



THE EPITAPH



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

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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®.

I hope everyone is well. I want to thank all who attended, volunteered, and participated in making this year's Police Week in May a great success. Thank all of you who had attended our Memorial Service to show your support to all of our Survivors, especially the family of Patrol Officer Shane H. Bartek, Cleveland Division of Police, E.O.W. December 31, 2021, whose name was inscribed on our Memorial during this year's service. Your attendance speaks volumes of how strong we are as a police community in northeast Ohio.

It was great to see all the Police agencies from Canada, New York and Chicago back in Cleveland again, after not being able to attend the past couple years due to the COVID 19 pandemic, to Honor our Fallen.

We are already planning next year's Peace Officers Memorial Week, which will be May 14 through May 20, 2023. Please mark your calendars.

New Life and Annual Memberships in GCPOMS are always very much appreciated. We are pleased to announce that Brian Horsburgh, Daniel Fortney, Frank Suponic, Christopher Russo and Annalise Russo have become Life members of GCPOMS. They are showing their support along with other Life and Annual Members to Honor Our Fallen, making sure we "Never Forget."

Please continue to show your support for the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society every year by purchasing and renewing your vehicle GCPOMS license plates. Thank you.

On July 20, 2022 The Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society® Board of Directors, unanimously selected Annie Patsouras for being the recipient of the 2022 Peter Lawer Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to a student who is studying with intent to pursue a career



in law enforcement or a law enforcement related field. Annie is attending John Carroll University. Annie is the granddaughter of Patrolman William N. Shapiro, Cleveland Police Department, E.O.W. April 26, 1974.

Please visit our website www.HonorOurFallen.us or GCPOMS.org for more information about GCPOMS, our Fallen Officers and our Memorial Mini-Store.

Save the Date – Police Week in Cleveland – May 14-20, 2023.

In closing I want to thank all of our Peace Officers and First Responders for all that they do in keeping us safe. If you see an Officer while you are out and about, stop and tell them thanks.

Stay safe and healthy,
Joe Mannion, President

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



IN THE LINE OF DUTY BADGES OF COURAGE: HEROES AMONG US

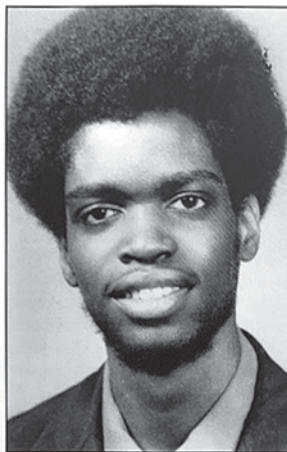
Mary A. Lentz | Survivor / Editor of *The Epitaph*

Rewritten from GCPOMS' Honor Our Fallen: In the Line of Duty

Benjamin F. Grair, Jr. | Patrol Officer

Cleveland Police Department | *End of Watch: August 5, 1983*

Cleveland Division of Police Patrol Officer Benjamin F. Grair, Jr., a member of the Ninety-second Cleveland Police Academy Class, and assigned to the Fourth District, was killed in the Line of Duty while working part-time as a security guard for the Ameritrust Bank. Patrol Officer Grair had recently lost both of his parents within a month of each other and tried unsuccessfully to have someone fill in for him that day. He arrived in full uniform at the bank and assumed his duties at the security desk. As customers waited in line, a male stepped out of line, calmly walked over to Patrol Officer Grair and shot him. The shooter still brandishing the weapon jumped over the bank counter and demanded money from the tellers. The shooter then escaped out the front doors of the bank, robbed a male of his vehicle and fled the scene.



Benjamin F. Grair, Jr.

An extensive manhunt was underway, and within a few hours the stolen getaway vehicle was found not more than four miles away from the bank. Several witnesses were interviewed, and the shooter was positively identified as an ex-employee of the bank. A photograph of the shooter was distributed statewide and by the media. Early the next morning, two security guards at the Terminal Tower spotted the shooter walking on Euclid Avenue requested assistance. The shooter was apprehended by the arriving Police Officers after a brief fast chase. The Officers place the shooter under arrest and found him in possession of a large sum of money.

The gun used to kill Patrol Officer Grair had been given by the shooter to a friend who was also given twenty dollars to keep the weapon for the shooter. When the friend of the shooter saw news reports of the shooting death of Patrol Officer Greer, he gave the weapon to the police and informed them of the shooter bragging about robbing a jewelry store and a bank he knew he could rob.

The shooter was identified by seven witnesses who positively identified the shooter as the murderer of Patrol Officer Greer. The jury found the shooter guilty of aggravated murder and aggravated robbery charges and recommended death in the electric chair. In 1992 then Ohio Governor Richard F. Celeste commuted the shooter's death sentence to life imprisonment without parole.

Patrol Officer Benjamin F. Grair, Jr. was remembered as a young cadet in the Ninety-second Cleveland Police Academy Class as a person of quiet dignity, reserved, and soft spoken who never called attention to himself. He was a person of empathy, compassion and respect for others.

We honor his memory and we will never forget!

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IN MEMORIAM

June 30, 1930 – September 28, 1970 – *We will never forget!*

Franklin J. Strohl, Deputy
Lorain County Sheriff's Office
EOW June 30, 1930

James Ryan, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW January 8, 1931

John Buettner, Detective
Cleveland Police Department
EOW August 9, 1932

Harry Rose, Marshal
Seven Hills Police Department
September 25, 1932

Herman Pahler, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW March 8, 1933

George Effinger, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW March 20, 1933

Harold Beingesser, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW July 29, 1935

Harry McCue, Detective
Cleveland Police Department
EOW July 29, 1935

Martin J. Carlin, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW August 3, 1935

William J. Burmeister, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW October 20, 1935

Joseph Ternansky, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW April 1, 1936

Otto Mosholder, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW December 10, 1936

Virgil T. Bayne, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW December 18, 1937

Gerald Bode, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW December 18, 1937

John J. Cleary, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
January 4, 1938

Raymond Griffin, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW May 30, 1938

Robert Wehagen, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
July 8, 1938

Louis Mlakar, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW July 20, 1938

John Luses, Deputy
U.S. Marshals Service
EOW September 8, 1938

James Goggin, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW January 13, 1939

Otto Jirecek, Marshal
Solon Police Department
EOW March 31, 1939

Clarence Smith, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW June 6, 1939

Otto J. Ziska, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW March 31, 1940

James Goodwin, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW May 4, 1942

Howard B. Taft, Patrolman
Elyria Police Department
EOW August 8, 1942

Patrick Ryan, Sergeant
Cleveland Police Department
EOW January 14, 1944

George Kirk, Patrolman
Lorain Police Department
EOW March 30, 1944

Lewis Hauschild, Detective
East Cleveland Police Department
EOW September 22, 1945

Clarence Cerell Chance, Patrolman
Cuyahoga Falls Police Department
EOW May 30, 1947

Norman Carl Reker, Patrolman
Cleveland Heights Police Department
EOW February 21, 1948

Henry L. Walton, Chief
Fairview Park Police Department
EOW March 12, 1950

Forney L. Haas, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW December 8, 1951

Earl D. Thomas, Lieutenant
Gates Mills Police Department
EOW December 26, 1951

Eugene Stinchcomb, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW May 12, 1952

Joyce Robbin Moore, Lieutenant
Willoughby Police Department
EOW March 22, 1955

William Hudec, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW August 30, 1955

Warren Stainbook, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW August 30, 1955

Joseph Haydu, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW May 19, 1956

Garner M. Robertson, Patrolman
Valley View Police Department
EOW July 8, 1956

Howard Scott, Deputy
Geauga County Sheriff's Department
EOW August 14, 1956

Nicholas R. Catalano, Patrolman
Mayfield Heights Police Department
EOW December 26, 1956

Edmund G. Smith, Patrolman
Wellington Police Department
EOW May 4, 1957

Edward G. Lentz, Lieutenant
Cleveland Police Department
EOW December 9, 1957

Edgar Nagie, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW March 26, 1958

Edward H. Perdian, Captain
Newburgh Heights Police Department
EOW September 15, 1960

Martin E. Mrugacz, Detective
Cleveland Police Department
EOW September 29, 1960

Michael J. George, Deputy
Lorain County Sheriff's Office
EOW January 9, 1961

Arthur W. Guenther, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW December 19, 1961

John P. Palermo, Deputy
Lorain County Sheriff's Office
EOW January 21, 1964

Lester G. Peterman, Chief
Bentleyville Police Department
EOW February 10, 1964

William Greller, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW September 18, 1964

Chester Burmeister, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
December 23, 1964

Lummie Sanders, Deputy
Geauga County Sheriff's Office
EOW July 28, 1965

Frank Humr, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW October 29, 1965

John R. Bohl, Chief
Chardon Police Department
EOW October 25, 1966

Steve J. Huber, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
May 11, 1967

Brian Kloka, Patrolman
Broadview Heights Police Department
EOW August 29, 1967

Leroy Jones, Lieutenant
Cleveland Police Department
EOW July 23, 1968

Willard J. Wolff, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW July 23, 1968

Louis Golonka, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW July 23, 1968

Roy Buckner, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW November 11, 1968

Kenneth Houser, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW April 2, 1969

John Apanites, Detective
Cleveland Police Department
EOW April 7, 1969

Joseph Tracz, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW September 28, 1970

We will never forget!

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P.O. Box 6207
Cleveland, OH 44101

Mary A. Lentz | Survivor / Editor of The Epitaph
www.HonorOurFallen.us



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