



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

As of November 30, 2018, Officer fatalities in the United States have increased by 6% over the same period last year. The six county area that GCPOMS encompasses suffered the loss of 2 Officers. The first was Mentor Police Department, Patrolman Matt Mazany E.O.W. June 24, 2018. Then a couple of weeks later Cleveland Division of Police Patrolman Vu Nguyen E.O.W. July 6, 2018. Both will be honored during our May 2019 Memorial Service. Remember them and all Officers that have paid the ultimate sacrifice keeping us safe.

This year, a major renovation took place at the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Site. Renovations included 2 new pillars erected and new lighting. As I was passing the Memorial the other night, the new lighting really makes the Memorial walls stand out.

The Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society welcomed Drew Kairis, who was elected Treasurer during the November Board of Directors' meeting. Drew is a Vice President and Branch Manager at KeyBank and has over 17 years in the banking field. Drew has also served as President and Vice President of his local Business Networking International chapter and served

as a Board Member for the Heights-Hillcrest Regional Chamber of Commerce. Welcome Drew!

A debt of gratitude to the Highland Heights Police Department for again choosing the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society, as their charity for the Department's "No Shave November" fundraiser. This year, 13 officers of the Highland Heights Police Department participated and raised \$650.00 that was donated to GCPOMS. This is the 2nd year that the Highland Heights Police Department has sponsored this event. The Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society is thankful for their continued support and giving!

GCPOMS is Keeping the Promise to "Never Forget our Fallen Heroes."

Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Stay safe,

Joe Mannion, President

HONOR OUR FALLEN

Cleveland Police Patrol Officer Vu Nguyen, a 25 year law enforcement veteran, died in the line of duty on July 6, 2018 after collapsing and losing consciousness during a work-related physical agility training exercise in 90 degree heat. Patrol Office Nguyen was rushed to MetroHealth Hospital where he was placed on intermittent life support before being life-flighted to the Cleveland Clinic.

Patrol Officer Nguyen was assigned to the Third District at the time of his death, but had also served in the Fourth District and the Narcotics Unit. He was the recipient of numerous awards during his police career. He was a dedicated police officer who was honored to protect and serve the City of Cleveland.

Patrol Officer Nguyen, the youngest of sixteen children, is survived by his wife and two daughters, his mother, a twin brother, 14 brothers and sisters, an extended family of nieces and nephews, fellow police officers and friends. He leaves a legacy of happy and loving memories to his family and all who knew him. He had a positive impact on the lives of many. Patrol Office Nguyen became a police officer following in the chosen profession of his father who was the Police Chief of Saigon, South Vietnam. The Nguyen Family left for America when Patrol Officer Nguyen was a young child immediately prior to the North Vietnamese military control of South Vietnam.



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

Keeping the Promise to "Never Forget our Fallen Heroes"

SURVIVORS' CORNER

John T. Dean, Hudson Police Officer/Police Survivor/Chairman of the Grave Marker Project

In the early morning hours of January 19, 2009, I was going over some paperwork with one of our newest officers, when I was informed of a crash on State Route 8 in Boston Heights, Ohio. The crash involved a police officer who reportedly died at the scene. When I walked up to our dispatch center, our dispatcher wouldn't turn around or say much about what happened. As I walked to my cruiser, my Sergeant stopped me and confirmed my suspicions, that it was my brother who had been killed in the crash. Jarod Michael Dean was 24 years old, and he was a part-time police officer for the Boston Heights Police Department. He is the reason that I volunteer today with the Greater Cleveland Peace Officer's Memorial Society (GCPOMS).

In the days following Jarod's death, I met with Chas Lane and his son, Chuck who offered their condolences and the assistance of the GCPOMS. Overwhelmed with grief, our family wasn't sure of what to do next as we never expected Jarod to die so young. Chas and Chuck guided us through the planning of the funeral service and what we could expect in the following week. We received a tremendous amount of support from the area communities, other police departments, fire departments, police survivors, friends, and family. As we stood silently at the cemetery, Jarod received full police honors and he was laid to rest on a bitterly cold winter day. It was only six months earlier that he and I had stood together at a cemetery in Twinsburg, Ohio honoring another fallen officer. Jarod had only served in law enforcement for approximately three years, yet every year he attended the memorial services for fallen officers and the police memorial service produced annually by the GCPOMS. I had been a police officer for nine years and I never considered attending the service, but that all would change.

I began getting involved with the GCPOMS by attending meetings and volunteering at events. It wasn't until 2011 that I found my purpose within the organization in the Grave Marker Project. Prior to my arrival, research had begun on locating the graves of fallen officers and creating a grave marker honoring their sacrifice. As a family, that included my wife, my father and myself, we continued working on the project in our free time. My father, Thomas Dean, used his experience in sales to contact a former client, Castalloy Inc., in Cleveland, Ohio. Castalloy supported the project immediately and began designing and manufacturing the grave markers that we still use today. The GCPOMS held fundraisers and through the generosity of others, the Grave Marker Project was on its way. With the grave markers in production, we needed to complete the research on locating all of the fallen officers mentioned on the GCPOMS Memorial. We searched old records and newspaper articles and visited numerous cemeteries across Northeast Ohio. Occasionally during that research, we would come across photographs taken by the press of family members depicting their grief of losing their loved one. One in particular has stuck with me ever since. It was a young woman holding a small child and she was pregnant with another. Her husband, a Cleveland Police Officer had been shot and killed. This fallen officer and his family is one story among one hundred and eighty-six others. It's their memories that we honor every Police Week and the Grave Marker Project is one aspect of the GCPOMS committed to those officers who gave their lives in the line of duty.

In May of 2019, the GCPOMS will host its 34th Annual Police Week honoring our fallen heroes and their families. The Grave Marker Placement Day, typically held on the Saturday before Police Week, will be in its eighth year. Its success is due to the volunteers that consist of police survivors, local, state, and federal law enforcement officers, and citizens. They volunteer a Saturday once a year to place grave markers in over fifty cemeteries across Northeast Ohio. Just as Chas, Chuck, and the GCPOMS Family had done almost ten years ago when they met with me and my family. We honor those men and their families for all that they gave and left behind. I hope you will consider joining us in the years to come.

Thanks, and be safe.

IN OUR THOUGHTS **Tracy Johnson, Survivor/Trustee/Liaison**

Condolences to the Prochazka Family on the recent loss of Loretta Prochazka, widow of Sergeant William Prochazka, Bedford Heights Police Department, EOW November 10, 1975. Get well wishes to Kathryn Buckner who recently had surgery and is recovering well. Mrs. Buckner is the widow of Patrolman Roy Buckner, Cleveland Police Department, EOW November 11, 1968. The holidays are here and it is a time when we gather with family and friends, but as Survivors we live that moment when all are missing our loved one who made the ultimate sacrifice. They will never be forgotten. Blessings at the Holidays.



Night view of the lighted GCPOMS Memorial.



GCPOMS Grave Marker Project



GCPOMS Holiday Wreath at the Memorial

IN MEMORIAM

February 10, 1964 – January 24, 2017

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

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

Dominck 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, 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

Derrick 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 Valez, Trooper
Ohio State Highway Patrol
EOW September 15, 2016

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



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THE EPITAPH

BADGES OF COURAGE Mary A. Lentz, Survivor/Editor/Secretary

The names of Peace Officers from six northern Ohio counties who have lost their lives in the line of duty appear on the granite Monument walls of The Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial in Cleveland at West 3rd Street and Lakeside Avenue. The Monument honors Fallen Officers from Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina and northern Summit counties. Sadly another four names will be etched on the Monument walls of the Memorial in May 2019 during National Police Week. The names of these brave heroes join the names of 186 heroic Officers beginning in December 1853.

The four Officers are Patrolman Mathew Mazany of the Mentor Police Department, EOW June 24, 2018; Patrol Officer Vu Nguyen of the Cleveland Police Department, EOW July 6, 2018; Patrolman Clarence Cerell Chance of the Cuyahoga Falls Police Department, EOW May 30, 1947; and Patrolman Harry Nelson Sayle of the Village of Shaker Heights Police Department, EOW August 27, 1916.

Patrolman Chance was killed in the line of duty when his police motorcycle was struck by a vehicle at an intersection in Cuyahoga Falls during a chase. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy. Patrolman Sayle, at the age of 23, was killed in the line of duty while chasing armed suspects. Patrolman Mazany, who was honored in the July/August 2018 edition of The Epitaph, was killed in the line of duty by a hit-and-run driver while assisting a fellow Officer during a traffic stop. Patrol Officer Vu Nguyen is honored in this edition of The Epitaph.

2019 National Police Week begins on May 11th and concludes on May 19, 2019. Please remember our Fallen Heroes.



The Memorial Ceremony to honor the four Officers whose names will be added to the Monument, as well as the 186 names already etched on the Monument walls, will take place at Police Memorial Square, on Friday, May 17, 2019 beginning at 11:30 am. Each of the heroic Officers whose names appear on the Monument walls accepted public service with undaunted courage and resolve.

APB (ALL POINTS BULLETIN)

Watch for the new GCPOMS Web Store, the Memorial Merchandise Mini-Market, soon to be on our website www.policememorialsociety.org