

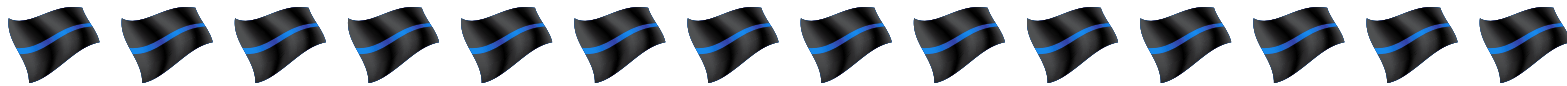


# THE EPITAPH



Serving the law enforcement community of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina & Northern Summit Counties

VOL 3, NO 1 • January / February / March 2020



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Joe Mannion** | President/Member of the GCPOMS Executive Board/Board of Directors

Welcome to the GCPOMS *The Epitaph*. The official publication for the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society®.

This year will be the 35th Anniversary of The Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society® (GCPOMS®). The Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society® is grateful to all who have made it possible throughout the past 35 years with their dedication, volunteering and generosity that has helped us to continue to “Keep the Promise to Never Forget Our Fallen Heroes.®”

I would like to thank Larry Donovan, Jonathan Epstein, and Kenneth Collins who became Lifetime Members this past February and March. I would also want to thank Rabbi Sruly Wolf and Law Enforcement Ministries for their generous donation and continued support.

Congratulations to Christian L. Houlehan, recipient of the Peter Lawer Memorial Scholarship presented by GCPOMS®. Christian is a freshman at Embry-Riddell Aeronautical University in Daytona Florida, where he is enrolled in the Homeland Security Bachelor's Degree Program. Christian graduated from Northwest High School in Canal Fulton in 2019 with a 4.0 GPA. Congratulations Christian!



Anniversary patches are available online at [www.GCPOMS.org](http://www.GCPOMS.org) **Joe Mannion, President**

Christian comes from a family who are public servants, his father Christopher is a retired U.S. Army veteran, who served 2 tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. His grandfather, Gary Houlehan is retired from the U.S. Army and the Cleveland Clinic Police Department. Gary has served on the Board of Trustees and has been a volunteer with GCPOMS throughout the past 30 years.

As we are currently dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, please follow the guidelines that have been set by the Governor's Office and health leaders. Look out for each other especially our elder supporters. This is an unprecedented time with so many changes that are interrupting our daily lives, but remember we will get through this. We are in touch with City officials and will keep you updated on any other changes that may occur with this year's Police Week. Please check our website: [www.gcpoms.org](http://www.gcpoms.org) or [www.honorourfallen.us](http://www.honorourfallen.us). We hope that you and your family remain safe and healthy.

Our 4th Annual Blue Line Unlimited Outdoorsman raffle set for April 24th, 2020 has been postponed. Blue Line Unlimited staff is currently discussing later possible dates for the event with the hall. Again, please continue to view our Facebook page or website for further updates.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our active law enforcement officers, first responders, nurses and doctors who continue to risk their own health and well-being for the safety and wellness of others. Keep them in your prayers.

Stay Safe,

*“Keeping the Promise to Never Forget our Fallen Heroes”®*



## SURVIVORS' CORNER

**Paul J. Matias** | Chief of the Mayfield Village Police Department

**Donald H. Stevens** | Mayfield Village Chief of Police from 1973-2003 (Retired)

On the afternoon of September 5th, 1979, Mayfield Heights Police responded to a call of a man exposing himself at a local shopping center. An ensuing pursuit of the suspect eventually brought the suspect to the intersection of Ridgebury and SOM Center Road, where Officers from Mayfield Village had set up a roadblock. As the suspect neared the roadblock, reports of shots fired were received. As the suspect entered the roadblock, several shots were fired by the Officers. One of the rounds glanced off the suspect's vehicle and struck Officer Wiley. The round passed through his upper arm and entered his chest, striking his heart.

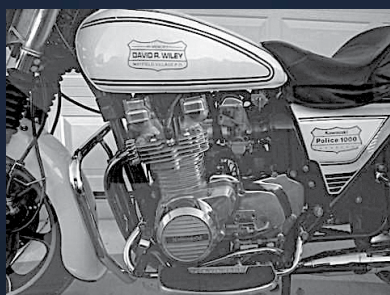
I was hired at the Mayfield Village Police Department in 1999. Although Officer Wiley's End of Watch occurred 20 years before I arrived, he has not been forgotten. A rubbing from the Peace Officers Memorial in Washington DC and the plaque presented by the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society are prominently displayed at the Department. While every Officer knows the story of Officer Wiley's death, few of us know much of how he lived. While preparing this article, I contacted Chief Don Stevens (Ret), who served as Mayfield Village Chief of Police from 1973 until 2003. The rest of this article is the information I collected while corresponding with Chief Stevens. I want to thank him personally for telling us about Officer Wiley.

Dave came to Mayfield Village from the US Marine Corp, and I guess you can surmise his spirit, dedication to duty, and adherence to regulations from that background. He fit in very well, very quickly with everyone in the Department and within the community. He performed admirably throughout his training and beyond. He was a good and capable officer on duty and was easily liked by everyone. He could have a serious side, but was often involved in some good-natured kidding and displayed an amusingly dry sense of humor.

One of his most publicized moments occurred while he was patrolling and came across a young boy who was very upset and crying at the loss of a kite that he had been flying. A kite-eating tree had snatched up and pretty well destroyed the kite. Dave comforted the boy as anyone would have done, but then Dave drove down to a local store, purchased a replacement kite, and presented it to the boy. The boy's parents were so impressed with Dave's compassion that they contacted a local paper, and the paper ran a large photo of Dave and the boy, along with the story. It was a very nice moment for the Department and the community.

Dave was a fairly active traffic enforcer but always issued more warnings than citations. His interest in traffic enforcement led him to be an advocate for the Department to acquire a police motorcycle. He researched all the available makes and models and had made recommendations to the Chief. But for a variety of reasons, no action was taken at that time. Shortly after Dave's death, his wife (Roberta, aka "Robbie") stopped by the Department with a new Kawasaki police motorcycle on a trailer and donated it to the Department in Dave's memory. It represented the Department quite well for over 20 years and was very popular with young people, sort of a living memorial to Dave's activism in community relations.

Mayfield Village eventually dedicated David R. Wiley Park in memory of Officer Wiley's dedication to young people. In 2010 the new Mayfield Village Police was built at Wiley Park. At the building's opening ceremony, a stone plaque dedicated to Officer Wiley was placed outside the main entrance next to the flag pole. Although it has now been over 40 years since his death, the Mayfield Village Police Department still remembers and honors Officer David Wiley.



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Mayfield Village elected officials and members of the Police Department faithfully remember Patrolman David R. Wiley, who was killed in the line of duty on September 5, 1979. At the entry to the MVPD a stone and engraved bronze Memorial honors the memory of Patrolman Wiley. Each year the MVPD participates in the GCPOMS Memorial Parade to remember him and the Fallen Officers who are memorialized on the granite walls of the GCPOMS Memorial. Each year in the Cleveland International Tattoo program, the Village also honors the memory of Patrolman Wiley.



# BADGES OF COURAGE

**Mary A. Lentz | Survivor/Secretary/Member of the GCPOMS Executive Board/Board of Directors/ The Epitaph Editor**

The Mayfield Village Police Department not only serves the community, but is a part of the community and maintains an active partnership with the Village residents and businesses. It is this commitment to service that has led to the establishment of a well-oiled system that addresses the needs of the Village based on mutual trust, integrity, and professionalism to maintain a safe, secure community environment. A continuing goal of the MVPD is to provide high quality service through fair, courteous, and efficient responses. A wide range of community services are provided through the Department's Administration, Patrol Division, Detective Bureau, Traffic Enforcement, and Communications/Dispatch Center. The membership of the MVPD includes 24 sworn peace officers, 4 auxiliary officers, 2 administrative staff and 8 dispatchers.

The Police Department also sponsors a variety of safety, crime prevention, and community policing programs. There is a police presence and availability to meet the public safety needs whatever they may be. Crime prevention, disaster preparedness, community programs and services are part of a team effort to provide the Village community with events for all ages and interests. There is a friendly atmosphere with a very apparent goal of total community service. If there is a call for police response which involves a need to security property, while the police address the criminal activity involved, the Service Department will board up a door or window to secure the premises as a temporary resolution until repairs by the owner can be made. Police patrol cars also accompany every Mayfield Village Fire/EMS call. What is evident about the MVPD is that the partnership concept is working, not only in the community, but also among the members of the police department and the support staff.

All calls from residents and the public come through the Police Department Dispatch Communications/Dispatch Center, which is the heart and soul of the Department when the MVPD interact with the community on a 24/7 basis. Each call is treated with a personal touch, as if each caller is a family member or good friend. The MVPD operates an enhanced 911 System for police, fire and emergency medical services (ambulance). Landline-based emergency calls from residents and businesses are automatically routed by the System to the appropriate dispatcher while displaying the address from which the call is being made. A safety "App" called "Your 911" is in effect for smart phone users. Residents and patrons of Mayfield can download the free App or the Google Play Store. Your App provides a one-button emergency link to the MVPD Dispatch or to the nearest dispatch center if calls are outside Village boundaries. Your 911 also has the capability to send emergency and weather alerts. These notifications are available through any cellular phone (smart or not), home landline and other social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook.

Police Chief Paul J. Matias has been with the MVPD since 1999 and rose through the ranks from Patrolman, School Resource Officer, Sergeant, Detective, Field Training Officer, 16 year member of the Hillcrest Regional Bomb Squad to Chief. He grew up in the community he serves and knows it well. Chief Matias wants members of the Police Department to interact with the community, get out of their patrol cars to meet and know the residents and business owners/workers. Chief Matias is a strong supporter of community policing through partnerships. This goal is accomplished through leadership, expertise, and training. Chief Matias maintains leadership and supervisory roles in the Police Department with up-to-date and state-of-the-art knowledge couples with a sincere desire to keep Mayfield Village and its police officers safe and protected. His pre-law enforcement background includes the U.S. Navy, as well as a Master's Degree from Tiffin University. His leadership skills are self-evident along with a calm demeanor that lends itself to leading by example and mentoring, as opposed to demands and orders, unless necessary.

MVPD also partners with the educational community and the Mayfield City



School District, especially through the assignment of two School Resource Officers to each of the school buildings within the boundaries of the Village, Mayfield High School and Center School (grades pre-school-5). The MVPD K-9 Unit is also a link between law enforcement and the students attending both schools. For over 20 years, School Resource Officers have been assigned to the two schools. Patrolman Stuart Galicz is assigned to Mayfield High School, and Patrolman Andrew Duffy is assigned to Center School. Both are sworn peace officers who report directly to Chief Paul Matias. They are not school security personnel, although each has an office at their assigned school. When school is not in session, both Officers are assigned to patrol duty within the Village.

Both SROS consider their assignment to be a part or community policing with the goals to build a positive relationship with the students through a law enforcement presence. They are also present in the schools to prevent safety issues and to address them should they arise. The two SROs approach their assignments built upon age-appropriate programs due to the student age differences between the high school and the elementary school.

Both SROS respond to student inquiries about police work and the duties of law enforcement officers. They are also present in the schools' parking lots when students arrive at and leave school. While school is in session, the Officers walk the school halls, however, they do not discipline students.

Patrolman Galicz and Patrolman Duffy both emphasize that it is important to them that each day they have made a difference in the students' lives and have made a positive impact on students by answering their questions and helping the student s to make better decisions.

In addition to law enforcement and safety concerns, Patrolman Galicz sponsors Donut Wednesday in his school officer where both students and school staff are welcome to stop by and select a donut of their choice. Patrolman Duffy works along with the pre-school and K-5 students with the Dare Program and Red Ribbon Week in early October and also distributes law enforcement themed coloring books. He colors the books along with the students as part of the community outreach goals of the SRO program which reinforces mutual respect.

Patrolman Duffy finds the children to be open and honest, and he responds in the same way to each student.

If a teacher indicates to Patrolman Duffy that he might want to talk and visit with a particular student who is "having a bad day," he will often walk with the student to the elementary school gym and play some sports games. Because of their rapport with the students, Patrolman Galicz and Patrolman Duffy get to know the students as individuals, including their

# BADGES OF COURAGE

(continued from previous page)

**Mary A. Lentz | Survivor/Secretary/Member of the GCPOMS Executive Board/Board of Directors/ The Epitaph Editor**

gifts and disabilities, and are able to communicate with them in a supportive way to make a positive impact. If Patrolman Duffy sees a student sitting alone at recess or lunch or on the Buddy Bench during school recess, he will join the student to ask how their day is going. Both SROs are available and visible during lunch times and walk throughout the school during the school day.

MVPD police officers assigned to patrol duties will stop by the elementary school to visit with the students in support of community policing. Students at both the elementary and high schools often ask if K-9 Leo will be stopping by to visit, so the SROs will place a call to Patrolman Chris Cross, Leo's Handler, to see if they both can take a few minutes to visit.

As sworn peace officers, Patrolmen Galicz, Duffy, and Cross maintain all current Officer Training Certificates and are current with all training requirements. As SROs Patrolman Galicz and Patrolman Duffy consider their SRO assignments to be an opportunity to make a difference in students' lives, to alleviate unwarranted fear of law enforcement officers, to be a listening and sounding board, to answer questions about safety and police work, and to show students by their presence that law enforcement is there to help them when they need it.

Sergeant Kathryn Troyer, the Supervisor of the K-9 Unit, is knowledgeable and experienced about K-9 training for on duty work and also K-9 living with police families off duty. Patrolman Christ Cross is the Handler for K-9 Leo, a German Shephard who comes from the Czech Republic. Leo is the first K-9 in the Hillcrest area police departments. He is well-socialized and connects well with residents of all ages and with all members of the MVPD and support staff. Whether Leo is on duty visiting the schools or at a community event, Leo is an easy going, friendly, awesome dog with a pleasing disposition. As a member of the MVPD, K-9 Leo is trained in obedience, tracking, building searches, narcotics detection, suspect apprehension and Handler protection. Chief Matias and Sergeant Troyer acknowledge that Leo helps to foster a positive and mutually supportive relationship with the community of Mayfield Village. When Patrolman Cross brings Leo to the schools where Leo enjoys the students as much as the students are happy to see Leo. He is exceptional at public relations. Patrolman Cross also brings Leo to Mayfield City School District football games where Leo

exhibits a great balance between his community policing/PR duties and his work duties. When requested by other police departments in the Hillcrest area, Patrolman Cross and Leo assist in tracking and narcotics detection. They are also available as a team for community demonstrations or if Leo is requested to make an appearance at a community event.

Leo is a valued member of the MVPD and the community. He is an obedient, intelligent, loyal, alert, well-trained K-9 in narcotics detection, as a Tracker and to search buildings, and in matters of criminal apprehension. Leo is very calm and friendly, but when commanded by Patrolman Cross, he is a force to behold. The average bite force of K-9 German Shephard is 269 pounds of pressure. When Patrolman Cross is about to give Leo a command, he gives advance warning to a suspect that a K-9 is present and to remain passive and not to pull away from Leo whose powerful jaws and holding power make him the perfect law enforcement partner. With his proper training and commands, Leo will protect Patrolman Cross from any dangers. When Leo is off duty he is a great member of the Cross family household. Patrolman Cross is certified with the State of Ohio as a K-9 Handler and continues to train with Leo 16 hours each month in structure training programs. Patrolman Cross is trained also in First Aid and CPR for Leo should either be needed. There have been occasions when Narcon has been administered to Leo after a drug detection search. The Mayfield Village First Department has a special oxygen mask for Leo should the need arise. Leo's special equipment includes an E-Collar, a harness for tracking, and a variety of leashes and vest harnesses.

Leo is not only a valued member of the MVPD, he is also much loved by the community.

The Mayfield Village Police Department is diverse and includes all levels of education, skills and expertise. This makes the MVPD flexible to meet the needs of its residents and those who own businesses within its boundaries. The headquarters of the Progressive Corporation, the largest auto vehicle insurance corporation in the United States is located in the Village, as is part of the North Chagrin Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks and Nature Center with its outdoor recreation areas, wildlife sanctuaries and educational buildings.



Ptl. Galicz and Ptl. Duffy



Sgt. Troyer, Chief Matias, Ptl. Cross, and K-9 Leo



# POLICE WEEK May 9-16, 2020

## 35th Annual Police Memorial Commemoration

### HONOR OUR FALLEN

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Board of Directors of the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society® has made the very difficult decision to cancel the planned events to Honor Our Fallen Heroes during Peace Officers Memorial Week this year. The following remembrances will honor the 190 Fallen Officers whose names are etched on the GCPOMS Memorial walls: the Grave Markers will be placed on the grave sites of every Fallen Officer; the U.S. Flag and the GCPOMS Flag will fly at half-mast at the Memorial; and Blue Lights will illuminate the GCPOMS Memorial. Please Honor Our Fallen Police Heroes by Lighting the Night Blue at your homes.

*"Keeping the Promise to Never Forget Our Fallen Heroes."®*

[www.HonorOurFallen.us](http://www.HonorOurFallen.us)



## IN MEMORIAM December 1, 1853 – November 26, 1925

**John Osborne, Watchman**  
Cleveland City Marshal's Office  
EOW December 1, 1853

**Michael Kick, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW May 15, 1875

**George Brenner, Marshal**  
Wellington Village Marshal's Office  
EOW July 18, 1883

**William Hulligan, Detective**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW February 8, 1887

**Nicholas Sheehan, Sergeant**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW September 5, 1894

**John Shipp, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW May 6, 1900

**William L. Foulks, Detective Lieutenant**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW September 29, 1900

**Louis D. Weick, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW December 10, 1903

**James H. Stedman, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW January 25, 1905

**Spooner C. Crapo, Marshal**  
Rochester Village Marshal's Office  
EOW November 11, 1905

**Herman Reimer, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW January 28, 1911

**Walter C. Chapman, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW August 22, 1911

**Edward Parker, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW June 19, 1912

**Leroy E. Bouker, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW November 28, 1912

**Albert Miller, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW December 3, 1913

**Robert Becker, Night Watchman**  
Amherst Village Constable's Office  
EOW April 10, 1916

**John H. Gates, Watchman**  
Medina Village Marshal's Office  
EOW April 18, 1916

**Charles H. Goetz, Sergeant**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW May 6, 1916

**Henry Froelich, Sergeant**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW September 25, 1916

**Edward M. Meany, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW November 29, 1916

**Elmer P. Glaefke, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW September 13, 1917

**William Brown, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW September 29, 1917

**Alfred Ressler, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW August 6, 1918

**Patrick Gaffney, Detective**  
East Cleveland Police Department  
EOW December 19, 1918

**William P. Armstrong, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW March 9, 1919

**Ernest C. Gray, Deputy**  
Willoughby Township Marshal's Office  
EOW July 16, 1919

**Frank M. Moranz, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW September 26, 1919

**William Isaac, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW December 1, 1919

**Robert Shelton, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
December 7, 1919

**Thomas Cook, Detective**  
New York Central Railroad Police  
Department - July 12, 1920

**David H. Barnes, Detective Sergeant**  
New York Central Railroad Police  
Department - July 28, 1920

**John Vapenik, Marshal**  
Maple Heights Village  
EOW August 28, 1920

**Edward Connolly, Captain**  
Cleveland Heights Police Department  
EOW September 8, 1920

**Walter Preuhs, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
October 17, 1920

**Albert Block, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW February 11, 1921

**August Dyke, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW March 24, 1921

**Elmer Sprosty, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW April 21, 1921

**Frank J. Koran, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW November 26, 1921

**Carl Metta, Agent**  
Federal Prohibition Enforcement Officer  
EOW February 19 1923

**Samuel Kilbane, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW April 19, 1923

**Dennis Griffin, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW May 14, 1923

**Fred J. Webber, Patrolman**  
Lorain Police Department  
EOW December 22, 1923

**Roy Nightwine, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW May 11, 1924

**Frank A. Sugan, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW June 28, 1924

**Michael J. Hahnel, Patrolman**  
Shaker Heights Police Department  
EOW October 20, 1924

**Peter Fromm, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW February 13, 1925

**Henry Richter, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW February 27, 1925

**Charles J. Frantz, Patrolman**  
Cleveland Police Department  
EOW April 14, 1925

**Harvey A. Yoder, Marshal**  
Bay Village Police Department  
EOW July 20, 1925

**Charles C. Deal, Patrolman**  
Lorain Police Department  
EOW November 6, 1925

*To be continued in the June  
edition of The Epitaph...*

*"Keeping the Promise to Never Forget our Fallen Heroes"®*

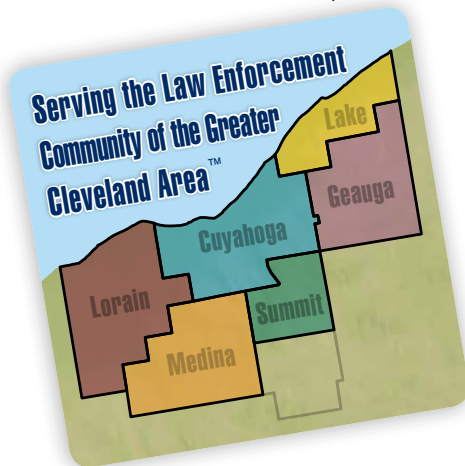




# THE EPITAPH



P.O. Box 6207  
Cleveland, OH 44101



## GCPOMS® FRONT LICENSE PLATE

The GCPOMS® logo front license plate is available for purchase online from the Memorial Mini-Market web store ([HonorOurFallen.US](http://HonorOurFallen.US)) and is also available at all Tent Sales. The State of Ohio will no longer require a front license plate matching the back plate beginning July 1, 2020. Ohio drivers will only be required to have a front plate issued by the Ohio BMV. Please Honor Our Fallen Officers with the purchase of a GCPOMS® front plate.



## GCPOMS® REAR LICENSE PLATE

**Available to the Public!**  
**To Order Your Plates**  
**Visit Your Local BMV or**  
**[www.BMV.Ohio.Gov](http://www.BMV.Ohio.Gov)**

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***"Keeping the Promise to Never Forget our Fallen Heroes"®***