even in times when a disaster doesn’t beacon for assistance. They are there helping fellow members 365 days of the year via the Family Assistance Committee chaired by Forrest Turbeville. I’m not a member of this committee, but I have been so impressed by the work that they do, that special recognition is merited.

The Family Assistance Committee has medical equipment in-hand that may be needed by our members or their immediate family:
- Hospital bed
- Mobility Scooters
- Crutches
- Roller Walkers and Knee Walkers
- Lift Recliner Chairs
- Shower Chairs
- Wheelchairs
- Potty-Chairs
- A limited amount of miscellaneous medical equipment.

The Family Assistance Committee maintains a storage facility in the Tomball area, and committee members deliver this equipment at no cost to any HPROA member within the greater-Houston area. The committee also welcomes donations of new or like-new medical equipment for future use by our members.

If any member is in need of any of the items listed, please contact any member of our Family Assistance Committee at the following contact numbers:

- Nelson Foehner  713-857-2924
- Ron Headley  713-253-5749
- Pat Kainer  281-642-6645
- Ray Smith  281-221-7466
- Doug Bostock  281-890-7610

In recap, this article was not intended to tell you what happened after the hurricane, so many of you experienced this first-hand in a tragic way by being a victim of this disaster. So many others were humbled by being able to assist those in time of need. But, apart from the hurricane, if your need is the use of medical equipment, the intent of this article was to remind members of assistance that has always been, and always will be available in the future, as a benefit to your membership in the HPROA.

Human Resources Benefits

Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
832.393.6000     888.205.9266
benefits@Houstontx.gov
cityofhoustonbenefits.org

CIGNA
832.393.6000     888.205.9266
800.997.1406
cityofhoustonserviceinquiries@cigna.com
mycigna.com

DELTA DENTAL
DHMO 844.282.7637
DPPO 855.242.1549
deltadentalins.com/
cityofhoustonbenefits.org

SUPERIOR VISION
800.507.3800
866.265.0517
superiorvision.com
Homicide Gathering

On Thursday, July 13, 2017, a large group of former HPD Homicide personnel gathered at the Front Porch Pub, Heights Boulevard and Center Street. It was BYOB AND BYOF for all to enjoy drinks and food. There were a number of war stories told, some of which were rumored to have actually been true. This event was arranged by retired Homicide Sergeant (and photographer extraordinaire) Wayne Wendel along with the facebook contact expertise of retired Homicide Sergeant Carless Elliott.

The group photo was taken by Wayne outside the Pub and he is pictured at the right front. This writer has made every effort to identify all that were there. Beginning with the earliest by date, those were Pat Kainer (1971), Nelson Zoch (1972), Jim Binford and Carl Kent (1974), Gene Yanchak (1975), Wayne Wendel (1977), Guy Mason and Paul Motard (1978), John Kitto, Toby Hernandez, Ronnie Doyle, Cecil Mosqueda, Joe Selvera, Steve Arrington, and Ted Thomas (1979). After that, my memory is fading but in no particular order, the following also attended:

Richard Holland, D.D. Shirley, Bob Parish, Mike Lewellen, Marius Doyle, John Swaim, Alan Harris, Murray Smith, Willie Holt, Ken Vachris, Carless Elliott, Richard Martinez, Brian Harris, Tommy Ruland, Henry Chisholm, Steve Jett, Bill Dunn, Lynn Dollins, John Burmester, Dave Ferguson, Bruce Baker, Pam Jackson, Tom McCorvey, Todd Miller, Tom Wyers, D.C. Lambright....

J.S. Hammerle, Chris Cegielski, Ron Walker and Dan Arnold. My apologies if I omitted someone. Also attending were Gene Yanchak’s wife Jeanette, Murray Smith’s son Ethan, and longtime Homicide friend David Beard.

Homicide Captain Richard Holland, who served in Homicide as a Detective, Lieutenant, and Captain along with Steve Jett were the two Homicide Division Commanders present. A good time was had and hopefully, Wayne and Carless may call another meeting to order in the near future.

Nelson Zoch
July 14, 2017

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.

MOBILE COP SHOP
SINCE 1990
SUPPLIES FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Law Enforcement prices on Smith & Wesson and Sig Sauer

Duplicate badges --
full or wallet size
The Shotguns Corner

By M. D. Beale, Jr.

Thanksgiving Day

The Fall of the year is my favorite time of year for three reasons. It’s cooler, for one thing, and the hunting and holiday seasons are the others.

I have a kaleidoscope of memories of Holidays, Thanksgivings, Christmases, New Year Days, even Lincoln’s Birthdays, Valentine’s Days, and Washington Birthdays of 70 plus years gone by.

In the mix there’s dove, deer, duck, goose as well as quail season and the many days afield, which coincide – more or less – with the holidays.

I can remember the smells from my paternal grandmother’s cooking on a wood stove in a farm house that didn’t have electricity or indoor plumbing. Even as a very small lad it always amazed me how much food she could cook using that relatively small wood cook stove. Thanksgiving dinners there were a symphony of stuffed roast turkey, honey baked ham, cornbread dressing and giblet gravy, fresh greens, beans, carrots, onions, corn, squash, and many other vegetables from her garden. The pie, cake, and dessert baking would be done a day or two earlier, and in the modern vernacular, “were to ‘die’ for”.

It was a perfectly choreographed production with Mamaw, my Mother, and many of my aunts all working around in that kitchen at the same time, fixing a vast meal for 10 or more. All of us kids were pests, I’m sure, running in and out and trying to filch a taste while they were cooking.

Over the years the crass commercialization by merchants of Christmas has all but obliterated the Thanksgiving season. When I get to be King the first thing I’m going to do is outlaw Christmas sales advertising until December 1st, and make it a capital offense, the executions to be carried out in the town square where the offense occurred.

I think that Thanksgiving is the most American of holidays. The first one recorded was in Jamestown, Virginia, in the fall of 1610, though there are references to one probably held there in 1607, 168 years before the 4th of July Independence Day in 1775.

What’s erroneously known as the “first” Thanksgiving was held by the Mayflower Pilgrim survivors [NOT to be confused with Puritans] celebrating their first year of survival at Plymouth Colony sometime between September 21 and November 11, 1621, probably about Michaelmas on September 29th, the traditional time. Seventeenth century accounts do not record this as a special thanksgiving celebration but as a “harvest festival” lasting about three days.

The four adult white women left alive, Eleanor Billington, Elizabeth Hopkins, Mary Brewster, and Susanna White, cooked the feast with the help of the remaining children and servants. Only 50 Plymouth Pilgrims [including the four women] of the original 100 survived. They were joined by about 90 Native Americans for this celebration.

Edward Winslow, in Mourt’s Relation, a pamphlet he composed with William Bradford between November 1620 and November 1621 about their experiences in the Plymouth Colony, wrote about this “first Thanksgiving”:

“Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruits of our labor. They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week. At which time, amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which we brought to the plantation and bestowed on our governor, and upon the captain and others.

And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.”

Several wild turkeys and other wild game was also gathered for this three day soiree. Fishing was on, too, with a lot of cod, bass, and other fish dishes.

Makes one wonder why ducks and geese and/or deer and bass are not the traditional meat instead of turkey. If I had any ancestors there, it would have to be one of the four that “went fowling”.

In 1777, during our Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress issued The First National Proclamation of Thanksgiving while in York, Pennsylvania, [the Brits had Philly -the Capitol - at that time]. It was first drafted by Samuel Adams and redone by Congress for publication:

“For as much as it is the indispensable Duty of all Men to adore the superintending Providence of Almighty God; to acknowledge with Gratitude their Obligation to him for Benefits received, and to implore such farther Blessings as they stand in Need of: And it having pleased him in his abundant Mercy, not only to continue to us the innumerable Bounties of his common Providence; but also to smile upon us in the Prosecution of a just and necessary War, for the Defense and Establishment of our unalienable Rights and Liberties; particularly in that he hath been pleased, in so great a Measure, to prosper the Means used for the Support of our Troops, and to crown our Arms with most signal success:

It is therefore recommended to the legislative or executive Powers of these United States to set apart Thursday, the eighteenth Day of December next, for Solemn Thanksgiving and Praise:

Continues on Page 28
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.

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.
That at one Time and with one Voice, the good People may express the grateful Feelings of their Hearts, and consecrate themselves to the Service of their Divine Benefactor; and that, together with their sincere Acknowledgments and Offerings, they may join the penitent Confession of their manifold Sins, whereby they had forfeited every Favor; and their humble and earnest Supplication that it may please God through the Merits of Jesus Christ, mercifully to forgive and blot them out of Remembrance; That it may please him graciouusly to afford his Blessing on the Governments of these States respectively, and prosper the public Council of the whole: To inspire our Commanders, both by Land and Sea, and all under them, with that Wisdom and Fortitude which may render them fit Instruments, under the Providence of Almighty God, to secure for these United States, the greatest of all human Blessings, Independence and Peace: That it may please him, to prosper the Trade and Manufactures of the People, and the Labor of the Husbandman, that our Land may yield its Increase: To take Schools and Seminaries of Education, so necessary for cultivating the Principles of true Liberty, Virtue and Piety, under his nurturing Hand; and to prosper the Means of Religion, for the promotion and enlargement of that Kingdom, which consisteth in Righteousness, Peace and Joy in the Holy Ghost.

And it is further recommended, That servile Labor, and such Recreation, as, though at other Times innocent, may be unbecoming the Purpose of this Appointment, be omitted on so solemn an Occasion."

George Washington also issued a Day of Thanksgiving proclamation in December 1777 as a victory celebration honoring the defeat of the British at Saratoga. He continued Thanksgiving Day Proclamations during his presidency. Several presidents followed his example over the years and Lincoln formalized it in 1863. It’s evolved from there into the national holiday it’s become today.

Today the original meaning of Thanksgiving seems to have been shoved aside in the interest of political correctness and commercial greed. That’s a very dangerous thing to have happen.

I think this First Proclamation is a very good prayer for all of us to say and mean this year.

Then we ought to “go fowling”, deer hunting and/or fishing. Stay safe and have a very happy holiday. See you in the field.

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**Killed in the Line of Duty**

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**HPROA New Members:**

**August & September 2017**

**August New Members:**


**September New Members:**

Scotty Kiper, Robert G. Alaniz, Cynthia Delano, Duane M. Gordon, Harold Lawrence, Rafael Rodriguez, Elma A. Trevino. (7)

Thanks to Membership Chairman Roy McDonald, the HPROA membership continues to grow.
August 10, 2017

Daniel Fike: (7-2-17 nf) Victor Landa reports that he visited Daniel at St. Luke’s Med Center today and found that he only has a short time to live, possibly a week. Dan has a pulmonary disease that has run its course. He is currently on full oxygen. He is peacefully aware of the situation and has his family with him. Lift up your prayers for Dan and his loved ones. (7-1-17 nf) Dan has been reported to be in ICU in serious condition at St. Luke’s Medical Center, Room number unknown. Dan has Lung issues he’s been fighting and went in for tests for transplant list and they and admitted him instead of the test. Information gathered from a Facebook report by Ed Swannie. NOTE: Daniel passed away on July 2.

Yvette Kainer: (7-9-17 nf) Yvette, daughter of Associate member Pat Kainer, was admitted to Methodist Hospital Medical Center, after being diagnosed with pneumonia and acute leukemia. She has begun the first of three 3 week courses of aggressive chemo followed by other treatment. This is going to be a long exhaustive journey and Pat invites all our prayers to help them through the days ahead.

Sarale Kersten: (7-11-17 nf) Doug Bostock reports that he visited, by phone, with Lance Kersten, son of Sarale Kersten and of deceased Lt. H. Wayne Kersten. Lance, a 31 year veteran of HFD, stated that Sarale, an HPROA member, has multiple health issues. She is oxygen dependent with limited mobility with some falls in the past.

She can manage with a cane but usually is in a wheel chair. Old homicide detectives are invited to call her at 903-683-2003 and she is in need of all our prayers.

Guy McMenemy: (7-12-17 nf) We visited with Mac this evening and found that he was admitted to North Cypress Hospital, 21214 Northwest Fwy, 832-912-3773 on Monday after a chest X-rays revealed blood clots in his lungs. He is being treated with blood thinner shots twice a day. He is hoping to be released in a day or two. Call him at 713-805-4422 and keep him in your daily prayers.

Jim Hudson: (7-17-17rh): We visited with Jim and he stated that he had to be admitted to the hospital again. The surgical wound which was a result of the repair of his broken hip replacement and his broken femur was not healing. Another surgery was performed and it was found that the device that was supposed to assist in the healing of the wounds was not properly placed. After this surgery, the device was properly placed and hopefully the surgical site will finally begin to heal. Jim has now been moved to Cornerstone Hospital Medical Center, room 323, 2001 Hermann Drive, Houston. UPDATE (8-4-17rh): Jim was advised that he will need additional surgery. They found that the broken femur had become completely disjoined and they would have to reset it and also repair his hip. On August 8 they will implant an antibiotic and August 15 they will perform the surgery to repair the femur. After the surgery he will return to Cornerstone Hospital. Please keep Jim and his wife Randi in prayers.

Jim loves to hear from old friends and if you are in the Medical Center area, pay him a visit. His cell # is 281-610-1236. Cornerstone Hospital # 832-649-6200.

Frank McMillian: (7-17-17 db) While up in East Texas this past week I went by the home of Frank McMillian, Class #26, who retired out of Robbery sometime ago, ending up in Jacksonville Texas and hanging a sign on his entrance LIK SKILLET, TEXAS. We talked on his front porch for some time about the old days. He and his wife are doing well and asked to say Hello to all the old timers, and if you are up that away, come on by or give them a call.

Guy McMenemy: (7-19-17 nf) Guy called this morning to report that he was released from the hospital last night and is now at home recovering from his pulmonary embolism. He will have to follow a therapy schedule at North Cypress hospital for a while. Keep Mac in your daily prayers and give him a call at 713-805-4422.

Joe Chebret: (7-20-17 nf) We visited with Joe this morning by phone at the Park Manor Rehab Center off of FM 242. Joe fell at his home on July 4, admitted to Memorial Hermann, Woodlands for a week, then moved to Park Manor. Joe has limited mobility and improving each day with therapy. Joe’s wife is in advanced stages of Alzheimer’s in very poor health. Joe’s 3 children are providing for the needs of Joe and his wife. Lift up your prayers for the Chebret family. Give Joe a call 713-858-0093
Tom & Joyce Doty: (7-22-17 nf) We visited with Tom by phone and he reported that he was afflicted with the shingles on his face, ear and in his hair and he was hospitalized for about 2 weeks due to the stress and concerns for Joyce being in the hospital again with complications of an earlier liver transplant. Tom stated that the shingles pain had subsided some and he had just received info that Joyce may be released to return home Monday or Tuesday. Lift up your prayers for Tom and Joyce that they both might recover from their illnesses. Give Tom a call at 281-890-4048.

Phil Tippen: (7-23-17 nf) We visited with Phil today by phone and he reports that he fell a couple of times this past week leaving him with a broken rib and a bruised back side. It is hard to find a comfortable position and to take a deep breath with the broken rib. He uses a walker but he is very unstable on his feet. Hopes to mend and free of falls. Keep your prayers coming for Phil and give him a call at 936-900-8382 & lift him up.

DEATHS DURING THE MONTHS OF JULY & August 2017

DAVID E. HAGLER, JUNE 23, 2017

DANIEL P. FIKE (MEMBER), JULY 8, 2017

JAMES C. TATUM (MEMBER), JULY 13, 2017

RUSSELL C. GRIMES, JULY 28, 2017

September 14, 2017

Sue Gaines: (8-8-17 nf) M.D. Beale reports that Sue Gaines was admitted to Kingwood Hospital last night with severe stomach pains. She is currently being treated and will be under observation to determine if surgery will be necessary. Lift up your prayers for Sue and her physicians. Sue Gaines: (8-16-17 nf) We visited with Sue by phone today. She was released from the hospital last Friday and was back to work as a volunteer at Houston Hospice. She was treated with antibiotics while hospitalized which worked this time. This is a reoccurring stomach issue with Sue and the next one could require surgery. We are thankful that she is home and doing well. Keep her in your daily prayers.

Donna Blount: (8-8-17 nf) Donna underwent knee surgery last Saturday and called Sunday to report that she was at home recovering and hoping for a successful outcome. She was still experiencing some effects of the anesthesia. She will be using a knee walker for the next month as she heals. Remember Donna in your daily prayers.

Joe Chebret: (8-8-17 nf) We visited with Joe by phone this morning and he reports that he is steadily improving with therapy twice a week. He is mobile now and uses a walker to get around the facility. Joe’s mother remains in hospice and always on his mind. NOTE: Joe’s wife of 65 years, Mary, passed away August 25, 2017.

She was also the mother of retired Officer Melvin Joe Chebret Jr. Please keep Joe and his family in your prayers and give him a call at 713-858-0093.

Jim Hudson: (8-9-17 nf) Tony Kivela called Jim today and found that Jim had a 5 hour surgery yesterday at Methodist hospital in order to access the compound fracture on his broken femur, which recently showed was not healing together at all. The surgeon found extensive infection and a decision was made to remove the hardware previously inserted (replacement hip and femur attachment). Surgeon also placed an antibiotic “bomb” in an attempt to fight the infection. A future assessment will be made to gauge the fight against the infection. Then he will have another hip replacement as well as new hardware to re-attach the femur bones.

(8-16-17 nf) Visited by phone with Jim’s wife Randi, and she reported that Jim came through another surgery yesterday fine and doctors were pleased with outcome. Jim was resting when I called and they were giving him a unit of blood. Doctors want to monitor him for a couple of days and if all goes well, he will go back to Cornerstone on Hermann Dr. Friday where they want to start some therapy on his right leg. (9-3-17rh) Anthony Kivela spoke with Jim Hudson yesterday and he related he is still at Cornerstone Hospital. Sept 3 marked FOUR MONTHS of hospitalization. Yesterday, he was taken by a transport ambulance to Methodist Hospital to visit with a bone specialist.

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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.
As a result, he is tentatively scheduled for another surgery on his hip and femur OCTOBER 18, pending the infection being under control. He is in considerable pain, and receiving morphine. He still welcomes phone calls, (281) 610-1236, and visitors. He is still in a high level of pain and we need to continue our prayers for pain relief and recovery. Previous phone # was wrong, correct # is 281-610-1236. Call him Thur-Friday.

Wiley Douglass: [8-16-17 nf] On 8-14 M.D. Beale reported that Wiley was moved to North Houston Transitional Care, Rm 149, 9814 Grant Rd and Hwy 249, area where he will receive more intensive therapy for 3-4 weeks so that he might become strong enough to function at home. Today Wiley had minor surgery to remove a cyst and will return to the rehab center Friday. Keep Jean and Wiley in your prayers. Go visit him!!

Bonnie Montero: (9-6-17 db) Bostock visited with the Montero family at St Luke’s this morning where she is in ICU. All are tired and worn out from hours & days at hospital. Bonnie has been through a lot the last few days including a code Blue call.

Bonnie is hooked up to all types of life saving equipment including the respirator which they will try to wean her off of Thursday AM. THIS IS A SPECIAL REQUEST... That all of us old heads remember Bonnie and Jim and that they devoted most of their lives to HPD and she was a trend setter for women police officers at HPD and a friend to any officer looking for help wherever she worked. She and Jim were both outstanding officers and friends to all officers and their whole family turned out to be service oriented between HPD, HFD and military and/or marrying other PD folks. IT IS MY WISH THAT ALL OF OUR MEMEBERS WOULD PAUSE FOR A FEW MOMENTS AND SEND UP SOME PRAYERS FOR BONNIE AND JIM AND FAMILY AS THEY REALLY COULD USE YOUR PRAYERS RIGHT NOW!!!  Doug Bostock (NOTE: BONNIE PASSED AWAY 9-8-17)

DEATHS DURING THE MONTHS OF August & September 2017

SHERMAN J. HICKS SR. (MEMBER), AUGUST 16, 2017
LARRY H. WILLIAMS (MEMBER), AUGUST 9, 2017

ALTON WAYNE SPARKS, AUGUST 18, 2017
ALLEN L. JUSTICE, AUGUST 24, 2017
BRIAN T. SURGINER (MEMBER), AUGUST 25, 2017
JAMES N. FLAGG (MEMBER), AUGUST 27, 2017
STEVE A. PEREZ (LINE OF DUTY), AUGUST 29, 2017
BONNIE MONTERO, SEPTEMBER 8, 2017

Isaiah 41:10  Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am with you; I will strengthen you and help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

But now this is what the Lord says: Fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am with you; I will strengthen you and help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Kindness is free - Sprinkle that stuff everywhere. Anon
Don’t raise your voice - improve your argument. Anon

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
WE REMEMBER

IN MEMORIUM
WITH PRIDE

OCTOBER

1, 2005  James L. Cockerham
3, 2001  John A. Florio
3, 2004  H. Wayne Blalock
6, 2000  Herman Clyde Mackey
9, 2003  Elwood Leroy Hewitt
10, 2003  Cliff Foulds
12, 2001  D.D. Collins
15, 2004  Reinhardt J. Poehl
18, 2000  Charles M. Wells, Jr.
19, 1998  J.J. Reyes
21, 1999  Tommy Charles Adams
22, 2003  Howard Oldham
23, 1985  James R. McCafferty
23, 1999  Breck Porter Sr.
23, 2003  Travis Elmore Rogers
25, 2001  Harvey Daniel Gilbert
27, 2001  Irma L. Saucedo
29, 2003  Larry Boyd Smith
30, 2000  Otis Anderson
30, 2000  Edward Sherman Davidson

NOVEMBER

1, 2002  Ernest W. Godfrey Jr.
2, 1998  Donald Bennett Cook
2, 2000  Preston D. Burke
2, 2004  Harold L. Goodwin
2, 2005  H.A. Tucker
5, 2003  Reno Kirby
5, 2005  R.H. (Hal) Watson
6, 1997  K.D. Swatzel
6, 2001  Edgar M. Fendley
7, 2001  Ray Tautenhahn
10, 2002  Maxie George Kulhanek
10, 2002  R.W. (Bubba) Baker
12, 2012  Lloyd Goehring
14, 2003  Jessie S. Bell, Jr.
15, 2006  I.S. Stanley
16, 2005  A.J. Burke
18, 2000  B.S. (Stu) Baker
18, 2001  Lloyd Douglas Rollins
19, 2007  David Holub
20, 2006  George L. (Billy) Butler
24, 2002  Ernest E. Rearnes
25, 2002  Helen F. Abel
25, 2003  Wendell Nolan Foster
26, 2002  James Edward Baker
27, 2005  Stanley Horn
30, 1999  Michael W. Hebert
30, 2000  John M. Roescher

Prepare your family for their financial future by signing them up for membership today.

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