



THE EPITAPH



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

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Joe Mannion | President/Member of the GCPOMS Executive Board/Board of Directors

Welcome to the GCPOMS *The Epitaph*, the official publication for the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society™.

In August, I received a phone call from Diane Quinn whose husband, Sergeant Mike Quinn, was planning to retire from the Cleveland Division of Police Homicide Unit after 32 years of service. Diane informed me that she and Mike were planning a retirement party and wanted to make it into a special event. Diane and Mike decided that instead of accepting gifts for Mike on his retirement, they preferred that attendees instead donate to the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society™. Diane had mentioned this idea to several people, and they thought it was a great and different idea. As Diane began planning for the party, she advised that there would be raffles for donated gift baskets. One company donated a TV to be raffled off. She asked if GCPOMS would be OK with the idea.

The Board of Directors of GCPOMS is most grateful for the selfless and thoughtful commitment to never forget the Fallen Officers whose names appear on the granite Walls of the Memorial located in Huntington Park at West 3rd and Lakeside Avenue in Cleveland.

Mike and Diane had made many friends throughout his career, and it showed on November 2, 2019, the day of the retirement party. Close to 400 people celebrated Mike's retirement. The party was a tremendous tribute and show of respect for Mike. The Quinn's raised in excess of \$5000 for GCPOMS. Diane and Mike wanted to do something as a way of paying forward, and Mike holds the Memorial close to his heart.



Diane and Sgt. Michael Quinn

Mike comes from a police family. His father retired from the Cleveland Police Department after 39 years, and Mike followed with 32 years on the CPD. Mike said part of the reason he and Diane chose GCPOMS was that he knew a lot of the Officers who were killed in the Line of Duty and whose names are on the Memorial Walls. Both he and Diane want to help keep their memories alive by making sure we never forget the ultimate sacrifice made by our Fallen Officers.

Diane could not express in words how grateful she is for all the outpouring of support that they received to make the retirement party so successful and enjoyable. She cannot say enough for the people and businesses who donated prizes and basket for auction and raffle.

The Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society™ cannot say enough regarding how grateful and appreciative we are for having friends and supporters like Diane and Mike Quinn, who enable us to continue to pursue our mission to keep "The Promise to Never Forget our Fallen Heroes"™ and our Survivors and to recognize all police officers who still serve and risk their lives to protect us all.

Thank you, Mike for your 32 years of faithful service and thank you, Diane for being there for him and being his biggest supporter.

I want to give thanks to Martha Godenswager and Family. Martha's husband Robert had passed in October. The Godenswager's had asked that memorial remembrances be made to the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society™ in honor of their dear friend Cleveland Police Patrolman David Fahey, Badge #2453, EOW 01/24/2017. GCPOMS has received memorial remembrances from several of the Godenswager's friends.

We are so grateful for the different ways that our supporters remember our Fallen Officers.

We are planning for our 35th Anniversary in 2020, and here are some dates to remember: Saturday, May 9, 2020 Grave Marker Service; Monday, May 11, 2020 Candlelight Vigil; Thursday, May 14, Hero's Welcome at Sausalito on Ninth; Friday, May 15, Annual Memorial Parade and Service at the Memorial; Saturday, May 16, Patch Collectors & Exhibition Show at the Double Tree Hotel; Saturday, May 16, The Cleveland International Tattoo at Public Hall in downtown Cleveland.

Don't forget to Honor Our Fallen this Christmas season by purchasing your "Honor Our Fallen" Christmas Ornament for your tree or display. Purchase this or many other GCPOMS items for Christmas gifts by going to the Shop section of our website: www.HonorOurFallen.US.

Wishes for a Blessed Holiday Season to all. Stay safe,

Joe Mannion, President

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



SURVIVORS' CORNER

Thomas J. Lekan

In the summer of 1967, I was a 23-year-old Parma Police Officer. I was routinely assigned to work we called Beat Three which bordered the City of Broadview Heights at Sprague and Broadview Roads. On August 29, 1967 I was in a parking lot of a shopping center in Parma when Brian Kloka, a Broadview Heights Police Officer who was about my age joined me to shoot the breeze as many police officers did in the suburbs due to the fact that we backed up each other. We had many roads that bordered each other's jurisdictions. It was necessary to provide mutual aid to one another when they made a traffic stop or responded to a call for assistance.

On that day in the early morning hours, Brian and I saw a car traveling south on Broadview Road near Sprague Road going exceedingly fast for the road conditions and the amount of traffic. Brian said to me, "I'm going to get that guy, so I'll see you later." That was the last time I saw Brian alive. During the high speed chase, Brian's patrol car struck a utility pole causing his death.

Patrolman Brian Kloka had joined the Broadview Heights Police Department after his father, the Police Chief of the Department Alex Kloka died from a heart attack. Brian, like many police officers followed in their fathers' footsteps in law enforcement.

Brian, like many of us at the time were young police officers and what the seasoned officers called "hard chargers." Brian was enthusiastic and was a very dedicated police officer. He took his job seriously and went after the car speeding through his city because he was concerned about the safety of others.

The dispatch for that area was in Strongsville, Ohio, and there was no communication by radio between Parma and Broadview Heights to make me aware that Brian was continuing the high speed chase. I often wonder why I did not join in the chase and forget the rules about staying within city limits. I don't know if I could have done anything more than he did or if the two of us together would have been able to catch that driver. I wish I knew that.

I remained on the Parma Police Department until June of 1976. During the years between 1965 and 1976 there were 33 police officers who were either killed or died in the Line of Duty. The Line of Duty deaths include 21 Cleveland Police Officers, 10 suburban Police Officers, two Officers for the Veterans Administration in Brecksville, Ohio, and one FBI Agent. I attended many large funerals and thought just like every other police officer that it could have been me. I was given the opportunity to be on a committee whose purpose was to build a Memorial to the police officers who died in the Line of Duty. After the early days of fundraising, the Memorial was finally built and became a monument and an opportunity to honor those who gave their lives on the job. Patrolman Brian Kloka is memorialized on this Monument located at West 3rd Street and Lakeside Avenue in downtown Cleveland. In addition, I suggested that in addition to the Monument, that Memorial Pavers be available to families, friends and the community to remember and Honor our Fallen Officers.

I fly an American flag and a police memorial flag at my house every day to commemorate all police officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice. It was tragedies like Brian's death that makes me have blue in my veins. I respect all police officers who put their lives on the line every day for me. I always remember my shift Lieutenant starting roll call with "You don't have to tell me you are brave and never are afraid. Just by putting on the uniform, you convince me." It is truly a thin blue line.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tom Lekan is still involved in GCPOMS and is a Life Member of the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society.



Pavers at the GCPOMS Memorial.



GCPOMS 3'x5' Flag



Honor Our Fallen Holiday Ornament



GCPOMS Men and Women's Polo Shirt

BADGES OF COURAGE

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

The City of Highland Heights Department of Police is a supporter of the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society™ and participates in the annual GCPOMS Police Week every mid-May by being a part of the Memorial Parade and Ceremony to honor the 190 Police Officers who were killed in the Line of Duty and whose names appear on the granite Walls of the GCPOMS Memorial. The Parade begins at East 12th and Lakeside Avenue and concludes at the Memorial at West 3rd and Lakeside Avenue across from the Justice Center in Cleveland.

In addition, the Officers of the Highland Heights Police Department have participated in the annual No Shave November for the last four years. For the last three years, the Officers chose to donate all monies raised to the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society™, and we are gratified for their generosity.

The Highland Heights Department of Police patrols the City which covers an area which is largely residential, but also has significant commercial zones. The City is bordered on the north by White Road in Willoughby Hills, on the south by Ridgebury Blvd. in Mayfield Village, by the City of Richmond Heights on the western edge, and by the southbound lanes of Interstate-271 on the eastern edge.

The commercial district includes a number of large and smaller businesses, including Kohl's, Panera, Chipotle, Home Depot, some of Progressive's corporate buildings, Philip's Healthcare Corporate Campus, UPS Shipping Headquarters, and Swagelok Company. Part of the Runway at the Cuyahoga County Airport is also in the City of Highland Heights.

The Administrative Staff of the Department of Police includes the Chief, Executive Lieutenant, Communications Specialist, Dispatch, Detective Bureau and Patrol Division. Chief James J. Cook will be completing 50 years with the Department where he has served as Chief since 1990.

Lieutenant Matejcic, the Executive Officer, started with the Department as an Auxiliary Police Officer in 1994 and was hired in 1995 as a full-time Police Officer. He has been assigned to all Units within the Department and rose through the ranks from Patrolman, Field Training Officer, Sergeant, Detective Sergeant, and Lieutenant. One of his most notable cases involved a murder from a cyanide-time-released capsule. This case had an international component that involved a partnership with the Cuyahoga County Prosecutors Office, the FBI, Secret Service and the U.S. Department of State.

Safety and crime prevention programs center upon all residents of the City from the very young to the elderly. Millridge School, which is part of the Mayfield City School District, is physically located within the City of Highland Heights. The HHPD assigns a School Resource Officer to Millridge, and the Department of Police also provides security for special school events. The private elementary school and Millridge are located within the City's borders. The HHPD maintains an excellent safety relationship with both the elementary school and Millridge School.

Blue Pull Stations are installed in the private elementary school and are operational when pulled to alert immediately the HHPD Dispatch Center that a safety emergency exists within the school. Police Officers are immediately dispatched to the school when an alert sounds. Cameras installed throughout the school feed directly into the HHPD Dispatch Center. The school is also used by the HHPD for training exercises. DARE and ALICE Officers are assigned to the



school as well. The ALICE Training helps schools to be better prepared to prevent, abate, respond to, and recover from a violent critical incident.

The Highland Heights Department of Police sponsors a Juvenile Diversion Program. Two HHPD Detectives work with a Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court Magistrate once a juvenile complaint is filed to determine if the juvenile is eligible as a first offender to participate in the Diversion Program. Once admitted to the Diversion Program, a juvenile offender is assigned community service on-site at the HHPD under the direct supervision of a HHPD Police Officer. Programs are offered to rehabilitate juvenile offenders by addressing problems that lead to the underlying behavioral issues.

All Senior residents of Highland Heights are eligible to enroll in the **Care Call Program** through the Police Department Dispatcher to set up the times and days for calls to be made to check on the overall welfare, health, safety, and security and also to address the specific needs of each enrolled resident. The Senior resident determines the amount of contact time needed and the days and times. Participating residents receive special attention during power outages and other emergencies.

Other Senior programs are conducted by Chief of Police James J. Cook and Lieutenant Dennis Matejcic, the Executive Officer for the Department of Police. The classes for Seniors include topics on credit card fraud and theft, identity theft, and mail/email/phone scams which often target Seniors. Safety presentations are also available to Home Owner Associations by the HHPD and the Tri-City Group on Safety. Within the City of Highland Heights are three senior residences: Kemper House for Alzheimer and Dementia patients; Highland Pointe Health and Rehabilitation Center; and Aberdeen Crossings Assisted Living.

Self-defense classes for adult women residents 18 years and older are taught by Chief Cook and Lieutenant Matejcic. Two self-defense classes are provided annually. Two HHPD Officers who are experts in martial arts and Jiu Jitsu also teach the participants enrolled in the classes.

The Alarm Board which is located in the Police Department allows residents and businesses to connect their private fire alarm or security system to the Communications Center for 24-7 monitoring so that the alarm rings directly into the Police Dispatch Center. The Dispatch Center is continual updated to provide very personal safety services to the residents of the City. The Dispatch Unit serves only the Highland Heights Police and Fire Safety Forces and is not a shared Dispatch facility.

BADGES OF COURAGE

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

The Safe Passages Initiative Program, an area-wide program sponsored by the Hillcrest Cities of Highland Heights, Richmond Heights, Lyndhurst, Mayfield Heights and the Village of Mayfield, encourage opioid addicted persons to seek help by walking into any of the Police Department in the Hillcrest Area. Addicted persons may seek help by walking into the Highland Heights Police Department between 8 am and 4 pm, Monday through Friday to receive expedited placement into an appropriate detox or treatment program without the fear of arrest. Upon arrival at the HHPD, those seeking help to overcome addiction will be interviewed by an Officer trained in the intake process who will complete a short interview and the paperwork necessary to enter the **Program**. Arrangements are then made for placement with the most appropriate detox or treatment provider. Placement is expected to take less than 72 hours. It is recommended that participants in the **Program** bring with them a friend or family member who supports their path to recovery.

While criminal enforcement, arrest and prosecution of drug dealers continue to be a focus of the Hillcrest Police Departments and the Hillcrest Drug Enforcement Unit, it is also recognized that the addicted need help. This acknowledgement developed into the **Safe Passages Program**. Drug-addicted persons are not required to be residents of any of the Police Departments participating in the **Program**. The only requirement is that they ask for help, and the law enforcement community will provide it.

Residential and Business Security Surveys are conducted at no cost by experienced crime prevention HHPD Officers who are specifically trained to conduct the surveys. The Officers walk through the premises with the property or business owner and then prepare a detailed written report with suggestions and recommendations for improved safety measures.

Another safety program is the twelve month **Vacation House Watch** which is conducted at the times and dates specified by residents, along with information concerning vehicles which are authorized to be on the premises or parked on the property.

The Highland Heights Department of Police partners with neighboring

police departments to address the most effective safety program to keep the Hillcrest area safe and crime-free. All Police Chiefs in the Hillcrest Area meet monthly, share issues of concern, and work as a team to resolve them. **SPAN** (Suburban Police Anti-Crime Network), which is a multi-agency SWAT group has been in operation for thirty years. The specialized units within **SPAN** include the Bomb Unit, Hostage Negotiating Team, Accident Investigation Unit, and the Drug Enforcement Unit.

The **Helmut Smart Ticket** is for bicycle riders of all ages who wear a helmet when they ride. The **Ticket** consists of coupons for local shops that support the program. The HHPD also participates in the Safety Town Program, Bicycle Safety, and Stranger Danger.

Public Service Facebook alerts residents and persons passing through the City about traffic issues, road repairs, and accidents which are causing streets to be closed or blocked.

The **Reverse 911-Civic Ready System** provides notification of weather and natural disaster alerts. Residents are notified at home, by email or on their cell phone as determined by each individual resident who wishes to participate.

The HHPD Communications Center has the capability to access immediately pertinent information provided by a resident prior to sending safety services personnel to a residence. Residents with special needs are asked to provide the HHPD safety services personnel with pertinent personal data necessary to provide the assistance needed. Such data remains confidential and secure for use by police and paramedic personnel only. Access to this information assists police and paramedics to serve residents better in an emergency situation. Should a power outage occur, this information can also determine which residents may require assistance.

The Highland Heights Department of Police provides an impressive range of programs for residents' participation. Through partnerships in the community and with other law enforcement, the goals and mission of the Department are evident. GCPOMS thanks the members of the HHPD for their support of Fallen Officers.



Highland Heights Police Officers. From left, Jeff Prosuch, Scott Cupar, Matt Evers. No Shave November.



Highland Heights Police Officers. Mark Stefanac, Ron Aderhold, Robert Dowdell, Eric Setele, Hoyet Demark. No Shave November.

Honor Our Fallen with Memorial Mini-Market Gifts



*New Challenge Coins Have Arrived!
(Front and Back of Coin)*



GCPOMS Blue Glass Memorial Coffee Mug



Honor Our Fallen Bracelet



*Honor Our Fallen Holiday Ornament
(Stand Available Separately)*



GCPOMS Hat



Our Fallen T-Shirt



The Memorial Mini-Market
is open for business at
WWW.HONOROURFALLEN.US

IN MEMORIAM March 2, 1996 – July 6, 2018

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

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

Matthew J. Mazany, Patrolman
Mentor Police Department
EOW June 24, 2018

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

We will never forget!

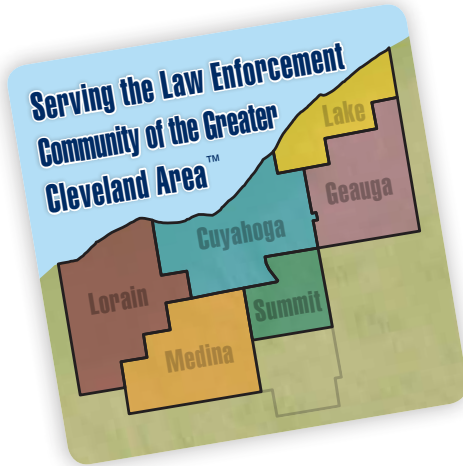
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"Keeping the Promise to Never Forget our Fallen Heroes"™

THE
EPITAPH



P.O. Box 6207
Cleveland, OH 44101



“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”™