



THE EPITAPH



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

VOL 2, NO 3 • MAY/JUNE 2019

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*. This past May was a very busy month for the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society. We teamed up with the Cleveland office of the FBI and Cleveland Police with the Light Northern Ohio Blue campaign in remembrance of Fallen Officers. We handed out blue light bulbs and saw many blue lights in windows and lamp posts throughout the cities in Northeast Ohio. The Ohio Turnpike along with ODOT also were part of this annual event this year. The Turnpike Commission had all their Maintenance and Service Plaza buildings along the entire Turnpike lighted in blue for Police Week. Thanks again to Home Depot and Ace Hardware for supplying blue light bulbs. We will continue this event next year to remember Fallen Peace Officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the protection of others.

I want to thank all of you who made our Peace Officers Memorial Week a success. This includes all volunteers and sponsors. It was nice to meet new volunteers and families of some of the Officers honored this year who came out and helped place markers in cemeteries in Northern Ohio on the graves of the Fallen Officers whose names are etched on the Walls of the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial at W. 3rd and Lakeside Avenue (Cleveland). Survivor/Hudson Police Sgt. John Dean began the Grave Marker Project with his father Thomas Dean in 2011 following the death of their brother/son Boston Patrol Officer Jarod Dean (EOW 1/09/2009). Olmsted Twp. Police Chief Matt Vanyo assisted with organizing the Candlelight Vigil at the Memorial. GCPOMS Trustees Strongsville Sgt. Dave Tomcho and University Heights Patrolman Chris Russo spent most of the day before the Memorial Ceremony cleaning and washing the Memorial Walls in addition to setting up tables, chairs and assisting with centering the stage for the Service. Bratenahl Patrolman Dave Lisk made sure transportation was set-up and running smoothly. Ohio State Highway Patrol Officer Lieutenant Darren Huggins assisted during the Memorial Service and also read names of Fallen Officers. Sergeant Adam Doles and Trooper Chris Aussie assisted with the Ceremony preparation and escorted Survivors into the park during the Memorial Service. Trooper Rayetta Kanfers, Trooper Ryan Hershey and Trooper Dora Abshire assisted with the check-in of Survivors before the Ceremony began. Veteran's Administration Patrol Officer Todd Vogler did a terrific job organizing this year's Parade. Make sure if you wish to participate in next year's Parade on May 15, 2020, our 35th Anniversary year, email Todd (tvogler@policememorialsociety.org). A special thank you to all of the agencies that stood watch throughout the day at the Memorial Walls.

Even though there was a steady light rain during our Memorial Service, it did not dampen the spirits of all who attended. We saw a lot of new and old faces that have not attended a service for a few years. We honored four Officers whose names were inscribed on our Memorial. Their families were so honored to be present and appreciated the support that is given to them and making sure the sacrifices of their loved ones were not in vein. It was great to see and hear 9-year-old Olivia Gresko give her tribute in honor of her father Willoughby Patrol Officer Jason Gresko (EOW 09/12/2012) during this year's Memorial Service. Olivia was strong and showed a lot of courage to stand in front of all, to share a memorial presentation she had written for her father.

Tony Rizzo ESPN Cleveland was this year's Emcee for the Memorial Service. Tony is one of the biggest supporters of GCPOMS. He was honored to be part of our Service and promised he will be return next year as our Emcee. Through his RBS (Really Big Show) Golf outing. Tony has donated over \$60,000 to GCPOMS over the past 8 years. Tony closes his show everyday on the radio reminding everyone to keep Peace Officers and First Responders in their prayers. This confirms Tony's commitment in supporting and caring for law enforcement.

After this years' Memorial Service there was a light lunch for the Survivors, and again this year Mission BBQ sponsored the lunch. I presented the managers of Mission BBQ with a plaque to show our appreciation for providing their staff, preparing, serving, and donating the food for our Survivors. Mission BBQ also participated in the parade with their armored vehicle proudly displaying the United States and GCPOMS flags.

Thanks to Kelly Lentz, the Chair of the GCPOMS Memorial Merchandise Sales Committee and husband Cleveland Sgt. Martin J. Lentz for outstanding displays and sales of Memorial items. Newly designed Honor Our Fallen T-shirts listing all 190 names of Fallen Officers and their EOW in columns on the back of the shirts were well-received by attendees of the various events throughout Police Week, as were the GCPOMS Christmas ornament, mugs, and numerous other items including short and long-sleeved Ts and sweatshirts with the embroidered GCPOMS logo. All merchandise can be purchased on-line (HonorOurFallen.US) and at Tent Sales events throughout the year.

This year's Cleveland International Tattoo was a great show. We received many positive compliments from the performers and attendees who considered this one of the best shows ever. The performances were spectacular. Thanks to University Heights Patrolman Chris Russo and his wife Annelise and Committee for a successful and enjoyable evening. This year we had the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves Band from New Orleans participate in the Memorial Service and Tattoo. They were very energetic and extremely talented musicians. They even made an appearance at the Rib Roast and dazzled the crowds with their jazz music ensemble.

The Rib Roast was another success. Thank you, Rick Toolis, Tom Cody and the rest of the guys from the Chicago Emerald Police Society and our own Hans Van Wormer for doing all the preparation, cooking and serving a wonderful dinner. We were honored to have the Toronto Police Chiefs Ceremonial Unit be part of this year's parade, Memorial Service and Tattoo, as well as the Ottawa Regional Pipes and Drums from Canada. We are grateful that Ottawa Regional Pipes & Drums return to our Memorial Week every year. There are many more people who helped make our Memorial Week a success, and I want to thank them all. I could go on for several more pages acknowledging everyone.

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

Stay safe,

Joe Mannion, President



Staff of the Ohio Turnpike Commission (Berea Administration Building) supported the Make Ohio Blue Campaign honoring Fallen Peace Officers during Police Week.



Joe Mannion presents an award of appreciation to Mission Barbecue Parma General Manager for the continued support of GCPOMS during Police Week.



Each Survivor attending the GCPOMS Memorial Ceremony carried a blue/white rose. The blue rose is symbolic of sympathy, loyalty, trust and remembrance. The white rose is symbolic of honor, respect, remembrance and love.

SURVIVORS' CORNER

OLIVIA GRESKO PRESENTS A TRIBUTE TO HER FATHER PATROL OFFICER JASON GRESKO

Submitted by Olivia's Mother, Sandra Gresko,
Survivor/Widow of Patrol Officer Jason Gresko EOW (09/21/2012)

Hello. My name is Olivia Gresko and I am the daughter of fallen Willoughby Police Officer Jason Gresko. I am 9 years old and finishing the third grade, but when my dad made the ultimate sacrifice on September 21, 2012, I was only 2 ½ years old. I was little and didn't understand.

Eight months later, my mom took me to Washington DC for Police Week. We attended many events, I met The President, we honored the fallen at a candlelight vigil and visited the Police Memorial where I found my dad's name. 141 names were added with my dad in 2012. Today, more than 21,000 names are on that wall. I have gone to Washington DC for Police Week every year since my dad's name was added to the memorial, and again this year. We just returned a few days ago.

I am honored to be here today at the Cleveland Memorial, and thank you for remembering the fallen. The names on these walls are brave heroes that you have promised to never forget. My dad did not put his badge on to be a hero. He did it because he knew he could make a difference. And that made him happy. He wanted to serve and protect. He promised to keep us safe and treat others with respect. He was the best dad and I miss him very much. I know his memory lives in me and my mom and all the people who were lucky to know him.

When I was three, the blue line was just a color made by a crayon. Fast forward six years to today and I will tell you that the blue line is my family. They are the people who I have learned to love, respect, honor and depend on. They are always there for us, and I am so grateful. Thank you for always remembering. I know my dad is smiling.

God bless our fallen, and all of you.

GCPOMS FRONT LICENSE PLATE

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



GCPOMS REAR LICENSE PLATE

Available to the Public!

To Order Your Plates
Visit Your Local Bmv or

www.Bmv.Ohio.Gov

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GCPOMS Memorial Parade – published with the permission of Gus Chan/Plain Dealer © 2019

BADGES OF COURAGE

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

Lake County Deputy Sheriff James A. Wheeler and retired Painesville City Police Department Lieutenant Gerry Lynch have made it their personal commitment to Honor the memories of the 190 Fallen Officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the Line of Duty from the 5½ Northern Ohio counties represented by the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society. Each name of the Fallen Officers is etched on the granite Walls of the Memorial located at West 3rd and Lakeside Avenue in Cleveland. This tribute was captured in an impressive photo of the 15'x25' United States Flag taken by Gus Chan, Staff Photographer at The Plain Dealer. The powerful photo memorializes this annual remembrance during the GCPOMS Memorial Parade preceding the Memorial Ceremony at the Monument. The Flag is carried by 30 local fellow law enforcement Officers and First Responders, along with Officers from Canada, Germany, England, Australia, Chicago, New York, Las Vegas, and New Orleans over the past 20 years.

The U.S. Flag carried in the GCPOMS Memorial Parade is borrowed from the Painesville Elks Lodge and was first carried by Jim Wheeler and Gerry Lynch with the assistance of 30 students who had just graduated from the DARE Program at a local Cleveland high school. The friendships which have developed over the years among the participating law enforcement Officers remains strong. For instance, Tom Cody and Rick Toolis, both retired Chicago Police Officers, return to Cleveland each Police Memorial Week to participate in the Parade and other Police Week events sponsored by GCPOMS. Both are also members of the Chicago Police Department Emerald Society Pipe Band. Rick organizes the GCPOMS Rib Roast and cooks the ribs, and both he and Tom help serve the attendees.

Deputy Wheeler is completing his 30th year in law enforcement. He spent his first ten years in law enforcement with the Lakeland Community College



Police Department and has also served as a part-time Police Officer with the City of Kirtland in Lake County. He has been a Deputy Sheriff with the Lake County Sheriff's Office for the last 20 years assigned to the Sheriff's Court Services Division.

Jim Wheeler and Gerry Lynch make it clear that the United States Flag they carry each May in the GCPOMS Memorial Parade is not about them, but about the Fallen Officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety of others and also for their loved ones they left behind. The Flag Project is a symbol of their respect for each of the Officer whose name is etched on the Memorial Walls and in memory of the sacrifices made by each who lost their lives serving their communities. The United States Flag is a moving and impressive symbol of this Great Country which reinforces the commitment that the Fallen Officers will never be forgotten.

POLICE MEMORIAL WEEK | MAY 11-18, 2019



Police Week participants meet and greet

Trustees Dave Tomcho and Chris Russo power wash the Memorial



Merchandise Committee Chair Kelly Lentz at the GCPOMS Mini-Market in the Double Tree lobby

Volunteers at the Mini-Market outside the Double Tree



Trustee Dave Tomcho rings the antique Fire Bell at the Candlelight Ceremony

Marine Reserves New Orleans Jazz Ensemble play at the Rib Roast



Chicago Emerald Police Society prepare and cook the Rib Dinner

Mission BBQ's armored vehicle in the Memorial Parade



IN MEMORIAM February 19, 1923 – December 18, 1937

Carl Metta, Agent

Federal Prohibition Enforcement Officer
EOW February 19 1923

Samuel Kilbane, Patrolman

Cleveland Police Department
EOW April 19, 1923

Dennis Griffin, Patrolman

Cleveland Police Department
EOW May 14, 1923

Fred J. Webber, Patrolman

Lorain Police Department
EOW December 22, 1923

Roy Nightwine, Patrolman

Cleveland Police Department
EOW May 11, 1924

Frank A. Sukan, Patrolman

Cleveland Police Department
EOW June 28, 1924

Michael J. Hahnel, Patrolman

Shaker Heights Police Department
EOW October 20, 1924

Peter Fromm, Patrolman

Cleveland Police Department
EOW February 13, 1925

Henry Richter, Patrolman

Cleveland Police Department
EOW February 27, 1925

Charles J. Frantz, Patrolman

Cleveland Police Department
EOW April 14, 1925

Harvey A. Yoder, Marshal

Bay Village Police Department
EOW July 20, 1925

Charles C. Deal, Patrolman

Lorain Police Department
EOW November 6, 1925

John F. Saxton, Patrolman

Cleveland Police Department
EOW February 15, 1926

Edwin A. Janes, Patrolman

Shaker Heights Police Department
EOW April 17, 1926

William G. Borgman, Patrolman

Cleveland Police Department
EOW April 20, 1926

Michael B. Beuerlein, Patrolman

Parma Police Department
EOW May 20, 1926

George J. Buttermore, Patrolman

Shaker Heights Police Department
EOW May 24, 1926

Clinton Wolf, Deputy Marshal

Parma Police Department
EOW June 28, 1926

Lawrence R. Yaxley, Deputy Marshal

Mentor Village Marshal's Office
EOW January 30, 1927

Richard White, Patrolman

Cleveland Police Department
EOW August 4, 1927

Albert Flemke, Patrolman

Cleveland Police Department
EOW March 22, 1928

Anthony Wiczorek, Patrolman

Cleveland Police Department
EOW September 13, 1928

Ernest L. Ford, Patrolman

Cleveland Police Department
EOW September 19, 1928

Carl Sherman, Patrolman

Cleveland Police Department
EOW March 6, 1929

Edward Butler, Patrolman

Cleveland Plain Dealer
EOW November 3, 1928
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

To be continued in the next edition of The Epitaph



Your Message
Goes Here



Honor Our Fallen Heroes

Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Commemorative Paver

The Memorial in Downtown Cleveland honors Northern Ohio Peace Officers killed in the line of duty in Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina and Northern Summit Counties. This beautiful Memorial located on the corner of West 3rd 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.

Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society™

P.O. Box 6207

Cleveland, Ohio 44101

(216) 337-3537

www.policememorialsociety.org

Paver Sponsor Levels *(tax deductible)*

\$100 - 6"x 6"

Max 5 lines,
14 characters / line

\$250 - 6"x12"

Max 5 lines
28 characters / line

\$1,000 - 12"x12"

Max 5 lines
28 characters / line

\$2,500 - 12" x 12"

Max 5 lines
28 characters / line

\$5,000 - 12" x 12"

Max 5 lines
28 characters / line





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 | 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.

“Keeping the Promise to Never Forget our Fallen Heroes”™