



# JOURNAL

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**SAN FRANCISCO POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**

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www.sfpoa.org

## SFPD Promotional Process

By Tony Montoya  
SFPOA President

Transparency. Trust. Integrity. Fairness. These are the words you will see in “reform” reports such as the SFPD 2016 Collaborative Reform Initiative (CRI) and the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing. Words that are meant to be cornerstones of a foundation to build change. Would you believe that those same words are also supposed to be applied to how rank-and-file officers are treated by their command staffs and oversight bodies?

Why would you? The sole public focus has been on how officers interact with the community, while completely ignoring the fact that good policing starts with good morale. And morale can quickly go sour if transparency and fairness are thrown overboard in favor of secrecy and favoritism. That’s exactly what is happening with our Department’s promotional process.

The promotional process can always be emotional and at times controversial. The POA has always supported rank order promotions. Prior to Chiefs Scott’s arrival, the department stayed relatively

close to the testing results. Skipping around occasionally occurred, typically towards the expiration of the list.

The most recent round of lieutenant and sergeant promotions has created heightened concern and division throughout the department. Unfortunately, this is not new. To date, 24 Lieutenants and 59 Sergeants have been skipped without any real explanation as to why. Candidates who scored in the 90th percentile are being passed over for unknown reasons. No explanations are offered. Thank you, try again.

The CRI report addresses this issue specifically. *Recommendation 91.1: “The SFPD should increase the level of transparency of the promotion process and should clearly outline the qualifications required to advance for promotion.” Recommendation 91.2: “The SFPD should consider providing feedback to unsuccessful candidates for promotion as a means of advancing institutional knowledge and performance improvement.”*

Every day, our officers are reminded to be objective, fair, equitable and transparent. Yet, the Department effectively thumbs its nose at those values when

interacting with its employees. Where’s the accountability?

It’s said you can judge an organization’s values based on where it places its priorities. So, what is the priority assigned to the recommendations above? “Low” and “Medium” according to the Department’s response to the CRI. What’s a high priority? Making the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing report required reading before you can promote. That’s not a joke. It’s a higher priority to read about the importance of transparency and fairness than it is to actually achieve it.

This is not to say that those promoted were undeserving. The fact that we have to state that is the whole point of why the immediate reform of the promotional process is needed. The lack of transparency breeds mistrust, not just between rank-and-file and command staff, but amongst one another. Giving this problem a “low priority” shows that internal morale and trust doesn’t matter. That is just wrong.

It is disappointing that Chief Scott has not seized on this issue and made bold moves to address it. We cannot afford to allow morale to dip any more.



Tony Montoya

The SFPOA has implored the Chief to make this an immediate priority before any more damage is done. The Police Commission should pressure the Chief to get this done.

If the Police Commission and Chief expect each San Francisco Police Officer to practice the values of being objective, fair, equitable and transparent while we’re in the field, the least they can do is practice the same when they’re behind their desk.

## Slaying of James Guelff Still Remembered One-Quarter Century Later

Paul C. Chignell  
Legal Defense Administrator  
San Francisco Police Officers’ Association

On the evening of November 13, 2019, the 25th anniversary memorial of the murder of Officer James Guelff was held where he fell mortally wounded on Pine Street just west of Franklin Street in San Francisco.

Master of ceremonies was Northern Station Captain Joseph Engler. Amongst the speakers were Jim’s brother, Lee Guelff, and Assistant Chief Michael

Redmond.

In attendance was retired Sgt. John Payne, who was shot but survived during that rampage 25 years ago. Joining John were many retired SFPD members.

Also paying their respects that night were POA Executive Board members Secretary Matt Lobre and Sergeant-at-Arms Tracy McCray along with POA Legal Defense Administrator Paul Chignell, and Assistant Legal Defense Administrator Kevin Martin.

Over 100 uniformed members of the San Francisco Police Department stood at attention during the memorial.



Above: Members of the Guelff Family addressing the attendees.

Left: Plaque embedded into the north sidewalk on Pine Street, just west of Franklin Street.



Assembled Active-Duty Officers.

# Minutes of the November 14, 2019, General Membership Meeting

## Call to Order

1. Sergeant-at-Arms Tracy McCray called the meeting to order at 1807 hours.

## Pledge of Allegiance

2. Sgt.-at-Arms Tracy McCray led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Tracy McCray asked for a moment of silence for our service men and women, as well as for law enforcement, who have lost their lives serving our country and communities.

## Roll Call

3. Secretary Lobre conducted roll call. 32 Board of Directors were present, 4 were excused.

## Swearing in of New Airport Rep Joe Valdez

4. Parliamentarian Mike Hebel swore in Joe Valdez.

## Approval of October 2019 Board Minutes

5. President Montoya requested a motion to approve the October 2019 minutes. The motion was made by Director Johnson and seconded by Director Carew, which passed unanimously.

## President's Message

6. President Montoya reviewed aspects of our current contract and MOU. The process which unfolded which led to binding arbitration.
7. While President Montoya was giving his President's message, a Director inquired about the strategy with our Legal Defense with the threat of the new District Attorney Boudin charging our members for use of force incidents. There was a brief discussion that occurred and the possibility of suspension insurance.
8. While President Montoya was giving his President's message, a Director discussed the possibility of lowering members' dues. President Montoya advised the member to bring this item up during new business.
9. While President Montoya was giving

his President's message, a member inquired about the independent expenditure process with regards to Mr. Boudin, there was a brief discussion.

10. President Montoya discussed recent suspension cases filed by DPA at the Police Commission level.
11. President Montoya paused his message as Chief Scott with Assistant Chiefs Redmond and Moser arrived.

## Q & A with Chief William Scott

12. A member inquired about renegotiating the MOU between the SFPD/District Attorney with regards to Officer involved shootings and serious Use of Force incidents. Chief Scott advised that he would be meeting with D.A. Boudin in December. At this time, the Chief does not intend to cancel the MOU.
13. A member addressed and pointed out the District Attorney's familial political background.
14. A Director asked the Chief to reconsider withdrawing from the MOU with the District Attorney's office. Chief expressed giving the District Attorney a chance.
15. A Director inquired when the MOU may be cancelled. Chief Scott repeated that he wants to give the new D.A. a chance. The D.A.'s actions will depend on if there needs to be a change, and the change will need to be with cause.
16. A Director inquired about how the MOU came about between the SFPD/D.A. The Chief advised it was based on the 2015-2016 Blue Ribbon Panel which recommended that the Police Department not investigate their own members after an Officer involved shooting.
17. A Director thanked the Chief for his recent support of Asst Chief Redmond and the media attack that had transpired against him. The Director then inquired about prostitution, DUI enforcement with the District Attorney's office. There is concern

the D.A. will not prosecute these types of crimes. The Chief repeated his stance on giving this new D.A. a chance.

18. A Director pointed out that the D.A. is not neutral and unbiased. Inquired if it was possible to have another County investigate Officer involved shooting versus having our D.A. The Chief advised inquiries with other counties were made, but no county would be willing to accept the task.
19. A member inquired what the tipping point would be to end the MOU with the D.A. The Chief cited recent incidents in Baltimore with their D.A. as a possibility towards ending the MOU.
20. A member inquired if the D.A. opens an old case that already had a declination letter from a previous D.A., would that be grounds to terminate the MOU. The Chief is waiting to see if that happens.
21. A member inquired about a recent Use of Force incident in which the suspect went to the hospital. It was not until 3 to 4 hours later that it was realized the suspect had suffered a broken bone injury. The member inquired about better protocols with regards to the new MOU when there is a distance in time between the initial incident and possible hospitalization. Chief emphasized making notifications as soon as possible to their Supervisors.
22. A Director inquired about shutting down HSOC/Community Engagement to address low staffing at stations. Chief is looking for ways to get more people through the Academy and recognizes the shortage we are currently facing.
23. A member inquired about the Mayor's distrust of the new D.A., and if that is the case, why continue the MOU with the D.A.'s office. The Chief indicated again that he was waiting to see how the new D.A. will handle things.
24. A Director inquired about retention

of Officers and exodus of members. Chief recognized issues with the lack of working cars, housing issues make it hard for members to buy a house close by, and the commute are just a few examples of the challenges our members are facing.

25. A Director asked if the MOU may be a reason why members are leaving. Chief emphasized how difficult it is to prosecute a police officer.
26. A member inquired about protocols that needs to put in place with regards to the MOU with the Department and D.A.'s office. Member requested for something to be put out to the membership requesting clarification. Chief indicated that there will be something soon put out to clarify the protocol.
27. Vice President Andreotti inquired how a Homicide unit, Internal Affairs Admin and Criminal sides, and District Attorney conduct and investigation on an Officer involved shooting; find no wrong doing. Yet the DPA direct files for termination. Vice President Andreotti pointed out that the message sends to our members is a lack of support when the Department does not stand up for us. The Chief emphasized that we need to do what we can with regards to tactical review, training, etc.
28. A member stated MOU is a political ploy with regards to Use of Force cases, but was not referring to Officer involved shootings.
29. A member asked about promotions and whether the rule of the list or rank order will be followed in the future. The Chief explained there is no perfect answer for either choice, that there will always be some upset about either way members are selected when promotions are made.
30. A Director inquired on the 1700 hour Department Bulletin and asked if Belinda Chin could be fired. Chief emphasized that the Bulletin stands and emphasized for members to manage their sick time.

The San Francisco Police Officers Association

# POA JOURNAL

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**SFPOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**ASSOCIATION OFFICE: (415) 861-5060**

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: Editor, *POA Journal*, 800 Bryant St., 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103. No responsibility whatever is assumed by the *POA Journal* and/or the San Francisco Police Officers Association for unsolicited material.

The *POA Journal* is the official publication of the San Francisco Police Officers Association. However, opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the SFPOA or the San Francisco Police Department.

Members or readers submitting letters or articles to the editor are requested to observe these simple rules:

- Address letters to the Editor's Mail Box, 800 Bryant St., 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103.
- Letters must be accompanied by the writer's true name and address. The name, but not the street address, will be published with the letter.
- Unsigned letters and/or articles will not be used.
- Writers are assured freedom of expression within necessary limits of space and good taste.
- The editor reserves the right to add editor's notes to any article submitted, if necessary.
- Articles should be typed, double-spaced, or submitted via e-mail or on disk in Microsoft Word.

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## San Francisco Police Officers Association Editorial Policy

The *POA Journal* and the POA web site ([www.sfpoa.org](http://www.sfpoa.org)) are the official publications of the San Francisco Police Officers Association and are published to express the policies, ideals, and accomplishments of the Association. The following provisions that are specific to the publication of the *POA Journal* shall also be applicable to publication of material on the POA web site to any extent that is practical. Publication of material in the *POA Journal* or on the POA web site does not necessarily include publication on or in both instruments of communication. Nor does the following editorial policy for the *POA Journal* preclude a different or contrary editorial policy for the POA web site.

### Member Opinions and Commentary: Unsolicited Written Material

A member or group of members may submit **unsolicited written material** to the *POA Journal* that expresses his/her/their opinion(s) and concerns within the following limitations and guidelines:

- Such material must be addressed as a letter or mail using common salutations such as "Dear POA," "Editor," "SFPOA" "Dear POA Members" etc.
- Such material must be authored and signed by the member(s) making the submission. Anonymous submissions will not be published.
- Such material must be factually correct and presented in a respectful and civil manner.
- Such material can not be slanderous, unnecessarily inflammatory, sexist, racist, or otherwise offensive, nor can it be disparaging of any member or bring upon them unwarranted accusation or rebuke, either express or implied.
- Such material can be forwarded to the editor by electronic mail, US Mail, inter-departmental mail or other written communication, or delivered in person to the editor or to any person in the POA office.
- Upon receipt of such material, the editor shall cause it to be published in the next regular printing of the *POA Journal*, or in a future issue designated by the submitting member provided that the content complies with all the provisions of this policy. Such material will not necessarily appear in more than one issue of the *POA Journal*.
- Such material will be published in a designated section that shall be clearly titled as "Letters to the Editor," "Letters to the Journal," "Mail" or other similar title indicating that the material included therein is the express opinion of the author(s) and not necessarily that of the SFPOA or any of its elected or appointed officers.
- Depending upon considerations of timeliness and space, the editor reserves the right to withhold publication of such material for as many as two issues. The editor also reserves the right to decline to publish material beyond a date wherein the context of the material is no longer timely.
- All such material is subject to editing for grammar and punctuation. Portions of a submission may be omitted for considerations of space so long as the general context of the material is not significantly diminished or altered.
- The editor may select portions of a submission to be highlighted in a common editorial manner such as pull quotes, sub-heads, or kickers.

### Other Submitted Material

All other written, photographic, or graphic material must be:

- Specifically solicited by the editor;
- Or be unsolicited material that may be published at the discretion of the editor, and in accordance with other applicable sections of this editorial policy and Article XI, Section 8(e) of the by-laws.

31. Asst Chief Redmond emphasized that the POA concerns are his concerns. If something occurs with regards to a serious Use of Force, ring the bell and make the notifications. Asst Chief Redmond closed with thanking the members for all that they do.

32. Asst Chief Moser recognized the difficulty in policing. He is continually trying to work on acquiring the equipment our members need, ie cars, vests.

**Continued President’s Message**

33. President Montoya emphasized 2 to 3 new vehicles a week being pushed out, downside is old vehicles are being taken out of service in the process.

34. President Montoya emphasized the 1700 hour Department bulletin. A member asked for clarification if the bulletin is in place.

35. President Montoya reviewed our tenants and the revenue stream that is created by the properties we own.

36. President Montoya emphasized reimbursement for members who attend their holiday Christmas parties. Members will be reimbursed for a ride up to \$100 total, to and from their party.

**Vice President’s message**

37. None

**Treasurer’s report**

38. Treasurer Perdomo advised through October, 83% of the budget has been spent.

**Appointment of General Election Committee**

39. President Montoya announced the Election Committee. Nominees for the Executive Board will be an-

nounced at the December 18th Board of Directors Meeting. The following people make up the Election Committee: Lloyd Martin-Chair, Dermot Dorgan, Jennifer O’Keefe, Francisco Morrow, Pat Faye, Darwin Naval.

**New Business**

40. Director Valdez made a motion to lower the dues for members from 1.5% to 1.25%. The motion was seconded by Director Whitney. There was a discussion amongst board and members in attendance. A roll call vote was conducted with 24 NO votes and 2 YES votes. Motion died.

**Old Business**

41. None.

**Financial Requests**

42. Director Carew requested the POA purchase a table for the Rebel Cork event honoring Father Healy, our police Chaplain. The event will be December 9th. The motion was seconded by Directors Whitney and Lyons and passed unanimously.

**Legal Updates**

43. Gregg Adam our Labor Attorney gave various updates to the members.

**Motion to Adjourn**

44. Motion to adjourn was made by Director Carew and Seconded by Director Cabillo. Meeting adjourned at 2102 Hours. Submitted by **Matt Lobre**

*\*These minutes will not be adopted by the Board of Directors until the next General Membership meeting. Corrections and amendments might be made prior to a vote to enter the minutes into the permanent record. All corrections and/or amendments will be published in the succeeding issue of the Journal.*

**Special Notice To All SFPOA Members**

**Notice of Nominations for SFPOA Executive Board Officers**

**Nominations will be taken for the following offices:**

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Sergeant-at-Arms

(Each Executive Board position is a three-year term. Each term will commence at the first POA Board meeting following the January 2020 on-line election.)

Nominations for SFPOA Executive Officers are to be presented in writing, or nominated from the floor, by any member, at the **December 18, 2019, Board of Directors Meeting**, convening at noon, at the POA Building, 800 Bryant Street, 3rd Floor (enter from 6th Street doorway).

The Election of Executive Officers will be held in January 2020.

Any member interested in being nominated for election to any of the positions listed above should abide by the bylaw sections 600 and 602 excerpted below. A complete copy of the SFPOA Bylaws is available to any member on-line at [www.sfpoa.org](http://www.sfpoa.org), or upon request at 415-861-5060. District or unit representatives can also provide any member with a copy of the SFPOA Bylaws upon request. – Ed.

**ARTICLE VI: NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS AND INSTALLATIONS**

**Section 600. Eligibility and Term of Office**

A. Any active member of this Association who has been a member for at least one (1) year shall

be eligible for election to office in this Association.

B. The term of office of Officers of the Association shall be three (3) years

**Section 602. Election Process**

A. Nominations for Officers and Directors to serve on the Board of Directors shall occur at the December Board meeting immediately preceding the election. Nothing herein contained shall preclude the right of a member in good standing from being nominated from the floor at the December Board meeting.

B. When an election is to be held, the Board of Directors shall appoint a General Election Committee. This Committee shall review the eligibility of the nominees, administer the election process via on-line voting through the SFPOA website and make the results known to the membership.

C. Regular elections shall be held commencing at 8:00 a.m. on the second (2nd) Monday of January and continuing until midnight (12:00 a.m.) of the third (3rd) Friday in January.

D. The General Election Committee shall oversee the entire election process. Every on-line ballot shall be numbered and accounted for by the Election Committee.

**General Membership Meeting Roll Call — Thursday, November 14, 2019**

			Vote
President	Tony Montoya	P	N
Vice President	Rick Andreotti	P	N
Secretary	Matthew Lobre	P	N
Treasurer	Sean Perdomo	P	N
Sergeant-At-Arms	Tracy McCray	P	N
Editor	Ray Shine	E	
Co. A	Josh Cabillo	P	N
	Larry Chan	E	
Co. B	Damon Hart	P	N
	Louis Wong	P	N
Co. C	Joseph Kavanagh	P	N
	Danny Miller	P	
Co. D	Mikayla Connell	E	
	Thomas Johnson	P	
Co. E	Joan Cronin	P	
	Jesus Peña	P	
Co. F	Jeremy Cummings	P	N
	Matt Friedman	P	N
Co. G	Anthony Garrett	E	
	Chris Mansfield	P	N
Co. H	Matt Inocencio	P	N
	David Lee	P	N
Co. I	Michael Ferraresi	P	N
	Pavel Khmarskiy	P	N
Co. J	Kevin Lyons	P	N
	Basse Obot	P	N
Co. K	Crispin Jones	P	N
	Rob Vernengo	P	N
Hdqtr.	Patrick Macchi	P	N
	Patrick Woods	P	N
Tactical	Dan Laval	E	
	Steve Needham	P	N
Invest.	Ed Carew	P	N
	Rich Hunt	P	N
Airport	Joe Valdez	P	Y
	Erik Whitney	P	Y
Retired	Val Kirwan	P	

**Hoping Everyone Stays On Route For A Wonderful Holiday Season — The SFPOA**



## Army Veteran Tracy McCray Honored by State Assembly



### POA Staff Report

On November 21, 2019, SFPOA Sergeant-at-Arms Tracy McCray was honored as the California State Assembly District 19 Veteran of the Year by Assemblymember Phil Ting for her 11-years of service as an United States Army MP; her 25-years of community service with the SFPD, and her leadership role at the SFPOA.

In the photo above, Tracy posed with her Northern Station Commanding Officer, Captain Joe Engler, and Assemblymember Ting

*Let's Celebrate*

**Promotion Celebration  
for Lt. Tracy McCray**

**Friday, December 20 at 5:00 PM**

**La Rocca's Corner  
957 Columbus Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94133**

## Calendar of Events

Mark your calendars for the following meetings and events by the POA and its friends and supporters. All dates and times are subject to last minute changes, so always contact the event coordinator to confirm dates and times. If you have an event you would like posted on our calendar, contact the editor at [journal@sfpoa.org](mailto:journal@sfpoa.org)

### Specially Scheduled Events

#### **BRAVE THE BAY BENEFIT FOR MAKE-A-WISH**

*Where* Aquatic Park, SF (Jefferson at Hyde Streets)  
*When* Saturday, December 7, 2019, 8:00 pm  
*Contact* [www.BraveTheBay.com](http://www.BraveTheBay.com)

#### **CALIFORNIA COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION & INTERNATIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS DINNER**

*Where* SF Italian Athletic Club, 1630 Stockton St., SF  
*When* Sunday, December 8, 2019, 6:30 pm  
*Contact* See Flyer, Page 11

#### **LT. TRACY MCCRAY PROMOTION CELEBRATION**

*Where* La Rocca's Corner, 957 Columbus Ave., SF  
*When* Friday, December 20, 2019, 5:00 pm  
*Contact* Drop By

#### **INGLESIDE STATION CHRISTMAS PARTY**

*Where* Basque Cultural Center, 599 Railroad Ave., So. SF  
*When* Saturday, December 21, 2019, 6:00 pm  
*Contact* See Flyer, Page 11

#### **JOHN CAGNEY & EDDIE YU RETIREMENT CELEBRATION**

*Where* SF Italian Athletic Club, 1630 Stockton St., SF  
*When* Thursday, January 30, 2020  
*Contact* Phone 415-638-0099

### Regularly Scheduled Meetings or Events

#### **VETERAN POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**

*Where* Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 2850 19th Ave., SF  
*When* Second Tuesday of every month, 11:00 am  
*Contact* Larry Barsetti 415-566-5985 [larry175@ix.netcom.com](mailto:larry175@ix.netcom.com)

#### **WIDOWS & ORPHANS AID ASSOCIATION**

*Where* Hall of Justice, Room 150, (Traffic Co. Assembly Room)  
*When* Second Tuesday of every month, 12:30 pm  
*Contact* Mark McDonough 415-681-3660, [markmac825@comcast.net](mailto:markmac825@comcast.net)

#### **AMERICAN LEGION SF POLICE-FIRE POST**

*Where* Park Station Community Room, 1899 Waller St., SF  
*When* Second Tuesday of every month, 4:00 pm  
*Contact* Greg Corrales 415-759-1076

#### **POA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

*Where* POA Building  
*When* Third Wednesday of every month, Noon  
*Contact* POA Office 415-861-5060

#### **RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF CCSF**

*Where* Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 2850 19th Ave., SF  
*When* Second Wednesday bi-monthly  
(Feb., Apr. June, Aug. Oct. Dec.), 10:00 am  
*Contact* RECCSF Office 415-681-5949

#### **RETIREE RANGE RE-QUALIFICATION**

*Where* SFPD Pistol Range  
*When* Contact Lake Merced Range for Dates  
*Contact* Range Staff 415-587-2274

## Seal Discipline Records

By Paul Chignell,  
Legal Defense Administrator

Under the terms of the contract between the SFPOA and the City prior discipline can be sealed in your personnel folder.

If you have suffered a written reprimand or a suspension in the past please contact me and I will facilitate the sealing.

Sealing means any reprimand two (2) years old or suspension five (5) years can be sealed and cannot be used against you for purposes of promotion, transfer or special assignment.

Email me any time at [paul@sfpoa.org](mailto:paul@sfpoa.org).

# Close Encounters

It's amazing just how much police work is taking place in San Francisco on any given day. You'd never know it from the various news outlets that supposedly "cover" The City. And that's why we prepare this column each month for The Journal. We know that many of the stories published here have taken place a while back but they still deserve to be in print so that, hopefully, your family members will have the opportunity to read about the brave exploits of the men and women of the SFPD.

And, as another year passes by, we need to thank those individuals who were part of the Close Encounter Team: Ray Shine/Editor, Georgette Petropoulos, Mike Popoff, Cyndee Bates, Leah Daye, Lt. Mike Nevin/Contributor Risa Tom/Police Commission, Sergeant Maina Tuimavave/Chief's Office.

**Officer Kathleen Cavanaugh** and **Officer Joseph Navalle** have been assigned to the Market Street foot beat for some time, long enough to establish an excellent rapport with both the businesses on the corridor as well as with the local homeless and less fortunate. They recently followed up on a suspicious occurrence where one individual was being chased by several others. The officers managed to detain the subject who was running away and, once they did, those who were chasing him left the area. There wasn't much else to follow up on except to place the individual they had made contact with under arrest for public inebriation for his own safety.

Several days later the officers were on their beat when they were approached by a woman who said that her friends were actually chasing the individual the officers had contacted because he had raped her a while back. The officers did their due diligence and located the sexual assault report filed in another jurisdiction and immediately contacted the investigating officer. The suspect was soon located and this time placed in custody for the felony assault.

**Sergeant Candiece Lewis** submit-

ted a Captain's Commendation for their outstanding work citing, "It was Officer Cavanaugh and Officer Navalle's familiarity with the people in the area that gave the victim the courage to walk to the station and report this crime."

**Officer Kyle Simmons** and **Officer Christopher Strickland** were walking a beat in the Central when they responded to a call of a robbery that had just taken place on the unit block of Drumm. The suspect was last seen heading for the nearby BART station so the officers followed. They soon located him and placed him under arrest. While they were transporting the suspect back to the station to be booked the officers noticed how much this individual looked like the suspect in several crime alert bulletins that had recently been issued. Sure enough, further investigation linked him directly to several other robberies and burglaries he had committed.

**Sgt. Maris Goldsborough** submitted a commendation for the officers citing, "The officers' diligence and awareness of crime trends in their district allowed them to solve several additional felonies. Their actions reflect credit on their professionalism."

The suspects who committed a robbery with a gun on the 1300 block of Silver thought they had it made as they sped off from the victim. Little did they know that a video of the entire incident was taken from a location nearby and recovered by **Officer Daniel Tay-Liong** and **Officer Curran Gong** who responded to the call. The officers were able to read the plates on the car and posted a felony want on the vehicle. The very next day Oakland police officers located and pursued the suspect vehicle eventually taking the driver into custody. Our officers contacted the victim and arranged for a cold-show where he positively identified the individual in custody as the robbery suspect. Case closed.

The call allegedly involved domestic

violence with a gun involved but it supposedly also took place at an abandoned Housing Development in the Bayview. **Officer Matthew O'Leary** and **Officer Rigoberto Haro** responded to investigate. They came in contact with an individual who stated that he did have an argument with his girlfriend but that they split up. But he was also extremely reluctant to cooperate any further with the officers and kept his left arm close to his hip as if trying to hold something in place. **When Officer O'Leary asked him to move his arms away from his body he initially refused but when his arm did move away a fully-loaded, semi-automatic weapon fell to the floor.** The suspect was immediately taken into custody. The officers were later contacted by the Investigations Bureau and told that a check of the weapon they recovered revealed that it had been used in numerous crimes that took place in both San Francisco as well as Salinas.

Don't bother boosting cars in the Richmond District since there's an outstanding crew of officers waiting to frame you with a mug shot. The unit consists of **Sergeant Gregory Skaug**, **Officer Michael Gordon**, **Officer Patrick Condon**, **Officer Mohammed Azam**, and **Officer Sean Thompson**. One of their investigations took place on Clement Street near 12th Avenue in a parking lot early evening. The officers, working in a plainclothes capacity, were staking out a car with 2 on board who had been driving very slowly through nearby parking lots. The officers watched as the passenger of the vehicle got out and shattered the rear hatchback of a parked car and then removed a very distinctive backpack from the trunk. The officers closed in to make an arrest when the suspect driver attempted to escape but all he managed doing was crushing his car into a nearby wall. The officers managed to remove both suspects from the vehicle placing them under arrest.

The clock was close to midnight when **Officer Brendan Jensen** and **Officer Anthony Powers** decided to check on a car they noticed had one headlight out and an expired registration with 3 on board in the Ingleside District. The driver had no license to operate the car and had a probation search condition out of Santa Clara County. **Turns out that a subsequent search revealed a Glock pistol loaded with a large capacity**

**drum-style magazine under the front driver's seat as well as fully-loaded, Sig Sauer semi-automatic weapon stashed under the front passenger's seat. The occupants of the car "knew nothing" about the guns that were recovered... right.**

Ever wonder what type of person purposely evades fare payment at the BART entry gates? Thanks to **Officer Shante Williams** we know of the particulars on at least 2 cases for which he booked the individuals. **One suspect he saw pass through without paying had a felony arrest warrant for assault on a public transit employee while the other individual he stopped was wanted on a felony "No Bail parolee at large" warrant.** Maybe it's better we don't know...

And if you're going to steal luggage at SFO you might want to leave the bright orange-colored ones alone. A suspect with little else to do tried to take the very same such baggage when the real owner called him out within hearing distance of **Police Service Aide Eden Teague-Whitfield**. Eden immediately notified Dispatch as to what was occurring and she was backed up by **Officer Antonette Valenzuela** and **Officer Alberto Esparza** who, between them, grabbed the suspect and returned the items to their rightful owner.

The officers had a search warrant prepared for a residence in the Mission District and, for once, it turned out that the suspect was totally cooperative with their investigative search. The officers located, "a veritable cornucopia of narcotics which included various quantities for sale of Fentanyl, Methamphetamine, Ketamine, Cocaine, MDMA, LSD, DMT, Alprazolam, Oxycodone and Adderall." In addition, the officers found a 9mm firearm and numerous .223 rounds along with shotgun shells and additional magazines. **Sergeant Darren Nocetti** commended the officers for conducting an investigation which resulted in the arrest of a narcotics trafficker who had an assortment of narcotics rivaling a pharmacist as well as 2 firearms and numerous rounds of ammunition."

Officers Involved: **Officer Christina Hayes**, **Officer Michael Tursi**, **Officer Anthony Scafani**, **Officer Brenton Reeder**, **Officer Michael Cunnie**, and officer **Michael Montero**.

Stay safe.

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\* The POA has verified that this quote was made by an SFPD member.

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# From the Archive

## From the Archive Response



In the November issue of the *POA Journal*, we ran this photo and asked our readers to correctly name all four of these "SFPD legends".

The best answer we received was from Sgt. Brett Bodisco of Ingleside Station, although admittedly he had a slight advantage since it was his father, retired SFPD Officer Richard Bodisco (on the left in the photo above) who initially submitted the photo in the first place. Unfortunately, we still can't find anyone who recalls the name of the second uniformed officer, but thanks to Brett we know a few more interesting details. Here is Brett's response:

*"From left to right: first uniform officer is my father Richard Bodisco # 1177. The second uniform officer remains unknown. My father has no recollection of who it is. The middle "Inspector" is actor Karl Malden AKA [SFPD] Lt. Mike Stone # 897, followed by actor Michael Douglas AKA Assistant Inspector Steve Keller # 2248. The photo was taken while filming the TV series The Streets of San Francisco (1972-1977). The TV series is still well remembered for the fact that it was filmed entirely in San Francisco (a rarity in film then and now) giving the show a real vibe to how San Francisco was at that period of time."*

# News from the Credit Union

By Al Casciato,  
SFPD Retired

**Q: With the browser Internet Explorer no longer supported by Microsoft as of January 31, 2020, can I use the new browser, Microsoft Edge to access online banking?**

(The following response was provided by the Marketing Department at The Police Credit Union)

**A:** Yes, but please note that members using Microsoft Edge may experience issues accessing some functionalities within online banking if they are not using the most recent version. You can avoid any issues by upgrading your Microsoft Edge browser to the latest version (42) or use either Chrome or Firefox browsers. If you have any other issues, please call our Contact Center at 800.222.1391.

### Promotions

You can now earn **\$50** for referring an eligible colleague or family member who becomes a member! Referrals are unlimited, but some restrictions apply, so check our website at [www.thepolicecu.org/referral](http://www.thepolicecu.org/referral) for complete details.

### Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for our next used auto sale with Enterprise Car Sales, **February 7-9, 2020**. Members who stop by any of the four Enterprise Car Sales locations and finance a vehicle with us will receive a **1.25% APR rate discount!**\* A full list of car sale dates in 2020 will be available on our website, beginning January 1, 2020.

**Next date for Living Trust seminar is set!** If you missed our Living Trust seminar held on November 23, don't worry — we'll be scheduling these seminars throughout 2020. Our next date for seminars is scheduled for **Saturday, March 7th, 2020**, with two sessions —

one at 9:30 am and one at 11:30 am. More information and a sign-up sheet will be available around the end of January, so check our website or your email for details.

### Give Us Your Feedback:

If you have feedback about any matter at the Credit Union, please send a note by going to [www.thepolicecu.org/contactform](http://www.thepolicecu.org/contactform). If you have a specific concern, the Credit Union encourages you to work with branch or Contact Center staff who can answer questions and either promptly resolve issues or escalate an issue to the appropriate department or individual for assistance. You can also post a message on the Credit Union's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ThePoliceCU/>.

### Do you have something you'd like to see in this column?

You can contact me at [AIC@thepolicecu.org](mailto:AIC@thepolicecu.org).

**Membership:** Credit Union membership is open to all law enforcement, support personnel and their family members throughout the state of California, as well as designated First Responders within the 9 Bay Area counties. To see a full list of eligible membership criteria, visit [www.thepolicecu.org](http://www.thepolicecu.org). Growing the membership helps your Credit Union provide the best products and services.

*Al Casciato is a retired SFPD Captain, past POA President and Current Retirement Board Commissioner who was elected to the Credit Union Board of Directors in February of 2014. He is currently a member of The Police Credit Union Board of Directors and can be contacted at [AIC@thepolicecu.org](mailto:AIC@thepolicecu.org). Suggestion: Cut this Column out and tape inside the pantry door as reference for the entire household.*

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# District Attorney Election

November 10, 2019

Last night, Chesa Boudin was declared the unofficial winner in the DA's race. Obviously, this is unfortunate and disappointing. If he enacts his promised agenda, public safety in San Francisco will certainly suffer.

While the overall total ranked choice voting results showed a very close race between Boudin and Suzy Loftus, we do not believe the results showed any sort of a "mandate" for Boudin's criminal first agenda. The reality is he only received just over 37% of the vote. He was the least popular alternative candidate in both phases of the "ranked choice" process, trailing Tung and Loftus in Round 2 and receiving fewer voters than Loftus in Round 3. However, based on the rules, his total votes following Round 3 surpassed 50%. Those are the rules San Franciscans have chosen to run their elections by.

Throughout this campaign, we felt it was extremely important that Mr. Boudin's dangerous agenda was exposed and challenged. We felt an obligation to explain the dangerous impacts of the flowery language he chose to use throughout the campaign. We choose to work with other law enforcement associations to ensure that voters at least had a full picture before casting their ballots. The stakes were too high to sit on the sidelines and do nothing more than complain.

We greatly appreciate the support we have received from the SFPOA members over the last several weeks. When we stand together, and when we advocate on behalf of the public we serve, we are a stronger organization. We saw that some in power, such as Supervisor Fewer, are clearly uncomfortable when the SFPOA speaks up for our community. Tough. They better get used to it.

Below is the statement we issued to the media last night. In solidarity,

Tony



## SF Police Officers Assoc. Statement Regarding the District Attorney Election Results

**San Francisco, CA** — San Francisco Police Officers Association President Tony Montoya issued the following statement regarding the election of Chesa Boudin as San Francisco's next District Attorney:

*"Unfortunately, the election results mean that San Francisco residents will have to suffer through another four years of the George Gascon style policies that have plagued our city and decimated public safety. We know from our everyday interactions with San Franciscans that they are tired of the open-air drug markets, tired of the property crime and tired of seeing the same criminals target their neighborhoods week after week. We sincerely hope the new District Attorney reconsiders his position to not contest the early release of violent felons and that he will grow into a champion of all crime victims. In the meantime, San Francisco police officers will continue to work day in and day out alongside our residents to try and make our city as safe as possible."*

Tony Montoya President

# So Now What?



By Tracy McCray,  
POA Sergeant-at-Arms

Unless you have been missing in action, you know that the City and County of San Francisco has a new District Attorney and a member of the Board of Supervisors used the F word in reference to the POA.

Let's start with the new District Attorney and how we, the officers of the city of St. Francis go about continuing to do our job. Simply put, we will carry on. We will handle calls for service, we will help those that cannot help themselves, we advocate for the weak and tired, and we will back each other at all cost so that each of us are able to go home at the end of our shift.

The new District Attorney made a lot of noise about reform and what he would or would not do when our members are involved in a use of force incident, whether that incident is in the past or new. He also stated that the POA was out of touch with the times.

What?????

This from someone who is a relative newcomer to the City, not to mention a person that is now switching sides from defender to prosecutor. Does this guy have the magical solution? I don't think so.

As a white male, society has bestowed privileges on him that others do not have even though his parents were jailed (one is still in) and are domestic terrorists. Where else and in what other country can people take part in bombing, maiming, and killing innocent people yet alone disparage their government and then become professors of law? Here in the United States of America. Our new District Attorney was fortunate that he had the connections to not be taken by Child Protective Services, but to have people who were established economically to provide him the luxury to visit his parents and have access to educational opportunities. Does he feel his story is more compelling than any other person because of his background?

Well news flash, it's not! You weren't the first nor will you be the last child who has one or both parents incarcerated.

When parents make bad decisions those bad decisions can lead to the suffering of their children. Some of us call this plain old bad parenting. I have seen this first hand.

Unfortunately, this condition affected some of my siblings and their offspring. There is something sobering about seeing your sibling's name on the transfer bus back to the CDC (California Department of Corrections), as you are trying to

book someone into jail. Many thoughts swirl through your mind about what lead them to where they are at. And then the question is: how did I not end up in the same predicament?

I would put it down to choices. Make better choices. Make better choices so that you will not hurt the ones you love. As a parent put your needs aside because you want to be there for your child. When you have a child you don't come first anymore. And it has nothing to do with the color of one's skin or socio-economic status. There have been millions of people who have not been as fortunate as our newly elected District Attorney and they have gone on to be successful and have not had interactions with the judicial system.

Yes, there is injustice in the world. Every cop sees that every day when they patrol the streets of this city. But they also see people going to work, taking their children to school, and helping their neighbors. And when need be, that officer steps in to be the guardian of all people they come across.

So let's stay tuned to see what he intends to reform, because he is now on the side that upholds the law, the advocate for the victim seeking justice.

Now about that word used to describe your Union by a Supervisor. That was uncalled for and unbecoming of a public official. I get it your candidate was doing well and you were feeling yourself. You may not have liked the message that was put out about your candidate, but there is a certain decorum one must have and that certainly was not on display. And to call that an apology, well it missed the mark but hey we don't need it if it's not going to be genuine. Not long after that, this Supervisor spoke with Phil Matier, saying she would attend bias training if the Executive Board would go also.

Supervisor, I accept your invitation to attend bias training. I emailed Phil Matier when you said you would go if the POA's Executive Board also attended. Although I think you might have to throw in some anger management as well. The Supervisor seems to be under the impression that she is dealing with the board from her husband's days, which by the way he got more than his share of Union representation during his career.

Just to recap for the Supervisor what we do as the Executive Board:

- We are 3/5ths minority, natives of the City as well as home owners who have or are raising families in the City.
- We negotiate wages, working conditions and benefits for over 2000 members, which you and your family have benefited from for 35 years and counting.
- We go to and sit in on countless meetings, meet and confer etc, handle phone calls 24/7 from our members, because they are our priority.
- Community service is another big part of our operation, whether it is making a monetary donation, toys or food to every part of the community we serve.
- It's a nonstop operation, one that each Executive Board member fully commits to, knowing that it is the right thing to do because our members deserve it.

So the next time you feel the need to call us out just remember, your off-handed angry remarks have no basis in fact. See you at bias training.

To: Active and Retired Members  
From: Rick Andreotti, Vice-President

November 22, 2019

### Hunters Point lawsuit: Outreach to families of deceased SFPD employees who worked at Hunters Point Naval Shipyard

There is currently an under-represented group in the Hunters Point toxic exposure lawsuit — family members of SFPD employees who worked at Hunters Point Naval Shipyard and have passed away from cancer or other illnesses that might be attributable to toxic exposure at Hunters Point. If you know of any SFPD employees who spent more than a minimal amount of time at Hunters Point Naval Shipyard since 1997 and who have died from cancer or blood disorders, please either reach out to the family and encourage them to contact the attorneys handling the lawsuit for more information (Wendi Berkowitz at Messing Adam & Jasmine: [wendi@majlabor.com](mailto:wendi@majlabor.com) or Sara Peters at Walkup, Melodia, Kelly & Schoenberger: [speters@walkuplawoffice.com](mailto:speters@walkuplawoffice.com)), or contact Wendi or Sara directly so they may follow up with the family.

### Contribute to the *Journal*; It's Your Paper.

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The deadline for the January 2020 issue is  
Friday, December 20, 2019.

Contact [journal@sfpoa.org](mailto:journal@sfpoa.org) or phone 415-861-5060 for more info.

# Widows' and Orphans' Aid Association

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## Tuesday November 12, 2019

The Widows' and Orphans' Aid Association held their monthly meeting on Tuesday November 12, 2019. The meeting commenced at 1230 hours at the Hall of Justice 850 Bryant Street, in room #150 in San Francisco, California.

**Roll Call:** Vice President Jim O'Meara, Secretary Mark J. McDonough, Trustees Al Luenow, Rob Forneris, Ryan Walsh, Lou Barberini, and Leroy Lindo were present. President Ray Kane, Treasurer Dean Taylor, and Administrative Assistant Sally Foster were excused. Kane, Taylor, and Foster were available and were contacted by phone. Vice President O'Meara assumed the Chair of President and began our meeting with a Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the Minutes:** Trustee Al Luenow made a motion to accept the minutes from our October 2019 meeting. Trustee Ryan Walsh seconded the motion. The motion passed without objection.

**Receiving Applications; Suspensions and Reinstatements:** There were no new members, no suspensions or reinstatements

**Communications and Bills:** Trustee Al Luenow made a motion to pay the regular monthly bills. Trustee Lou Barberini seconded the motion. The motion passed without objection. There were no paid beneficiary claims this month.

**Report of Visiting Committee:** No report this month.

**Report of Trustees:** We heard the sad news of the passing of the following members:

**Dennis V. O'Connell, age 85:** Dennis Valentine O'Connell was born on Valentine's Day February 14, 1934 in San Francisco, California. His father Michael and mother Margaret were born in County Kerry, Ireland, and Dennis was the third of six children. Dennis grew up in the Mission and Excelsior Districts in San Francisco and graduated from Riordan High School in 1952. After serving in the Coast Guard and working as a purchaser for a wholesale plumbing business, Dennis joined the San Francisco Police Department on June 16, 1957. Dennis graduated from the Police Academy on September 23, 1957 and wore star #128. Dennis worked the following assignments during his 31 year career: Potrero Police Station (September 23, 1957), Northern Police Station (May 19, 1958), Mission Police Station (February 23, 1959), Northern Police Station (October 4, 1959), Mission Police Station (November 6, 1961), Central Police Station (July 19, 1970), Inspector's Bureau (April 16, 1972), Central Police Station (September 22, 1974), Ingleside Police Station (October 31, 1976), Potrero Police Station (November 17, 1976), Co. K. (October 2, 1978), Communications (March 21, 1979), and Youth Services (July 15, 1979). Dennis was promoted to the rank of Sergeant of Police on June 13, 1979, and to the rank of Police Inspector on November 19, 1982. Dennis retired as a Police Inspector on July 8, 1988. During his career, Dennis walked a beat, drove a 3-wheeler at the Giants games at Candlestick Park, worked the Beatles last concert, encountered demonstrators at San Francisco State University, and worked undercover Vice. Dennis was a loyal fan of the San Francisco 49ers,

and loved many sports. Dennis played baseball in his youth and became a fan of the Pachuca Club later in life. Attending the 1985 Super Bowl at Stanford was a highlight in his life. He enjoyed duck hunting, abalone diving, and Jazz Clubs. He loved cooking dinner and hosting parties. He and his wife Shirley enjoyed traveling to Mexico, Hawaii, Australia, and Spain. Awards: Dennis, and his partner Gregorio Cruz were awarded a 2nd Grade Medal of Valor for services rendered on November 27, 1958. On this day Dennis and Cruz were able to disarm a man who had a loaded firearm. The insane person threatened to shoot the Officers and himself. Cruz and O'Connell prevented a suicide and perhaps saved their own lives. Dennis, with Sergeant Sheridan Williams and Officer Michael Casey were awarded a 3rd Grade Medal of Valor for services rendered on July 19, 1964. Williams, Casey, and O'Connell responded to an armed robbery of a Safeway Store. The Officers observed the described suspect walking down the street and rushed him. The Officers disarmed the suspect and placed him in custody. The Officers seized a loaded .32 caliber handgun from the suspect, who had a long criminal record. Dennis is survived by his son Jeffrey (Catherine), his sister Irene DeMaria, and his brother Thomas (Marilyn), his sister-in-laws Barbara and Ellen, and by his former wife Joanne Heidohrn. Dennis is also survived by nieces and nephews.

**Donald J. Lando, age 92:** Donald J. Lando was born in San Francisco, California on December 11, 1926. Don, a third generation San Franciscan, grew up in San Francisco and was a graduate of Galileo High School. Donald J. Lando was a veteran of World War II. Don is listed as being a Standard Station Salesman prior to entering Law Enforcement. Don joined the San Francisco Police Department on March 1, 1958, at the age of 31. Don wore star #767. Don worked the following assignments during his nearly 29 years with the S.F.P.D.: Potrero Police Station (June 9, 1958), Richmond Police Station (April 27, 1959), Taraval Police Station (January 6, 1960), and Ingleside Police Station (July 19, 1978). Don was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on June 13, 1979. There is no record of Don's assignments from July 19, 1978 through his retirement of July 4, 1986. Don retired with a service pension. Don was awarded with a 3rd grade Medal of Valor for services rendered on September 25, 1965. Don responded to a call of a Burglary in progress. He arrived at this destination and met with the occupants of the residence who informed him that a man had forced his way into their home by threatening them with a gun that he had in his pocket. They told Lando that the suspect rushed into their daughter's room when he heard the Police response. Lando forced open the door and ordered the suspect to surrender. Lando threatened to shoot the suspect who then surrendered and was placed in custody. Sergeant Don Lando and Officer Leroy Henry were awarded a Bronze Medal of Valor for services rendered on Friday November 10, 1978. On that day at 1655 hours, Lando and Henry responded to 1159 Bosworth Street on a call of a Burglary in progress. The entered the premises and began their search. They saw the movement of a shadow on a wall and heard what sounded like a gun being cocked. Officer Henry then

saw the suspect pointing a gun at him and immediately took cover. Sgt. Lando was standing around the corner from the suspect and shouted "Police". The suspect realizing there were two Officers present, threw down his firearm and surrendered. The suspect was placed into custody and the Officers seized the firearm. Don passed away peacefully his home on November 13, 2019 surrounded by his family. Donald was the son of the late Stephen and Frances (DeMartini) Lando, and is survived by his beloved wife of 68 years Shirley Cunningham Lando, four children Christine Lando Marshall (the late Albert), Stephen, Matthew, and Theresa, He received great joy and pleasure from his four grandchildren — Michael, Brett (Megan Yamashiro), Gianna Lando Dunne (John Patrick "Daddy" Dunne), and Leigh M. Marshall. He is also survived by retired S.F.P.D. brother-in-law Lloyd Cunningham, and Nephew Vince Repetto.

**Mike Toropovsky, age 62:** Michael A. Toropovsky was born in San Francisco on February 26, 1957. Mike passed away peacefully at the age of 62. His beloved partner Marlene Heideck remained by his side during his last days with the same love and devotion the two have shared the past 10 years. Mike was born to Alexander and Galina Toropovsky. Mike had many hobbies which included skiing, corvettes, boating, 4-wheeling, and baseball. He enjoyed spending time in Lake Tahoe/Incline Village, Nevada, and Sundays at the movie theatre. Mike was an avid sports fan of the Giants, 49ers, and Warriors. Mike graduated from George Washington High School and Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Academy. He enlisted in the Marines. During his 3 years of active duty, he served in the evacuation of Saigon. After his discharge from the Marines, Mike worked for 10 years with the Search and Rescue Patrol in Heavenly Valley, California. Mike joined the San Francisco Police Department on September 2, 1986. Mike wore star #2036 and worked the following assignments during his 19 year career: Southern Police Station (December 30, 1986), Mission Police Station (April 18, 1987), Tenderloin Task Force (March 30, 1991), Crime Prevention (May 12, 1996), Park Police Station (September 28, 1996), Taraval Police Station (July 7, 1999), Ingleside Police Station (April 14, 2001), V.C.T.F. (February 15, 2003), Ingleside Police Station (May 24, 2003), Northern Police Station (April 17, 2004), Ingleside Police Station (July 17, 2004), Taraval Police Station (July 17, 2004, same date for both Ingleside and Taraval), and Support Services (November 3, 2004). Mike retired on February 1, 2005 due to an Industrial Disability and received a Disability Pension. Mike and his partner Jerome DeFilippo were awarded a Bronze Medal of Valor for services rendered in 1991 (awarded on January 3, 1992). The Officers, on patrol at 5:45am, observed smoke billowing from a Tenderloin Hotel. Toropovsky and DeFilippo gained access to the building by using the fire escape to the 2nd floor. Fighting off dense smoke and impaired vision and breathing, the Officers went door to door to alert and evacuate residents. The Officers forced a locked door and discovered a very elderly man who was unaware of the fire. All residents of the building were led to safety. Mike was awarded with another Bronze Medal of Valor for services rendered on January 2, 1993 when he removed an

unconscious man from his vehicle that was engulfed in flames after the vehicle had crashed into a building. Risking great danger to himself, Toropovsky was successful in saving the life of the unconscious driver and carrying him to safety where he received treatment. Mike, with Sergeant Pat Tobin, and Officers Paul Lozada, David Nastari, Ron Banta Steven Murphy, and Mary Burns were awarded a Police Commission Commendation for services rendered on January 29, 1995. On that day Officers Lozada and Nastari were driving through the Tenderloin District when they observed a pedestrian walking across a red light at Turk and Leavenworth. Lozada slowed his vehicle and advised the pedestrian to wait for the light to turn green. The pedestrian responded with: "f-ck you... you Mexicans" and then brandished an automatic pistol. The suspect pointed the gun at the Officers and said: "I'll kill you punks". Officer Lozada immediately drove his vehicle in serpentine mode as to avoid being a sitting target. The Officers notified Headquarters and provided a description of the suspect(s). Lozada and Nastari circled the block and observed the suspect and his companion hiding behind a parked van at Eddy and Taylor Streets and watching a nearby marked Police vehicle. Lozada drove toward the suspect's location. The suspect and his companion fled with the suspect drawing his weapon and pointed it at the Officers. Lozada identified himself as a Police Officer and ordered the suspect to drop his weapon. The second suspect escaped in another direction while the armed suspect fled eastbound on Eddy Street from Taylor. The armed suspect reached the Eddy Street corner as Sgt. Tobin and Officers Burns, Banta, Murphy, and Toropovsky arrived at the same location. Lozada yelled that the suspect was in possession of a gun. The suspect reached into his waistband to draw his firearm when he was tackled by Officer Ron Banta. Tobin, Murphy, Burns and Toropovsky moved in to assist Banta in placing the suspect in custody. They seized the loaded firearm. Mike Toropovsky and Mike Koltzoff of the Canine Unit were awarded a Gold Medal of Valor for services rendered on August 18, 1995. Mike and Mike were working late at night on that day and responded to a shooting that occurred in a homeless encampment in Golden Gate Park. Officer Frank Harrell of Richmond Police Station responded. The three Officers met with a witness who led them on a dirt path through the darkness and deep into the park to a concealed homeless encampment. The Officers called out to the suspect in an attempt to communicate with him. The suspect responded with epithets and refused to obey their commands. The Officers were 10-20 feet from the suspect who was concealed in the vegetation. Officer Koltzoff continued to order the suspect to come out with a promise of sending in his dog Senny. The suspect did not cooperate. Officer Koltzoff, after several failed attempts to verbally order the suspect to comply, coupled with the warnings of sending in his dog, did then order Senny to enter the suspect's immediate area in an effort, to locate him. The Officers could hear Senny attacking the suspect followed by gunshots. The Officers took cover and again heard Senny engaging the suspect. More shots were fired fol-

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# Widows' and Orphans' Aid Association

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

lowed by Sendy's whimpering. During the shooting Mike Toropovsky sensed two bullets to have nearly missed his head. The Officers returned gunfire at the muzzle flash made by the suspect's firearm. The shooting stopped for a moment and Koltzoff observed Toropovsky to be bleeding. Toropovsky had sustained a gunshot to the right thigh. Koltzoff fired at the suspect allowing Toropovsky to crawl out of the firefight and summon for help. Koltzoff held his position to keep the suspect from escaping and to direct and assist supporting Officers who would respond to the call for help. The shooting ceased and a standoff began which lasted through the hours of darkness until 6:00 am. The suspect then surrendered. SWAT Teams and Hostage Negotiators arrived during the standoff but their efforts were met with silence from the suspect. Their tactical placement was directed by Officer Frank Harrell who led them through the darkness and most likely in vulnerable areas during their advancement before they took cover. The suspect was taken into custody at dawn's light and the Officers recovered the suspect's .357 revolver. The fire fight had taken place within a distance of 20 feet through the thick vegetation. It was also discovered that Koltzoff's Police Dog Sendy had been shot and killed by the suspect. Toropovsky was wounded and narrowly missed serious injury and death. Mike Koltzoff, never knowing if his position was vulnerable to the suspect, and facing great danger remained in position for 5 hours until the incident concluded. The Officers and Sendy the dog met great danger with bravery to its highest degree. Sendy's Star Number was subsequently retired and a memorial plaque is displayed at the range in his memory. Sendy also received a heroism award from the SFPDA. For their efforts, actions, and bravery, Mike Toropovsky and Mike Koltzoff were awarded with the Gold Medal of Valor, and Frank Harrell was awarded with a Silver Medal of Valor. Years later, Mike Toropovsky was awarded with a Purple Heart Award from the San Francisco Police Department. Mike spent his life serving and protecting. For those who had the honor of knowing him, know the true meaning of friendship and the gift he had of making you feel cared for and important. He will be truly missed.

**Special Committee:** No report this month.

**Old Business:** No report this month.

**New Business:** Secretary Mark McDonough nominated Jim O'Meara for President in 2020. Trustee Lou Barberini seconded the motion. The motion passed. Secretary McDonough nominated Trustee Al Luenow for 2020 Vice President. Trustee Lou Barberini seconded the motion. The motion passed. Secretary McDonough nominated Dean Taylor for 2020 Treasurer. Trustee Al Luenow seconded the motion. The motion passed. Secretary McDonough nominated President Ray Kane for the open 2020 Trustee position. Trustee Al Luenow seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Good of the Order:** No report this month.

**Adjournment:** Vice President O'Meara led our board in a moment of silence for the passing of Dennis V. O'Connell and Mike Toropovsky, and for all our fallen members. Vice President O'Meara then scheduled our next meeting for Thursday, December 12, 2019, and adjourned the meeting.

**To All Members:** Members can access new beneficiary forms at [Widowsandorphans.org](http://Widowsandorphans.org). Locate RESOURCES on the face page. Click on Resources and the link will appear for the beneficiary form. Please complete the form with all your contact information and mail it to: WOAA, P.O. Box 4247, San Rafael, California 94913-4247. I can be contacted at 415 681-3660, or by email at [Markmac825@comcast.net](mailto:Markmac825@comcast.net). We give our monthly thanks and gratitude to the following people who assist us in providing service for our members: Retired San Francisco Police Captain and currently the POA Defense Administrator, Paul Chignell, Retired San Francisco Police Lieutenant and the current host of the Gold Country Reaper website, Rene LaPrevotte, Retired San Francisco Police Sergeant and the long standing editor of the POA Journal, Ray Shine, Risa Tom of the Police Commission Office, David Ng of Personnel, and the Traffic Solo Command Staff and Officers who graciously afford us the space for our meetings and files.

Mark J. McDonough,  
WOAA Secretary

# Deaths

The *POA Journal* was notified\* of the recent deaths of the following SFPD members, non-sworn employees (n/s), or affiliated persons:

**STEPHEN GERACIMOS**  
Age Not Available, Retired SFSD  
Died November 10, 2019  
Notified by R. LaPrevotte

**DONALD LANDO**  
Age 92, Retired SFPD  
Died November 2019  
Notified by R. LaPrevotte

\*Notifications are made by a POA member, family member, or other reliable source. The *POA Journal* believes the information to be true and correct, however the staff or employees of the SFPOA make no official confirmation.

### Submitting Obituaries and Memorial Tributes

Any member may submit a separate memorial tribute to a deceased member. Any such piece will not appear in the matrix, but will be placed in the Mail section, or, with prior approval of the editor, as a sidebar piece. The *Journal* will also accept and publish in the Mail section short letters about a deceased member written by a person in the immediate family. However, the *Journal* will not reprint obituaries or photos that were published in any other print media, web site, or Internet blog.

# In Memoriam...



The following San Francisco Police Officers were killed or died in the line of duty in the month of **December** of ...

- 2006: Officer Bryan Tuvera, shot by escaped convict during foot pursuit.
- 1967: Officer Herman George, ambushed at his desk by riflemen outside the station.
- 1956: Sergeant Joseph Lacey, shot while attempting to stop armed robbery of tavern.\*
- 1955: Officer Gordon Oliveira, killed in Solo motorcycle collision.
- 1937: Officer Waldemar Jentzsch, killed in Solo motorcycle crash pursuing speeding car.
- 1927: Officer Frederick Nuttman, killed in radio car collision.
- 1920: Detective Sergeant Miles Jackson, shot arresting gang-rape suspects.\*\*
- 1920: Officer Lester Dorman, shot arresting gang-rape suspects.\*\*
- 1916: Officer Martin Judge, struck by a streetcar while on foot patrol.
- 1909: Patrol Special Theodore Canham, electrocuted by downed power line.\*\*\*
- 1886: Officer Edwin Osgood, stabbed by passerby while on foot beat.

\* Sgt. Lacey's nephew, Sgt. Brian McDonnell, was killed in 1970 bombing of Park Station.

\*\* The suspects were lynched from the Santa Rosa jail and hanged.

\*\*\* This Officer's name is not on the official SFPD Memorial Wall.

Learn more about San Francisco's Finest who died in the line of duty:

Visit the *Officer Down Memorial Page* at  
[www.odmp.org/agency/3445-san-francisco-police-department-california](http://www.odmp.org/agency/3445-san-francisco-police-department-california)  
Read *Men of Courage*, by Captain Thomas G. Dempsey (retired)

# Taxes! Taxes! Taxes!

Tax law changes happen every year.  
Are you sure you are getting the maximum benefit from your tax returns? *We can help!*

- ◆ Individuals
- ◆ Small businesses
- ◆ Partnerships/LLC's
- ◆ Small Corporations
- ◆ Estates/Trusts
- ◆ Amended Returns
- ◆ Out-of-State Returns
- ◆ Audit Representation
- ◆ Year Round Service
- ◆ Payroll & Bookkeeping Services

**NED TOTAH, EA, retired SFPD**  
(Enrolled Agent)

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E-mail: [ned@totahstaxservice.com](mailto:ned@totahstaxservice.com)  
[www.totahstaxservice.com](http://www.totahstaxservice.com)



Photo courtesy of Insp. Matt Perez (ret.)

## Duggan's Serra Mortuary, Daly City

500 Westlake Ave, Daly City 650-756-4500

The Duggan Family Serving San Francisco Community Since 1885

Sullivan's and Duggan's Serra Funeral Services, 6201 Geary Blvd. SF FD228  
[duggansserra.com](http://duggansserra.com) [sullivansfh.com](http://sullivansfh.com)

## Retirement

The San Francisco Police Officers Association congratulates the following member on his recent retirement from the SFPD. This veteran will be difficult to replace, as he takes with him years of experience and job knowledge. The most recently retired member is:

- Sergeant Timothy Davis #1390 from Bayview Station

*The above was listed on SFPD Personnel Order #24 (November 13, 2019).*

## Thank You POA Journal Contributors and Staff

By Ray Shine,  
Editor

*Each December, we like to express our appreciation to the many regular and semi-regular POA Journal contributors and advertisers. Without them, the monthly paper would be less interesting, and much less sustainable. Over the course of a 12-issue volume—hundreds of articles, photographs, and columns must be written, formatted, proofed, and printed in order to get the word out to the POA membership. Some of our contributors are first-timers, or send things in occasionally. But, we would like to acknowledge the contributions our Journal regulars. We know we may miss a few, and apologize in advance for any of those omissions. — Ed.*

**Michelangelo Apodaca** – Word Find puzzles

**Rick Andreotti** – POA Secretary News, Minutes of Board of Directors Meetings

**Dennis Bianchi** – Book Reviews

**Cyndee Bates** – POA Office Manager

**Steve Bosshard** – Retiree News and Updates

**Pat Burke** – Event Photographs

**Al Casciato** – News from the Credit Union

**Paul Chignell** – Legal and Administrative Issues, other Current Events

**Greg Corrales** – American Legion Police/Fire Post #456 News.

**Liane Corrales** – Guardians of the City and Columbia Association

**Leah Daye** – Office Staff

**Laxman Dharmani** – PAL reports

**Ed Garcia** – Loons Nest Golf Club

**Lisa Marie Gerard** – Dispatcher of the Month

**Bob Guinan** – BALEAF, Make-a-Wish and the San Francisco Giants organizations

**Martin Halloran** – Community Services

**Mike Hebel** – Ask Mike, Retirement Seminars, Deferred Compensation Updates

**Steve Johnson** – Close Encounters

**Erika Jones-Clary** – POA Web Master

**Val Kirwan** – POA Retiree Representative; Facility Coordinator

**Rene LaPrevotte** – Retiree Updates, Internet References

**Zoila Lechuga** – Dispatcher of the Month

**Matt Lobre** – Board meeting minutes, updates from UCOPS, Labor Issues news

**Karl Ma** – SFPD Wilderness Program

**Kevin Martin** – Representation News and Updates

**Robin Matthews** – Bay Area Law Enforcement Assistance Fund (BALEAF)

**Tracy McCray** – Poker Tourney, Misc. news and events from around the department

**Mark J. McDonough** – Widows' and Orphans' Aid Association

**Sabine Medrano** – PAL Reports

**Susan Merritt** – The Technology Corner

**Tony Montoya** – President's Message, POA Grievance and Labor Issues

**Michael Nevin** – General submissions relevant to POA Members

**Maggie Ortelte** – Notification of deaths of SFPD retirees

**Raymond Padmore** – Liaison between Chief's Office and POA Journal, General Contributor

**Sean Perdomo** – Treasurer's reports, other POA updates

**Georgette Petropoulos** – Journal Layout and Production

**POA Advertisers** – Collectively continued their show of support and appreciation

**Michael Popoff** – Advertising Manager

**Nick Shihadeh** – Sports Editor

**Peter Thoshinsky** – General Photography from around the department and the city

**Staff Writer** – Miscellaneous Contributions

## Retiring Soon? Read this information first

# Retirement Check List

By Captain Al Casciato, Retired  
Elected Retirement Board Commissioner

This year I have received an inordinate number of calls from members of all classifications (civilian and sworn) requesting advice on what pitfalls they should be aware of as they prepare to retire. The following is a synopsis of my response to those inquiries.

1. Schedule an appointment with the retirement staff for you and your spouse/significant other. During that appointment **make sure that your spouse/significant other is eligible for a pension continuation** should you predecease them. On several occasions it has been discovered that the spouse or significant other was never placed on file at the system. That is because members entering into the relationship registered at the Health Service System for medical coverage but failed to notify the Retirement System.
2. If you plan to move out of the area after retirement **I would strongly suggest that you rent out your home in the Bay Area and rent a home or apartment in the area you would like to move to.** Spend a year there so you can experience the **availability of medical services**, weather patterns, community and culture before you make a permanent move. I cannot count the number of calls I have received from those trying to move
3. If you decide to rollover your deferred compensation monies to a new fund make sure you are very well informed. Once you are out of the system **you cannot reposit.**
4. Update **your beneficiary** at your Retirement interview. Most of us still have our parents, previous spouses and/or a friend we listed when we first entered City Service.
5. At your retirement interview double check the salary numbers the system has on file for you by which your pension will be calculated. The departments forward the numbers to the system and **there have been many errors.** Examples such as not reporting longevity pay, hazard pay etc or having the wrong record of someone with the same name. I strongly suggest you bring a copy of your current payroll stub to review at your interview.
6. If you are retiring on a disability or rating check with your worker's compensation attorney or Worker's Comp as to how retirement will affect your ongoing treatment. Especially if you have been promised "Lifetime Medical". This is an area of much consternation for many. Hope this helps. If you do have a further question don't hesitate to write me at [croceasciato@gmail.com](mailto:croceasciato@gmail.com)

## John Cagney & Eddie Yu Retirement Dinner



Italian  
Athletic Club

Thursday  
01/30/2020  
1800-2300

\$80  
Per Person

Includes: Full buffet dinner & gift  
(salad, anti pasta, pasta, choice chicken/salmon/tri-tip,  
dessert and bottle of wine at each table).

**For Tickets Call 415 638-0099**

**or Contact:**

Jon Kasper — Homicide  
Matt Mason — SID  
Kevin Murray — Robbery  
Derrick Jackson — Robbery  
Tom Maguire — NIU  
Dave Batchedler — Co E  
Kyle Cagney — Co C

**NO TICKETS AT THE DOOR**

After enjoying my amazing 25-year career as one of San Francisco's Finest, I have been working diligently in my second career as a Real Estate Agent. I value traditions that are based on excellence, trust and service. Service you deserve and an agent you can trust. Please call me if I can assist you in your real estate needs.



**Miriam Pengel**

Realtor

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# The Great Ed Epting Redux

By Paul Chignell,  
Former President and Current Legal  
Defense Administrator

Last month's article describing "The Great Ed Epting and the SFPD Tactical Unit" delineated the original Tactical Unit members but one person was not listed.

Thanks to retiree Ray Koenig for calling and letting me know about another Great one, former Sgt. Charles Schuler, who retired as Captain Charles Schuler.

Captain Schuler was one of the five (5) Sergeants at Tactical in the early years.

He entered the SFPD after serving in the United States Army in Korea while in the 7th Military Police Company.

His career with the SFPD was exemplary as he graduated from the FBI national Academy, earned numerous medals and awards and retired after thirty-one (31) years on January 31, 1986.

Captain Schuler died of a heart attack on October 17, 2012, shortly after his 80th birthday.

Below are photos of Sgt. Schuler and Captain Schuler — a great man and a great police officer.



*Happy holidays from all of us at the  
San Francisco Police Officers Association.*

*We wish you a joyous and safe holiday season.*



**CALIFORNIA COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION**  
&  
**INTERNATIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION**



**CHRISTMAS DINNER**  
&  
**SPECIAL PRESENTATION HONORING**  
**JAMES PERA**  
Retired SFPD Sergeant

Also recognizing Lorraine Lombardo (SFPD) and Christina Olivolo (Le Donne d'Italia) for special achievements and SFPD's Michael Favetti, Peter Busalacchi & Jerry DeFilippo for their years of service

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019**

**S.F. Italian Athletic Club, 1630 Stockton Street, San Francisco**  
No-host Bar 6:30 pm, Dinner 7:30 pm (Four Course Dinner with Wine, choice of Grilled Salmon, Chicken Piccata or Tri Tip)  
**\$70 per Person**

Contact Sgt. Steve Smalley, Columbia Association Treasurer/Secretary, at [columbiaca@yahoo.com](mailto:columbiaca@yahoo.com) to RSVP. Send checks (put selection of main course on check), payable to Columbia Association, to PO Box 330416, San Francisco, Ca 94133

RSVP by Tuesday, December 2. Parking is available at public garages on Vallejo, above and across the street from Company A

**INGLESIDE CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
Ticket Price \$65.00

Sit Down Dinner Choice

- Prime Rib w/ scalloped potatoes & vegetables
- Salmon in champagne sauce w/ vegetables & rice
- Chicken Breast in chasseur sauce w/ vegetables & rice
- Vegetarian

Meals served with soup, salad, bread and butter. Ice Cream and coffee for dessert.

Tickets on sale until December 14th on a first come first serve basis  
Pay via: Cash, or Check payable to Ingleside Floral Fund For purchases or questions contact Krystle Guzman, Shawn Phillips, Tom Hauscarriague, or Yesi Brandt

**DJ for Dancing – Photo Booth – Full Bar!**

December 21, 2019 6:00 pm - Midnight  
Basque Cultural Center  
599 Railroad Avenue SSF, 94880

**Contribute to the Journal; It's Your Paper.**

Send us your stuff; unit news or events, good deeds, fundraisers, sports highlights, kudos, comments or invites. The deadline for the December issue is Friday, December 20, 2019. Contact [journal@sfpoa.org](mailto:journal@sfpoa.org) or phone 415-861-5060 for more info.

# “Active Attacker” Video

By Sgt. Justin Paul Bugarin,  
Field Tactics Force Options Unit

On November 4, 2019, numerous members from of the SFPD, CCSF PD, and SFFD came together to record an Active Attacker Response Training Video. FTFO Unit, Homeland Security Unit, the Tactical Unit, and the Video Productions Unit collaborated with CCSF Chief Fatooh and SFFD Deputy Chief Cochrane to film this much needed training refresher. To show a chaotic and dynamic incident, volunteers from community programs such as ALERT, NERT, Police Reserve Program, Cadets, and the PSA's took time out of a beautiful Sunday to portray fleeing victims and witnesses. Members from Patrol portrayed the first responding units.

It was a long and arduous task to capture the inherent challenges of a stressful incident such as an Active Attack, but everyone involved showed great work ethic and positive attitudes to ensure the mission was accomplished. Like any huge project, sustenance was key and the



SFPOA provided catering to the 50 plus persons in attendance.

Not only will this video provide training to all First Responders, but it has created stronger bonds amongst other agencies and with the community.



We caught up with former Mayor Willie Brown last month. Always refreshing to sit down with a leader who has a fierce love for our city and a desire to make it better.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT WORK INJURY CLAIMS TO MEMBERS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 798 AND THE SAN FRANCISCO POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

### ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION “CARVE-OUT” PROGRAM

The Department of Human Resources has negotiated a Workers' Compensation Alternative Dispute Resolution “Carve-Out” program in collaboration with the San Francisco Firefighters Local 798 and the San Francisco Police Officers Association. A “Carve-Out” is a legally-created framework to manage claims that eliminates red tape, allows for a more collaborative approach, resolves problems faster and helps return employees to work without lowering benefits.



#### THINGS TO KNOW

- Applies to all work injury claims filed on or after July 1, 2019
- Members with claims filed prior to July 1, 2019 can apply to opt-in to the program
- You can still obtain legal counsel
- Report Injuries to the Nurse Triage/Injury Hotline available 24/7: **1-855-850-2249**



#### NEW FEATURES

- Ombudsperson/Member Advocate available to all employees in the Carve-Out Program
- Disputes are resolved by agreed doctors, mediators, and arbitrators
- All new and quicker process to address treatment disputes

**For Carve-Out opt-in form, the Nurse Triage Hotline number, or more information on Workers' Compensation programs please visit our Website.**

<https://sfdhr.org/workers-compensation-alternative-dispute-resolution-carve-out-program>



# POA in the News

Dear members,

November 7, 2019

As you know, yesterday a considerable controversy erupted after video of Supervisor Sandra Fewer leading a chant of "F@%K the POA" at the Chesa Boudin election party went viral. Below is a selection of news clips and stories regarding Fewer's vulgar insults and the SFPOA response. Additional stories ran on KGO, KTVU and other regional stations.

## TV News on "F@%K the POA!"



<https://tinyurl.com/vf75mzk>



<https://tinyurl.com/talv2px>



<https://tinyurl.com/qtevoqw>

To: All Members  
From: Tony Montoya, President

November 19, 2019

Over the past week there has been a considerable focus from national media outlets about the negative impact on public safety that the election of Chesa Boudin will have on San Francisco. Based on our efforts to expose the dangerous policy proposals made by Boudin, reporters and opinion writers are zeroing in on what our city may look like four years from now. Also, this week we were able to roll out our successful Pink Patch campaign which helped raise nearly \$20,000 during the month of October. See below for a sampling of news stories.

## Boudin Causes National Stir



**San Francisco Police Officers Association President: New D.A.'s pledge is cause for concern to officers**

[Fox News Video](#)



<https://tinyurl.com/vh79949>



**George Soros notches more leftist DAs in push to remake criminal-justice system**

Mr. Boudin's upset victory last week over Democratic establishment candidate Suzy Loftus alarmed San Francisco police officers like Sgt. Tony Montoya, who worried that the election will make the city safer

for criminals and more perilous for law-abiding tourists and residents.

"You're sending a very, very wrong message that you can come into San Francisco and do whatever you want, and there are no consequences," said Sgt. Montoya, president of the San Francisco Police Officers Association, which opposed Mr. Boudin's candidacy.

Washington Times

### Revolutionary San Francisco



*The new district attorney will ignore quality-of-life offenses.*

The deterioration of the City by the Bay has been tragic to watch. From the Tenderloin to Mid-Market to the Mission, open use of narcotics is commonplace, homeless encampments dominate public spaces, and human feces dot the sidewalks. The middle class has fled punishing housing costs, and neighborhoods are increasingly plagued with burglaries and property crimes. Mr. Boudin says rightly that he shouldn't be judged by his parents' actions. Yet he made their incarceration a centerpiece of his campaign, explaining that it showed him the injustice of the criminal-justice system. He rarely if ever expressed sympathy for the murdered officers, and San Francisco's police force was a major target of his campaign. At his election party last week supporters erupted in profane chants about the Police Officers Association.

Wall Street Journal

## SFPOA Raises \$19K For Cancer Research



<https://tinyurl.com/wgz7tjt>





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[www.RLSlawyers.com](http://www.RLSlawyers.com)



### SFPOA Member Benefit (Retired and Active)

The San Francisco Police Officers Association provides Free Notary Service to all members, active and retired.

This service is available **by appointment** Monday through Friday during normal business hours at 800 Bryant Street, 2nd Floor.

Call Office Manager Cyndee Bates at 415-861-5060, or email her at [Cyndee@sfpoa.org](mailto:Cyndee@sfpoa.org) to schedule a Notary appointment.

# Ranchin' Vets

By Tony Montoya

Ranchin' Vets is a nonprofit organization founded by SFPD Officer Kevin Downs and his wife Corey. Inspired by family that served in the military, Corey and Kevin co-founded Ranchin' Vets to be a resource for veterans transitioning out of the military. Kevin witnessed the challenges that our veterans are faced with upon returning from combat when his brother came home from multiple deployments to Iraq post 9/11. Simultaneously, Kevin worked as a seasonal ranch hand at a cattle operation in Northern California where he experienced the peace and tranquility that came at the end of a hard day's work.



It was then that the concept of Ranchin' Vets was created. Since then, Kevin and Corey have held numerous fundraising events including the annual Veterans Day BBQ, graciously hosted and sponsored by Loren and Lisa Poncia. Stemple Creek Ranch.

The SFPOA is proud of all the great work that Kevin and Corey do on a daily basis and we are also humbled to be part sponsors on some of their fundraising events. We know there are a lot of very deserving nonprofit organizations worthy of your support. Please consider a tax deductible donation to Ranchin' Vets. Also visit the Stemple Creek Ranch webpage to see the amazing array of meats they have to offer.

Ranchin' Vets is a Tax-Exempt 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization - Tax ID #46-1168103



Officer Kevin Downs (left) and his wife Corey (Right) presenting a Wood American Flag to Loren and Lisa Poncia, owners of Stemple Creek Ranch in appreciation of their continued support to Ranchin Vets. The plaque was made by a Veteran Owned, Veteran Operated, Combat Veteran Made company, Flags of Valor.



Retired SFPD Sgt Phil Downs and his wife Debbie hard at work preparing burgers for the large crowd that attended the event.



## Saturday, December 7, 2019, 8:00 a.m. Aquatic Park, San Francisco

Join us for a day of family fun at the iconic Brave the Bay challenge, where your bravery will help children with critical illnesses around the Greater Bay Area be brave!

Choose from three different athletic challenges or participate in all three.

**Walk for Wishes**  
9:00 a.m.



Embark on an inspiring 5K Walk and Fun Run!

**Pull for Wishes**  
10:30 a.m.



Test your strength in the legendary Cable Car Pull!

**Plunge for Wishes**  
11:00 a.m.



Take a daring dip in the San Francisco Bay!

presented by:



benefiting:



# SF Dispatcher of the Month



London Breed  
Mayor

**Department of Emergency Management**  
1011 Turk Street, San Francisco, CA 94102  
Division of Emergency Communications  
Phone: (415) 558-3800 Fax: (415) 558-3843  
Division of Emergency Services  
Phone: (415) 487-5000 Fax: (415) 487-5043



Mary Ellen Carroll  
Executive Director

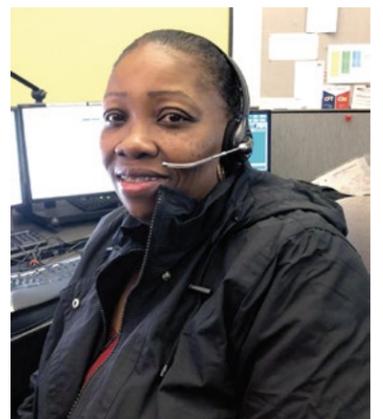
Date: November 1, 2019  
To: **Christine Butler, Public Safety Dispatcher**  
From: Zoila Lechuga, Employee Recognition Coordinator  
Re: Communications **Dispatcher of the Month — November 2019**

The Department of Emergency Management has selected you as **Communications Dispatcher of the Month for November 2019**.

During a shift in September 2019, at approximately 0654 hours you received a call from a male caller indicating his four day old baby was not breathing. Christine, you immediately obtained the address, confirmed it, and dispatched the medical call — all within 21 seconds. Your exceptional professionalism was evident throughout the call as you gave clear and precise instructions to the caller, in what was an extremely difficult and stressful situation. Your demeanor and tone were very calm and composed as you gave rescue breaths and compressions instruction to a distressed father who was struggling to remain composed himself. Your encouraging words and instructions never faltered throughout the call, you remained on the line until the Fire Department made contact with the caller and the baby.

Christine, as we know medical calls are some of the most difficult calls a dispatcher will process, but medical calls involving infants or children are especially hard. The way you handled this call is a true example of what an exceptional, compassionate, dedicated and proficient dispatcher you truly are.

Your notable dedication and professionalism is highly regarded by all your colleagues. We are proud of you here at DEM. **Congratulations, Christine!**



For more information and to register, visit [www.BraveTheBay.com](http://www.BraveTheBay.com). All proceeds benefit Make-A-Wish Greater Bay Area. Additional fundraising is encouraged.

# Police-Fire Post 456 News



By Greg Corrales, SFPD 1969-2014

The five Sullivan brothers of Waterloo, Iowa, died together at the Battle of Guadalcanal in 1942. Six family members were among those who gathered aboard the guided-missile destroyer The Sullivans, based at Naval Station Mayport in Florida, to honor their story. Jim Sullivan, 78, wasn't even two years old when his father, Albert, was killed during the Battle of Guadalcanal in 1942. In death though, Albert Sullivan — along with his older brothers George, Francis, Joseph and Madison — became rallying points for a nation at war, symbols of sacrifice and a fighting spirit. A movie was even made about them, with an appropriate title: "The Fighting Sullivans." The Sullivan brothers came from a blue-collar Irish Catholic family in Waterloo, Iowa. They joined the Navy after Pearl Harbor with the insistence that they would serve together. The Navy had a policy of separating siblings, but this was not strictly enforced. All five brothers died when a torpedo from the Japanese submarine I-26 struck their ship, the light cruiser Juneau, on Nov. 13, 1942. The torpedo likely hit the thinly armored light cruiser at or near the ammunition magazines and the ship exploded and quickly sank. In all, 687 sailors died in the attack.

Tom and Alleta Sullivan were informed of their fate on January 12. That morning, the boys' father, Tom, was preparing for work when three men in uniform approached his door. "I have some news for you about your boys," the naval officer said. "Which one?" asked Tom. "I'm sorry," the officer replied. "All five." It was, and remains, the single greatest wartime sacrifice of any American family. Try to imagine the grief that came with five sons dying at the same time. The Sullivans reacted to their sons' deaths by going on a year-long war-bond drive across the country. They met countless service members, the president and some celebrities. Journalists told of their sacrifice again and again. The movie, made in 1944, spread their story even wider. Later, Alleta participated in the launching of a destroyer USS *The Sullivans*, named after her sons.

As a direct result of the Sullivans' deaths (and the deaths of four of the Borgstrom brothers within a few months of each other two years later), the U.S. War Department adopted the Sole Survivor Policy. The **Sole Survivor Policy** or DoD Directive 1315.15 "Special Separation Policies for Survivorship" describes a set of regulations in the Military of the United States that are designed to protect members of a family from the draft or from combat duty if they have already lost family members in military service. In World War II, the Borgstrom brothers, Elmer, Clyde, and twins Rolon and Rulon, were killed within a few months of each other in 1944. Their parents then successfully petitioned for their son Boyd, who was also on active duty, to be released from service.

A team of ocean explorers say a U.S. submarine with 80 sailors on board when it disappeared in 1944 has been discovered in Japanese waters. The "Lost 52 Project" announced Sunday that the World War II submarine Grayback was

found in June after it had disappeared in February 1944 during its final combat mission. The U.S. Navy officially verified the discovery of the submarine that was located about 50 nautical miles south of Okinawa by the group of ocean explorers. The group says in a release that this is the 5th WWII submarine discovery for the team led by undersea explorer Tim Taylor using robotics and other underwater technological methods and vehicles. The project's objective is to find the 52 U.S. submarines that were lost in WWII.

With eight battle stars, Grayback was one of the great boats in Navy history, credited with sinking 14 enemy vessels and 64,835 tons of shipping during World War II. The boat left Pearl Harbor on 28 January 1944 for the East China Sea on its tenth and final war patrol. On 19 February, Grayback attacked Japanese convoy TAPA 02, sinking the enemy army cargo ship *Taikei Maru* southwest of Formosa. When sister transport *Toshin Maru* retrieved the survivors, Grayback sank it, too. By then, Grayback was down to two torpedoes and was ordered home. On 26 February, however, Japanese naval aircraft located and attacked the sub in the East China Sea, damaging the boat. That didn't stop Grayback from sinking the naval transport *Ceylon Maru* the next day. Hours later, a Japanese plane spied an American submarine operating on the surface and attacked, later reporting that the boat "exploded and sank immediately." Japanese antisubmarine vessels then salted the East China Sea with depth charges. Air bubbles and then a telltale trail of heavy oil gurgling to the surface seemed to mark where Grayback went on eternal patrol. Grayback failed to reach Midway as expected by 7 March and was listed as overdue and presumed lost 23 days later.

A new Purple Heart Medal Forever stamp went on sale nationwide Oct. 4. The medal is the oldest military decoration in the world in present use and the first award made available to a common soldier. The Purple Heart Medal 2019 stamp is a redesign that features a purple border matching the purple of the medal and its ribbon. The Purple Heart Medal 2019 stamp is being issued as a Forever stamp in self-adhesive sheets of 20. The stamps may be purchased through The Postal Store at [usps.com/shop](https://usps.com/shop), by mail through USA Philatelic or at Post Office locations nationwide.

It is my sad duty to report that Post 456 members Don Wilson and Mike Toropovsky have transferred to Post Everlasting. The November 12th Post 456 meeting was adjourned in their memory. Rest in Peace brothers.

The San Francisco Police-Fire Post meets on the second Tuesday of every month. In lieu of our normal meeting in December we will be visiting the patients at Fort Miley VA hospital, spreading Christmas cheer, on Tuesday, December 10, 2019. We will then meet on January 14. We meet at the Park Station community room. Meetings start at 1600 hours. All veterans with a law enforcement or firefighter background are welcome. Questions should be directed to Post Adjutant Greg Corrales at (415) 759-1076 or at [gc1207@comcast.net](mailto:gc1207@comcast.net).

## Police-Fire Post 456 Awards Dinner Thursday, November 21, 2019



Chief William Scott, Post Adjutant Greg Corrales, Kevin Endo, Tessa Casey, Post Commander Gary Gee.



Post Commander Gary Gee, John Cathey, Chief William Scott.



Kirk Forbes, Fire Chief Jeanine Nicholson, Post Commander Gary Gee.



Frank Cercos IV, Fire Chief Jeanine Nicholson, Joshua Edelman, Ron Rosser, Post Vice Commander Frank Wood, Post Commander Gary Gee.

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# Family House Thanksgiving 2019

By Kevin Martin,  
Assistant Legal Defense Administrator  
San Francisco Police Officers' Association

For the past fifteen years, the POA has been the principle volunteer force in providing UCSF Family House patients, their families and guests with a Thanksgiving feast.

This tradition started fifteen years ago under the POA Administration of Gary Delagnes and continues today under the watchful eye of Tony Montoya.

Through the years, the POA has amassed a wonderful group of volunteers who donate their time and talents to provide an excellent meal and a wonderful time for the very special guests.

For the past few years, the wonderful and now retired Edie Lewis took over for Kevin Martin who coordinated the events. Not skipping a beat, the charming and talented Jasmine Barranti who has been a volunteer with Edie for the past five years has taken over the reins and is the chief coordinator for the Family House Thanksgiving Dinner event.



Mind you, this is no simple task as an incredible amount of time and effort goes into making this such an important and special event. Jasmine, a five-year department veteran assigned to Central Station, incorporated the services of the great Joe Marté, who proved to be the perfect assistant to Jasmine. Together, they coordinated the event with the Family House staff, planned the menu, did all the shopping, coordinated the volunteer officers for the event and essentially oversaw the entire project

through to fruition.

Many hands are required to make sure the event is a success and this year was certainly no different. With so many people involved in the production of the meal, there are certainly an equal amount of wonderful people behind the scenes who make the event happen.

Great thanks to the POA leadership and its collective members for their support and generosity in this most worthwhile event. Special thanks to POA Office Manager Cyndee Bates and her valuable assistant, Leah Daye, for all their assistance in working with Roberts Corned Meats to coordinate the turkey and ham provisions. A very special thanks to Debbie Dixon Ward of Roberts Corned Meats (1030 Bryant St., San Francisco) and her staff for once again providing turkeys and hams for the annual event as well as their generous donations to Family House. Roberts Corned Meats has been a long time valued friend and partner to the POA and its members for over fifty years. We cherish our friendship and relationship with these wonderful people and look forward to many more years of valued friendship. Not one to be counted out for such a special event, Edie Lewis and Allyn Luenow Jr. donated five gallons of Mitchell's ice cream for desert.

Of course, none of this would be at all possible without the compassion or care of the volunteers who stepped up and gave of their talents and time.

Officers Kevin Endo, Stephen Riblett, Talent Tang, Kwame Lovell of Central station and Janning Ma of Richmond station combined their collective talents to prepare and cook the entire meal which consisted of antipasto platters; appetizers; turkey, ham, mashed potatoes and gravy; string beans almondine, salad, drinks and desert. Special volunteers Tyler Williams (Jasmine's husband) and Alyssa Lovell (Kwame's wife) were on hand to make sure all was in good order. We are so grateful for their presence and hard work!

One of the very special treats of the day were two hundred (yes 200!) tamales prepared by the wonderful and talented Amanda Dunne and her family along with the most valued assistance of La Senora Claudia Sanchez who spent countless hours preparing by hand delicious, authentic tamales.

Thank you all so very much for your kindness, consideration and collective



From top to bottom: Talent Tang, Kevin Martin, Stephen Riblett, Tyler Williams, Alyssa Lovell, Kevin Endo, Joe Marté, "Santal" Kwame Lovell, Jasmine Barranti.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAMILY HOUSE STAFF

talents working together for such a memorable event.

We also offer our very special thanks to the leadership and staff of UCSF Family House for the honor and privilege of allowing us to be a part of your family. We are so grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a great part of San Francisco's care and compassion. We look forward to many more years of a wonderful relationship.

It is so true that with Family House, the more you give of yourself the more you receive. There is nothing better than to see the face of a smiling child who is going through some very difficult times. There is nothing better than to see the happy faces of parents and family members who have a loved one stricken with a terrible disease finding joy and comfort in the face of their heartbreaking situation.

One does not have to look long for putting things in their proper perspective after spending time at Family House or visiting with the sick children and their families at UCSF Hospital once a month, which Sgt. Brian Kneucker coordinates.

Like past President Gary Delagnes used to say, "If you think you're having a bad day, just go up to UCSF Hospital or Family House and spend a few hours with the folks there."

Fifteen years ago when Family House was located on 50 Irving Street and the POA was on its maiden Thanksgiving Feast Voyage, the group of volunteers were gathered just before dinner when "Madison" a beautiful girl of five years burst into our lives. We were all taken by Madison and her fairy wings attached to her back. Just a precious angel with a smile and disposition that would



melt your heart. Madison made quite an impression on all of us that day and for quite some time thereafter. Sadly, Madison traded her fairy wings for angel wings but her memory remains strong.

This year we were treated to a very special "celebrity" volunteer. "Santal", a very sweet and kind five-year old girl made her way into the kitchen and in no time was the star! Santal was very helpful and assisted us in many ways. Throughout the afternoon and evening, Santal kept us smiling and on our toes as she gave us directions and instructions to make sure we had everything right. She was a true angel in our very presence.

The words and sentiments of Jasmine Barranti sum up the mood of the day perfectly...

"My heart is so full today. What a treat to be able to work alongside such selfless officers and volunteers for such a worthwhile endeavor!"



# PAL News & Updates

By PAL Staff



Greetings from the SFPAL team. November was another busy month for PAL, so let's get right to it.

The month started off with a night of PT/DT training at the Academy. Our future crime fighters spent the evening working on their physical conditioning. Our Cadets tested their physical endurance with a night of cardio and weight training. SFPAL stresses the importance of living a healthy lifestyle and tries to instill healthy habits into our program participants. Our Cadets worked out hard, and then were lucky enough to hear from Sgt. Pomatto about nutrition and the role it plays in a healthy lifestyle. He shared with them what a healthy diet should entail, including the importance

They also answered questions from our Cadets about what it's like to be on patrol in San Francisco.

The night ended with the Officers assisting Officer Costello and Officer Morrow with Sims preparations. In order to prepare the Cadets for their final Sims test at the end of the month, they practiced two scenarios. Our Cadets are usually nervous prior to doing their Sims as they are being placed in stressful situations. Two Cadets that really stood out that night, were Sgt. Jason Chan and Cadet Samantha Laffey; showing great composure and leadership during the



One of our SFPAL Jiu Jitsu kids, Robert Leung, was just awarded the Junior Giants Willie Mac Award. Robert won the 2019 Junior Giants Willie Mac Award for the San Francisco Park and Rec League. He was presented the award by Giants alum, Noah Lowry and Mike Felder, on November 16th. The Junior Giants Willie Mac Award goes to one outstanding Junior Giants player and coach/team parent that best represents their league, as chosen by their league commissioner. A Junior Giants Willie Mac recipient exemplifies Confidence, Integrity, Leadership and Teamwork both on and off the field and are recognized during a home-plate ceremony at AT&T Park on either Junior Giants Day or Coaches Recognition Day. All award winners, and a guest, are invited to a special luncheon at the end of the season. Way to go, Robert! We could not be more proud of your accomplishment. Keep up the great work!

into the classroom and at home. What a fun season we had, way to finish strong SFPAL 49ers!

We also concluded our Flag Football season by participating in the Pro Bowl at Kezar Stadium earlier this month. The game was made up of the All Stars from the league. Marcel Banks, Titus Hughes and Amari Hill were our All Stars and were part of the winning team who won the Pro Bowl 25-0! Way to represent.

In addition, particular recognition to Rick Bruce, for stepping up and leading a very young flag football team to the Rec & Park semi-finals. SFPAL is grateful for your commitment to the organization and the youth of San Francisco.

It is with great privilege to highlight Cadelia Swain (12U) and Krystal Dixon (10U) from our SFPAL 49ers Football program. Both were shining stars for the season. These young ladies, Cadelia and Krystal have shown tenacity, resilience, and true grit obliterating gender biases and stereotypes. We could not be more proud, keep up the great work and follow your dreams.

As we conclude the 2019 SFPAL Football and Cheer season, it's time to reflect on the lessons learned. Through hard work, perseverance, and determination we can come together as a team and succeed both on and off the field. The coaching staff was able to create an environment that fostered discipline, respect for oneself and others, and integrity which we have seen transfer both

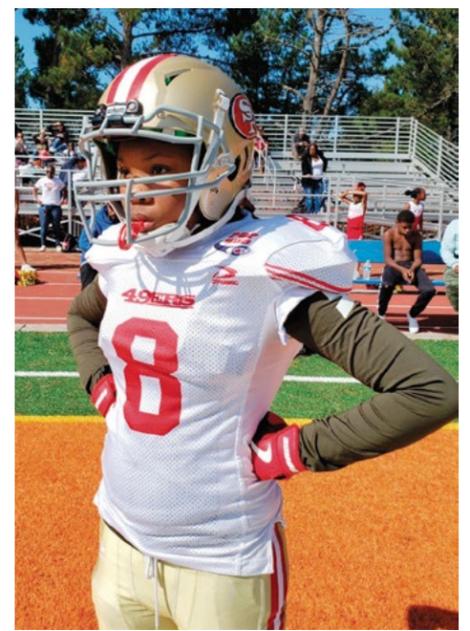
That's all folks. We have more exciting stuff coming up before the year winds down and we can't wait to share some of those updates with you in December. Until next month,  
Your SFPAL Team.

of hydration. We are hopeful that our Cadets will take the lessons learned and apply it to their daily routine. Thank You very much Sgt. Pomatto for taking the time to work with our Cadets.

scenarios. They not only impressed their classmates, but also the sworn Officers in the room. Great job Jason and Samantha, keep up the good work! Thank you again to Ari and Ryan for your continued dedication to SFPAL.

On November 14th, our Cadets were treated to a visit from two former SFPAL Cadets who are now two of San Francisco's finest: Officer Ari Russack-Smith, from Mission Station, and Officer Ryan Prasadi, from Central Station. Both Officers spent several years with the SFPAL Cadet program. They worked their way to the rank of Captain within the Cadet program and they were nice enough to speak to our Cadets about their time with the program and how it helped prepare them for the Police Academy.

Our SFPAL Toy Drive in partnership with Costco and the Police Credit Union benefiting Sutter Health Mission Bernal Campus is under way. This event is always greatly supported by our Cadets. We are still accepting donations if you would like to help us put some smiles on kids' faces this holiday season. Items can be dropped off at the SFPD Academy or the Police Credit Union branch located on Irving.





## Retirement Planning Seminar Class # 76

# Three Days at Sigmund Stern Grove

By Mike Hebel,  
Welfare Officer, Attorney, CFP

The Trocadero Clubhouse at Sigmund Stern Grove hosted the latest SFPD-POA pre-retirement seminar (September 10th, 11th and 12th, 2019) — class #76. The Stern Grove with its club house and concert pavilion is a beloved community treasure and part of San Francisco's romantic history. The Clubhouse, built in 1892, as the Trocadero Hotel and beer garden, is a beautiful Victorian, stick-style resort with its multi-gabled roof, Hansel and Gretel architecture, and delicate ornamentation. Shortly after the 1906 earthquake and fire, Police Chief William Biggley arrested Mayor Eugene Schmidt's bag man — the notorious Abe Ruef — on corruption charges at this very site following a gun battle with the oak front door still bearing bullet holes. Just after this infamous arrest, the Chief disappeared while on a late-night boat trip from Tiburon to SF. The Grove property was purchased in 1931 by Mrs. Sigmund Stern and donated to the City. It is a festive and fitting venue for the seminar.

### Seminar in its 35th Year

This seminar, titled "The Gino Marionetti and Michael Sugrue Memorial Seminar", honors its two founders. May they rest in peace. This seminar is now

in its 35th year having started in March 1985. Since its inception, more than 3,123 participants have completed this seminar.

Special thanks to **Captain Denise Flaherty**, Police Academy, for providing the necessary funding to expand the seminar subjects. A big thank you to **Chief William Scott** for continuing the long-standing tradition of allowing members a three-day training detail as a thank-you for years of dedicated service — to make their succession plans for a successful and prosperous retirement. Chief Scott continues the tradition of gifting every retiree with his/her police officer star as the Department's recognition for a job well done; this has also reduced to zero the number of missing/lost police star reports made by those members approaching retirement age.

### 44 Participants

Forty-four participants attended this lively and informative seminar which is coordinated by **Cyndee Bates**, POA staff administrator. Some members attended with their spouses/partners (which is much encouraged).

The seat of honor, which is reserved for the most senior member(s) in attendance, was given to **Mark Alvarez** and **Narda Gillespie** — both member of the 166th class entering the SFPD on June 29, 1990.

Class attendees were from the 166th (June 1990) to the 230th recruit class (May 2011). The 268th recruit class is about to complete their basic POST academy training program; the Academy now has concurrent classes and this will continue for the next 60 months.

POA president **Tony Montoya** congratulated and thanked the attendees for their decades of POA membership. He spoke about the promotive tests (Q50, Q60, Q80) to be held in 2020, about a November 2020 initiative petition Charter amendment pertaining to an Experienced Employee Retention Program (EERP), and about the 6 pensionable parts of total compensation, namely, base pay, POST pay, like-work like-pay, motorcycle/HONDA hazard pay, experienced officer incentive pay, and retention/longevity pay.

**Mike Hebel** urged all to consider participation in the 30 – 30 programs: 30 years of service and then at least 30+ years' collecting a retirement benefit with no death before age 80. Mike also urged participants to continue to collect retirement benefits at least until their annual benefit equals or exceeds the total contributions made to the retirement system over the participants' career.

### Instructor Comments

**Veronica Rodriguez** and **Felix Chen** set forth all the basics of the **CCSF Retirement plans**. They most adequately described the benefits of and qualifications for service and industrial disability pensions. Also explained were death benefits, beneficiary designation, and cost of living adjustments. To increase your pension: work longer, get older, get promoted, and hope for many more pay raises. Also, buy-back miscellaneous time (accrued during police academy) to obtain a separate monthly pension check, albeit small; such buy-back must be completed before retirement. With

regard to service pension calculations, the age factor goes up every 3 months while the service factor increases each day. To schedule a retirement interview, call 415-487-7070 up to 6 months before your expected date of retirement. She urged members to bring their spouse/domestic partner to this interview. Also, said Veronica, keep your beneficiary designation current. They both noted that the date of retirement chosen will affect cost of living adjustments as well as the OU/VA payout. The Basic & Supplemental COLAs are effective on July 1 of each year; to get the COLA for any given year you must retire on or before July 1 of that year; but remember that payouts (OU/VA) are based on your rate of compensation for the month in which you retire (higher payout if you retire after July 1). There were options for retiring members to reduce their monthly pension so that a spouse/partner/beneficiary could get a larger monthly pension as a survivor. Veronica explained that the pension benefit calculation. It is based on the highest average monthly compensation paid to a member. The Retirement System compares each member's earnings for the 12 months immediately preceding their retirement date with the member's highest fiscal year earnings. Whichever is higher is used for the pension calculation. She explained the cost of living adjustment changes resulting from the successful passage of Proposition B (June 2008 ballot) wherein the basic COLA (up to 2%) is now compounded and the supplemental COLA, when excess earnings from the Retirement System Trust Fund are present, was increased from 0.5% to up to 1.5%. In the best of years the compound COLA is 3.5%.

**Joe Collins**, Voya Financial, urged participants to select an appropriate asset allocation plan for themselves

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identifying their risk tolerance, time horizon, and retirement savings target. The **SF Deferred Compensation Plan** has multiple options and, if desired, a self-directed brokerage account. Joe said that the police department's average deferred compensation balances are the highest amongst all city departments. He further said that the target date portfolios (2020 to 2055), with their automatic rebalancing, were particularly attractive offerings for broad diversification. Each strategy suits a specific investor profile – based on the number of years you have until your planned start of distribution. Joe explained all the distribution options: defer distribution (up to April 1 of the year following the year in which you reach 70 ½), lump-sum payment (full or partial), periodic payments (amount certain, period certain), annuity payment (fixed, fixed with period certain, joint and survivor) or a combination of these options.

When to start **social security** payments? The class agreed the sooner the better. If you began to collect at age 62 (the earliest age allowable) rather than at age 66 – 67 (normal retirement age for baby boomers), it would take 14 years for the older recipients to catch up. Monthly social security payments for police officers, subject to the windfall elimination provision, average between \$100 to \$450 after deduction for Medicare part B. The maximum social security monthly payment, at age 66, is now \$2,788 — with the average monthly check now at \$1,404. **Leda Nobili**, operations supervisor from the SF Mission office, provided a very lively discussion of social security benefits.

**Dennis Meixner** (retired SFPD), licensed tax preparer, covered the issues of **federal and state taxation in retirement**, Social Security off-sets, and retirement plan (traditional and Roth IRAs) distributions. With his short tax quiz, he clearly demonstrated the tax savings for those awarded an industrial disability retirement. Service retirements are fully taxable while IDR retirements are tax advantaged (paying state/federal income tax on less than half of the gross amount).

We are pleased to again have estate attorney **Gerald Woods** join the seminar explaining the basics of **estate planning** (wills, trusts, gifting, probate and its avoidance, estate taxes, powers of attorney, property titles, and medical directives). Mr. Woods has his law office in SF's West Portal area and is the POA recommended attorney for estate planning.

#### Retiree Associations & SF Police Credit Union

The class was reminded that police wages were set by Charter amendment prior to 1953; by annual salary survey from 1954 onward; and now by collective bargaining since 1992. Thanks to **Larry Barsetti** for discussing the **Veteran POA and the Retired City Employees organizations**. He said that the most valuable assets a police retiree has are his/her CCSF health plan and retirement plan. The mission of the VPOA – established in 1939 (currently with 890 members) is to protect retirees' wealth and health. He urged the class participants to qualify for social security benefits (40 units) and to consider finding some type of post-retirement employment or volunteer opportunity; just "doing nothing" will lead to a disastrous retirement. **Darlene Hong** provided many convincing reasons why members should continue their financial contacts with **The Police Credit Union** and make it

their primary financial institution. **The Police Credit Union is a co-sponsor of this Seminar**. Thanks to The Police CU for the morning beverages and treats. **Darlene** introduced **Chris Breault** who provides financial planning services for credit union members.

**Leroy Lindo** explained that the **Widows and Orphans Aid Association of the SFPD** was founded on January 13, 1878 for the express purpose of providing financial assistance to police officers' families at the time of a member's death. Retirement/Death benefits were first provided by the City and County of San Francisco in 1889 through the Retirement System. The Aid Association's original benefit was \$100 for a modest funeral and \$1,000 to help maintain the financial stability of the surviving family. The current annual dues are \$72; the current death benefit is \$17,500. Upon retirement from the SFPD, payroll deduction is no longer available. Members thereafter receive an annual statement or may do automatic transfer from the SF Police Credit Union or some other financial institution. To be eligible for benefits, a member must join while still an active member and must be under age 46. Contact info: [woaasfpd@gmail.com](mailto:woaasfpd@gmail.com) or 415-681-3660.

#### Health Care Issues

Thanks also to **Art Howard** for candidly discussing emotional problems that can arise in retirement and how to avoid destructive responses. He explained the resources that are available through the **Department's Behavioral Science Unit**. He gave the very sad statistics of 8 SFPD retirees who drank themselves to death in the last 5 years and 6 committed suicide in this same 5-year period. Art explained how chronic exposure to occupational stressors over a typical police career of 25/30 years will definitely change your body and mind – for the worse.

Attendees were stunned by the costs of **health coverage upon retirement**. Few had realized just how good the POA Memorandum of Understanding is in keeping these costs down for members and their families. After retirement, there is no subsidized dental plan, but thanks to Proposition E (Nov. 2001 ballot) there now is a medical care monetary subsidy for the retiree's principal dependent. The member's health care cost on retirement, depending upon the plan selected and the number of dependents included, is zero or highly subsidized. **Kathy Fryerson**, senior HSS benefits analyst, urged participants to take care of their dental needs before retiring. She emphasized that the **HSS plans**, excepting the City's plan, were geographically limited. She said that the HSS walk-in hours are 8 am to 4:45pm; phone calls are taken for four hours every day. The plans available, as of January 2019, are: City Plan, Kaiser, and Blue Shield. City retirees are indeed very fortunate to have life-time medical care; most employers terminate health care coverage at age 65. **Claire Zvanski**, former longest serving employee elected commissioner on the **City Health Service Board**, spoke on the funding of retiree health plans, the importance of Medicare reimbursements, and the pre-funding of retiree health care that new City employees (hired after January 10, 2009) will be required to make (up to 2% of salary) so as to pre-fund their benefits to the year 2038. Claire said that 75% of health premiums are for drug/pharmacy benefits. At age 65 city retirees must purchase Medicare part B; for those not eligible for Medicare, their health care costs are significantly higher. Kaiser is now available throughout both northern and southern California for retirees. Joining the seminar for the second

time was newly elected Health Service Board commissioner **Chris Canning**. Welcome Chris!

**Dr. Forrest Fulton**, Ph.D. (formerly of the behavioral science unit, retired July 2003, and thereafter became a **certified gerontologist**) reminded the attendees that men are the suicide gender with men's rates now increasing and women's decreasing. Reason: women are better at expressing their feelings. He urged the use of stress reducers including restriction of caffeine and alcohol and the elimination of tobacco. Relying on the work of George Valliant entitled *Aging Well*, Dr. Fulton said that longitudinal research has shown what life styles led to a successful & long life. He mentioned: good attitude, positive self identity, intimacy in relationships, love-work-play in balance, career transitions, generous & giving back, keepers of meaning, mentoring other people, integrity and a personal value system, need for a retirement plan with fun and creativity, wisdom in old age, and a spiritual dimension to help give meaning to life.

**Mike Gannon** (SFPD 1972-1998) spoke, robustly and vigorously, on the issue of **long term care insurance**. Mike is a licensed insurance salesperson (since 1984). He said that long term care is not covered by the CCSF health plans or by Medicare. As he told the attendees: "You deserve a long walk in the sunshine. You deserve the glory and honor that you earned as a public safety hero." With the average stay in a nursing home now 2.5 years and its annual cost of \$74,208 for a private room, he urged all to consider long term care insurance. Since almost 25% of original applicants for long term care are denied (medical issues), he urged picking this up in your early 50's. He thought that

excellent long term plans were available from Genworth (GE), Trans-America, Mutual of Omaha & John Hancock; he also urged comparison with the plan offered by CALPERS. Mike quoted his favorite financial advisor, Suze Orman: "1 in 1,200 homeowners will use their fire insurance, 1 in 240 automobile owners will use their auto insurance, but 1 in 2 long term care insured's will call upon their policy for financial assistance."

#### Program Conclusion

Retirement Board commissioners **Brian Stansbury** and **Al Casciato** talked about venture capital, private equity and the use of hedge funds in the System's trust fund. All three help reduce risk while delivering market rates of return. They said the trust fund is well capitalized and remains fully capable of meeting all of its pension obligations. Proudly they stated that our trust fund is one of the best funded in the nation.

The class thanked **Jim Standfield of Toast Catering** for the excellent lunches provided.

#### Next Seminar

**Three retirement planning seminars are scheduled for 2020: February 25 – 27; May 19 – 21; October 6 - 8.** The seminar will be available to the first 40 persons, members and their spouses/partners, who contact the POA after the announcement is sent to all members with or near retirement eligibility. Preference is given to those members who are near retirement or who have already contacted the Retirement System for their retirement dates. The seminar fills up quickly so don't delay. Contact **Cyndee** at the POA (415-861-5060) if you desire advance notification for these seminars or wish to sign up.

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# Haunted by Violence, Some Cops Struggle with PTSD. Now, Miami-Dade is Assessing the Toll

November 7, 2019

In 30 years as a Miami-Dade cop, he'd seen things he could not shake from his mind — a disemboweled body, a man bleeding out from a self-inflicted bullet to the brain. He'd been shot at, and shot back. He still hears the scream of a father learning his daughter had been killed in a car crash.

In all that time, only once did a supervisor ask how he was holding up — and that was long ago after Hurricane Andrew. So he kept his emotional turmoil to himself.

"I didn't want to be seen as weak. I came on to this department as a pretty happy-go-lucky guy. I know now, I'm not that guy anymore."

Stress and fear haunted the nights of another cop — dark dreams of drowned children and bullets striking him. He thrashed in bed, heart pounding and mind reeling, fighting thoughts of suicide.

"I can tell you I know what my gun barrel tastes like."

The two officers are far from alone in struggling to cope with the traumas and pressures of the job. In a groundbreaking assessment, Miami-Dade is surveying its police and fire departments to get a better grasp of how many first responders might be dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder. More than 1,000 cops and firefighters have already filled out questionnaires and the results are expected to be made public as early as December.

The first-of-its-kind survey for Miami-Dade is part of a growing shift in law enforcement to openly acknowledge psychological challenges and help cops and firefighters deal with them.

"We are not doing enough to provide mental health services that are accessible to law enforcement," said Habsi Kaba, director of Miami-Dade's Crisis Intervention Team, which works with first responders who often feel that toughing things out is a job requirement. "You are supposed to put on that armor and just deal with it and if you are feeling emotional, then maybe you are not cut out for this job."

There are already plenty of national statistics that suggest a mental health epidemic for first responders, particularly cops, whose daily roles also have come under increasing public scrutiny and criticism in recent years after a string of controversial shootings and arrests, mostly of black men and women, that have been caught on video or body cameras.

More police officers die by suicide than in the line of duty and, compared to the general population, they have significantly higher rates of anxiety and other mental health illnesses. About nine out of ten first responders will be exposed to a traumatic event in their career, and around one in three of them will develop post-traumatic stress disorder. In late October, the International Association of Chiefs of Police hosted a special forum to confront the mental health crisis in departments nationwide.

In Miami-Dade, calls for help are also rising, with a 62 percent increase in appointments with the department's psychological services unit since 2014, said Lt. Melissa Barosela, who oversees the unit. The county also has beefed up its service, now employing six full-time

psychologists working with as many as 100 officers and civilians each month.

The PTSD study in Miami-Dade was requested in May by Miami-Dade Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, who asked for it after reading a study about suicides among firefighters. His request came several months after Florida legislators passed a bill permitting first responders suffering from PTSD to qualify for workers' compensation.

"They're really going through some serious hard times," said Diaz. "It's kind of messed up that we don't get them the help that they need."

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— Nine out of ten first responders will be exposed to a traumatic event in their career —

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## Still A Stigma

Despite the progress, many cops and experts acknowledge there is still a social stigma attached to mental illnesses. And it's arguably more pronounced among cops and emergency workers who are supposed to be trained to deal with trauma. That was reflected in interviews with three Miami-Dade officers who agreed to talk about their struggles. Though willing to discuss their difficulties, none wanted to be identified by their full names.

Psychological problems remain a sensitive issue for many rank-and-file officers, a perceived weakness in an occupation that puts a lot of pride in toughness and strength, both mental and physical.

"People out there want help," said the third Miami-Dade officer, who was willing to go by his first name, Doug. "They're just afraid to come ask."

Doug is a fourth-generation cop who knew what he wanted to be since "the doctor slapped me in the ass" and always wanted to be on the street, never behind a desk.

"I've crashed cars, been hit by them, cut, stabbed, grazed twice [by bullets], gone through plate glass windows, tumbled down stairs, fallen off rooftops, been in more fights than I can remember. Broke bones, gotten hundreds of stitches and each time I came back for more."

The decades on the force have left his body in "constant pain" and "at times, the depression is debilitating." He's lost count of the surgeries and procedures he's undergone.

But his personal life was a far worse mess. His wife had an affair. His father died. His finances floundered. Doug, who rarely touched alcohol before joining the department, began to drink. Heavily. At first it was just a weekend thing. Then every day. He'd often wake up with a hangover and had to sweat it out at the gym before work.

Triggers, like the whiff from a garbage dumpster reminiscent of a corpse, spurred him to drink. So did the 2016 murder of King Carter, the 6-year-old Northwest Miami child who was killed by a stray bullet in a shootout while he was on the way to buy candy at a store. The investigation into the senseless death of an innocent child gutted Doug, opening wounds that had been scarred over. At one point he couldn't fall asleep for a week. So he drank more.

"It was my normal life for years, many years," he said. "There was a time when I was looking to drink myself into the grave."

That had already almost happened on Memorial Day, 2015. He recalls barbecuing with friends, then waking up three days later in South Miami Hospital. He'd blacked out from drinking.

Barosela, the department's psychologist, was at his bedside when he came to. He got help, but it didn't hold up. For the next few years, Doug cycled in and out of rehabilitation and support groups. Then he finally decided he'd had enough

criteria for PTSD, Beidel said.

She hopes that first responders can learn to accept that their feelings are normal human reactions to trauma, not an incurable crippling affliction that they should feel shame about.

"I don't want robots protecting me," Beidel said. "I want people with hearts, who will react with hearts. No person with a heart can view the things our first responders view and expect it's not going to affect them in some way."

## 'The Hotline'

The goal for mental health experts is threefold: Teach first responders how to recognize problems, remove the stigma associated with those problems and help people deal with them. Miami-Dade's police department seems to be ahead of the curve on those issues, in part because officers deal with so many mentally ill people on the street themselves.

Since 2003, Habsi Kaba has taught a class designed to help officers to better recognize and handle those difficult encounters. But over time, the class morphed into teaching police about their own mental health and what they are likely to experience. Kaba estimates she's held training sessions for more than 7,000 officers.

"No one was helping them. The class became the platform," Kaba said. "We present it as we are going to talk about people with mental illnesses and little do they know, they begin to realize that we're also talking about them. We're talking about all human beings — there is no difference."

At the end of every class, "without fail," Kaba said some officers ask to talk. Kaba said it took years for officers to learn to trust her, but that she now receives regular calls from police considering some form of treatment or therapy.

Her clients have nicknamed her "The Hotline."

"What I'm trying to do is remove all the barriers in their head to just reach out for help," Kaba said. "It's like a physical wound — if I'm bleeding, I need to stop the bleeding. What I try to teach officers is: It's only going to get worse."

Barosela, who runs the department's psychological services unit, says many officers are worried about an impact on their careers. To help retain anonymity, psych services offices are located off-site and visits are strictly confidential — supervisors are not notified and no personal information is shared. Even appointments are staggered to try to avoid patients running into each other.

Barosela, who has worked on the unit for over a decade and served alongside people she has helped treat, says she also takes calls at any hour of the day.

"If it's 3 a.m. and I'm sitting there with a gun at my head, I can call her and she will answer," one officer, who has sought help from Barosela, told the Herald. "I know I can call her."

Psychological Services provides support for substance abuse cases, bereavement, relationship counseling, crisis debriefing and post shooting trauma intervention. Other police departments in Miami-Dade can and do request to use its services.

Still, outside of South Florida, many departments with smaller budgets may

and therapy stuck. Now, Doug shares his story with trainees at the police academy — offering guidance he never got as a rookie.

"There's always going to be a King Carter, unfortunately," he said. Every day, things he sees, hears and smells remind him of his worst cases. "The memories trigger the drinking and the drinking triggers the addiction."

## Taking Out The Trash

For many cops, it's hard to recognize the early warning signs. PTSD in first responders often emerges through a slow buildup of events, said Dr. Deborah Beidel, a psychologist at the University of Central Florida and director of a clinical research lab known as UCF RESTORES.

She likened the mind to a trash can filled with memories. PTSD can occur when a person remains unable to fully process a traumatic event, Beidel said.

"We don't like to take out our trash a lot and so we push it all down until finally it gets to the point where it is overflowing. And that's where the problem starts."

Ignoring the signs can impact the ability to perform a job at a high level, Beidel said. Almost anything can trigger anxiety. After the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, where 49 people were killed and 53 wounded, many responders reported that one of their most difficult memories was the ringing of cellphones on bodies in the dark silence of the club. Years later, some still react when they hear a cellphone ring.

Beidel said officers are more likely to be overcome by events that connect to their personal lives, like responding to the death of a child similar in age to one of their own.

The Pulse shooting in 2016 changed the way UCF RESTORES operated. Before the incident, the facility dealt mainly with veterans. But now, as mass shootings become more frequent, it's opened its doors free of charge and funded by the state, to law enforcement, firefighters and civilians who need help. Beidel said over the past three years the lab has treated nearly 250 first responders.

The program uses something called exposure therapy to help people work through situations and triggers that their brain has conditioned them to believe are dangerous. After three weeks of intensive care, three out of four first responders no longer meet the diagnostic

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# Book Review

## James Madison

By Garry Wills  
 Edited by Arthur M. Schlesinger  
 Reviewed by Dennis Bianchi

Gary Wills has written 40 books in his long career. He won a Pulitzer Prize for his book, *Lincoln at Gettysburg*, and frequently writes for *The New York Review of Books*. He became a faculty member in the history department at Northwestern University in 1980 where he is currently an Emeritus Professor of History. In addition to his writings about the history of The United States, he has written extensively about religion (particularly about Saint Augustine) and economics. In spite of his many articles and books that express his disagreement with the Roman Catholic Church he remains a practicing member of that church, and he published a book explaining his remaining.

There are several biographies of James Madison available to readers today. Many are academic and dry, so I was very pleased to find one written by Mr. Wills, an author I have always enjoyed reading. I wanted to learn more about this particular "Founding Father" as James Madison is credited for being pivotal in the creation and ratification of our Constitution. He wrote many of the essays that are commonly referred

to as *The Federalist Papers*, framed The Bill of Rights, and is often referred to as The Founding Father. In today's turbulent political times it seemed like a good idea to examine what the original group of politicians had to say, and who better than the man who did a lot of that writing?

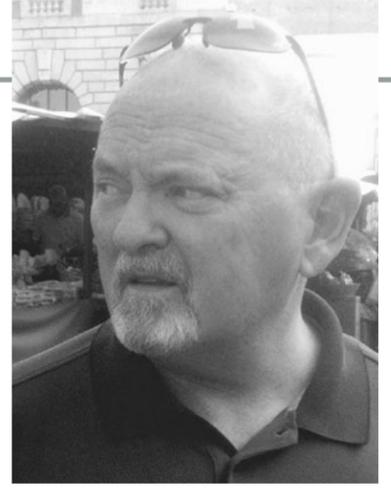
In Mr. Wills' writing the reader learns that Madison was an intellectual, a composer of fine writing and, as a member of The House of Representatives, a crafty behind the scenes manipulator. Madison is described by Mills as, "this unimpressive little man with libraries in his head." George Washington, early on, relied on Madison's advice but that changed as time went by. Thomas Jefferson was Madison's closest ally, before the writing of The Constitution and later when Jefferson was President. As Jefferson's Secretary of State, Madison oversaw the Louisiana Purchase, which more than doubled the size of the United States. As the fourth President of the United States Madison may have been placed in an office he was not temperamentally fit for. To quote Mr. Wills, "Few have attempted to see any common traits in the man who planned the government brilliantly but was lackluster in conducting it."

He became President in 1809 and

the War of 1812 was more or less forced upon him. The British literally ran him out of Washington D.C. and burned The Capitol. Madison embraced the war and had his sights set on annexing Canada. According to Mr. Wills, the British may have burned Washington in retaliation for the Americans burning the Canadian capitol in Troy earlier. Madison fought hard to maintain both freedom of religion within our country while steadfastly insisting on the separation of religions and government. Mr. Wills tries hard to present a balanced view of his subject, praising his legal insights and political acumen but also presenting his negative qualities, "a certain naiveté with regard to the rest of his fellow human beings," and "a certain provincialism with regard to the rest of the world." Madison lacked charisma and warmth, but his wife, Dolly, did her best to make visitors welcome to the White House and later at Montpelier, the Madison mansion in Virginia.

Later in his life Madison was regarded with more reverence and respect.

I often found the descriptions of the conflicts of that era uncannily similar to the conflicts we read about in today's media: disagreements over embargos, tariffs, states' rights, national identity, to name but a few. This book is not a complete biography in the sense of it omitting many parts of Madison's life. It instead focuses Wills' attention upon the years Madison worked at forming a government and later presided over



the country as President. This book is one of a series of biographies of 42 Presidents of The United States, so if you find this a satisfying read, as I did, there are many more available for you to read. They are described as "compact enough for the busy reader and lucid enough for the scholar." The editor, Arthur M. Schlesinger, died in 2007 and was replaced with Sean Wilentz. Mr. Wilentz and his staff have selected a very impressive list of scholars to write about our past leaders.

As noted above, there are other biographies of Madison available including a 2014 publication written by Lynne Cheney, the wife of former vice-president of the United States, Dick Cheney. Mrs. Cheney is considered a scholar and is the author of approximately sixteen books.

Wills sums up his short study of Madison with this, "Regardless of his Presidential deficiencies, Madison did more than most, and did some things better than any. That is quite enough."

## Haunted by Violence

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

not have the resources for first responders in need.

Geoff Bichler, an attorney who specializes in first responder lawsuits, said there aren't enough good options for many police officers and firefighters. There is also a question of how many will be willing to step forward to pursue workers' comp claims under the new state law because it requires openly acknowledging problems, which remains a major hurdle for many police officers.

"Most agencies are requiring people to come forward and seek help before they are offering it," he said. "I think that is a regressive and unfortunate approach. We still have a very long way to go."

### Peer-To-Peer Support

On the Miami and Miami Beach forces, troubled officers can turn to fellow officers for help — peer support teams who listen to problems and can direct cops to outside help.

Since 2016, the Miami Beach department has had a 24-hour support group.

"When you have a peer team that is made up of officers, people can feel like you understand, you understand the stress, what you are going through at work," said Miami Beach Lt. Elise Spina Taylor, a licensed psychologist.

Those selected as volunteer peer supporters take a 40 hour course on how to recognize mental health issues. During critical incidents, like an officer-involved shooting or the death of a child, volunteers will show up on scene, often handing out a pamphlet explaining symptoms and available resources.

"I can't force someone to get help," Spina Taylor said. "But at least I can let them know help is available."

She said skepticism is eroding and that her department now averages between 50 and 100 hours of support time a month.

"We understand our job is to help the community," Spina Taylor said of the police department. "But if you are not mentally and physically OK, you can only help other people so much. Sometimes we don't help ourselves."

The psychological toil of police work is getting new, if belated, attention. Top law enforcement officers gathered in Chicago earlier this week to address suicide rates of police around the country. So far this year, 188 officers have committed suicide, more than twice the number who have been killed in the line of duty. In New York City alone, the number stood at 10 through the end of October.

Miami-Dade police, one of the largest forces on the East Coast with nearly 3,000 sworn officers, hasn't had a suicide of a working cop in almost five years. Police Director Juan Perez said the reasons are hard to quantify, but he likes to think it's at least in part due to the department's "robust interventions." He also thinks the department's interactions in the community play a part. He points to demonstrations that erupted throughout the country in 2016 after a sniper killed five Dallas police officers and injured nine others. Protests were at a minimum in Miami-Dade.

"In New York, police are ridiculed. There are protests and demonstrations.

They undergo additional problems that we don't," Perez said. "Our relationship with the community here is different. Maybe it's because we're more of a melting pot."

### Holding It Inside

Still, no matter how painful the job can be, it remains hard for some people to ask for help.

That once happy-go-lucky officer, who joined the force at 21, vividly recalls how the weight of the job crashed down on him one off-duty day as he sat in his car a decade into his career. He suddenly felt like he was going to black out and rushed to the hospital thinking it was a heart attack.

The doctor told him it was anxiety.

He realized he'd burned himself out, working lengthy midnight shifts while trying to spend time with his kids during the day. Like his colleague, and many people under stress, he began to self-medicate after a couple of years on the job. First, it was a few beers. He graduated to an entire bottle of whiskey. He would lash out at his wife and kids over minor things, once throwing a toaster against a wall. He drank through his whole career.

Two years before he retired, the officer said he received a call about a man in Cutler Ridge who was high on synthetic heroin and who had poured a pan of hot grease over his head. When the officer and his partner reached the man, he was jabbing his own throat with a 10-inch shard of glass, his entire body covered in blood. The man dropped the glass and moved toward the officers screaming

"kill me mother——, kill me."

At first, he reached for his gun but because the man was unarmed, he instead wrestled the man to the ground. Blood soaked his uniform and seeped into the officer's shoes, squishing between his toes. He would have to wait weeks before learning the man didn't have any transmittable disease.

When he got home afterward, he didn't think about what happened. He was more worried about finding new shoes so he could go back to work the next day. Only later would he realize how it impacted him — he would replay the moment where the bloody man came at him over and over at night.

He told his wife what happened and they both broke down. It was the first time, the officer said, that he opened up to her about the toll the job was taking on him.

"It's almost like everything that I had witnessed up to that point, like boom, here it is, it just blew up. I just had an overwhelming amount of emotion," he said.

He has since retired, hoping that would ease his anxiety. Instead, his problems have worsened. Even at home he eats with his back to the wall, creating better sight lines to protect himself if someone is coming at him or his family. He sits in the last row of bleachers at his daughter's volleyball games to afford a better view of the surroundings. He still wakes up suddenly, his heart racing.

"I'd like to get help," he said. "But I don't know where to start."

From [www.miamiherald.com](http://www.miamiherald.com)

# 'I'm Not OK': First Responders Learn to Embrace Help for Mental Health During Symposium

November 7, 2019

When a medical call came in on June 24, 2015, to assist an intoxicated man at a trolley station, San Diego firefighter Ben Vernon thought it would be a routine situation.

He had been on this type of call several times in the past, so he was not too worried.

Arriving on the scene, however, tensions started to rise between a bystander and several security guards, and a fight broke out.

Within minutes Vernon's entire life changed — and flashed before his eyes.

"I was not in fight mode, and that I will forever regret. My thought was I need to save the security guard," Vernon explained to a room full of more than 300 local firefighters, law enforcement officials, emergency medical technicians and other first responders. "I jump over the railing and as (the bystander) hauls back to punch him, I capture his arm, block it, get my body between them and push him back."

By separating them, it gave the bystander an opportunity to re-group and re-arm.

"We lock eyes and right here ... I realize I'm in real trouble."

The bystander thrust a knife into Vernon's back, which severed a nerve, and a second stab wound broke his rib and punctured his lung.

"When he pulled the knife out of my chest, all the air in my lung went out sideways and it knocked the wind out of me," Vernon said. Vernon doubled over and missed a third stab attempt to the head.

His partner, Alex Wallbrett, stepped in and was stabbed three times.

Though Vernon got better physically, he realized it was just the beginning of his healing process, which would lead to his post-traumatic stress disorder diagnosis.

For weeks he experienced nightmares, was not sleeping and got more and more aggressive and jumpy.

"I'm not OK," he said, once people started asking him how he was doing mentally, "but I can ask for mental health help and no one will make fun of me."

"We have the same stigmas in the south that you have here: you don't ask for mental health help, and if you do, you are weak."

It was a stigma several speakers and health officials tried to break Oct. 22 during the first Mental Health Symposium put on by Kern County Public Health

Services at Bakersfield College.

For the first time, a request was made statewide to help law enforcement officials who went through significant distress trying to evacuate victims following the Camp Fire in Northern California in 2018, and Kern County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services officials responded to the call, explained Jeff Fariss, program manager of Emergency Medical Services. That helped shed light on how first responders deal with mental health and was the catalyst for the symposium.

"I carry the spirits of many patients every day," said Fariss, who was a first responder for 30 years. Several others participating in the symposium could agree with that statement.

Vernon said when he began his career with the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department, "You'd come to me and say, 'Hey I'm really struggling mentally,' I would have been the one to say, 'Hey, suck it up, buttercup, it's what you signed up for.'"

After his attack and the years of seeking help from a psychologist — who he says saved his life — his outlook on mental health is completely different. He underwent eye movement desensitization and reprocessing treatment to help with his PTSD, and the nightmares passed

and he finally let go of many traumatic events that were haunting him.

"Getting stabbed was the best thing that could have happened," he said.

Kern County Fire Department Capt. Robert Hudson also shared that his son's suicide from August was a situation he didn't know how to handle, despite responding to similar calls on the job in the past. But he had to address his emotions in order to build up his strength and move on.

"In order to heal, we have to get a little uncomfortable," he said, quoting his son, Andrew. "We do PT (physical training) to be prepared physically for the job, but what about MT (mental training)? ... What are we doing to deal with the traumas and damages that need to be healed with each one of us?"

After listening to the day's speakers, several first responders had the opportunity to reflect and see if they're suffering mentally and if they need to reach out for help.

"I've had some troubling calls in my 24-plus years and things have bothered me mentally," said Bakersfield Fire Department Deputy Chief John Frando. "Don't be shy to let your guard down, it doesn't make you less of a person."

From [www.bakersfield.com](http://www.bakersfield.com)

## PLEA President:

# "Morale Has Never Been as Low as it is Now"

November 8, 2019

PHOENIX — It has been an eventful two weeks for the Phoenix Police Department. Multiple officers were fired by the chief, the police union discussed with members a potential vote of no confidence, and an officer was shot in the line-of-duty.

Britt London is the president of the Phoenix Law Enforcement Association, which has 2,227 members, making up about 92% of the Phoenix Police Department. "We are very proud of the Phoenix Police Department" said London.

London almost always backs the officers he represents, which is why he was not a fan of Chief Jeri Williams's decision to fire Officer Chris Meyer and Detective Dave Swick.

Meyer's use-of-force made national headlines when witnesses recorded him interacting with an African American family accused of shoplifting. Swick was terminated after the Plain View Project found extensive social media posts that were anti-Muslim and promoted violence.

A disciplinary review board makes

recommendations about how to handle the alleged misconduct, but the chief chose to fire both. "I made my decision because I know the trust was eroded and the brand known as the Phoenix Police Department was tarnished as a result of that incident," said Chief Williams, at a press conference.

London says that the decision also eroded trust among officers. "Morale has never been as low as it is now," said London. "Can I go to work and know that my supervisor or my chief has my back? That's what we are hearing a lot."

After the firings by the chief, multiple members of the department began discussing a possible "no-confidence" vote. PLEA held 12 meetings to educate members on how a no-confidence vote would work, and ultimately, decided not to move forward. London said the PLEA board was never pushing for the vote, and even gave the chief a heads up so she could defend herself to members if she felt the need.

"I think when you do a vote of no confidence, the goal is to have the person you have no confidence in removed. And that's not the situation here, I don't

think that would've happened at all," said London.

Chief Williams has the full support of Mayor Kate Gallego, who has echoed the rhetoric that the department needs to do a better job with the community, particularly ones of color.

"From my viewpoint, we have a pretty good relationship," said London. "I like to think about 90 to 95 percent of the community in Phoenix is behind the Phoenix Police Department."

London also said he thought Chief Williams's decision to fire officers "was very uncharacteristic of her, especially in these situations."

"I want to think she is under pressure," said London. "Normally she does go with those [disciplinary review board] recommendations."

Both Meyer and Swick have appealed, and London believes the two men will wear the badge again.

"I am very confident and it probably will cost the city a little bit of money," said London. "Right now we feel that the discipline was so far overreaching."

PLEA will help represent both officers during their appeals, which could take months.

London though is also concerned that the current environment within the department could lead to more officers

cashing in on their pension.

"Over half the department can retire right now. That is scary," he said. "The chief can only do so much. It is going to be the city council that is going to get us people and keep people, and it's not always pay. It's in the morale."

PLEA, which has an active Facebook page, was critical of Mayor Gallego over the weekend, alleging she was silent regarding the officers who were shot and injured.

The organization later edited and updated the post, upon learning the mayor visited one of the officers, and his family, in the hospital. In the updated post though, they still criticized her lack of communication or statement.

In a statement to ABC15, the mayor's office said:

"This weekend's shooting was another example of the daily dangers our officers face while protecting our community. Yesterday, I visited our wounded officer and his family in the hospital to express my gratitude for his dedication to service and my wish for his speedy recovery. I continue to support Chief Williams and the work she is doing to make Phoenix a stronger community."

From [www.abc15.com](http://www.abc15.com)

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# Author of Police Transparency Law Calls on D.A.s to Obtain Their Own Misconduct Records on Cops Who Testify

November 8, 2019

The author of California's landmark police transparency law is urging district attorneys across the state to obtain misconduct records on their own to flag problem officers who testify in criminal court.

State Sen. Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) said prosecutors should take advantage of the new law and request police disciplinary files instead of relying on the efforts of defense attorneys and journalists to uncover officers with histories of misconduct.

Doing so would help prosecutors identify officers with credibility issues that could potentially jeopardize criminal cases and convictions, Skinner said in an opinion piece published Sunday.

"This would allow them to begin proactively rooting out police misconduct that may have tainted previous cases,

while also helping them to fulfill their constitutional obligation to disclose evidence favorable to the defense in current and future cases," Skinner wrote.

Last year, state lawmakers passed Senate Bill 1421, which requires law enforcement departments to publicly disclose records of internal investigations into police shootings, severe uses of force and confirmed cases of lying and sexual assault by on-duty officers. The law took effect Jan. 1.

Robert Gammon, Skinner's communications director, said the senator's office is not aware of any prosecutors in the state filing such requests.

Mark Zahner, chief executive of the California District Attorneys Assn., said "an overriding tenet of all prosecutors is to be as transparent as possible no matter the mechanism leading to discovering the truth." Still, he said, it "remains to be seen" how SB 1421 will fit into the way

prosecutors seek out information about police misconduct.

Skinner pointed to a recent Times story as an example of the effect police misconduct records can have once made public.

Find out how these parents learned to reconnect with the outdoors while teaching their children to appreciate nature's simple pleasures.

Published in September, the report detailed how an L.A. County sheriff's detective testified in numerous cases without jurors, judges or defense attorneys knowing he had previously been suspended for dishonesty after his department determined that he punched a suspect several times and lied about it.

That detective, Daniel Morris, testified in five murder trials since becoming a homicide detective, but defense attorneys in those cases said they were never informed about his previous misconduct.

By law, prosecutors are required to tell criminal defendants about evidence that would damage the credibility of law enforcement witnesses. Failure to do so can result in convictions being overturned, even if prosecutors did not know about the information.

"It was only after reporters obtained those documents via an SB 1421 request and brought them to the attention of the Los Angeles County district attorney's office that prosecutors informed defense lawyers that their cases may have been tainted by a dishonest officer," Skinner wrote.

Morris has been a lead detective in some of the department's highest-profile investigations, including the murder case against a man accused of carrying out a series of shootings in Malibu Creek State Park and the manslaughter case against a fellow deputy charged in an on-duty shooting. Morris did not respond to requests for comment. He has not testified in those cases, which are ongoing.

A Los Angeles County district attorney's spokeswoman did not say on Monday whether the office has filed any public records requests for documents about Morris or other law enforcement officers in the county. But she said prosecutors are working with the L.A. County Sheriff's Department, the Los Angeles Police Department and the county's 44 municipal police departments to develop a "streamlined mechanism" so they can receive SB 1421 information.

"We absolutely recognize our responsibility under SB 1421 and are proactively working with law enforcement to get

that information from them," Dist. Atty. Jackie Lacey said in a statement.

The Sheriff's Department previously declined to answer questions about Morris' discipline or his role as a homicide detective, citing "personnel file privacy issues."

One of Morris' former supervisors in the department's detective division praised him as a "skilled, humble homicide investigator."

However, Morris' discipline landed him on the Sheriff's Department's secret list of about 300 deputies with histories of dishonesty and other misconduct that could hurt their credibility in court, according to a 2014 version of the list reviewed by The Times. The list was at the center of a statewide legal battle over whether law enforcement agencies could share the names on such rosters with prosecutors.

In August, the state Supreme Court ruled they could, paving the way for new disclosures to prosecutors about law enforcement witnesses like Morris.

The Times is part of a collaboration of 40 news organizations called the California Reporting Project that is gathering and analyzing records released under SB 1421.

Morris' 2005 disciplinary letter, disclosed under the new law, shows the Sheriff's Department concluded that he made false statements to his supervisors and was less than forthright with internal investigators.

Morris was given a 30-day suspension — the department's most severe discipline short of demotion or firing — but had to serve only 15 days unless he reoffended within a year, according to the letter.

Since then, he has been listed by the district attorney as a potential witness in nearly 180 criminal cases. It's unclear how many times he testified.

Some defense attorneys said Morris' history of dishonesty was a crucial piece of information that should have been disclosed by prosecutors. There could be repercussions for allowing Morris to investigate and testify on criminal cases, Skinner said.

"In Los Angeles, dozens of criminal cases may now have been tarnished by a single dishonest officer," she said. "This should be of immediate concern to our elected district attorneys, whose duty is to seek justice, not just convictions. Like it or not, they will eventually be forced to address any questionable convictions that may emerge as a result of these disclosures."

From [www.latimes.com](http://www.latimes.com)

## Texas Overwhelmingly Votes to Allow Police Dogs, Horses to be Adopted by Handlers After Retirement

November 11, 2019

Texas voters on Tuesday overwhelmingly approved a measure that ensures animals who serve alongside law enforcement can retire and be adopted — amending the state Constitution, which previously considered such animals as a surplus property that could only be auctioned, donated or destroyed.

The electorate voted in favor of Proposition 10 by 94 percent. Now, law enforcement agencies can transfer custody of dogs or horses to their handlers or other qualified caretakers when they retire from service.

Advocates for the amendment, including Jim Skinner, a former Air Force security police K-9 handler and current sheriff of Collin County, argued the proposition would make sure their "partners in crime" would be well cared for after service — and would eliminate a fee for law enforcement officers to adopt their own retired animals.

Skinner had a personal stake in the amendment: He extended his overseas military tour years ago to stay with Jessie, his K-9, who was not allowed to be brought back to the U.S. Military working dogs would be abandoned or euthanized after their service — but that changed when Congress passed "Robby's Law" in 2000, allowing MWDs to retire and be adopted.

Texas Proposition 10, allowing a retiring law enforcement animal to be transferred to the animal's handler, is approved by a vote of 94% to 6%.

State Sen. Brian Birdwell, R-Granbury, agreed, writing in an update to his constituents earlier this year that "few

people are qualified to humanely care for and properly supervise a police dog or horse, and these animals need to be cared for by a capable individual at the end of their service."

He said the amendment would "protect these animals to ensure they are going to a proper home after their retirement from service and save taxpayer dollars from continued housing and care of the animal."

In the past, sheriff's offices and police departments worked around the antiquated law to ensure they could adopt their service animals. Skinner told The Washington Post when he became sheriff in 2017, there were two older and sick K-9s on the force. Instead of euthanizing them or having them auctioned off, he "took them out of active duty." Because they weren't officially retired, it prevented the sheriff from replacing the K-9s with new law enforcement animals.

In Austin, K-9 animals ready for retirement would be sold by the department to the dog's handler or an employee for \$1. The department's mounted horses were also sold for \$1 to comply with the law, the Statesman reported.

Skinner said it's unlikely many law enforcement dogs have been regularly euthanized, saying "there's different ways that people have tried to deal with this."

"But here's the reality: We're peace officers, and we stand for the rule of law, and we want to do the right thing," he said. "We've asked for this exception, to not treat these animals like property, for all the obvious reasons."

From [www.fox35orlando.com](http://www.fox35orlando.com)

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# December Word Find

Created by Officer Michelangelo Apodaca,  
Airport Bureau

Enjoy this relaxing and fun-to-solve puzzle! If you've never solved a puzzle like these before, it's a good idea to read this before you begin.

Each puzzle has a grid of letters that conceals words reading in different directions — forward, backward, up, down, or diagonally — but always in a straight line. The words, abbreviations, or phrases one must find and circle are listed below the grid in capital letters. That's all you need to know before you sharpen your pencil and begin your search!

*December is back in full force and as we are ready to finish out the year. Take a look for some December related words to wrap up the year! Happy Holidays to All.*

BAUBLE	HANUKKAH	NOEL
CAROL	HOLLY	PLUM
CHIMNEY	JOLLY	SLEIGH
DREIDEL	KWANZAA	TINSEL
ELVES	LATKES	WASSAIL
FELIZ	MAGI	WREATH
GINGERBREAD	MYRRH	YULE

V	M	Q	X	J	L	A	T	U	M	G	T	K	V	S
S	J	F	C	N	H	I	Q	O	I	E	N	W	C	N
F	I	Z	V	R	N	H	A	N	U	K	K	A	H	H
J	X	A	U	S	N	V	G	S	Z	J	O	N	I	W
V	D	R	E	I	D	E	L	I	S	K	Q	Z	M	H
X	I	L	C	A	R	O	L	Y	E	A	Y	A	N	N
A	Y	W	X	B	W	E	Y	L	V	L	W	A	E	T
M	Y	R	R	H	F	A	U	L	L	P	S	L	Y	E
L	E	E	P	D	D	Y	N	O	E	L	B	T	X	H
P	A	A	R	F	G	M	H	J	G	U	I	U	I	K
D	W	T	M	Q	Q	W	I	G	A	M	M	Z	A	U
R	R	H	K	J	T	D	Q	B	U	W	R	J	O	C
X	J	X	C	E	B	S	N	L	S	W	X	C	I	Q
H	D	Y	S	L	S	R	P	D	D	B	P	D	M	H
D	D	Y	V	E	G	A	L	S	S	W	N	Y	T	N

## Classified Ads

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**SOUTH LAKE TAHOE GETAWAY** Located at the Y with close proximity to ski resorts, Camp Richardson and Casinos. Large 3 bed, 2 bath house with loft, will accommodate 10 adults comfortably. Hot tub, Wifi and deck for BBQ. Website [www.842clement.com](http://www.842clement.com). Contact Sgt. John Andrews Tenderloin Station at [jandrews107@hotmail.com](mailto:jandrews107@hotmail.com) for prices and availability.

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# Sports



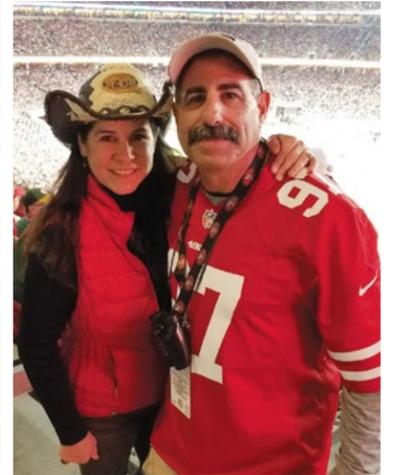
**Niners!**

Check out the pics that go with my column. The first one is of me along with Irving Garcia (Mission Station) and Josh Nazzal (Park Station) at the Niners vs Packers game at Levi's Stadium on Sunday Nov. 24th. Nazzal embarrassed himself by wearing Packer green and I'm sure his dad, retired and respected SFPDer George Nazzal, wasn't too happy that his son turned out to be a Green Bay fan despite growing up in Niner Country. Whatta ya going to do??

It was a very dominant performance by the Niners in the game as they spanked the Packers hard by a score of 37-8 — a great time was had by most fans who attended (there were a good many "cheese heads" there). Anyway, since I put that pic of me, Nazzal and Garcia with this column, I had to include a pic that has my lovely wife Susan in it as she also attended the game that evening.



SF's Finest at the Niners/Packers Game Last Month: (L to R) Josh Nazalle (Park Station), Nick Shihadeh (Reserve), and Irving Garcia (Mission Station)



Nick and Susan Shihadeh at the Niners/Packers Game at Levi's Stadium.

Otherwise, I'm so hoping the Niners can continue to play well as they get to the playoff rush.

...That's it for now...Stay well and safe this holiday season and So See Ya next month....

## Nick's Notes

By Nick Shihadeh,  
Journal Sports Editor

**Preseason Hoops Update**

Check It Out: I heard from SF Police Basketball Commissioner Steve Coleman recently and he wanted to get some info out as the beginning of the season approaches. According to Coleman: "The SFPOA basketball league is set to kick off the season during the second week of December. Central, Southern, Bayview, Northern, Park, Ingleside, Tenderloin, The Cadets, and CHP have committed to play in the 2019-2020 season. The balance of power in the league may have shifted due to recent transfers and younger officers stepping up to play. I look forward to seeing familiar and new faces out on the hardwood this year. Also, the Golden State Warriors will be hosting Hero's Night at The Chase Center on Thursday, January 16th, 2020 so save the date! More information will be advertised as we get it. Hope Thanksgiving was a good one for you hard working cops and wishing you a great holiday this month."

**Seals In Manteca**

The Seals tournament softball team went to Big League Dreams in Manteca on Friday, Nov. 22nd, to play in the "Feed the Hungry" food drive one day tournament. The team they took along consisted of Dave "Claw" Colclough, "Mayor" Mike Alexander, Andrew "Drew" Lucas, Will "Backpack" Palladino, Steve Filippi, Jesse Montero, Nick "NB Jr" Stewart, Dennis Tupper, Kevin Danielle, Niko Hawes, and Luis "Lois" Guitron.

It was a feel good event with a decent performance by the Seals as they ended up taking 4th place out of 12 teams. Standouts during the day were Tupper and Montero who hit very well. Stewart started off as a standout by hitting "bombs" early, but he pattered out later in the day leading to some very disappointing play on his part; otherwise, the Seals might've had a chance at making the championship game. Oh well. No team picture either as the knuckleheads forgot to take one. Again, oh well. Clean it up fellas by the time the next tourney comes along, huh?

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# The Loons Nest Report

By Ed Garcia, Retired

## Loons Nest Hawaiian Adventure

It's October 26th, San Francisco International Airport, 0840 hrs. and United Flight 1721 is taxing toward the runway for takeoff en route to Kona Airport (on the Island of Hawaii). This flight marks the first Loons Nest overseas golf adventure, as 27 Loons and guests prepare for the five and a half hour flight; the longest prior Loon adventure was to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

The Loons will land and make their way to the Waikoloa Resort on the west side of the big island. As Loons proceed in rental cars up Highway 19, we see miles and miles of old lava flows that cover the area. As we move north, we see resort areas with beautiful green grounds and golf courses cut out of the lava. Quite a contrast!

The Waikoloa Resort is its own community with condos along the fairways of two championship golf courses. Two shopping centers are part of the development and the Loons seem well taken care of for the next seven days.

Monday brings our first day of golf and we travel about fifteen minutes north to the Mauna Kea Resort where we are to play the Hapuna Golf Course. This course is about three miles inland and heads up a soft grade which produces some great views from the course. The course has a rating of 126 from the regular tees with a top rating of 134 from the championship tees. The first day of competition is in a net Blind Bogey for-



mat, with prizes for the top five finishers.

As the Loons make their way through the day we find beautifully maintained fairways, but do not go into the rough. The first few yards of rough are high weeds covering broken up, jagged lava; and, balls are hard to find and the footing is dangerous. This situation really helps golf ball sales!!

Three Loons came in with net blind bogey scores of 46 and they were Steve Stearns, Roy Sullivan and Jere Williams. The USGA tie-breaker gave first place to Stearns with Sullivan in second place and Williams in third. Mike "Bert" Siebert and Paul Ospital had matching scores of 50. The tie-breaker went to Ospital for fourth place and Bert took fifth place. In "close to the hole" action, Bert cleaned house as he won on the fifth and sixteenth holes. Stearns won the seventh hole and George Bacigalupi took the prize on the sixteenth hole.

The individual low gross score for the day was current Club Champ Steve Moss with a 77. The low net score of the day



Spencer, Anzore, Warnke, Moss, and Honniball.



Williams, Garcia, Carey, Pursley and Fischer.



TTF veterans Fischer and Pursley.

came from Steve Stearns at 72.

On Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday no tournament golf was played, as Loons spread out over the island. Many went to the National Volcano Park, Parker Ranch Museum, Royal Summer Palace in Kona and other points of interest. The weather was in the mid-eighties with only slight breezes. We were advised by locals that we were very lucky, as this time of year can produce thirty to fifty mile per hour winds.

On Wednesday we played the Waikoloa Beach Course at our host resort, and we shared the course with a college tournament. Women's teams from Sonoma State, Chico, Monterey Bay and other California colleges were there.

Our second tournament day featured a Mystery Partner format with net team scores. This paid the first three finishing teams.

The winning team was Al Honniball and Steve Moss with a net team score of 145. Second place went to Mickey Griffin and Jere Williams at 150. Terry Carey and Roy Sullivan grabbed third with a team score of 154. The low gross leaders of the day were Moss and Ed Anzore at 76. The low net leaders were Sullivan and Scott Warnke at 71. On this day former, Loon member and Hawaiian resident Gile Pursley was able to join the Loons for a round of golf. Gile now plays out of Kona Country Club.

The Close to the Hole winners on the day were Williams on the 6th hole, Sullivan on the 8th hole, Anzore on the 12th hole and Garcia on the 17th hole.

On Thursday night the Loons gathered at the Macaroni Grill located in the neighboring Queen's Market Place for dinner and awards for the first two rounds of play. We were joined by SFPD retirees Lily Hitt and her husband Bobby (retired Las Vegas P.D.), Lynn and Kirk Tomioka, and Bill Bush and Mrs. Bush. The three couples are full time residents of the island, enjoying retirement in paradise.

As the Loons learned their way about the island we found one fine Hawaiian



1850's church in Waimea.

tradition and that is Happy Hour. Every golf course restaurant, grills, and restaurants in the community offered Happy Hour food and drink from two in the afternoon until seven in the evening. This produces a great deal of Polynesian happiness, as well as food and beverage bargains. Most Loons found the best happy hour at Tommy Bahamas in a neighboring resort area. Tommy Bahama has a two story building with clothing on the ground floor and one very happening bar and restaurant on the second floor.

Our final round was played Friday at Waikoloa Kings Course. This track is rated at 125 from the regular tees and it offered the toughest rough of the three days. It was interesting to find small herds of wild goats roaming freely over the fairways of the three courses we played, as well as geese and many stray cats all over the island. The format for the third day was individual play in two flights with low gross and low net in each flight. Prizes went out to the first two places in each division.

Steve Moss continued his very fine play and shot his third straight round in the seventies. Moss put together a round of 37-40 for a 77 and took first low gross in the first flight. Scott Wanke gave Moss a tight race, as he finished with a round of 79. Scott finished his round with an eagle 3 on the 18th hole. First place low net in the flight went to Earl "The Pearl" Wismer who fired a net 73, leaving Earl five strokes ahead of second place finisher Dean Sorgie at 78.

Second flight action saw Roy Sullivan take first low gross with a score of 86. Roy was the only player who finished in the money in all three days of golf. Roy also picked up side pot cash for two "close to the hole" winners. Roy had to fly home with a wallet full of cash. Second low gross in the flight went to Joe Fischer with a score of 97, finishing one stroke better than Jere Williams at 98.



Exotic Polynesian cocktails.

Close to the Hole winners for the day were Scott Warnke on the third hole, Steve Moss on the seventh hole, Bob Crosat on the eleventh hole and Roy Sullivan on the fifteenth.

On Saturday morning the Loons had to pack it up and make it back to Kona Airport. Rental cars were returned and bags were placed on the plane for our trip back to the Golden State. Our accommodations at Waikoloa resort were full size condos on the courses with lush vegetation, swimming pools, gas grills and many pleasant people. We played three fine courses and we must thank our road trip coordinator Ed Anzore for putting this grand adventure together, working through Sonoma Travel. The weather was perfect and one hopes that there will be more road trips of this caliber in the future.

Our next event will be the Holiday Classic at Chardonnay Golf Club on December 18th. Hope to see you all there.



Williams, Wismer and Carey.



Fischer, Garcia and Sorgie at Hapuna.



Royal Summer Palace in Kona.



View from Hapuna GC.



Sullivan and Griffin at Tommy Bahamas.



Stearns and Ospital on the tee at Hapuna GC.



View from Waikoloa Kings Course.



Goats roam the fairways on the Big Island.



Awards dinner at Macaroni Grill.



Flynn, Crosat, Sullivan and Griffin at Hapuna GC.

## Loons Nest Scoreboard

### Day 1, Hapuna Golf Club, Mauna Kea Resort

#### Blind Bogey Winners

1st Place	Steve Stearns	46
2nd Place	Roy Sullivan	46
3rd Place	Jere Williams	46
4th Place	Paul Ospital	50
5th Place	Mike "Bert" Siebert	50

#### Close to Hole Winners

Hole # 5	Siebert	Hole # 13	Bacigalupi
Hole # 7	Stearns	Hole # 16	Siebert

Low Gross leader of day:	Steve Moss	77
Low Net leader of day:	Steve Stearns	72

### Day 2, Waikoloa Beach Course

#### Two Man, Net Mystery Partner

1st Place	Al Honniball & Steve Moss	145
2nd Place	Mickey Griffin & Jere Williams	150
3rd Place	Terry Carey & Roy Sullivan	154

#### Close to Hole Winners

Hole #6	Williams	Hole # 12	Anzore
Hole #8	Sullivan	Hole #17	Garcia

#### Low Gross leaders of the day:

Steve Moss 76 & Ed Anzore 76

#### Low Net leaders of the day:

Roy Sullivan 71 & Scott Warnke 71

### Day 3, Waikoloa Kings Course

1st Place Low Gross, 1st Flight	Steve Moss	77
2nd Place Low Gross, 1st Flight	Scott Warnke	79
1st Place Low Net, 1st Flight	Earl Wismer	73
2nd Place Low Net, 1st Flight	Dean Sorgie	78

1st Place Low Gross, 2nd Flight	Roy Sullivan	86
2nd Place Low Gross, 2nd Flight	Joe Fischer	97
1st Place Low Net, 2nd Flight	Mike Flynn	78
2nd Place, Low Net, 2nd Flight	George Bacigalupi	80

#### Close to Hole Winners

Hole #3	Warnke	Hole #11	Crosat
Hole #7	Moss	Hole #15	Sullivan



# The San Francisco Police Officers Association Fourteenth Medal of Honor Ceremony



Thursday, November 7, 2019 • POA Atrium

*The SFPOA Board of Directors has adopted a Medal of Honor Award which was presented to these members nominated for their valor and dedicated professionalism.*

*We are privileged to have the opportunity to make this presentation to such a tremendously brave group of individuals.*

Tony Montoya, *President*                      Matthew Lobre, *Secretary*  
Rick Andreotti, *Vice President*            Sean Perdomo, *Treasurer*  
Tracy McCray, *Sergeant-At-Arms*

## Medal of Honor Award Recipients

Officer Jordon Cagonot  
Officer Tasawan Casey  
Officer Kenneth Cha  
Officer Kevin Endo  
Sergeant Michael Hara  
Officer Wilrolan Ravelo  
Sergeant Jason Robinson  
Officer Nicholas Suslow



L. to R. Tracy McCray, Tony Montoya, Kevin Endo, Tasawan Casey, Sean Perdomo, Matt Lobre, Rick Andreotti.

## Officers Kevin Endo and Tessa Casey

On March 21, 2018 at 4:28 p.m. Officers Kevin Endo and Tessa Casey responded to a family disturbance where a person was reportedly armed with a gun on the 200 block of Amazon Avenue. The officers arrived on scene and searched for the suspect. Their search led them to Amazon Barbershop at the corner of Geneva and Mission.

Amazon Barbershop was a well-known local shop run by Marty the Barber. Neighborhood kids would get a sucker with a hair cut and all walks of life from your local cop to biker enthusiast would frequent the spot. Today, the

Barbershop has taken a turn and invited a mixed crowd of petty criminals and working class customers.

As the officers entered the shop, the suspect was seated at the end of the bench. Without hesitation, the suspect produced a firearm and started shooting. Officer Endo returned fire as he was struck in the leg. Officer Tasawan let rounds off in the suspect's direction to save their lives. The suspect was struck several times.

These officers were diligent in their response to this incident and should be commended for confronting the suspect.



L. to R. Tracy McCray, Tony Montoya, Jason Robinson, Michael Hara, Nicholas Suslow, Matt Lobre, Wilrolan Ravelo, Sean Perdomo, Rick Andreotti.



## Lifetime Achievement Award Captain Paul Chignell, retired

Paul Chignell and Tony Montoya.



L. to R. Tracy McCray, Tony Montoya, Kenneth Cha, Jordan Cagonot, Sean Perdomo, Matt Lobre, Rick Andreotti.

## Officers Kenneth Cha and Jordan Cagonot

On May 3, 2017 at 11:22 a.m. Officers Kenneth Cha and Jordan Cagonot were on uniformed patrol along the 900 block of Market Street. Market Street, once the Pride of San Francisco's Downtown, is now a wasteland of drug abusers and untreated psychiatric patients. Officers Cagonot and Cha, true to the dedication to our City, fearlessly patrolled this area seeking to protect the many merchants, tech workers, and tourists that navigate around the many perils on the street.

It was not long until a panicked citizen ran to Officers Cha and Cagonot seeking help at a Subway Restaurant. The unhinged suspect was causing a raucous disturbance inside of the Subway Restaurant and it caused the distressed citizen much concern. Officers Cha and

Cagonot wasted no time entering the restaurant and witnessed a scene from a horror movie. The unhinged suspect was stabbing the Subway employee and the employee tried to get away by running around the counter. Oblivious to Officers Cha and Cagonot's commands to stop and drop the knife, the unhinged suspect's murderous intent was made clear as he chased the stabbed employee ready to continue plunging the knife into him.

Officer Cha had no other alternative than to shoot the suspect to save the Subway employee's life.

Officers Cha and Cagonot's bravery and unwavering dedication to duty in an area plagued with social ills exemplify the very best of our occupation.

## Officers Jason Robinson, Michael Hara, Nicholas Suslow and Wilroan Ravelo

On September 24, 2017 at 0257 hours, Tactical Unit Officers Jason Robinson, Michael Hara, Nicholas Suslow, and Wilroan Ravelo responded to the unit block of Salmon Street on a report of a barricaded suspect holding a woman and children hostage at gun point. The Tactical Unit is known for their intense gym workouts, perfect stylized hair, tans, and G.I. Joe outfits. All kidding aside, the Tactical Unit is the most highly trained unit in our Department and an exclusive club. Many seek to be a member, but few are denied admission.

As Officers Robinson, Hara, Suslow, and Ravelo were standing by outside of the residence, the Hostage Negotiation Team was desperately trying to resolve

the incident peacefully. Many hours were spent speaking to the suspect until the suspect announced his intention to kill the hostages. Seconds later a gunshot was heard from inside the residence and Officers Robinson, Hara, Suslow, and Ravelo were given the order to make entry to save the hostages.

The officers encountered the suspect with gun in hand.

The suspect was shot and the hostages were rescued.

These officers responded to an impossible situation under very trying circumstances. They were brave in the face of certain danger and bent on rescuing the hostages.