



# 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 bi-monthly newsletter The Epitaph. It is gratifying to know from our readers are enjoying and looking forward to the next editions. This edition is being received for the first time by many new recently added members.

Police Week is upon us. On May 17, 2019 we will be honoring four Officers whose names will be forever inscribed on our Memorial, the Fallen Heroes are Deputy Marshal Harry N. Sayle, Shaker Heights Police Department, End of Watch: Sunday, August 27, 1916; Patrolman Clarence Cerill Chance, Cuyahoga Falls Police Department, End of Watch: Friday, May 30, 1947; Patrolman Mathew J. Mazany, Mentor Police Department, End of Watch: Sunday, June 24, 2018; Patrol Officer Vu X. Nguyen, Cleveland Division of Police, End of Watch: Friday, July 6, 2018. We are "Keeping the Promise" to each one of these officers, along with the 186 officers already on our Memorial Walls that they will never be forgotten.

The Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society has partnered with the Cleveland FBI Office and the FBI Citizens Academy along with the Cleveland Police Department to Light Northern Ohio Blue during National Police Week starting May 11th through May 18th, 2019. Home Depot at Steelyard Commons, Cleveland and Dunn Hardware in Richmond Heights have donated over 500 blue lightbulbs that were distributed for free. People who received the light bulbs will place the bulbs in their house lamp post or front porch light to shine during Police Week showing support for our Peace Officers. Home Depot Stores and all Ace Hardware stores in Northern Ohio are making the blue light bulbs available for purchase at a discounted price. All buildings in downtown Cleveland are asked to be lighted with blue lights during police week, showing their support for law enforcement. This will be the second year we have handed out free blue light bulbs and plan to make this an annual event during Police Week.

GCPOMS has also partnered with Blue Line Unlimited who support officers in need and numerous charitable organizations. On May 11, 2019 Blue Line Unlimited is holding its 3rd Annual Outdoorsman Banquet in Parma, Ohio with half of the proceeds to be donated to GCPOMS.

Appreciation and thanks are extended to Hudson Patrolman John Dean, a Survivor along with Lifetime Member Robert Dvoroznak and Survivors Julie and John Ruane who took time out of their busy schedules on a recent Sunday to check each marker and replace all of the United States and GCPOMS flags that are attached to the markers with new ones. John



*A donation from Blue Line Unlimited to GCPOMS was presented to Joe Mannion (center) by Ralph Spidaleri (left) and Dan Clementi (right).*

has the markers separated by cemeteries and placed in containers to be distributed to the survivors and volunteers who assist in the placement of the markers.

We continue to add memorial Pavers to the GCPOMS Memorial Site. In addition to the pavers that were purchased by individuals and families to honor their loved ones, the Cuyahoga County Police Chiefs Association recently purchased 8 pavers to honor former Police Chiefs who have passed away over the past two years. This has been tradition for the Association to honor members who have passed. To order a paver please visit [www.EachPaverRemembers.com](http://www.EachPaverRemembers.com)

GCPOMS Police Week is filled with Memorial events. Join us Monday, May 13th at the Memorial Site for our annual Candlelight Vigil, at 7:30 p.m. and on Friday May 17th for our Memorial Service, Honoring our Fallen Heroes. Tickets are available for the Rib Roast on Friday evening and the Cleveland International Tattoo on Saturday evening May 18th on our website [WWW.HONOROURFALLEN.US](http://WWW.HONOROURFALLEN.US) where you can also find information on all our 2019 Memorial Events.

Thank you for your support and for: "Keeping the Promise to Never Forget our Fallen Heroes.™"

Stay safe,

**Joe Mannion, President**



*Night view of the lighted GCPOMS Memorial.*



*Light Northern Ohio Blue, a partnership between the FBI and GCPOMS, provides blue light bulbs for National Police Week. The light bulbs are donated in Northern Ohio by Home Depot and ACE Hardware Stores. Above are Joe Mannion (left), Grace Leon, Survivor (center), and Tony Rescina (right), Mgr. of the Steelyard Home Depot Store.*



*The Grave Markers are prepared for distribution to the grave sites of the Fallen Heroes whose names are etched on the GCPOMS Memorial. Bob Dvoroznak, GCPOMS Life Member/Volunteer (left) and Chairman of the Grave Marker Project, John Dean (right).*

# SURVIVORS' CORNER

By Michael T. Cudnik, M.D., Survivor

On December 30, 1996 our worst fear as a family became a reality. It was very early in the a.m., just after 2 o'clock. My Brother and I were just getting ready to go to sleep for the night. Just prior to going to bed, the phone rang and it was an officer calling us telling us that there had been an accident with my Father and that we needed to get to the hospital immediately. My brother Hilary and I immediately left and went to the hospital. We knew from the moment we pulled into the entrance that he had died as there was a large conglomerate of Officers in tears, hugging and supporting one another. By the time we arrived inside, my father, Hilary S. Cudnik Sr. #1939 of the Cleveland Police Department, had already been pronounced dead by the doctors.

Early that morning, my Dad and his partner Frank Costanzo, were pulling over a vehicle that had stolen license plates on it. What they thought might be a routine stop of a potentially stolen vehicle turned out to be pure terror. The driver, Leonard Hughes, got out with an assault rifle. He immediately began firing multiple times. My Father was hit multiple times. Two other officers who had also arrived on the scene put him in the back of their squad car and rushed him to Mt. Sinai Hospital. Medical staff attempted to save and resuscitate him but were unable to do so. He was pronounced dead soon after his arrival. To this day, I still remember the sight of my father in that hospital bed; my last memory of him in that resuscitation bay.

The hours and days that came to pass after that tragic event were a whirlwind of activity and emotions. The outpouring of support from the Cleveland Police Department, the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society (GCPOMS), and the community were overwhelming and are something that my family and I will never forget. From the assistance with planning and paying for the funeral, the outpouring of support and gratitude, as well as the solidarity shown at the funeral and ensuing memorial services was more than anyone could have expected and is something we will always be grateful for.

I had attended a couple of the annual memorial services the first couple of years after my Fathers death. However, for a multitude of reasons, I stopped attending the services. I had moved away for school and work and never truly moved back to the Cleveland area after my Father was killed. However, this past year, my family and I attended the memorial service for the first time in almost 20 years. With the support of my wife Shelley, who was my girlfriend at the time my Father was killed, as well as my daughter Abby and my son Joshua, we all attended multiple events during Police Week. Attending the commemorative service brought back a slew of emotions that were suppressed all these years. Many a tear was shed during the services and the week itself. However, visiting the Memorial, calling out my Dad's name, badge number, and EOW on Friday morning, and listening to others' stories and experiences was somewhat cathartic for me. Although there were times of great sadness during the events, overall coming back and experiencing the events of the week were extremely beneficial for me. It also allowed my kids, Abby and Joshua, to learn a bit more about their Grandfather and the great sacrifice he made for his city and community. It made it a bit easier for me to talk to them about my Dad and the events of his death, something I still struggle with today.

Moving forward I hope to be able to attend the commemorative services more regularly. We live out of state now, however I believe that the events of the week that are provided by and supported by the GCPOMS are of great value to not only the Survivors and their families, but also to the community and citizens of the Greater Cleveland area. The streets were filled with people, families, and children, showing support, waving flags, and displaying signs of gratitude. The community outpouring reminded me of the respect and adoration that was shown to my father Hilary 23 years ago after he was killed. I would encourage all families and survivors who are debating about whether to attend the services or not to attend some of the events if they can. From my own experience, it continued to aid in the healing process, even more than 20 years after the death of my father. To the Members and Board of Directors of the GCPOMS, thank you for all you do and for the support you continue to give to all Survivors. And to all the men and women in blue across the Greater Cleveland area, thank you for keeping its citizens safe. Please know that what you do matters, and most of all, stay safe and may God bless and look over each and every one of you.

## Cleveland International Tattoo

The Cleveland International Tattoo™ will take place on Saturday, May 18, 2019 at the Cleveland Music Hall at 7:00 p.m. Featured performers include the United States Coast Guard Silent Drill Team, The Pipes and Drums of the Cleveland Police, Ottawa Regional Pipes and Drums from Canada and many more performers. Tickets are available on-line at [gcpoms.org](http://gcpoms.org).



# IN MEMORIAM

December 1, 1853 –

**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

**Harry Nelson Sayle, Deputy Marshal**

Village of Shaker Heights  
EOW August 27, 1916

**Clarence Cerell Chance, Patrolman**

Cuyahoga Falls Police Department  
EOW August 27, 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

# IN MEMORIAM

February 10, 1964 – July 6, 2018

**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

**Dominick J. Boscarella, 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

**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 Valez, 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



## CLEVELAND POLICE BADGE 185: DRUM MAJOR OF THE CLEVELAND POLICE PIPES & DRUMS BAND

Timothy Riley, a veteran Cleveland Police Officer whose family are generational police officers and fire fighters, joined the Cleveland Division of Police in 1996, the same year that the Cleveland Police Pipes and Drums Band was formed. Two years later, at the encouragement of his wife, Cleveland Police Lieutenant Kristin Riley, Tim joined the Cleveland Police Pipes and Drums. Lieutenant Riley, Executive Officer of the CPD Homeland Special Operations, plays tenor drum in the Pipes & Drums, while Tim is the Drum Major.

Tim Riley began his Cleveland Police career assigned to the "Old Third District at 2001 Payne Avenue, where his office is now located. He continued in that assignment until 2003 when he was assigned to the Bureau of Community Policing and Honor Guard. Part of his duties include the scheduling of all Honor Guard events.



Logo of the Cleveland Police Pipes & Drums Band



Major Timothy Riley, Cleveland Police Officer, leading the CPP&D during the GCPOMS Memorial Parade

The Bureau of Community Policing includes the Community Relations Unit, Auxiliary Police, School Crossing Guards (approximately 400 in number), School Resource and Education Unit, and Explorers for ages 13-19. The Bureau of Community Policing is part of each of the five CPD Districts city-wide. Community Policing schedules and trains participants in the Neighborhood Watch, conducts home and building surveys, provides safety services to businesses and neighborhoods, and sponsors the Citizens' Police Academy, which is open to any City of Cleveland resident and employee of the City. Each class consists of a maximum of 20 members, and two classes run concurrently. The class members who attend for 9 weeks are provided an opportunity to participate in a Ride-a-Long with Cleveland Police Officers.

The Pipes & Drums is a part of the CPD Ceremonial Unit. It was formed in conjunction with the 160th Anniversary of the Cleveland Division of Police. Members of the Band are active and retired members of the CPD and other law enforcement agencies. Each individual is required to audition for membership in the Band and attend weekly practices. The Band plays at law enforcement Officers' funerals, memorial services, and at all memorial/funeral services of Officers in Northern Ohio who are killed in the Line of Duty.

As one of Three Trustees of the Pipes & Drums and in particular as its Drum Major, Tim schedules the Band, and direct and leads the Band at every performance.

The P&D play primarily in the Northern Ohio/Cleveland Metropolitan areas (as far east as Warren, west to Vermilion, and south to Akron and Wadsworth), but they also play in Columbus and Cincinnati where both



city police departments also have Pipe Bands. The P&D have performed in NYC for 911 Memorial Services and in Washington, D.C. during National Police Week. They also play and march annually in the Cleveland St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Locally, the P&D are loyal and faithful participants in the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Parade and Ceremony on Friday, May 17, 2019 during Police Week (May 12-18, 2019) and at the GCPOMS Candlelight Ceremony at the Memorial site on Monday, May 13, 2019. The CPP&D also assist other law enforcement agencies who have lost Officers in Line of Duty deaths. Currently the Band has 35 members on the roster. The peak membership was 55 in 2000. A full band is considered to be 25 members. Tim Riley coordinates the schedules of the Band for all funerals and burials for all active and retired Cleveland Police Officers and for all Line of Duty Deaths.

The recent history of Police Bands in the United States is traced back to the New York Police Department Band in 1950. Since then, in addition to the CPP&D, the Police Departments of Chicago, Columbus and Cincinnati (Ohio), as well as a select few county Sheriff Offices in Ohio have Pipes & Drums Bands. The Bands began as military maneuvers as early as the 15th to 17th centuries in Switzerland, Scotland, Britain and Ireland. On the battlefield, drummers signaled tactical movements and also kept a rhythmical cadence for marching. Eventually a musical collection of tunes and songs were added. Band members in each instrumental section have a different role. The pipers provide melody and harmony, while the side drummer provides the rhythm along with bass and tenor drummers. The first non-military units to adopt pipe bands are the police and fire brigades.

The CPP&D Band is based on a defined process. Step 1 is the audition of new members. Each applicant plays 3 solos, and if successful, moves to Step 2 and received the CPP&D uniform and march with the Band. Side drum auditions require that applicants play the side drum while marching with the Band. The average time for a piper to become skilled is six months to a year. A piper starts with a small chanter pipe and learns to breathe properly. Prior experience with a reed instrument before playing pipes is helpful. A piper learns a repertoire of 20-25 tunes. There is symbolism and a spiritual dimension to pipe bands. The music at a funeral or memorial service is slow paced and somber. The final song played by the pipe band is a solemn commemoration of life to carry the deceased into the next part of the journey.

Public service in law enforcement and fire fighting are traditions in the Riley family, and CPD Badge 185 carries not only a family commitment to law enforcement, but a special meaning to each family member who

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# BADGES OF COURAGE

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has worn it. Tim Riley's father Jim was a Firefighter, as was his uncle Butch Colbert. Tim's cousin, Jim Colbert, who retired from the CPD as a Patrolman was the first Cleveland Police Officer to wear Badge 185 in 1950. Tommy Campbell, who also retired from the CPD as a Lieutenant, was the next member of the Colbert family to wear Badge 185. Tom's wife Pattie was the next family member to wear Badge 185, and when she was promoted to Sergeant Tim has worn Badge 185 ever since. Tim and Lieutenant Kristen Riley's two sons are Cleveland Firefighters, and their daughter is a software engineer.

Tim Riley's dedication and commitment to his profession as a Police Officer is readily apparent after meeting him and discussing his 20 plus years as a sworn peace officer. He has ability to be tough when need be. He has empathy and compassion for those who are victims of crime or who are experiencing hardships, all the while remaining professional and an authority figure. Not only does he possess the tactical knowledge and training to serve the citizens of Cleveland, but also easily relates to people and keeps a balance between another's loss and his law

enforcement duties. Although imposing stature, he is not overbearing.

Cleveland Police Officer Timothy Riley has made Honor Our Fallen a personal and professional commitment to the Officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the communities they served. He considers the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial to be sacred ground and a part of law enforcement annals where the 190 Fallen Heroes are remembered especially during Police Week each year. Leading the Pipes & Drums in the GCPOMS Memorial Parade, he and the Band Members honor each and every name of the granite Walls of the Memorial. Each May before Police Week, on his own time, Tim power washes the Monument Walls and site. He personally knew a number of Officers whose names are on the Walls. He regards the Memorial as being a special place where the lives of the Fallen Officers are not only mourned, but celebrated for their valor and dedication to public service. Those who know Tim best, readily acknowledge that he can be counted on whenever needed, especially when there is a Line of Duty Death.

## HONOR OUR FALLEN



**Patrolman Mathew Mazany**  
Mentor Police Department, EOW June 24, 2018. Patrolman Mazany Was killed in the Line of Duty by a hit-and-run driver During a traffic stop.



**Patrol Officer Vu Nguyen**  
Cleveland Police Department, EOW July 6, 2018. Patrol Officer Nguyen died in the Line of Duty after collapsing and losing consciousness during a work-related physical training exercise.



**Deputy Marshal Harry Sayle**  
Shaker Heights Police Department, EOW August 27, 1916. Deputy Marshal Sayle was killed in The Line of Duty while pursuing three boys near Buckeye and Center Roads. He was ambushed by a fourth subject and shot four times with a .32 caliber pistol.



**Patrolman Clarence Cerill Chance**  
Cuyahoga Falls Police Department, EOW May 30, 1947. Patrolman Chance was pursuing a speeding motorist on his motorcycle when he was struck by cross traffic at the intersection of Oakwood and Front Street.



# ERIC B. SMITH: SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE OF THE CLEVELAND FBI FIELD OFFICE

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

On February 12, 2019, The Northern District of Ohio welcomed Eric B. Smith, Special Agent in Charge of the Cleveland Field Office. Mr. Smith oversees 40 counties in Northern Ohio from Lake Erie to Mansfield and from Toledo to Warren, as well as the multiple FBI Resident Agencies in the geographic area. Mr. Smith became a Special Agent with the FBI in 1999 after completing his FBI training at Quantico (VA). He was initially



assigned to the Wichita Resident Agency in the Kansas Field Office where he worked multiple programs including violent crime, counter-terrorism, and counterintelligence. He transferred to the Counterterrorism Division at FBI Headquarters in DC in 2005.

In 2008, he was selected to serve as the Supervisor for the Cleveland Field Office's counterterrorism squad and Joint Terrorism Force. Two years later, he was assigned to be the FBI's senior representative to a Counterterrorism task force headquartered at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. From there he was deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan before returning to the Cleveland Field Office where he was promoted to Assistant Special Agent in Charge over counterterrorism and cyber matters. In 2015, Mr. Smith was appointed to serve as the Chief of Staff to the Deputy Director of the FBI prior to his assignment as Special Assistant to Director Wray in 2016.

SAC Smith has a stellar career in public service, a career he mapped out when he was 8 years old after a decision to be an FBI Special Agent. On a small table in his elementary school classroom, his teacher had placed pamphlets on a variety of professions, including law enforcement and medicine. He selected a pamphlet on the FBI and kept that as a long term goal. A neighbor's son was home visiting from Washington, DC where he was a member of the Secret Service. He encourage a young Eric Smith to pursue his dreams of becoming a Special Agent in the FBI and recommended that Eric complete his college education first and then join the United States Army for experience before applying to the FBI. The journey that began as a goal at the age of eight began to become a reality as Mr. Smith graduated from East Kentucky University and achieved a Master's Degree in Homeland Security Studies from the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security in Monterey, CA. He is also a graduate of the United States Army Airborne School.

It was in the Army that SAC Smith was trained in military intelligence and was assigned to Ranger School. He served in the airborne rapid deployment forces at Fort Bragg and also as a battalion intelligence officer, an airborne rifle platoon leader, a company executive officer, and a company commander. SAC Smith is also the recipient of numerous military awards, including the Ranger Tab, the Senior Parachutist Badge, the Royal Australian Parachutist Badge, and the German Schutzenschnur shooting Badge. His service in the United States Army involved the sharing of all information on terroristic activities with the Department of Justice

and other agencies involved in the collection of intelligence and terrorism activities. In 1999 the FBI created a separate Counterterrorism Division (CDT) at FBI Headquarter which deployed Special Agents overseas. When SAC Smith joined the FBI, his military training in counterterrorism helped with a seamless transition to his FBI training and assignments. After spending 20 years in the United States Army he had reached a tipping point where he had to decide whether to be a career Army Officer or become a FBI Agent. He remained true to his 7th grade career plan and resigned from active duty in the Army on July 1, 1999 and seventeen days later he was attending the FBI Academy at Quantico.

SAC Smith has a special empathy for military and law enforcement killed in the Line of Duty and for their families. His first experience with fatalities occurred during parachute training when 17 Army Officers in his battalion, plus 17 more service personnel, were killed when two aircrafts, a F-16 and a C-130, collided in mid-air. In Ranger School, he witnessed the shooting of a fellow soldier who suffered mortal wounds as the result of the friendly fire from a M-16 rifle. SAC Smith expressed that military training not only develops character, but reinforces the philosophy to be resolute and to persevere. Military training also emphasizes the importance to be there when a colleague is down and needs assistance. This philosophy transfers to law enforcement as well.

SAC Smith is unwavering in the need to support family and friends of law enforcement Officers who are injured or who make the ultimate sacrifice for the safety of others.

The Cleveland FBI Field Office partners with the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society for the celebration of Police Week each May and to Honor Our Fallen Heroes at the GCPOMS Memorial Parade and Ceremony on the Friday of Police Week. The Memorial Parade begins at the Cleveland FBI Field Office at 1501 Lakeside Avenue where FBI personnel greet Survivors who have lost a law enforcement family member in the Line of Duty. The Parade ends at the GCPOMS Memorial at West 3rd and Lakeside Avenue where the Memorial Ceremony honors all Fallen Heroes whose names are etched on the granite Walls. FBI Special Agents and personnel walk in the parade and also attend the Memorial with SAC Smith.

The FBI Cleveland Field Office will honor FBI Special Agents who were killed in the Line of Duty at its 9th Memorial Service on May 7, 2019. The names of Fallen Agents appear on the Wall of Honor in the FBI Offices on Lakeside Avenue.

The FBI Cleveland Field Office also partners with the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society for the annual Light Northern Ohio Blue during Police Week. A blue tint will be added to the FBI building for the entire week. In addition FBI Special Agents volunteer with the GCPOMS Grave Marker Project to distribute the markers to the grave sites of the 190 names on the GCPOMS Memorial Walls.

The residents of Northern Ohio are the beneficiaries of the unwavering commitment of Special Agent in Charge Eric B. Smith to public service. His wife and three boys are also fully supportive of his career choice to his leadership role in the FBI Mission to work daily with government and private partners to protect and keep our Nation safe.



# TRIBUTE TO SPECIAL AGENT JOHNNIE OLIVER

David Wittschen, Retired Special Agent of the FBI



I first met Johnnie Oliver on the morning of July 19, 1971 at the Old Post Office Building, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC, which is now Trump International Hotel. It was the first day of New Agents' Training for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, New Agents Class 1. There were 35 of us in attendance. At the end of October 1971, we graduated and received our orders for our first Office assignment. I was assigned to the Mobile, AL Office, and Johnnie was assigned to the Philadelphia, PA Office.

We had no contact until after we received our orders for our second Office. I got Cleveland, OH. My family and I were staying at a motel west of Cleveland, and on one Saturday afternoon I saw Johnnie and his family enter a room several doors down from ours. Back then you did not know where your other classmates were being assigned to their second Office, so it was quite a surprise to see Johnnie and his family in the Cleveland area. Everyone was surprised to see one another, and we spent some time catching up on the events in each other's lives. At first, Johnnie and I were assigned to different squads in the Office. However, we did get together on the week-ends on occasion. We eventually changed squads and ended up on the same squad together.

On August 9, 1979, which happened to be my birthday, I was approached by the Case Agent to assist in the arrest of a fugitive out of the Chicago Office who was living in the Cleveland area. The fugitive was very athletic and considered armed and dangerous. There were six of us on the arrest team. We got together, planned the arrest, and left the office. We met outside the apartment complex where the fugitive was staying. Another Agent and I were assigned to the back of the apartment and set up, as the subject was known to be a runner. The other four Agents took their places while the Case Agent and Johnnie, who was carrying the shotgun, entered the front door after announcing they were the FBI.

Minutes later we heard gunshots, and one of the Agents who was covering the front door came around to the back of the apartment and announced that Johnnie had been shot and the fugitive had escaped through a front window. The fugitive was nowhere to be seen, so I went into the apartment to see if I could be of help to Johnnie, but he had already passed away. I called my Supervisor at the Office. The Cleveland Police SWAT team arrived and checked an apartment nearby and cleared another apartment along with FBI Agents from the Office.

A week later, the five of us on the arrest team, plus several other Agents from the Cleveland Office, traveled to Metropolis, Illinois for Johnnie's funeral. We met all of his family, and the Director of the FBI was also there.

Johnnie was a very friendly person and was well-liked by everyone in the Office. He had a positive attitude and was highly regarded and respected. He was a great family man, and he and Joan had two boys and a girl. The kids loved their Dad, and he thought the world of them and Joan.

Losing a fellow Agent and friend, especially in the line of duty, is and continues to have a traumatic and emotional impact. It will be 40 years on August 9th of this year that Johnnie was killed in the line of duty. I recall all vividly and for years have found it extremely difficult to talk about that day. It is an honor to commemorate the life of a friend and fellow Agent who served so admirably and who made the ultimate sacrifice for the protection and safety of others.

## FBI Cleveland Field Office Tribute to Special Agent Johnnie Oliver

Johnnie Oliver was born on May 8, 1944 in Karnaka, Illinois. After high school graduation, Johnnie joined the FBI as a file clerk at FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C. where he met his lovely wife, Joan. Johnnie and Joan were married on October 2, 1965 at St. Augustine Church in Eldridge, Maryland.

Johnnie separated from the FBI for two years to serve in the U.S. Army, which involved a tour in Korea. Johnnie received the National Defense Service Medal while serving. Upon his return from service he went on to graduate from Southeastern University located in Washington, D.C.

Johnnie became a Special Agent for the FBI on July 19, 1971. He was initially assigned to the Accounting-Criminal Squad in Philadelphia, subsequently, transferring to the Cleveland Division in October 1972. Johnnie worked general criminal matters, civil right violations and was a SWAT team member in the Cleveland Division.

On August 9, 1979 Johnnie and two other Special Agents sought to apprehend a fugitive wanted for rape, armed robbery and kidnapping. Leads generated in Chicago indicated the fugitive may have been hiding out in the Cleveland territory. Johnnie was one of the first agents to enter the residence where the fugitive was thought to be. Johnnie was mortally wounded by the fugitive upon entry into the residence. The fugitive was apprehended approximately one week later and is currently serving life in prison.

Johnnie was a well-liked and well-respected young man. He was tragically killed in the line of duty at the very young age of 35. He left behind a wonderful wife of almost 14 years and three small children (ages 13, 8 and 5).

We are extremely honored to have Joan (Oliver)Spencer, Rick, Geraldine and Randy Oliver here with us today to honor the life and service of their husband and father, Johnnie Oliver.



## LIGHT NORTHERN OHIO BLUE

Light Northern Ohio Blue is a joint project of the FBI Cleveland Field Office and the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society coordinated by Special Agent Vicki Anderson-Gregg. The cities of Toledo and Akron are also participating.



*Volunteers for Light Northern Ohio Blue, a joint partnership between the Cleveland FBI Field Office and GCPOMS, at Dunn Hardware in Richmond Heights.*

# POLICE WEEK – May 11-18, 2019

## Celebrated in Cleveland with the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Peace Officers Memorial Commemoration

Hosted by The Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society™, the commemoration recognizes all law enforcement officers for their dedicated service, and honors those who died in the line of duty serving their communities. Please consider showing your support for our Safety Forces at any of the following events open to the public:

### Saturday, May 11, 2019:

**Grave Marker Placement.** After a brief ceremony at 8:00 a.m. at the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial™ (GCPOM™) located in Huntington Park, Lakeside Avenue and West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, volunteers will travel throughout the region and place markers on the graves of the officers commemorated on the GCPOM™.

### Sunday, May 12, 2019:

**Police, Fire, & EMS Memorial Mass.** 9:00AM at Our Lady of Angels Church.  
Breakfast served after Mass in Linus Hall. Cost \$7.00

### Monday, May 13, 2019:

**Candlelight Vigil.** 7:30 p.m. at the GCPOM™ \*Everyone is we

### Thursday, May 16, 2019:

**Cleveland Police Badge Case Ceremony.** Begins at 11:00 a.m. 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Cleveland Police HQ  
1<sup>st</sup> floor, Justice Center

**Heroes Welcome.** 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. Margaritaville, East Bank of Flats  
Live music and complimentary appetizers.

### Friday, May 17, 2019:

**Parade.** Steps off at 10:30 a.m. from Lakeside Avenue and East 12th Street, continuing along Lakeside Avenue to the GCPOM™. Parade participants include officers from local, county, state and federal agencies throughout the U.S. and Canada; and surviving family members of officers who made the supreme sacrifice.

**Memorial Service.** All are encouraged to gather at the GCPOM™ at 11:30 a.m. immediately following the parade in **"Keeping the Promise to Never Forget Our Fallen Heroes."**™

**Luncheon.** For parade participants immediately following the Memorial Service at the FOP Lodge 8 Hall, 2249 Payne Avenue.

**Greater Cleveland Police Emerald Society.** Fellowship Event CPPA Upstairs Hall  
4:00 PM to 6:00PM

**Rib Roast.** Police fellowship at CPPA Hall, 1303 West 58th Street from 6-8p.m.  
\$25 (full slab) and \$15 (half slab) per person. For tickets contact (216) 337-3537  
or [info@policememorialsociety.org](mailto:info@policememorialsociety.org). Sponsored by **Chicago P.D. Emerald Society.**

### Saturday, May 18, 2019:

**Police Collector's Show.** 10 am – 3 pm. Double Tree Hotel 1111 Lakeside Ave. Contact Dave Tomcho (440) 821-7483.

**Cleveland International Tattoo™.** Highlighting the weekend will be the "Tattoo" at Cleveland Music Hall at 7:00 p.m. A spectacular demonstration of pageantry, music, song, drill and dance.

Featured performers include the United States Coast Guard Silent Drill Team, The Pipes and Drums of the Cleveland Police, Ottawa Regional Pipes and Drums from Canada, and more! Tickets on sale at [www.honorourfallen.us](http://www.honorourfallen.us) all tickets \$15.00 per person, 10 years old and under free.

**After-Tattoo Party.** Follow the bands back to the Double Tree Hotel at 12<sup>th</sup> & Lakeside Ave., featuring music by "Sloppy Joe Band!"



The Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society™

[www.PoliceMemorialSociety.org](http://www.PoliceMemorialSociety.org)

[www.gcpoms.org](http://www.gcpoms.org)

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





# HONOR OUR FALLEN

## Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Commemorative Paver Campaign

The Memorial in Downtown Cleveland honors Northeast Ohio Peace Officers killed in the line of duty. This beautiful Memorial located on the corner of West 3<sup>rd</sup> and Lakeside Avenue (Huntington Park) features dark granite pillars inscribed with the names of fallen officers.

### Purchase a Paver to Show Your Support

You can choose your own **personalized message** to remember or honor a person, or even promote your business or organization. Your engraved paver will be on view permanently at the memorial where visitors will pay their tributes for generations to come.

Visit [www.EachPaverRemembers.com](http://www.EachPaverRemembers.com) for complete level benefits and recognition opportunities. For questions, please call GCPOMS at (216) 337-3537 or email [info@policememorialsociety.org](mailto:info@policememorialsociety.org)

**Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society™**  
**P.O. Box 6207**  
**Cleveland, Ohio 44101**  
**(216) 337-3537**  
[www.policememorialsociety.org](http://www.policememorialsociety.org)

*The Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society™  
 is a registered 501(c)(3) charity.  
 Donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.*

### Paver Sponsor Levels: (tax deductible)

#### **\$100 | Friend**

##### **6" x 6" Paver**

Max 5 lines, 14 characters per line

#### **\$250 | Family**

##### **6" x 12" Paver**

Max 5 lines, 28 characters per line

#### **\$1,000 | Silver**

##### **12" x 12" Paver**

Max 5 lines, 28 characters per line

#### **\$2,500 | Gold**

##### **12" x 12" Paver**

Max 5 lines, 28 characters per line

#### **\$5,000 | Platinum**

##### **12" x 12" Paver**

Max 5 lines, 28 characters per line.



## GCPOMS Merchandise Events 2019

*May 15, 2019 – Sales lobby of Double Tree Hotel  
9:00AM – 5:00PM*

*May 16, 2019 – Sales lobby of Double Tree Hotel  
9:00AM – 5:00PM*

*\*May 17, 2019 – Sales lobby of Double Tree Hotel  
8:30AM – 10:30AM  
during Parade set-up*

*\*May 17, 2019 – Sales at FOP Lodge 8  
Location: 2249 Payne Ave.  
12:15PM – 3:15PM*

*May 17, 2019 – Sales at Memorial Site  
Set up 9:00AM  
Sales until about 1:00PM until  
park empties after Service.*

*May 18, 2019 – Sales lobby of Double Tree Hotel  
9:00AM – 3:00PM*

*May 18, 2019 – Cleveland International Tattoo  
Public Hall  
Set-up 5:00PM Doors open 6:00PM  
Tattoo ends between 9:00-9:30*

*June 15, 2019 – Hooley - Kamms Corner  
Set-up starts at 10:00 AM  
Hours Noon – 8:00PM*

*June 30, 2019 – COPS Ride- GCPOMS Memorial  
8-11:30 AM.*

*August 6, 2019- Bexley Park  
South Euclid - 1630 Wrenford Rd.  
Hours 6-8p.m.*



The Memorial Mini-Market  
is open for business at  
**WWW.HONOROURFALLEN.US**  
Icon graphic for the GCPOMS  
Memorial Mini-Market is courtesy  
of Carrie A. Petersen, Esq.



*The Memorial Mini-Market trailer travels to each Merchandise event.*

## Candlelight Ceremony

On Monday, May 13, 2019, the GCPOMS Candlelight Ceremony to Honor Our Fallen Heroes whose names are etched on the granite Walls of the Memorial will take place at 7:30 p.m. at the Memorial located at West 3rd and Lakeside Avenue in Cleveland. Todd Meany of Fox 8 News will read each of the Fallen Officers' names, their police agency, and End of Watch (EOW).

## GCPOMS Memorial Parade and Ceremony

The GCPOMS Memorial Parade on Friday, May 17, 2019, will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Cleveland Field Office of the FBI at 1501 Lakeside Avenue. The Parade will proceed west on Lakeside Avenue to the GCPOMS Memorial at West 3rd and Lakeside.

The Memorial Service will begin at 11:30 a.m. Sportscaster Tony Rizzo of The Really Big Show on ESPN 850 WKNR (Cleveland) will be the Master of Ceremonies.



P.O. Box 6207  
Cleveland, OH 44101

THE  
EPITAPH

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

### **Membership for the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society**

- Annual**   ☐ Individual Member \$20.00   ☐ Annual Business/Organization \$75.00
- Lifetime**   ☐ Individual Member \$200.00   ☐ Lifetime Business/Organization \$750.00
- 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](mailto:info@policememorialsociety.org) | [www.honorourfallen.us](http://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.*