



THE EPITAPH



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

VOL 5, NO 3 • December 2022



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 volume 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. Becoming a member is a great way to support GCPOMS and help making sure the names on the Memorial will never be forgotten. 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. Items from the GCPOMS Memorial Mini-Market are available online at www.HonorOurFallen.us. Gratitude and thanks to all our supporters.

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.



Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society

Keeping Our Promise to Never Forget Our Fallen Heroes

I want to thank Chad Wilson and his staff at Engage Virtual Range for their commitment in supporting GCPOMS. This past September they held the Third Annual Blue Competition. A total of 141 Police Officers from 25 Northeast Ohio police departments participated in the event. Congratulations to the Amherst Police Department who won the competition. Thanks to all the donors and sponsors who made the event a success.

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

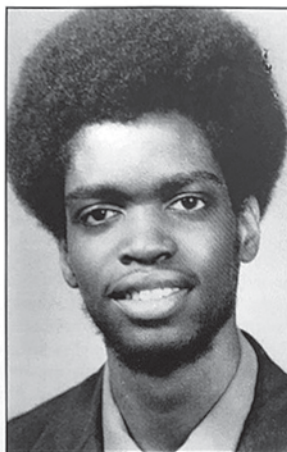
Mary A. Lentz | Survivor / Editor of *The Epitaph*

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!

Copyright © 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 by the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, copied, transcribed, or otherwise distributed in any form, format, or by any means without the prior expressed written permission of the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society, the copyright owner. Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society, P.O. Box 6207, Cleveland, Ohio 44101 | Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society is a non-profit, charitable 501(c)(3) volunteer-based organization. Your donation is tax deductible.



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

Robert Woodall, Patrolman
Oberlin Police Department
EOW March 10, 1971

Tom Hakaim, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW April 3, 1971

William A. Nagy, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW May 14, 1971

Michael Chihil, Chief
Newbury Police Department
EOW January 1, 1972

Robert W. Bennett, Sergeant
Parma Heights Police Department
EOW October 25, 1972

Richard Miller, Patrolman
East Cleveland Police Department
EOW January 11, 1973

Frederick D. Vacha, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW June 20, 1973

William N. Shapiro, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW April 26, 1974

Philip P. Maher, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW May 29, 1975

Edward Murray, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW July 3, 1975

William Prochazka, Detective Sergeant
Bedford Heights Police Department
November 10, 1975

Jerome C. Poelking, Captain
Cleveland Police Department
EOW December 8, 1975

Joseph Baca, Deputy
Medina County Sheriff's Office
EOW August 28, 1976

John S. Reese, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW September 2, 1976

Hubert S. Smykowski, Patrolman
Garfield Heights Police Department
EOW October 5, 1976

George Maxin, Auxiliary Captain
Willowick Police Department
EOW December 31, 1976

Carl E. Summers, Captain
Lodi Police Department
EOW December 10, 1977

Francis Smolka, Patrolman
Vermilion Police Department
EOW October 29, 1978

Robert A. White, Parole Officer
Ohio Adult Parole Authority
EOW April 27, 1979

John Hubbell, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW June 4, 1979

Kenneth M. Tomaszewski, Deputy
Lorain County Sheriff's Office
EOW July 3, 1979

Johnnie L. Oliver, Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation
EOW August 9, 1979

Dominick J. Boscarelli, Patrolman
Olmsted Township Police Department
EOW August 23, 1979

David R. Wiley, Patrolman
Mayfield Village Police Department
EOW September 5, 1979

George Zicarelli, Detective
Cleveland Police Department
September 17, 1979

Desmond Sherry, Patrol Officer
Cleveland Police Department
EOW July 3, 1980

Anthony J. Johnson, Sr. Patrol Officer
Cleveland Police Department
EOW October 21, 1981

Benjamin F. Grair, Jr., Patrol Officer
Cleveland Police Department
EOW August 5, 1983

Stephen M. Kovach, Patrol Officer
Cleveland Police Department
EOW March 11, 1984

Mark S. Decker, Police Officer
Veterans Administration Police
EOW January 31, 1986

Leonard Wilcox, Police Officer
Veterans Administration Police
EOW January 31, 1986

Gary Paster, Patrolman
Macedonia Police Department
EOW May 29, 1986

Ernest C. Holbert, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW October 27, 1987

Jeffrey B. Olson, Patrolman
Solon Police Department
EOW March 15, 1989

Alcee S. McCray, Security Officer
CMHA Police Department
EOW October 14, 1989

Aubrey R. Williams, Auxiliary Police Officer
North Olmsted Police Department
EOW November 7, 1989

Thomas Smith, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW March 9, 1993

Dennis N. Glivar, Sergeant
Garfield Heights Police Department
EOW August 14, 1994

Michael W. Brown, Police Officer
Garfield Heights Police Department
EOW December 8, 1994

Robert A. Stefanov, Police Officer
Garfield Heights Police Department
EOW December 8, 1994

Derrik M. Lanier, Police Officer
CMHA Police Department
EOW March 2, 1996

Edward Claybrooks, Jr., Patrol Officer
Cleveland Police Department
EOW December 27, 1996

Hilary S. Cudnik, Sr., Patrol Officer
Cleveland Police Department
EOW December 30, 1996

Michael W. Muzychenko, Sergeant
Cleveland Police Department
EOW November 25, 1997

David M. Smith, Patrol Officer
Cleveland Police Department
EOW April 15, 1998

Robert J. Clark II, Detective
Cleveland Police Department
EOW July 1, 1998

Wayne A. Leon, Patrol Officer
Cleveland Police Department
EOW June 25, 2000

James M. Salvino, Jr., Deputy
Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office
EOW February 17, 2001

Jonathan J. Schroeder, Detective
Cleveland Police Department
EOW August 31, 2006

Jason D. West, Investigator
Cleveland Heights Police Department
EOW May 26, 2007

George M. Brentar, Patrolman
Euclid Police Department
EOW October 10, 2007

Derek W. Owens, Patrol Officer
Cleveland Police Department
EOW March 1, 2008

Joshua T. Miktarian, Police Officer
Twinsburg Police Department
EOW July 13, 2008

Jarod M. Dean, Police Officer
Boston Heights Police Department
EOW January 19, 2009

Thomas F. Patton II, Police Officer
Cleveland Heights Police Department
EOW March 13, 2010

James A. Kerstetter, Patrolman
Elyria Police Department
EOW March 15, 2010

Jonathan V. Bastock, Police Officer
Stow Police Department
EOW February 5, 2011

Jason Gresko, Police Officer
Willoughby Police Department
EOW September 21, 2012

Kenneth Velez, Trooper
Ohio State Highway Patrol
EOW September 15, 2016

David J. Fahey Jr., Patrol Officer
Cleveland Police Department
EOW January 24, 2017

Mathew Mazany, Patrolman
Mentor Police Department
EOW June 24, 2018

Vu X. Nguyen, Patrol Officer
Cleveland Police Department
EOW July 6, 2018

James M. Skernivitz, Detective
Cleveland Police Department
EOW September 3, 2020

Shane H. Bartek, Patrol Officer
Cleveland Police Department
EOW December 31, 2021

Keeping the Promise to Never



IN MEMORIAM – March 10, 1971 – December 31, 2021 – *We will never forget!*

Robert Woodall, Patrolman
Oberlin Police Department
EOW March 10, 1971

Tom Hakaim, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW April 3, 1971

William A. Nagy, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW May 14, 1971

Michael Chihil, Chief
Newbury Police Department
EOW January 1, 1972

Robert W. Bennett, Sergeant
Parma Heights Police Department
EOW October 25, 1972

Richard Miller, Patrolman
East Cleveland Police Department
EOW January 11, 1973

Frederick D. Vacha, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW June 20, 1973

William N. Shapiro, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW April 26, 1974

Philip P. Maher, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW May 29, 1975

Edward Murray, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW July 3, 1975

William Prochazka, Detective Sergeant
Bedford Heights Police Department
November 10, 1975

Jerome C. Poelking, Captain
Cleveland Police Department
EOW December 8, 1975

Joseph Baca, Deputy
Medina County Sheriff's Office
EOW August 28, 1976

John S. Reese, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW September 2, 1976

Hubert S. Smykowski, Patrolman
Garfield Heights Police Department
EOW October 5, 1976

George Maxin, Auxiliary Captain
Willowick Police Department
EOW December 31, 1976

Carl E. Summers, Captain
Lodi Police Department
EOW December 10, 1977

Francis Smolka, Patrolman
Vermilion Police Department
EOW October 29, 1978

Robert A. White, Parole Officer
Ohio Adult Parole Authority
EOW April 27, 1979

John Hubbell, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW June 4, 1979

Kenneth M. Tomaszewski, Deputy
Lorain County Sheriff's Office
EOW July 3, 1979

Johnnie L. Oliver, Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation
EOW August 9, 1979

Dominick J. Boscarelli, Patrolman
Olmsted Township Police Department
EOW August 23, 1979

David R. Wiley, Patrolman
Mayfield Village Police Department
EOW September 5, 1979

George Zicarelli, Detective
Cleveland Police Department
September 17, 1979

Desmond Sherry, Patrol Officer
Cleveland Police Department
EOW July 3, 1980

Anthony J. Johnson, Sr. Patrol Officer
Cleveland Police Department
EOW October 21, 1981

Benjamin F. Grair, Jr., Patrol Officer
Cleveland Police Department
EOW August 5, 1983

Stephen M. Kovach, Patrol Officer
Cleveland Police Department
EOW March 11, 1984

Mark S. Decker, Police Officer
Veterans Administration Police
EOW January 31, 1986

Leonard Wilcox, Police Officer
Veterans Administration Police
EOW January 31, 1986

Gary Paster, Patrolman
Macedonia Police Department
EOW May 29, 1986

Ernest C. Holbert, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW October 27, 1987

Jeffrey B. Olson, Patrolman
Solon Police Department
EOW March 15, 1989

Alcee S. McCray, Security Officer
CMHA Police Department
EOW October 14, 1989

Aubrey R. Williams, Auxiliary Police Officer
North Olmsted Police Department
EOW November 7, 1989

Thomas Smith, Patrolman
Cleveland Police Department
EOW March 9, 1993

Dennis N. Glivar, Sergeant
Garfield Heights Police Department
EOW August 14, 1994

Michael W. Brown, Police Officer
Garfield Heights Police Department
EOW December 8, 1994

Robert A. Stefanov, Police Officer
Garfield Heights Police Department
EOW December 8, 1994

Derrik M. Lanier, Police Officer
CMHA Police Department
EOW March 2, 1996

Edward Claybrooks, Jr., Patrol Officer
Cleveland Police Department
EOW December 27, 1996

Hilary S. Cudnik, Sr., Patrol Officer
Cleveland Police Department
EOW December 30, 1996

Michael W. Muzychenko, Sergeant
Cleveland Police Department
EOW November 25, 1997

David M. Smith, Patrol Officer
Cleveland Police Department
EOW April 15, 1998

Robert J. Clark II, Detective
Cleveland Police Department
EOW July 1, 1998

Wayne A. Leon, Patrol Officer
Cleveland Police Department
EOW June 25, 2000

James M. Salvino, Jr., Deputy
Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office
EOW February 17, 2001

Jonathan J. Schroeder, Detective
Cleveland Police Department
EOW August 31, 2006

Jason D. West, Investigator
Cleveland Heights Police Department
EOW May 26, 2007

George M. Brentar, Patrolman
Euclid Police Department
EOW October 10, 2007

Derek W. Owens, Patrol Officer
Cleveland Police Department
EOW March 1, 2008

Joshua T. Miktarian, Police Officer
Twinsburg Police Department
EOW July 13, 2008

Jarod M. Dean, Police Officer
Boston Heights Police Department
EOW January 19, 2009

Thomas F. Patton II, Police Officer
Cleveland Heights Police Department
EOW March 13, 2010

James A. Kerstetter, Patrolman
Elyria Police Department
EOW March 15, 2010

Jonathan V. Bastock, Police Officer
Stow Police Department
EOW February 5, 2011

Jason Gresko, Police Officer
Willoughby Police Department
EOW September 21, 2012

Kenneth Velez, Trooper
Ohio State Highway Patrol
EOW September 15, 2016

David J. Fahey Jr., Patrol Officer
Cleveland Police Department
EOW January 24, 2017

Mathew Mazany, Patrolman
Mentor Police Department
EOW June 24, 2018

Vu X. Nguyen, Patrol Officer
Cleveland Police Department
EOW July 6, 2018

James M. Skernivitz, Detective
Cleveland Police Department
EOW September 3, 2020

Shane H. Bartek, Patrol Officer
Cleveland Police Department
EOW December 31, 2021

Forget our Fallen Heroes!



“Honor Our Fallen!” You Can Make a Difference!

Membership for the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society

Annual ☐ Individual Member \$25.00 ☐ Annual Business/Organization \$100.00

Lifetime ☐ Individual Member \$250.00 ☐ Lifetime Business/Organization \$1000.00

Gift ☐ \$ _____

Name _____

Org. / Bus. _____ Contact Person _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

☐ If you are interested in becoming a GCPOMS volunteer, please check this block and we will contact you.

Please make your check or money order payable to:

The Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society (GCPOMS)

P.O. Box 6207, Cleveland, OH 44101 | 216-337-3537

info@policememorialsociety.org | www.honorourfallen.us

Please remember that The Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society (GCPOMS) is a 501(c)(3) organization and your donation is tax exempt.



Honor Our Fallen with Memorial Mini-Market Gifts!

We invite you to shop our online Memorial Mini-Market and select from the many memorial items to help GCPOMS Keep the Promise to Never Forget our Fallen Heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice protecting the communities they so valiantly served.



**GCPOMS Blue Glass
Memorial Coffee Mug**



Navy Embroidered Hoodies

GCPOMS logo on front

Fleece Lined | Sizes: S-M-L-XL- 2XL- 3XL



www.HonorOurFallen.us



Christmas Ornament



Navy Sweatshirt

Sizes: S-M-L-XL-2XL-3XL



THE EPITAPH



P.O. Box 6207
Cleveland, OH 44101

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



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