



# THE PROMISE

Never Forget Our Fallen Heroes

*Serving the law enforcement community of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina & northern Summit counties*

## Two National Conventions to Join the 29th Annual Police Memorial Commemoration in 2014

GCPOMS is excited to announce the National Convention of Police Car Owners and Operators Association of America (PCOOA) and the National Police Collectors Show which will both take place during the 29th Annual Police Memorial Commemoration in Cleveland in May 2014. Neither organization has held their event in Cleveland before and the addition of these two national groups is sure to add excitement and interest.

The Police Car Owners of America is a non-profit association dedicated to the preservation and appreciation of vintage police vehicles, and to the promotion of a positive image of police officers everywhere. This is the only International Car Club dedicated exclusively to police vehicles with members in 32 states and

four countries. There could be as many as 100 vehicles that will participate in the annual Police Memorial Parade and

be on display at events throughout the Commemoration.

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## Special License Plates Help To Raise Public Awareness

*By Chas Lane*

Early in 2013, The Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society (GCPOMS) and the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles announced the availability of the "Honor Our Fallen" specialty plates. Designed to honor all law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty, these plates help to raise public awareness of the dangers our law enforcement officers face daily. A portion of the proceeds helps further the mission of the GCPOMS and ensures that we keep the promise to never



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**REMEMBER to renew your membership! GO TO [www.policememorialsociety.com](http://www.policememorialsociety.com)**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Charles W. lane, Jr. (Chas)*

### Your Membership Helps Keep "The Promise"

On behalf of our Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and corps of volunteers I wish to extend our sincere thanks for the outstanding support of our organization. Our annual membership is at an all-time high and the number of lifetime memberships continues to grow. New and renewing membership is critical to helping to keep "The Promise" to never forget our fallen heroes.

As you can imagine, a strong membership is important for many

reasons: honoring all fallen officers who died in the line of duty; supporting their families and coworkers, and causes important to the LE community such as blocking parole of vicious criminals, raising public awareness of the hazards LE officers face daily; maintaining the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial, the annual Greater Cleveland Police Memorial Commemoration, and many

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### *From all of us at the GCPOMS*

We extend to our members, your families, and the entire law enforcement community our best wishes for a most joyous holiday season and a very happy, healthy, safe and prosperous New Year!



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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Executive Board

Charles W. Lane, Jr. <i>President</i>	Pamela A. Fitzgerald <i>Treasurer</i>	Thomas E. Armelli <i>Immediate Past President</i>
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### In Memoriam

Norman A. Drew	Peter Lawer	William R. Sweeny
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## 2014 Award Recipients Announced – Congratulations!

This year, our Awards Committee presented our board with a pretty challenging situation. The field of candidates for consideration for our

2014 awards was the best ever, providing several worthy candidates for each category. The outstanding nominees

made it quite difficult to select one in each category. Thanks to all of you that submitted nominations.

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## We are proud to announce our 2014 awards recipients:

- Mr. John C. Kikol  
*Retired CEO and President of CleveTrust Realty Investors and Attorney*  
The Patrolman Norman A. Drew Memorial Man of the Year Award
- Major Jeffrey D. Houston  
*U.S. Army Reserves & Wadsworth PD (Retired)*  
The L/Cpl. Andrew Nowacki Memorial Veteran of the Year Award
- Sergeant Mark Krumeuer  
*Westlake PD*  
The Anthony J. Johnson Sr. Memorial Police Officer of the Year Award
- Special Agent Stephen D. Anthony  
*Special Agent In Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Cleveland Division*  
The Samuel H. Miller Lifetime Achievement Award
- Edward B. Sullivan  
*GCPOMS Trustee, and East Cleveland PD (Retired)*  
GCPOMS President's Award

***The Promise***  
**is published by the Society**  
**for its**  
**Members and Supporters**

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Visit our websites:  
[www.honourourfallen.us](http://www.honourourfallen.us)  
[www.policememorialsociety.com](http://www.policememorialsociety.com)  
[www.tattoocleveland.com](http://www.tattoocleveland.com)

Editor: Michelle "Myki" Van Wormer

# Shaker Heights Police Memorial

By Jody Srsen Danko, Retired SHPD



The loss of a police officer in the line of duty is a tragedy that not only affects their families, but also affects the community.

Thankfully, there is a heightened awareness of the hazards our police officers face daily. It's gratifying that the public recognizes the sacrifice these officers make, and the dangers that our LEOs face daily. This issue we feature the Memorial in Shaker Heights.

In 2009, The Shaker Heights Police Historical Society undertook the mission to honor those Shaker Heights Police Officers who had made the ultimate sacrifice for the community.

- Ptl. Michael Hahnel interred at St. Mary's Cemetery, Cleveland
- Ptl. E. Malcom Janes interred at Highland Park Cemetery, Highland Hills
- Ptl. George Buttermore, interred at Euclid Cemetery, Euclid

At that time, Lt. John Danko spearheaded the project and completed the research in locating each grave site. He noted that no mention was made on their headstones that they were police officer's, or that they were killed in the line of duty. Arrangements were made with each cemetery and permission granted to place foot stones at each site.

With monetary donations from Shaker Heights FOP Lodge #23, The Shaker Heights Citizen's Police Academy Alumni

Association, members of the department and numerous private individuals, the Historical Society was able to purchase foot stones to place at each officer's grave site. Photographs of each foot stone, rubbings from the GCPOMS wall, and plaques retiring their badge numbers are hung on the wall at the Shaker Heights Police Department alongside the GCPOMS plaques. A tribute honoring their sacrifice.

In each issue of "The Promise" a memorial in our region will be featured. Fittingly, there are many memorials in the Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and northern Summit counties.

We ask your assistance by sending a photo of the memorial from your agency or organization with basic information so we can include them in future issues. Please forward a few photos of your memorial and information to Jennifer Wypasek at [jwypasek@policememorialsociety.com](mailto:jwypasek@policememorialsociety.com).

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## GCPOMS Featured Volunteers *Bob and Karen Fodor*

This edition's featured volunteers are Bob and Karen Fodor. Bob and Karen became active members of the GCPOMS in the late '80s after learning of its honorable purpose. This organization also holds personal meaning, as both have active and retired law enforcement officers in their families. Now retired, Bob's brother and Karen's cousin had served in the Toledo Police Department. Bob's sister-in-law continues to serve as a police officer for the same department. Their nephew is a member of the Powell Police Department and their grandson is an emergency command center officer at the Progressive Insurance headquarters.

Upon first volunteering, Bob finally fulfilled his lifelong desire to play the bagpipes and eventually became a member of the GCPOMS pipe band. As for volunteer opportunities, the Fodors showed up wherever they were needed. Bob was the organization's primary newsletter gofer; he hand delivered them to every police department and police associated organization and business in over five counties. Prior to all too common computer use nowadays, Karen was on the membership committee, preparing all communication by hand. All newsletter mailings, membership information and programs were organized from their kitchen table.

Bob and Karen could also be seen at weekend commemorations, wiping down seating, handing out programs at the memorial services, welcoming members into venues and swap meets, hawking programs before and during the tattoo ceremonies and selling beer tickets in the early hours of the morning. Their constant presence soon had people asking, "What? Are you everywhere?" For several years Bob also served as a trustee for GCPOMS and in 2001, he was bestowed the President's Award. Four years later, to Karen's surprise, she was awarded the same.

For the Fodors, the Friday memorial service is their favorite part of the weekend as it signifies the deepest commitment of GCPOMS – to honor our fallen. Now the Fodors are part of the GCPOMS's Gravemarker Project, a committee founded in 2011 that is comprised of volunteers and surviving family members.



Every May special markers are placed at every fallen officer's grave to honor the sacrifices they made. The Fodors place and retrieve markers relatively close to their Twinsburg home, where they have resided for 38 years.

The Fodors have been a team since 1954, where they met at Waite High School in Toledo and subsequently married in 1957. Bob worked for 42 years in the soft drink industry. For 20 of those years, he worked for Pepsi Cola in Toledo and Bryan. In 1975, Bob transferred to the Seven Up Bottling Company in the Cleveland area, where he and Karen have resided ever since. Karen began her career in banking – four years in Toledo followed by 23 years at the Huntington Bank in Solon.

Since retirement, Bob stays busy with the Masons of the American Legion, keeps his fish pond in working order and continues piping with the Cleveland Firefighters Memorial Pipes and Drums. Karen is member of the hand bell choir at the Lord of Life Lutheran Church in

Bainbridge, where she and Bob are active members. Bob and Karen say that being retired is one of the best jobs they have ever had. It allows them to spend time with their family, who all live nearby. They are blessed with their son Tim (wife Danette), daughter Teryle Peterson (husband Jeff) and three grandsons - Adam Hach, Justin and Dylan. Because of their grandsons' accomplishments, the Fodors deservedly claim bragging rights. In addition to graduating with magna cum laude honors from Cleveland State University, Adam also graduated from the University of Akron's Police Academy. Justin graduated summa cum laude from the University of Akron, and Dylan is a senior at Baldwin Wallace University, having already earned three letters as a baseball pitcher.

As for their continued service, it pleases Bob and Karen immensely to see the many new active volunteers who continue the legacy of the GCPOMS, which has grown to heights probably never imagined by the original organizers.

## Inspiring Law Enforcement Documentary

In the fall of 2012, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) with Modern City Entertainment, debuted “Heroes Behind the Badge,” an inspiring documentary that highlights men and women of law enforcement across America who put their lives on the line and survived, and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Due to the film’s success and

widespread support, this October, Modern City Entertainment, partnered once again with the NLEOMF, will release the follow-up documentary, “Heroes Behind the Badge – Sacrifice & Survival”. This film not only shares more stories of those who have laid down their lives but also recognizes officers each year who are physically disabled, some permanently, in violent confrontations with those who have crossed the thin blue line.

# HEROES

BEHIND THE BADGE

— SACRIFICE & SURVIVAL —

Directed by British Academy Award winner Wayne Derrick and narrated by Vincent D’Onofrio, this film continues the goal of raising the public’s awareness of the supreme sacrifices these men and women make to serve and protect. For updates, please visit the website [www.heroesbehindthebadge.com](http://www.heroesbehindthebadge.com).

To get a copy of the original Heroes Behind The Badge film, please visit the NLEOMF online store, [www.nleomf.org](http://www.nleomf.org).

## GCPOMS heads north to Ottawa to Honor the Fallen

By Bonnie DuBreuil

The Canadian Police and Peace Officers’ 36th annual Memorial Service and Parade was held on Sunday, September 29, 2013, at Parliament Hill, Ottawa, Ontario. The Canadian Honor Roll has 837 Line of Duty Deaths engraved on the wall. This year they presented the headdress of eight Officers who had died in the line of duty in the last year throughout Canada. The Canadian ceremony and parade is full of tradition to honor and not forget these heroes. The ceremony includes a presentation of the hats of the fallen officers, Amazing Grace by a solo bag piper, a two gun salute, and taps. It’s an excellent way to honor all Canadian Police Officers.

On the lighter side the Ottawa Police Association sponsors activities Friday and Saturday night at Russell’s Lounge, the Canadian version of the Zone Car Lounge. Russell’s Lounge hosts a different dinner each night, live music in a tent, a DJ up stairs, dancing, and fellowship with officers from all over Canada and the US. Elgin Street is a very popular nearby area with restaurants and gathering places up and down the street. The Market area also offers day time shopping with an open air market full of fresh produce, baked goods and stores full of souvenirs, gifts and clothing. At night the area has a great night life.

Ottawa is a city that has a wealth of historic landmarks — from the iconic

Parliament Buildings to the Rideau Canal — all located within its downtown core so it’s within walking distance. The city offers architectural wonders that house national museums and galleries, world-class exhibitions, and natural beauty.

Bonnie admits, “I have gone to Ottawa for at least 15 years and I still find new areas to explore each year.”

Be sure to put this event on your calendar for next year. The Memorial is held annually the last Sunday of September.



## Detective William Hulligan Cleveland Police Department EOW 2/8/1887

By P.O. Thomas E. Armelli  
Cleveland Police Dept.

It was 1887, Cleveland was growing by leaps and bounds and crime was on the rise. To make matters worse, the "Blinky Morgan Gang" had arrived in town, making their presence known through a series of burglaries and safe jobs. One of the last and largest efforts committed by the gang was a burglary at the Benedict and Ruedy



Fur Store at Superior Avenue and Seneca Street (now West 3rd Street). Six thousand dollars' worth of sealskin pelts were stolen. The pelts found their way to Pittsburgh as did Mat Kennedy, alias Kid McMunn, a member of the gang. The Kid was arrested and was waiting to be transported back to Cleveland for questioning.

Captain Henry Hoehn and Detective William Hulligan were detailed to bring back the prisoner by train. The two policemen and their charge boarded the train in Allegheny City at midnight. The prisoner was handcuffed to Hulligan. Hoehn and Hulligan watched carefully as passengers boarded at each station lest "Blinky" attempt to rescue his lieutenant.

In Alliance, three men boarded, one carried a long package wrapped in newspaper under his arm. They rode on the rear platform outside of the train for a while and as the train pulled into Ravenna, they entered the smoker where Hoehn and Hulligan sat with their handcuffed prisoner. Hoehn looked up into three faces and three guns. One of the men struck Hulligan with the newspaper-wrapped package (later learned to be a coupling pin) on the head. Hoehn rose and attempted to draw his gun and the three men opened fire. Hoehn returned fire, emptying his gun. Hulligan was beginning to stir again and was

immediately struck again with the same package. Hoehn, his gun empty, was also beaten senseless. The bandits freed their friend and fled. Hulligan died a few days later. Hoehn was near death but recovered. Morgan, wounded by four bullets, hid out in Pittsburgh while he recovered, he later moved to Alpena Michigan where he was captured and

returned to stand trial for Hulligan's death. He was convicted and on August 3, 1888, Charles "Blinky" Morgan was hanged in the Ohio State Penitentiary in Columbus.

After Morgan was hanged, the members of the gang spread out over the country and most met violent ends. Tom Rowlands and Eddie Roach were shot in a gun battle with police in Shelby, Ohio.

Mike Coleman was killed while resisting arrest in Illinois, and Kennedy, the escapee, was killed in 1905 by a policeman in Berkeley California.

Tom Scott was killed by Cleveland Patrolman James J. Doyle as Scott and two others attempted to rob the South Cleveland Bank in order to obtain money for "Blinky" Morgan's defense fund. The last of the gang, which numbered fifteen in its heyday, went behind bars in 1912.

William Hulligan's name is inscribed on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Wall, Washington, D.C. panel 54, West Wall, Line 16.

*Editor's Note: A special thank you to Bob Cermak from the Cleveland Police Historical Society & Museum who found the drawing of Det. Hulligan during research of the Blinky Morgan Gang. Until now the GCPOMS had been unable to find a photo or drawing of Det. Hulligan. This drawing was in an article in the old Cleveland leader and herald newspaper.*

## GRAVE MARKER COMMITTEE The PO Virgil Bayne Story Continues

By Jody Srsen Danko, Retired SHPD

If you have been reading *The Promise*, you no doubt have seen the article on the Grave Marker Committee's work with Trimble County (Kentucky) Sheriff's Office in placing PO Virgil Bayne's marker, EOW 12/18/1937. (Virgil Bayne was a Cleveland officer for 17 years before being gunned down. Read his story at [www.policememorialsociety.com](http://www.policememorialsociety.com)). The Trimble County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) was made aware of their native son's grave who died in the line of duty in Cleveland by the GCPOMS Grave Marker Committee.

And the story continues . . . a phone number from Indiana on Jody Danko's (GCPOMS and Grave Marker Committee volunteer) cell phone appears and Jody tries to decide whether or not to answer as it might just be another sales call. Fortunately, she decides to answer. The voice on the other end is a lady who asks for Jody by name and tells her that she is Virgil Bayne's niece, Evelyn Bayne Scholl. She is emotional as she tells her story that when she went to the cemetery this year, she saw a marker placed there by GCPOMS and TCSO. She wanted to thank GCPOMS for remembering her Uncle Virgil. She said he was "such a nice man." She was only 9 years old when he died, but she remembers the funeral and the policemen. She was so touched that someone else remembers too.

Mrs. Scholl and her sister, Bonita Bayne Shelton have both written cards to thank GCPOMS for remembering their Uncle Virgil. Mrs. Scholl and Mrs. Shelton are planning on attending the ceremony and placement of their uncle's marker next May 12, 2014.

### Editor's Note:

Anyone wishing to purchase the book, *Report Writing Made Easier* by Jayne Kracker, can order it by calling 440-834-4759 or emailing her at [krackerj@att.net](mailto:krackerj@att.net).

*We apologize for not including this information in the summer issue with the article.*

# Lake Erie College Names New American Legion Post in Honor of Fallen Hero

By Kathy Delaney

Lance Corporal Andy "Ace" Nowacki was born on March 29, 1980 in South Euclid, Ohio. Andy enlisted in the Marine Corps and went to MCRD Parris Island, November 17, 1998. Andy then enrolled in the Cleveland Heights Police Academy in the spring of 2001 and was subsequently hired as a police officer in Grand River in August of 2001.

In March of 2003, and again, in June of 2004, Lance Corporal Nowacki was called upon to serve his country in the Republic of Iraq. On the morning of February 26, 2005, the Marines of Fox Company, 2/24, were conducting convoy operations just north of Camp Mamudiyah. Security in the area was tight, but the insurgents

still retained a foothold there. Andy was the turret gunner in the lead vehicle that morning, the most dangerous position in a convoy, when it was struck with an Anti-Iraq Force complex ambush of Improvised Explosive Devices and small arms fire. Lance Corporal Nowacki was fatally wounded by an IED blast.

Appropriately, on Veteran's Day – November 11, 2013, Lake Erie College hosted the Opening Ceremony naming their new American Legion Post 807 in honor of Andy "Ace" Nowacki. A very

moving video of Andy and his Company was shown, depicting the camaraderie among soldiers, and offering insight as to how they infuse humor to survive the every day circumstances of war. GCPOMS survivors and parents of Andy, Denis and Sheila Nowacki, proudly accepted the honor in Andy's name.

How fitting that this Post will forever bear his name and honor his sacrifice and that of his family. Rest in peace Andy, our hometown fallen hero. We promise to never forget.



**BOB GILLINGHAM FORD**

## Thank you Bob Gillingham

The GCPOMS thanks Bob Gillingham Ford and their Annual Classic Car Show for their support.



On Saturday, September 24, a 1950 Ford Coupe was raffled off at the show in support of three charities: 325 (Three Duece Five) Marine Foundation, Herr Women's Center/MHS Inc., and the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society. The winner was Rev. Dr. R. Mark Giuliano, Senior Pastor of the Old Stone Church. He and several members of his family had purchased tickets. The raffle was a huge success and the event was enjoyed by everyone in attendance. The GCPOMS is grateful for the community support in helping us to keep our promise to never forget. Thanks to everyone for supporting the event!

## Celebrity Bartending Headed West Over the Summer!

By Hans Van Wormer

On July 17, 2013, Celebrity Bartending came to Elyria with the first such event in Lorain County. The Train Station Bar, 424 East River St., Elyria was the host and GCPOMS welcomed the following Celebrity Bartenders: Lorain County Sheriff Phil Stammitti; Chief Deputy and 2012 GCPOMS Police Officer of the Year Dennis Cavanaugh; and Survivor Misty Kerstetter, daughter of Fallen Hero James Kerstetter, EPD E.O.W. 03/15/10.

At the end of the evening, GCPOMS was presented with a donation by The Train Station. In addition, we earned 15% of sales by our Celebrity Bartenders which was calculated and sent a few days after the event. We also received donations from the blue buckets which added to our

total and help make the event a success.

Matt Van Wormer and Jason Kaminski were the winners of a Cornhole Tournament.

Cardboard Heroes brought items for a Silent Auction and two items met the minimum bid. D.J. Russ provided music and announcements throughout the evening and everyone there had a great time.

The Train Station was honored to host this event and expressed interest in hosting another event.

Special thanks to The Train Station Bar and staff and GCPOMS volunteers Craig Mickelson, Bob Perkins, Jodie Springston, Hans and Myki Van Wormer and everyone who came out for a great evening of fun.

**CELEBRITY BARTENDING**

We look forward to seeing you  
at our next event!

# LIFETIME MEMBERS TO DATE

Victor Allen  
Kevin Ankuda  
Tina Austin  
Dan Baillis  
William Barson  
Wayne Baumgart  
Jack Beckwith  
Daren Beichler  
Paul Benedictis  
April Blubaugh  
Bill Boldin  
Lori Boyd  
James Brenders  
Stephen Brenner  
Bernard Buckner  
John Buettner  
Jonathon Bush  
Marilyn Callaly  
Ronald Campbell  
Brian Carney  
Robb Chernisky  
Cheryl Chihil Sunyak  
Dave Childs  
Alan Chonko  
Lisa Ciritovic  
Deborah Clare  
Terence Coates  
Leonard Conetsco  
David Cook  
James Coolick  
Rickard Cooper  
Kim Cornachio  
Thomas Cummings  
Frank Cusumano  
Ernest Dailey  
Joe Danczak  
Jason Defranco  
Kathy Delaney  
Thomas Desmarteau  
Jack Desmond  
Elias Diaz  
Jackie Difford  
Stan Difford  
Nick DiMarco  
Brian Donato  
Donald Dondrea Jr.  
Ryan Doran  
Bonnetta DuBreuil  
Douglas Dvorak  
Robert Dvoroznak  
Joseph Edwards IV  
Matthew Eichenlaub  
Andrew Eichenlaub  
Smokey Everett  
Michael Farinacci

Daniel Fay  
Michael Fink  
Lifetime Wayne Fisher  
Brian Fitzgibbon  
Martin Flask  
Cory Freadling  
Raymond Fuerst Jr  
Patrick Gallagher  
Jamie Gallagher  
Patrick Gannon  
Joan Garcia  
Sheldon Gardner  
Robert Gerbic  
Ronald Giammaria  
Gabriel Gibbons  
John Gielink  
John Gielink  
Leroy Gilbert  
Ken Gillissie  
John Gordon  
Anthony Gorsek  
Richard E. Grant  
Jan Grega  
James Greig  
Jacquelyn Greiner  
Gilbert Grooms  
Joe Grzelak  
Raymond Habart  
Brian Hagan  
Joseph Haggerty Jr  
Jule Hall  
Thomas Harris  
John Hategan  
Daniel Hayes  
John Healey  
Patrick Hengst  
Timothy Hennessy  
Sean Hinkle  
Jamey Hofmann  
Gary Houlehan  
Randy Ice  
Carol Jaras  
John Jaros  
Tommy Jones  
Mary Lou Jost  
Joseph Joyce  
Brian Joyce  
Paul Juliano  
Denise Kaloczi  
John Kasinecz  
Jason Kehrier  
David Kenagy  
John M Kiggins  
John Kikol  
Russell King Jr.

Kevin Kokal  
Dennis Kolovich  
Brenda Korber  
Randal Koubeck  
Edward Kovacic  
David Krivacic  
Robert Kuhse  
Erik Kupchik  
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Brian Lako  
Peggy Lane  
Charles Lane III  
Charles Lane Jr  
Joseph Laub  
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Edward Lentz  
Francisco Leyva  
Frank Linsalata  
Stephen Loomis  
Alayne Lucas  
David Maine  
Joseph Matteo  
James McBride  
Manus McCaffery  
Deon McCaulley  
Justin MCGinty  
Michael McGrath  
Richard McIntosh  
Michael Mier  
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Rob Moore  
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Patrick O'Connor  
Erin O'Donnell  
Duffy O'Neill  
Senator Thomas F. Patton  
Brett Peeples

Issac Petric  
John Phillips  
Louis Pipoly  
Michael Piskura  
Rick Porrello  
Mack Quintero  
Michael Rebenock  
Anthony Regnier  
Larry Reik  
Tim Riley  
Kristin Riley  
Jeffrey Robertson  
James Rodes  
Jerry Rooney  
Daniel Rosen  
Thomas Ross  
Brendan Russell  
Jeffery Ryan  
Daniel Sabruno  
William Salupo  
Jim Scampitilla  
Kenneth Schoeffler  
Michael Schwarber  
Heather Schwarz  
Kevin Schwarz  
Donald Searle II  
Randy Sevel  
Larry Shepard  
Stuart Shoaff  
Stephen Shum  
James Simone  
Louis Slesinger  
Dan Smith  
Stevem Smith  
James Smith  
Mark Sopko  
Timothy Stacho  
Sheriff Phil Stammitti  
Joseph Stefanov  
A.J Stempuzis  
Ronald Stepanovic  
Patrick Stephens  
John Sullivan  
Ed Sullivan  
Keith Sulzer  
Stephen Szekely  
David Szuter

Craig Tame  
Matthew Tartaglia  
John Thomas  
John Thompson  
Joseph Thompson  
Jan Thorkelson  
Michelle Tighe  
Christine Tobin  
Edward Tomba  
Bryan Torok  
Tom Trem  
Thomas Tube  
Randall Tucker  
Robert Valko  
Hans VanWormer  
Randy Veri  
Christopher Viland  
Craig Voll  
David Wagner  
Terry Wain Jr.  
Duane Whitely  
Nathan Willson  
Shamode Wimberly  
Robert Wodarczyk  
Kenneth Wuchte  
Jennifer Wypasek  
Jeffrey Yasenchack  
Frank Zagami  
Todd Zieja

## HONORARY

Mark Bishop  
Joe Blumenstein  
Bobby Cart  
Christopher Fedor  
Jason Gibbs  
Aaron Goldhammer  
Samuel Pines  
Tony Rizzo  
Jason Salupo  
Keith Williams  
David Wittman

## IN-MEMORIAM

Fr. John J. Cregan  
Walter Metter

*All proceeds from Lifetime Memberships are deposited into the restricted endowment for the perpetual maintenance of the memorial.*



# Cleveland Browns First Responders Day

By Vera A. Miller

As a nation, we've endured unthinkable tragedies in recent years, and, as a result, first responders are often at the forefront of American news and conversation. These people are true heroes in the community working to educate through community programs, maintaining public safety and putting their lives on the line. Without fail, **they show up.**

The Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society (GCPOMS) in conjunction with the Cleveland Browns initiated First Responders Day On October 23, 2011 as a day designated for the public to recognize all first responders for the service and dedication. A portion of the ticket price was donated to the Police and Fire Memorial funds.

Thanks to the efforts of the Cleveland Browns, November 3, 2013 was our third First Responders Day at the Browns vs Ravens game. We are excited to report that tickets for First Responders sold out and the best part was that we won the game, 24-18. As a result of the sell-out, the Browns have added two more games, one on December 1, versus the Jaguars and December 15, versus the Bears. The Browns organization has shown consistent support and commitment to our safety forces, military and have an outstanding record of giving back to the community. We look forward to continuing that partnership to help raise awareness and support the organizations which honor and support first responders and their families.

2013 CLEVELAND BROWNS SEASON

## First Responders Day

**JAGUARS VS BROWNS** **BEARS VS BROWNS**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> 1:00 PM\* SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> 1:00 PM\*

**FirstEnergy**  
STADIUM

\*Time subject to change per NFL flex schedule.



**Come out and support your local Police, Fire, and EMS workforce!**  
A portion of all tickets purchased will benefit the Police and Fire Memorial Funds

Sunday, December 1 1:00PM\*

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$40 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Handling Fee = \$ 2  
 Total = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Time subject to change per NFL flex schedule.

Sunday, December 15 1:00PM\*

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$40 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Handling Fee = \$ 2  
 Total = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Time subject to change per NFL flex schedule.

Please Print Clearly

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

VISA  MasterCard  Discover  AMEX  
 Make Checks Payable to: The Cleveland Browns

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed form to:  
 The Cleveland Browns/First Responders Day  
 Attn: Iman Warren  
 76 Lou Groza Blvd  
 Berea, OH 44017  
 P: 440.824.6226  
 F: 440.824.3662  
 Email: IWarren@ClevelandBrowns.com

All Tickets Subject to Availability; No Refunds or Exchanges

## Correction Notice

On pages 8 and 9 of the 2013 Summer edition of The Promise, the article entitled Local Heroes Ride in Police Unity Tour listed the names of officers whom participants rode for in their memory. It was brought to our attention that Cleveland Hts. Police Officer Thomas F. Patton, II, EOW: 3/13/2010 was inadvertently omitted from this list. We apologize for the error.

## Special License Plates Help To Raise Public Awareness

*continued from page 1*

forget their sacrifice. The state required 500 plates be sold within the first 12 months to continue sales going forward. This goal was met in January of 2103, well before the 12 month deadline. As of November, **1236 plates have been purchased.** Late in 2012, the GCPOMS logo was updated and as of November 15, any plates purchased will include the updated logo. These special plates can be purchased on line at [www.OPlates.com](http://www.OPlates.com), or call

800-675-8247, or through the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Ask the staff at your Deputy Registrar's Office for the "Honor Our Fallen" specialty plates when renewing/buying your vehicle's license plates. You may also exchange your current plates for this specialty plate at a reduced rate of \$36.75. Thank you to all you have purchased these plates and all those who will purchase their plates soon. This is a great way to keep the promise to never forget!

## THANKS FOR THE CONTINUING SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS



## President's Message

continued from page 1

other programs such as the Grave Marker Project and other police charities.

Please renew your annual membership, or consider becoming a Lifetime Member. Proceeds from annual memberships support organizational operations. The proceeds from lifetime memberships are deposited into the restricted endowment for the perpetual maintenance of the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial. Many supporters have opted to become a lifetime plus member... opting to continue their annual dues in order to support daily operation after becoming a lifetime member.

*To everyone, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.*

**Stay Safe!**

## Lifetime Members Recently Joining

- |                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Dan Baillis     | Tommy Jones           |
| Paul Benedictis | Kevin Kokal           |
| Brian Carney    | Duffy O'Neill         |
| Lisa Ciritovic  | Senator Thomas Patton |
| Elias Diaz      | Timothy Stacho        |
| Gabriel Gibbons | Christine Tobin       |
| John Healey     | Thomas Tube           |

## SURVIVOR'S CORNER

By Tracy Johnson

Get well wishes to two fellow survivors: Violet Hubbell, mother of PO John Hubbell, CPD, EOW:6/4/1979, (due to a fall); and Cathy Clark, wife of Det. Robert

J. Clark II, CPD, EOW:7/1/1998, (due to a fall and subsequent surgery). Get rest and hoping for a speedy recovery.

According to Norman L. Spurlock, President, Police Car Owners of America, PCOOA members will be on hand to display their restored vintage police cars. Mr. Spurlock goes on to say “Our members are honored to be participating in the memorial parade as well as other venues.”

Also, joining the Commemoration activities is The National Police

Collectors Show which is the premier annual event for police collectors from around the world. There will be 250-300 exhibitors from throughout the US and Canada displaying, trading, and selling memorabilia that includes many museum quality displays of historical police items. Attendees will find patches, badges, collectibles, displays, toys, and more during the two day event, May 17-18.

Adding these two national events to the Police Memorial Commemoration will provide an opportunity for more law enforcement members and their families and supporters to experience the GCPOMS commitment to keep the promise to never forget. It also encourages additional members of the law enforcement community to take part in the annual Commemoration.

## Committee Appointments

### Awards and Scholarship Committee:

Our thanks to Debbie Hastings and Damir Savor; two of our long-time volunteers who agreed to co-chair the committee that administers our annual awards program. They hit the ground running, revamping operations and improving communication. Through their efforts, the pool of candidates for consideration for the 2014 awards was the best ever.

### Celebrity Bar Tending Committee:

The success of our Celebrity Bar Tending Nights over the past 18 months led us to establish a standing committee that will administer our efforts to raise funds to further our programs. Our thanks to two of our long-serving volunteers, Jodie

Springston and Craig Mickelson, who agreed to volunteer to lead the committee. Jody & Craig bring great ideas and

energy to our plan to host these events in Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina and northern Summit counties.

### Interested in Becoming a Volunteer?

Our organization is blessed with an outstanding corps of volunteers! Not only are they dedicated to keeping the promise to never forget our fallen heroes, but they also have a lot of fun while working the events and programs that we host ... and making many new friends along the way.

Supporting a cause in which you believe in is rewarding, but the friendships made are a huge bonus! It's one of the main reasons that the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society is as strong as it is.

We cordially invite anyone who is interested in volunteering to contact us at 216-623-3333 or [info@policememorialsociety.com](mailto:info@policememorialsociety.com).

## Officer Fatality Update Preliminary 2013 Numbers — November 27, 2013

	2013	2012	%Change
Firearms-related	28	40	-30%
Traffic-related	37	44	-16%
Other Causes	29	22	+32%

**2013 Fatalities  
to Date**

**94**



*Please note: These numbers reflect total officer fatalities comparing November 27, 2013 to November 27, 2012.  
NLEOMF*

Greater Cleveland Peace Officers  
Memorial Society  
1300 Ontario Street  
Cleveland, OH 44113



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**Join the  
GCPOMS  
today!**

**Email  
Jennifer at  
jwypasek@  
policememorial  
society.com.**



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### 2013 Event

Dec. 21 — Cleveland Police Children's Holiday Party, Public Hall, 216-687-9135, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm.

### 2014 Event

- Jan. 25 — Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association Founder's Ball, Windows on the River, 6:00 pm-11:00 pm
- Jan. 28 — Cleveland Cavaliers Law Enforcement Night, Quicken Loans Arena, Cleveland, 216-420-2883, 7:00 pm
- Apr. 27 — 12th "Rally for the Troops," Cleveland Public Square, 440-263-8121 or kiksharley@aol.com 11:00 am
- May 14-15 — 2014 Street Survival Seminar, DoubleTree-Lakeside Hotel, Cleveland, 847-833-5163, 8:00 am-5:00 pm
- May 15-18 — Police Memorial Commemoration 2014
- Jun. 29 — 6th "Cops Ride," Ride begins at Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial, 440-263-8121 or kiksharley@aol.com 11:00 am.
- Aug. 24 — 2nd "Ohio Motor Officers" Poker Run, 440-263-8121 or kiksharley@aol.com
- Sept. 7-13 — Never Forget 9/11" Location TBD, 440-263-8121 or kiksharley@aol.com

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Remember to keep GCPOMS informed of events and activities of other police and law enforcement organizations. We will use our email campaigns and Facebook to get your information out to our members, volunteers and supporters. Send your event information to [info@policememorialsociety.com](mailto:info@policememorialsociety.com). We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

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