



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®.

I hope everyone is healthy and well. I am hoping the vaccine that will be coming out shortly is effective and we can see each other again in May as we Honor Our Fallen. In 2021 we will have our 36th Annual Memorial Service, and GCPOMS is making plans to go forward. Police Week will be May 15-22.

The Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society is grateful for all of the support that we have received during this pandemic. I want to especially thank the Executive Board and the Board of Directors for their dedication and selflessness, working the countless volunteer hours to remember Our Fallen and the memories of those names inscribed on our great Memorial.

Members of the GCPOMS Board of Directors are Executive Board Members Joseph Mannion, President, Randy Koubeck, Vice-President, Mary A. Lentz, Secretary, and Drew Kairis, Treasurer. Trustees are Chris Russo, James Hopkins, and Linda Paluscsak. I also want to thank our Committee Volunteers who make sure different events and functions including Police Week run smoothly. They are, Dave Lisk, Transportation, Kelly Lentz, Merchandise, Todd Vogler, Parade, Gary Houlehan Collectors and Safety Show, and Dave Tomcho and Ed Sullivan, Memorial Service. In addition, thanks to Rick Toolis and Tom Cody who come from Chicago to handle our steak roast, and our friends at the Cleveland Police Patrolman's Association (CPPA). These are just a few of the many volunteers that work behind the scenes to make sure our Police Week is a great success.

I would also like to thank Larry Donovan, Michelle and Joe Tenhunfeld, Steve Zimmerman and Elizabeth Veomett for their generous donations and becoming Lifetime Members.

Thank you again to the Highland Heights Police Department for choosing GCPOMS as their charity organization for the No Shave November event. This is the third year Highland Heights has done this event, and GCPOMS greatly appreciates their generosity.

If you have been to the Memorial, you see that we still have the protective fencing in place. The fencing is scheduled to be removed after the New Year.



When you look through the fencing you are able to see the 2 beautiful holiday wreaths that Secretary Mary Lentz made. The wreaths are placed at the end of the walkway entering the Memorial Center. Thank you Mary. Mary also planted perennial flower bulbs that will add to the beauty of the Memorial site in the Spring.

Our condolences to the family of Dorothy Traine. GCPOMS received many donations in memory of Dorothy who had passed away last month. Dorothy was a strong supporter of GCPOMS.

If you go to the GCPOMS Mini-Market store on our web site, [HonorOurFallen.us](https://www.honorourfallen.us), you will see we added a few new items to purchase to show support for Our Fallen Heroes. Some items are new sweatshirts in crew and hood style. They have the GCPOMS emblem embroidered on the front and also our Honor Our Fallen tee-shirts in royal blue. The black Honor Our Fallen tee-shirts are also available.

Please stay safe and healthy and continue to remain vigilant against this COVID-19. We will get through this together

Sincerely,

Joe Mannion, President



SURVIVORS' CORNER

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

It may be unnecessary to say, but when a family loses a Police Officer in the Line of Duty, from that point in time forward the End of Watch becomes a defining moment in each of the Survivors' lives. The Survivor Parent becomes a powerful examples of strength and resolve in the midst of terrible personal grief to keep the family strong and bonded. In honor of each of the Fallen Heroes whose names are engraved on the Walls of the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial and the legacies left by each, we renew our promise to Honor Our Fallen and to Never Forget. In renewing that promise, we also recognize and salute the Survivors of each Fallen Hero who served their communities with honor, commitment, and the faithful discharge of their oath of office.

As 2020 comes to a close, we have witnessed with the attacks, verbal abuse, and injuries inflicted upon law enforcement who are protecting the residents and visitors to the communities they serve. We thank all law enforcement officers and their families. We stand in solidarity in appreciation for the sacrifices made each day to protect our communities.

BADGES OF COURAGE: HEROES AMONG US

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

In early 2020, we began to experience the symptoms of a novel virus named SARS 2-COVID-19 which initially changed our lives slowly, but then with rocket speed. All hands-on-deck took on a different meaning to accommodate initially little medical and scientific knowledge about this virus as we counted on researchers and first responders to meet the demands of the unknown to the nearly daily discovery of new data regarding this highly contagious virus. COVID-19 is mysterious in many ways in that it affects different people in different ways from various symptoms from mild to severe illness. The virus has taken over 280,000 lives in the United States since February. As 2020 comes to a close we are preparing for the first phase of the distribution of vaccines with the hope that inoculation brings the end to the world-wide pandemic.



We thank and salute the tireless and valiant efforts of doctors, nurses, technicians, and support staff in the medical profession, researchers and first responders including police, firefighters and emergency medical technicians who place themselves in danger each hour of the day as they respond to those stricken with this insidious disease. We mourn the children, teenagers, the young, those in the prime of their lives and the elderly who have courageously fought this virus and those whose lives have been cut short by it. Not a single person has escaped its ravages from students in pre-school, K-12 and colleges and universities who have been ever so flexible as they go back and forth from classroom to on-line learning. The loss of lives and the economic distress to families, employees and employers have been in so many ways unparalleled. Whatever the *New Normal* will be, we remain ever hopeful that recovery will not only include health and education, but also a return to financial security.

The Executive Board and the Board of Directors of the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society wish all of the Survivors of our Fallen Heroes and their Families and loved ones, all of our Peace Officers both active and retired, all Peace Officers injured in the Line of Duty, and all of the supporters of The Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society a healthy, safe and blessed Holiday Season and New Year!

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



IN MEMORIAM

May 11, 1967 – September 3, 2020 – *We will never forget!*

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. 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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P.O. Box 6207
Cleveland, OH 44101



Navy Polo Shirt

Men: S-M-L-XL-2XL • Women: S-M-L



Royal Blue Honor Our Fallen

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

Navy Sweatshirt

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



Christmas Ornament



Navy Embroidered Hoodies

GCPOMS logo on front
Fleece lined • Sizes: S-M-L-XL- 2XL- 3XL

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