



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 well. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at this year's Memorial Service Friday, May 20, 2022. This year marks our 37th year. Sadly, this year we will be adding the name of Patrol Officer Shane H. Bartek, Cleveland Division of Police, E.O.W. December 31, 2021 to our Memorial. Shane was killed as he was approached by a woman in a parking lot of an apartment complex as she attempted to rob him of his car. Officer Bartek tried to disarm the woman, but was shot during the struggle. After shooting Officer Bartek, the woman fled the area with Officer Bartek's car, which was later involved in a pursuit by police. The driver of the vehicle was apprehended by Richmond Heights Police, who were assisted by numerous police departments. The female suspect was arrested a few hours later. Patrol Officer Bartek was assigned to the Cleveland Fifth District and had been with the Cleveland Division of Police for one and a half years.

The Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society will be "Keeping the Promise to Never Forget" our Fallen Heroes during Police Week, May 14th through May 21st, 2022. Patrol Bartek's name, along with the 191 other Fallen Officers, will be honored during the GCPOMS parade and Memorial Service on May 20th.

In January 2022, an overwhelming contingent of Police Officers from all over Ohio and the United States came and paid their respects to honor Patrol Officer Bartek at the memorial service at Grace Church in Middleburg Heights, Ohio.

I would like to thank Peter Baka, John Didelot, Kevin Sullivan, Denise Pozderac, Richard Wilk and Blaine Sweitzer who became life time members of GCPOMS this past year, showing their support along with other lifetime and annual members to Honor Our Fallen Heroes.

Becoming a member is a great way to show everyone the support of GCPOMS and the mission to never forget our Fallen Heroes by helping to make sure the names on our Memorial will always be remembered for the ultimate sacrifice made by each in the Line of Duty.

Honor Our Fallen



Officer Shane Bartek

Badge #18

Cleveland Police Department

EOW December 31, 2021

Blessed are the Peacemakers



Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society

Keeping Our Promise to Never Forget Our Fallen Heroes

The Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial will begin Police Week in Cleveland starting with the Grave Marker placements on Saturday May 14, 2022. The Candle Light Vigil at the GCPOMS Memorial will take place on Monday evening, May 16th. Our Memorial Parade and Memorial Service will be on Friday, May 20th with Police Week ending with the Cleveland International Tattoo, held at the Cleveland Public Hall on Saturday, May 21, 2022.

Please go to our website www.HonorOurFallen.us or GCPOMS.org for a schedule of events. The schedule of events will be updated as we get closer to May.

In closing I ask that all take a moment and say a prayer for all of our law enforcement and first responders.

Stay safe and healthy,

Joe Mannion, President



SURVIVORS' CORNER

Richard Rob | Detective Sergeant (Retired) Parma Heights Police Department

Parma Heights Police Department Sergeant Robert W. Bennett lost his life in the Line of Duty on October 25, 1972 while protecting the community he served. This year will be the 50th anniversary of his death. Sgt. Bennett was survived by his wife Mary Lou (deceased) and six children Robert, William, Joseph, Catherine, Thomas, and Mary, his parents and a brother Clarence Bennett (deceased), who was a Parma Police Officer.

At the time of Sgt. Bennett's EOW, I was a Detective with the Parma Heights Police Department and the lead investigator on his Line of Duty Death. We were a Department of 23 Officers at the time, so we knew one another well. I was fortunate to have Sgt. Bennett as my Field Training Officer when I joined the force. Not only was he a dedicated Police Officer, Sgt. Bennett was a devoted husband and father and a great friend to countless numbers who had the privilege to know him.

Sgt. Bennett entered law enforcement on June 1, 1957, but it was preceded by four years in the U.S. Navy serving honorably in the Pacific Fleet. He was an expert in weapons and firearms, police fingerprinting, and photography. He also served the Parma Heights Police Department as Range Officer, and the Parma Heights Police Department Range is named in honor of his memory as The Sgt. Robert Bennett Police Firearms Training Range.

On October 25, 1972, at approximately 1:15 p.m., the Parma Heights Police Department received a bank alarm drop from the Continental Bank Branch. Sgt. Bennett was in a squad car when he received the radio dispatch that a bank hold-up was in progress. He acknowledged and proceeded to the bank through back parking lots to the rear of the bank building. He arrived just as one of the two suspects (who were both dressed in police uniforms with patches and badges and both armed) was exiting the back door to the bank. This suspect had taken a female bank teller as hostage.

Being the marksman that he was, Sgt. Bennett chose a position where he could get a straight shot at the bank robber as he exited the bank. In a matter of seconds, the hostage freed herself, and Sgt. Bennett and the robber simultaneously fired their weapons – Sgt. Bennett held a PHPD shotgun, and the robber held a revolver. The report of the Cuyahoga County Coroner verified that Sgt. Bennett fired his shotgun hitting the robber center mass, and the robber fired his revolver striking Sgt. Bennett in the left side. Both shots were deadly. The second bank robber who was in the front bank entrance retreated into the bank where he was subdued after a brief struggle.

On my way to the bank robbery scene, I heard shots fired at the bank location. I pulled into the area of the rear entrance to the bank building just as Sgt. Bennett and the bank robber both fell to the ground mortally

(continued on page 4)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Parma Heights Police Department Detective Sgt. Richard Rob (Retired) became a PHPD police officer in 1968. He served in uniform patrol, the motorcycle unit, Supervisor of the Southwest Enforcement Bureau Drug Unit (consisting of multiple cities), the Bomb Squad, and the Detective Bureau. Richard Rob is a former Safety Director for the city of Parma Heights and a former Parma Heights Councilman. Sgt. Bennett's death was not only a loss to his family and friends, but to the community he served.





BADGES OF COURAGE: HEROES AMONG US

Mary A. Lentz | Survivor / Editor of The Epitaph

The Parma Heights Police Department: A Mission to Serve, Protect and Partner with the Community

The Parma Heights Police Department and the members of the Department, both sworn peace officers and civilian staff, have a steadfast commitment and unwavering determination to be an exceptional police force for the Parma Heights community. All of the women and men, including supervisory staff, police officers working on the front line, to the police department support staff who carry out the essential, behind-the-scene roles, approach the challenges of law enforcement on a daily basis and remain a positive influence for the residents of Parma Heights.

Parma Heights Police Department Chief Steve Scharschmidt joined the Department in 1991. During his 32 years on the Department, he has served in patrol, as an accomplished and respected detective for 17 years, rising to the ranks of Sergeant, Captain and then Chief four years ago. He leads the Department with the saying, “Doing the Right Thing for the Right Reasons.” This provides a guide during the many difficult situations that face law enforcement daily. Chief Scharschmidt believes the last two years have been more challenging to being a police officer than any other time during his career. Throughout a pandemic and social unrest, the PHPD does and will continue to serve the Parma Heights community, and the Department has the support of its administration and its community in return.

Chief Scharschmidt is a strong supporter in collaboration with every facet of law enforcement to develop solid partnerships. The PHPD has an excellent relationship with neighboring departments, social service agencies, and all components of the justice system. The Department is a member of the Southwest Council of Governments which is the oversight alliance of police departments helping to bring together the Southwest Bureau (SEB). SEB is an 18 city SWAT Team with over 80 members. One of the PHPD Sergeants is a regional commander of that team. SEB recently added a mobile field force to assist in specialized situations. In addition, the Southwest Accident Group (SWAG) consisting of 9 cities and 26 members, including 10 accident reconstruction specialists, also stems from mutual collaboration. A PHPD Captain is the commander of that multi-jurisdictional team.

The organization of the PHPD responds to the Mission Statement and goals of the Department. For instance, in response to these goals, the Detective Bureau is organized to not only include special investigations and the Juvenile Division, but also the Bureau are Computer Operations and Communications. Detectives are assigned to general duty, and specific assignments include evidence technology, public information response, and tactical instruction. Secretarial support duties include crime reporting, expungements,



and statistical reporting. The well-organized Department includes the duties assigned to the administrative staff which cover personnel records, classroom scheduling, vehicle maintenance, and signal service. The uniform patrol includes assignments relating to supervision of evidence, evidence tech, range officer, crash reconstruction, policy & procedure, PACT Unit, instruction, and Safe Kids.

During the past 4 years, under the direction of Chief Scharschmidt staffing is back to full strength, promotions include a Captain and Sergeant, continued training for all officers has been emphasized, including a 40-hour in-service training that covers a variety of critical topics to occur later this year. The Chief is hopeful to add a K-9 this year along with a drone program. The Department has recently secured the funding for body-worn cameras. These cameras not only increase the public trust, but provide protection for officers by showing the great restraint used in potentially difficult situations.

Chief Scharschmidt credits his officers and first line supervisors as the heart and soul of the Department. Sergeants not only run a shift, but perform multiple ancillary duties, including setting the goal of working as a team. Their supervisory skills benefit the entire community. The officers, supervisors, and the relationships they have built with the public are the true source of pride for the Chief.

The complex challenges facing law enforcement, such as the mercurial and unpredictable societal changes, are appropriately met by a partnership relationship with the facets of





BADGES OF COURAGE: HEROES AMONG US

(continued from previous page)

Mary A. Lentz | Survivor / Editor of The Epitaph

the justice system and the community. The third Citizens Academy begins this March and will include 17 citizens eager to learn from the PHPD and Cuyahoga County Community College officers in a closed setting. The Citizens Academy is just one part of the Police and Citizens Together (PACT) program that also includes a youth group, Coffee with a Cop, and other community interactions.

The Parma Police Department in-house firearms training program and the Sgt. Bennett Firearms Training Range, which has been updated



Chief Steve Scharschmidt

and improved, conforms with the annual mandated Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPATA) training in firearms.

The Line of Duty Death of Sergeant Robert Bennett is influential history in the Department. Every new officer learns the facts of his EOW and how it has shaped Parma Heights' history, including the PHPD gun range named in his honor and a police vehicle in every parade representing his loss. The first posthumous Medal of Honor will be added to the plaque and flag in his honor in the PHPD lobby.

Sergeant Bennett's tragic death and ultimate sacrifice will always be remembered. Chief Scharschmidt hopes that the Parma Heights Police Department represents Sergeant Bennett well in all aspects of the work they do.



Sergeant Robert W. Bennett



SURVIVORS' CORNER

Richard Rob | Detective Sergeant (Retired) Parma Heights Police Department

(continued from page 2)

wounded. In an instant my friend and colleague was gone. He was the kind of person that once you met him, he became your friend. He was a friend and respected leader of the Officers of the Parma Heights Police Department and to the community of Parma Heights. He made the Department feel like a family.

Both robbers wore police uniforms, arrived at the bank in a white Ford Torino and parked it near the rear entrance of the bank. The car, which had been stolen, had a blue front magnetic license plate bearing large numbers such as used on police cars at the time, and it fitted over the vehicle plate. The vehicle was also equipped with red flasher lights to resemble a police car.

On that day, the Parma Heights Police Department was preparing for a visit by President Richard Nixon to the City prior to proceeding to the Youngstown area. As a Detective, I was assigned to work with the Secret Service to provide security for the Presidential visit. Sgt. Bennett was the Police Department's firearms officer and was making sure all needed equipment was in good working order for the visit. Before the President left the area and upon hearing of the Line of Duty Death of Sgt. Bennett, he wanted to return to the City of Parma Heights to extend his sympathy to the Bennett family, but was not permitted to do so by the Secret Service.

Sgt. Bennett was very active in the community, both on duty and off duty. He was present at every charity event. He knew the members of the

community, and they knew him. If any members of the Parma Heights Police Department was making family home repairs, Sgt. Bennett made sure a crew of police volunteers were at the house bright and early to help. He was an "old school policeman," now often referred to as community policing. He made sure his colleagues in the PHPD were a cohesive group that socialized together with their families.

Sgt. Bennett was a dynamic, devoted police officer and family man. He turned an old school bus into a camper and took his family camping to the Carolinas, one of his favorite places. He was a devoted husband and was very proud of his family and his children. He also was a master carpenter who not only made repairs and changes to his family home, but also around the police station. While on duty, if the shift happened to be quiet, Sgt. Bennett would stop at the local hospital to say hello to the local hospital emergency room staff. The day he was killed, the multiple doctors and nurses in the ER who worked so valiantly to save his life had tears in their eyes.

Former Parma Heights Mayor Paul Cassidy was quoted in the Parma Sun Post on October 24, 2002, in an article written by Jim Votava, that Sgt. Bennett was "a dynamic person and devoted police officer — one of those guys who sort of embodied what you think of when you think of a good policeman." "He just loved police work, and it cost him his life."



IN MEMORIAM

December 1, 1853 – November 3, 1929 – *We will never forget!*

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

Rupert 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

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

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. Sugan, 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, Detective
Cleveland Police Department
EOW November 3, 1929

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



THE
EPITAPH



P.O. Box 6207
Cleveland, OH 44101

www.HonorOurFallen.us



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

SAVE THE DATE!

POLICE WEEK MAY 15-21, 2022



**CLEVELAND
INTERNATIONAL
TATTOO**

Celebrated in Cleveland with the
37th Annual Police Memorial Commemoration

Hosted by The Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society®

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