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CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine • April 2026



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**COVER STORY
PAGE 34**

A Final Salute to John Dineen

The founder and namesake of Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 passed away on March 25, just a few months away from turning 90 this coming Fourth of July. Hundreds of friends and former colleagues came from across the country to attend the wake and funeral for the Lodge 7 founder and its president for nearly 20 years and share stories of John's dedication, historical significance, renowned presence and how he bettered the lives of every Chicago Police Officer even until this day. From winning collective bargaining rights for Lodge 7 to negotiating the first-ever contract to mentoring nearly every leader in the National, State and Chicago FOP Lodges, here is never-before-told details of John Dineen's amazing run.



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CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine
President's Report



From Lodge 7 to the National FOP to the White House to the mayor's office, everybody looked up to John Dineen



JOHN CATANZARA JR.

How remarkable, how notable, how memorable that John Dineen lived to see the memorial to his legendary stature. Had the chance to experience the tribute etching his name where it officially and appropriately belongs. Prominently on our name line as we unveiled it in November 2023: Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7.

Being there with his beloved Marilyn, his son, recently retired CPD Sergeant Tim Dineen, and other family members was just sheer affirmation of the decision to make John the namesake. Because Lodge 7 was undoubtedly created in his image.

Far too often, we have celebrations like the one to rename Lodge 7 after the fact. And the person we're commemorating almost never gets to bask in the full scope of the support, love, admiration and respect they have achieved during a lifetime of devotion and service. Honoring John needed to happen in the moment because I firmly believe that people deserved to be recognized for the generational changes for which they fought.

John's legacy now lives on forever through that mural of photos filling two windows and two glass door frames set on a photo of the City's iconic skyline that spans the Lodge's courtyard entryway. Reminiscent of details you'd see on a sports hall-of-fame plaque, John's key moments are listed and are no less impressive today than they were when he accomplished them.

So what does it take for the biggest FOP Lodge in the country to name itself after anyone? Well, start with John Dineen's record of being perhaps the single greatest leader in the history of the FOP — Chicago Lodge, Illinois State Lodge and National Lodge. Then turn to his determination that led to serving as Lodge 7 president from 1972 to 1993, a stretch that included his two years as National FOP president from 1979 to 1981.

But for me, trying to fill his chair is impossible, with one historic selfless act he set an unattainable bar. In 1980, John forfeited re-election of National FOP President... to come back to do what this membership never had the opportunity to do before — negotiate its first-ever collective bargaining agreement with the City.

Even former Chicago Mayor Jane Byrne realized John's stature and presence when collectively bargaining with him and Chicago Police Officers for the first time in 1980. More about that to come and in the tribute to John beginning on page 37, though you can see it in her eyes in the picture here.

Realizing the importance of the moment and putting the membership ahead of your own aspirations almost never happens these days. So that one singular move, I think, put him on a level above any union leader that I know of — from any union, especially in this City.

To lead this union, to lead any union, to that level, you need big ones. But John had a larger-than-life personality in many ways. At the same time, he just was a really good human being and a valuable mentor in my early years as Lodge 7 president, somebody I never hesitated to ask, "How'd we get here?" or "What do you think about this?"

On a handful of occasions, I sought out John to see what he thought was the right way to go. I so admired somebody who thrived in the environment of "Do what I say or else," because that's how the Department ran prior to 1980. And John blazed the trail of not just doing what they said, which is how we took this Lodge to where it is now.

You want to know what else is in a name?

I think of it every time we go to negotiations, every time I look at a contract book, every time we



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President's Report continues on Page 6

have a grievance hearing. All of these collective bargaining gains were afforded by the foundation John Dineen laid for this organization. At this point, we're just adding floors to the building. Some are better than others, but the foundation John built is still as tough as nails.

The foundation for John, his guiding principle to be sure, was built on maintaining focus that it's all about the members. And it's about the members.

I learned from John early on that we're never getting 100 percent of the vote from this membership on anything. Even a 22 percent salary increase. He helped make it a guiding principle for me to not worry about convincing every single member that what we're doing is correct because human nature dictates that it's impossible.

His name on the door has always led to believing that regardless of what a handful of naysayers may believe, this place has always been the best it can be with the best benefits packages and professional protections we can get for members. Because whether it's a year from now or five years from now, my days here are numbered and, like

John, my goal is to leave it better than I found it.

There are always going to be those who don't believe in what you are doing. But John felt they could be changed by results that actually mattered in their day-to-day lives. So to honor him, we should wake up every day asking, "What can we do to make a difference today?"

With John Dineen's name now immortalized on those doors off West Washington Street, we can answer the question of what's behind that name and what it will represent in the years to come. It reflects that this generation of officers — and those who will wear the badge in the future — must know about how he reshaped policing in Chicago. We got there on the backs of people like John Dineen.

When I went to see John last July and brought him a birthday cake, he was recovering in a rehab facility, having those moments of thinking that people kind of have forgotten about him. That will never be the case because he is enshrined forever in our hearts and minds. And on our Lodge.

President's Report: Second Stories

What did she say?

Can you freakin' believe Alderperson Maria Hadden's remarks following the murder of 18-year-old Loyola University student Sheridan Gorman? She claimed that this young girl who was out with friends, as college students often are, may have been "in the wrong place at the wrong time" and could have unintentionally startled the suspect.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement reports that the suspect who is now in custody, Jose Medina, is in the country illegally. Hadden basically made an excuse for the migrant already. Like, "Oops, they scared him into shooting her in the head." No way to startle such a vile human being.

The spin is going to be that Texas Governor Greg Abbott sent that piece of shit up here. He had criminal charges in Texas. But it's not like they did criminal background checks before they put all the migrants on buses. It was just, "Here are buses to Chicago, Boston, etc. Get on the bus you want to get on."

But no doubt they're going to try to blame that on Abbott, just to distract. Perhaps you saw Paris Schutz interview me on Fox 32 March 24. The phrase I kept hearing in my head is "one's too many."

Whether it was George Floyd, Laquan McDonald or take your pick. When those kinds of police incidents happen and you try and explain

to the general public that these are the absolute ultra-rare exceptions to even the shootings that do occur, their immediate response is, "Yeah, but one's too many. That's why we need all this reform, all this oversight."

But it's never "one's too many" when it comes to situations like this with an illegal. They have such empathy in their DNA for anybody going to prison, apparently. Except for police officers, especially white police officers.

It's such a hypocritical stance that all of these people can be robbed, killed or attacked by migrants, and still one is not enough. Apparently 100 is not enough. You can set people on fire, stab them on a train, sexually traffic people, and it's OK. You shouldn't be deported for that. Just insane.

When it comes to going to jail, they just want to keep making excuses for bad behavior. Rehabilitation is unlikely in most cases in prison. It keeps them off the street and keeps them from harming other people. That's primarily what prison was always initially intended to be. Get bad people off the streets. If you can rehabilitate them, great. If they can't be rehabilitated, a lot of that is on them.

Why didn't more people make their vote count?

No real surprises from the Illinois primary election, including voter apathy, sadly, being as strong as ever. The 25 percent turnout was pathetic.

I did read a very interesting post that highlighted the ridiculousness of nonpartisan elections in Chicago. And how that does nothing to save the City any money by eliminating a round of election, the guise on which it was sold. It's been runoff election after runoff election after runoff election because nobody generally ever gets 50 percent of the vote the first round.

Maybe it's time to bring back the partisan elections and have a real two-option situation for the City of Chicago. Of course, the Democratic clowns are not going to voluntarily agree to it. Hopefully, with the right mayor who can pledge that that is something

they're open to, we take another look at that.

I would love to see these statewide races coincide with the major elections, so you get better turnout and involvement by residents of the City. But they're slick enough to know more involvement means less chance of getting reelected. Seems like voting in Chicago could use a SAVE Act.

But they are stacking the deck like a bunch of bookies. Just disgusting human beings out for nobody but themselves.

I will say the positive we can take from the primary is that a lot of the far-left lunatics were not successful. So we did not have this continuation of the Mamdani effect in Chicago and Illinois in this election cycle, which is somewhat of a relief. We have enough of them already collecting a paycheck they don't deserve.



War ... what is it good for?

Looking ahead to the next election, the outlook right now has so many variables. For one, what happens with this war? I mean, what happens with this military exercise? It's not even a war because it's so one-sided.

So where does this Iran situation end up, and does it end up costing a bunch of seats in the midterms? Control of the houses would only embolden the crazies to get even more involved in Chicago and Illinois politics going forward.

Like it or not — and I guess in this City, a lot of people do not — the man is absolutely reshaping geopolitics more than any other president. Period. Full stop. Other than, I guess, maybe you can say FDR because of the issues that would have resulted in not being successful in World War II.

But what the president is doing to take proactive measures in the Caribbean and, obviously, in the Middle East, is reshaping what the world will be for generations to come. If previous administrations had not been so soft and this society had not been so soft, we wouldn't need to make major course corrections. We could have done minor tuneups rather than a full engine overhaul.

But that's where we're at. We elect leaders to lead and when they do, especially when they're outside the borders of America, we question the manner in which they do it. You don't support the guy who pushes the button just because he wants to see what kind of mushroom cloud appears.

But that's not what we're talking about here. We should be sup-

portive of a president on either side. Especially with the way Iran has been playing this game of, "We're going to do what we want to do and then when you try to hold us accountable, we'll lead you along and string you along." It's almost like Iraq in many ways, except the weapons of mass destruction that Saddam Hussein didn't have, Iran does have.

So we let them get away with this for decades and decades and decades, until now. If we had dealt with it sooner — even under Reagan; I'll go that far back — and we not only get the freakin' hostages back right away, but we would have killed the ayatollah at that point for even doing it.

If you let this stuff fester, it becomes a bigger issue, and you need more dramatic course corrections. I'm glad that this president seems committed to playing his own game, doing the right thing regardless of the political consequences that could come out from it.

And that's not something many politicians have had the cojones to do on any level of government for far too long. It's been self-interest, self-interest, self-interest. Now, you could make the argument that during his first term, he was like the rest of them, calculating to some degree, reelection.

Would this have ever happened in the first administration? Absolutely not. Knowing there is no reelection riding on it, now you can do what you want to do and what you believe is right. And let the consequences fall where they may politically.



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Honoring Those Who Paved the Way



**MICHAEL
METTE**

April is a time of transition. The weather begins to turn, the days grow longer, and many of us feel a renewed sense of energy and purpose. It is also a fitting time to pause and reflect on those who came before us, the men and women who wore the star, walked the beat, answered the calls, and built the foundation we stand on today. This month, we turn our focus to our retirees.

Retirement from this job is unlike any other. It is more than leaving a career. It is stepping away from a calling. After decades of service, countless roll calls, and a lifetime of experiences that few outside this profession can truly understand, our retirees enter a new chapter. It is a chapter well earned, but not always easy.

For many, it is the routine they miss most. The camaraderie. The sense of purpose. The unspoken bond shared by those who have done this job. That bond does not end at retirement, and it is our responsibility as an organization to ensure that it never does.

Our retirees are not simply former members. They are the living history of this department and this Lodge. They have witnessed the evolution of policing in this city, endured its most challenging moments, and contributed to its proudest achievements. The benefits we fight for today, the protections we depend on, and the unity we strive to maintain were built on their shoulders.

We owe them more than gratitude. We owe them continued connection.

That means making a deliberate effort to keep our retirees engaged. Whether it is attending retiree meetings, checking in on former partners, or simply extending an invitation to Lodge events, small actions carry a lasting impact. No one who has devoted decades of their life to this job should ever feel forgotten once they step away.

It is equally important to recognize that retirement brings its own challenges. The shift in identity, the loss of daily structure, and for some, the physical and emotional toll of the job can weigh heavily. This is where our commitment to wellness must continue. Our support should never have an expiration date.

As we move forward, we should also take every opportunity to learn from our retirees. Their experience is invaluable. Their stories hold lessons that cannot be taught in any academy. Listening to them, honoring them, and keeping them involved strengthens not only our Lodge, but our entire profession.

To our retirees, thank you. Thank you for your sacrifice, your leadership, and your dedication to this city and this job. You are, and always will be, part of this family.

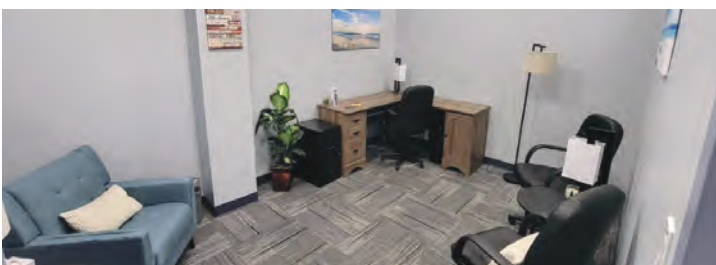
And to our active members, one day, we will all hope to join their ranks. Let us build the kind of Lodge today that we will be proud to return to tomorrow.



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Discipline Briefs



DAN GORMAN

Part of my report given at the monthly General Members' meetings includes examples of arbitrator's decisions issued at discipline arbitration hearings. Every investigation has its own individual circumstances, and in most cases, there are multiple allegations and redundant alleged "Rule violations" (usually piled on by the investigators). However, below are generalized descriptions of the CR/allegations along with the recent dispositions that have been awarded by the assigned arbitrator(s). By popular demand, the investigating body is also included.

General Summary of Allegation	Original Recommended Penalty	Arbitrator's Award
Fail to investigate Hit-N-Run Fail to arrest alleged DUI Improper Traffic Crash Report (BIA)	2-day suspension	Violation Noted for improper Crash Report
Issue ticket to motorist against supervisor's instructions. Continue to follow motorist after traffic stop. Manually point BWC at the individual after the stop was concluded. (Accountability Sergeant)	2-day suspension	Upheld
Verbal, profanity in public (BIA)	6-day suspension	3-day suspension
O.I.S. (no hits) (COPA)	365-day suspension	120-day suspension

QUOTE BOARD:

To add context to some of the above listed dispositions, below are just a few notable quotes taken directly from the arbitrator's written awards/decisions.

Quotes from the 9-page arbitration decision re: Fail to investigate a Hit-N-Run, fail to arrest an alleged DUI, improper crash report (BIA)

"I find that there is insufficient evidence to explain or justify a delay of 19 months from the time the Complaint was submitted in February 2021, until August 2022 when Grievant was first asked to submit a To/From, and then a second To/From two years after the incident."

"Further, I note that Grievant had not been given the opportunity to view her BWC videos to refresh her memory of the incident before her interview."

"I find that the delay in the Investigation as well as the failure to provide [the officer] with the opportunity to review the BWC videos are mitigating factors."

"...although I consider the excessive delays in the Investigation without explanation a mitigating factor, it does not absolve [the officer] of the responsibility to be thorough when completing a Report, and she is not without any culpability."

"I find that [the officer] did not indicate on the Illinois Traffic Crash Report that the incident was a "Hit & Run" accident. Again, I find that this error was due to her inexperience."

Quotes from the 9-page arbitration decision re: Issuing citation to a motorist against immediate supervisor's instructions, continue following traffic violator after the stop, and manually pointing BWC at said citizen. (Accountability Sergeant)

"I agree that [the citizen] was highly agitated and short-tempered with [the officer] as well as being disrespectful from the start of the encounter. She also used profanity during the traffic stop. [She] was also disrespectful and curt with [the responding sergeant]."

"Nevertheless, [the sergeant] clearly instructed [the officer] to not issue a ticket for failure to produce her insurance and told [the officer] that she had shown her insurance. {The officer} debated his interpretation of the law with [the sergeant] but [the sergeant] reiterated to [the officer] that he did not write the ticket for failure to produce her insurance. I find that [the officer] failed to obey the directions of his supervisor."

"I agree that [the officer] told [his sergeant] that he was going to follow her and said, 'If she does another traffic violation, I'm going to pull her over again.' There is no evidence on the videos that (the sergeant) told him not to follow her. However, I agree with the Department's conclusion that there was no lawful reason for [the officer] to continue to follow her over several streets after the traffic stop, or to remove his BWC and point it in her direction."

"As I have indicated in other cases, an Arbitrator should not modify a penalty unless the Arbitrator finds that the penalty is unreasonable. In the instant case, after careful review of all the evidence, I cannot find that the 2-day Suspension was unreasonable."

Quotes from the 9-page arbitration decision re: Verbal; profanity between officers in the presence of the public. (BIA)

"The Union also contends that [the BIA investigating sergeant] did not conduct a fair and thorough Investigation that would have revealed that [both officers] used profanity in the presence of civilians during the verbal altercation. Thus, giving

[one officer] a 6- day Suspension and not disciplining [the other] for [each of their] involvement in the verbal altercation is disparate treatment.”

Quotes from the 16-page arbitration decision re: Officer Involved Shooting (no hits, no injury, offender fled) (COPA)

Additional summary of the O.I.S. incident: While conducting a covert operation, a surveillance officer witnessed a shooting. The accused officer monitored a flash message of the suspect vehicle fleeing the scene of the shooting. The accused officer made an instant decision to position his covert vehicle in the oncoming lane of traffic. As the suspect vehicle came to a stop, the driver (and suspect shooter) raised both hands over the steering wheel in a shooting posture pointing in the officer’s direction. The officer did not have the luxury of time to announce his office. Officer fired one-time; offender fled; no hits. COPA originally recommended termination for the shooting officer; however, the officer was served with 365-day suspension; grievance filed; and arbitrator issued 120-day suspension.

“By choosing to block a fleeing vehicle, crossing traffic controls

and creating a head-on confrontation, the grievant placed himself in a position where a perceived deadly threat became far more likely.”

“Under the totality of circumstances, the Employer has established serious misconduct warranting substantial discipline. That misconduct lies in the escalation of the encounter and the creation of a hazardous confrontation, not in wanton or reckless use of force at the instant the shot was fired.”

“Grievant committed a serious tactical error in engaging the vehicle while operating undercover and in disregarding traffic controls. That decision materially contributed to the confrontation that follows. Although the discharge itself occurred in a compressed moment and was not egregious when viewed in isolation, it flowed directly from that preceding conduct.”

“At the same time, the discharge involved a single round. The grievant did not continue firing once the perceived threat subsided. No one was injured. Vehicle recovered later did not have any bullet damage. These facts do not excuse the misconduct, but they bear on the gravity.”

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30 YEARS OF SERVING LODGE 7 MEMBERS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

Essential Resources Available on the FOP Webpage



MONICA
ORTIZ

The FOP webpage serves as a valuable hub for members, providing clear answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs). It offers in-depth explanations, downloadable forms, and convenient links to essential services. Below are some of the most helpful resources and answers to common medical and benefits questions available on the site.

Ambulance Fee Exemption

Members, eligible dependents, retirees, and spouses are exempt from CFD ambulance fees under the current agreement between the FOP and the City. To receive this benefit, contact Unit 123 (Human Resources) at (312) 745-5310 or email the completed waiver to ambulancewaivers@chicagopolice.org. You can download the required waiver form directly from the FOP webpage.

Flexible Spending Account (FSA) Information

An FSA allows you to allocate pre-tax dollars to cover a wide range of medical and dental expenses for any covered family member. Using an FSA can lower your taxable income and better manage healthcare costs.

PayFlex administers the FSA program. Once your benefit is approved and an Explanation of Benefits is issued, PayFlex can make direct deposits to your checking or savings account.

The FOP webpage includes a direct link to PayFlex, where you can manage your FSA account, submit claims, and find additional support.

IOD-IRS Letters

Under Section 2-84-480 of the City of Chicago Municipal Code, sworn personnel injured in the line of duty can receive their full salary for up to 12 months. The IRS considers these wages as workers' compensation, meaning they are excluded from your gross income for tax purposes (Technical Advice Memorandum T32-153-91).

Medical Services Section Reminders

If you are placed on the Medical Roll, notify your unit of assignment at least one hour before your scheduled reporting time, providing the reason for your absence and any requested information. You must also contact the Medical Services Section within 24 hours of being placed on the Medical Roll. If unable to report in person on the second day due to illness or injury, call the Medical Services Section and report in person as soon as possible. You may need to provide a physician's statement detailing your diagnosis, treatment plan, and estimated return-to-duty date.

Please note: Children are not permitted at the Medical Services Section under any circumstances.

Benefits Bulletin: The Director of Benefits Management has released a comprehensive, three-page bulletin with important reminders and updates for members. Below are a few key

highlights, but I highly recommend reviewing the entire document on our webpage, as it provides extensive information on benefits and FAQs.

Report Permissible Election Change Events (Life Events)

Events such as adoption, birth, marriage, civil union, death, divorce, gain or loss of coverage, or obtainment of legal guardianship allow members to make changes to benefits coverage.

Steps to Update Your Coverage:

1. Notify the Chicago Benefits Service Center within 30 days of the event date at www.cityofchicagobenefits.org or call 1-877-299-5111.
2. Submit required government-issued dependent eligibility documentation within 60 days of the event (180 days for birth certificates for newborns). Acceptable documents include birth or marriage certificates and proof of gain or loss of coverage. Non-English documents must be translated by a certified translator.

How To Submit Dependent Eligibility Documentation

- Online at www.cityofchicagobenefits.org under the "Manage My Forms and Documents"
- Fax to 855-215-8805
- Mail: Chicago Benefits Service Center, P.O. Box 9929, Providence, RI 02940-4029
- In person by appointment only at www.cityofchicago.org/benefits. A representative will contact you to arrange a visit at 2 N. LaSalle Street, Room 1240, Chicago, IL 60602. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Walk-ins may not be accommodated due to building security.

Return To Work: How To Reinstate Coverage Following Return From An Approved Leave Of Absence (LOA)

Employees returning from LOA (such as duty disability, FMLA, medical, military, or personal leave) must notify the Benefits Service Center within 30 days of their return to continue or reinstate coverage for themselves and family members. Submit any required documentation within 60 days of returning. This process applies to medical, vision, and dental coverage. Failure to notify the Benefits Service Center within 30 days of your return to work may result in termination of coverage for you and your dependents. The next opportunity to enroll will be during the annual open enrollment period, or if following another permissible life event. If deductions were taken without notifying the Benefits Service Center, you may be entitled to a refund. To notify the Benefits Service Center, visit www.cityofchicagobenefits.org or call 1-877-299-5111.

This overview highlights key resources and FAQs. For full details and complete documents, visit the FOP webpage under the Benefits - Medical Services section.

Stay safe.

Potholes, Pests, and Policies: Fighting for Your Work Environment



**ROB
NOCEDA**

Greetings, Lodge 7. I pray this finds you well. As Safety Chairman the last three years, I have ensured that we have quarterly meetings with the City. This practice was not always done. The Safety Meeting was held on March 23. We had a full schedule to go over the various issues throughout the City. I will start with Headquarters (HQ). On the third floor, east side of HQ, all renovations were completed, and members of those respected units are working again in that third-floor area.

Unfortunately, on the first floor of HQ, there were sightings of bed bugs, and a member was bitten and coded with IOD due to the bites they received. Currently, there have not been any sightings since the first week of January. The City has continued in their preventive measures and continued to treat the area every four weeks and will keep members outside that area for two to three days after spraying the treatment as an extra precaution to members. Large resealable plastic bags will be provided by the city to members as an extra precaution.

HQ, as you see, has been under construction with its new gate and lobby renovations, which include new turnstiles. This will now require you to be let in by the Officer in the lobby, which means you will have to check in formally at the Lobby security desk. Badges or swipe cards will be given to those working at HQ, and certain "VIP" personnel designated by their departments will have badges/swipe cards as well.

In the 1st district, there were what were thought to be fruit flies. But being corrected in the meeting, as to what they were, they are now described as flying ants. I know what you're thinking, really, flying ants? You learn new things when you go to safety meetings. Well, the City has assured the Lodge that there has been no sighting of "flying ants" since the middle of February and that they are taking precautions to seal certain areas in the foundation and other areas that have gaps or holes. They have treated the area and ask that trash be removed regularly and areas stay as clean as possible.

I have consistently brought up the potholes to the City as members have routinely asked me to help out their district parking lots. So, we discussed many of the lots, to name a few, the 8th, 11th, 17th, and 19th west were all discussed as starting points for parking lot repair. 2FM is responsible for resurfacing as well as filling these lots with hot/cold patches. I have asked that many of these lots be repaved as well. Knowing the cost to fix a parking lot, it will take possibly upwards of \$1 million to resurface and fix just one district parking lot. It is a priority to fix districts as opposed to HQ. HQ, for example, are looking at least \$3-4 million to have their lot resurfaced.

I will give credit where credit is due. Risk Manager Michael Faddah has been responsive to my emails and calls and has ensured the issues are getting addressed. I appreciate him even coming up with a QR code and bringing the Police Department into the current technological age. The QR code will soon be able to have a "Service Now" type system. This allows the Risk Management team to verify if work orders are placed and where the process is. This QR code will help alleviate problems in communication and documentation breakdowns and solve these issues faster and more efficiently.

I was able to go over a few other issues in regard to inspections, for each area and district. Engineers should inspect and report all deficiencies in their respected areas at least quarterly. I don't see how that would be an issue to report shortcomings in the districts that they are responsible for. It just alleviates more problems that will have an impact on our members.

In the 3rd district, they have had previous flooding, and it is now

learned that they have had a leaky roof and it will need to be fixed. I hope that 2FM can repair this roof as soon as possible, so trash cans don't have to be used as buckets to catch water.

In the 2nd district, it was also brought to my attention that there was a tarp covering a door next to the gym in the 2nd district where there was a sign that said, "Asbestos, may cause cancer, causes damage to lungs. Authorized Personnel Only." The City responded that there was no asbestos project they were aware of and that they are a requirement for renovation in an old building.

Lastly, I was able to bring up that the department and Commanders in the district can inform the Officers in each District better when it comes to renovations or scheduled construction. I mentioned an Admin Message, C.O Book as well as an email to the unit members. This would be beneficial to Officers who were concerned in the 2nd district about the "Asbestos" warning.

There were other topics discussed, but I only have so much time and words to write in this article. It is always my goal to have new police facilities in the 11th, 2nd, and 4th Districts because of how old these facilities are. It will be a continued effort to secure funding and ensure our members have a much improved work area. We will keep fighting for you.

God Bless and be safe. You can reach Rob at rnoceda@chicagofop.org.

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Preservation Orders



**JIM
JAKSTAVICH**

Hello again, Officers, both active and retired. The Lodge has recently received calls from Officers who were notified of a preservation order for their department phones and electronic devices. I cannot stress enough that these preservation orders will be issued when an Officer-Involved Shooting (OIS) occurs and either the attorneys for both the department members and the attorneys hired by the families of those involved make this request.

A preservation order will be sent to Officers via department email from the Office of Legal Affairs. The Preservation Order can be requested for all personal electronic devices (cellphones) regarding an OIS in which Officers were involved in or responded to the call. It does not matter if you were blocking traffic three blocks away or you were the follow-up investigator. The court order will be enforced. When you receive a preservation order, you must comply. This should be a reminder for all Officers not to use their cellphones to take pictures of anything relating to a crime scene. You are reminded that you should not comment or share photos of incidents via GroupMe, as these text groups will implicate more than just one individual. Any attempts to purposefully erase and scrub your phone's information can and will be detected. Please remember that anything you text, email, Snapchat, etc. can be discoverable in court. If you have a department-issued device (cellphone), please use this during your tours of duty. Please always remain professional.

In other high-profile OIS cases, the courts have granted media

outlets the phone records of Officers on the scene of police-involved shootings. These included all job-related calls and text messages from Officer to Officer at that time of the shooting. The courts have ruled that phone records that have private personal information, not related to the shooting incident, are not discoverable. Many of us have been issued department cellphones. Use these for all police-related work. Reaching for your cellphone during a job has become almost second nature, so please make every effort to retrain yourself. Use the department phone, maintain your professionalism, and save yourself from being involved in any litigation or giving bottom-feeding lawyers more ammunition to attack the police.

Arrest of Arsonist

I would like to offer a special shout-out to the Area 3 Detectives and all units involved in the investigation which led to the identification and arrest of the murder offender that started the fire that led to the death of CFD FF Michael Altman. There is a special place in hell for this type of offender who starts a fire in an occupied building. Fire personnel and their chaplain, Fr. Ryan Brady, packed the court room at 26 & Cal for the hearing on the offender. The 024th District Commander and Police Officers from 024 were there, the 008th District Commander, Ald. Ray Lopez, Ald. Jim Gardiner, and of course, members of the FOP were there in support. Bravo and thank you to Judge Luciano Panici Jr. for being no-nonsense and ordering the offender held on no bond.

As always, stay safe.

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South Side Irish Parade



MICHAEL COLLINS

Hello again, brothers and sisters, both active and retired. Growing up on the South Side of Chicago, one of the best days of the year we all look forward to is Parade Day. The South Side Irish Parade has been a staple for the Beverly/Morgan Park and Mt. Greenwood communities since 1979. Those communities are home to many men and women of the Chicago Police Department (CPD). The parade marches down Western Ave. from 103rd to 115th streets and has grown into one of the largest community-based St. Patrick's Day parades outside of Dublin, Ireland.

This year's Grand Marshal was the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. Cutting the ribbon to kick off the parade was Director Aric Grooms, who has helped fallen and wounded police officers' families all over the world, including some of our very own with the CPD. The Tunnel to Towers Foundation is a national nonprofit organization that supports the families of fallen and wounded first responders and military service members by providing mortgage-free homes and support services.

Many groups and organizations marched in this great family event, including all the major labor unions, Chicago Police & Fire

Pipe Band, Chicago Police Honor Guard, and the Emerald Society Bagpipes and Drums, just to name a few. Also, officers from Ireland and LA joined the Emerald Society. Like always, FOP Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 had a great presence at the parade. President John Catanzara pulled the Lodge trailer with the dually truck, as members from the Board of Directors and other members walked alongside, representing Chicago Police Officers, both past and present. Our biggest supporter on the City Council, 10th Ward Alderman Peter Chico, who is also a Chicago Police Officer, proudly marched with the FOP. A great day of fraternalism was had by all.

Lastly, I would also like to thank all the officers who worked the parade detail. You all did a great job and represented us with pure class. Stay safe everyone!



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*Hengyi Yang, widow of
 Ofc. Kevin Meng, Dec'd*

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The Growing Exit from Chicago Policing



KENYATTA GAINES

Across the department, a quiet but consequential shift is taking place. Officers who once began their careers together—sharing academy training, late-night patrols, and the evolving scope of policing—are now reaching the later stages of their careers and making a collective decision to retire, step away, and, in many cases, leave the city altogether! This job was once a profession defined by long-term commitment to both the job and community. The job is now increasingly marked by early exits and a growing sense of disillusionment.

For many of us, the journey began with a sense of purpose and stability. We entered the department at a time when policing, while always demanding, felt like, if nothing else, a sustainable career path. Over the years, we have built not only professional partnerships but lifelong friendships. Some officers moved through the ranks together; others stayed in patrol supporting one another through the stresses of the job and the changing social landscape of law enforcement. Now, these same groups are fragmenting as retirements accelerate and resignations rise.

The decision to retire is not solely about reaching pension eligibility. Instead, it's often the cure to the tipping point—a culmination of years of mounting pressure, shifting public perception, and frustration with internal requirements, dissatisfaction, and external challenges. Officers speak candidly about burnout, feeling unsupported, and a job that no longer resembles the one they signed up for some time ago. Officers are reassessing their timelines, asking whether it is worth staying longer in an environment that feels unrecognizable.

Adding to this dynamic is the reality that we are not just employees of the city of Chicago, we are residents! We've raised families in Chicago, invested in our neighborhoods, and built lives rooted in the communities we serve. This duality makes the decision to leave more complex and personal. When officers consider leaving the job, it's a decision to also consider leaving their homes and social networks. A growing number are concluding that both departures—professional and personal—are necessary. Officers who once felt confident in the city's future now express uncertainty about its direction. We watch as the city continues to “civilianize” the Police Department.

Leadership decisions at the city level have become a focal point of discussion within the ranks. Policies that impact policing strategies, resource allocation, and accountability measures are often viewed through the lens of those who have never held a position on the force. That's problematic! While perspectives vary, there is a common sentiment among officers that that needs to change. This perceived disconnect contributes to a broader erosion of trust between the department and city leadership. These concerns can serve as a final push. Rather than extending their careers, many are choosing to leave as soon as they are able. Others, who are not yet at retirement eligibility, are exploring opportunities in different jurisdictions or entirely new careers. The idea of starting over elsewhere—once unthinkable for many—is becoming increasingly appealing.



The impact of this trend extends beyond individual officers. As experienced personnel leave, departments face challenges in maintaining institutional knowledge and mentorship. As more officers reach this crossroads, the city faces important questions about how to retain talent, rebuild trust, and create an environment where public servants and residents feel secure and supported. The answers will shape not only the future of the police department but also the broader trajectory of Chicago itself.

Before you push that button, check all of your insurance policies (Texas Life, Prudential, Combined FOP, deferred comp, etc.) for listed beneficiaries, next of kin, addresses, and amounts to ensure they align with your current situation. Make sure the HR department has your correct information. Create a will or trust and confidently walk into retirement.

Stay safe!

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CPD Continues To Deny Officers Their Due Process



PAT
FIORETTO

The ink is still wet on my last article, and the Department still has not learned its lesson. In a recent Arbitration Award, Arbitrator Brennwald chastised the City for failing to provide an Officer with his due process rights.

Let's review the concept of due process. In the arbitration context, due process ensures that Police Officers receive a fair investigation and hearing before any discipline is imposed. Under the Collective Bargaining Agreement, only the Superintendent has the authority to issue final discipline. Often, both the current and former Superintendents will receive "recommendations" for discipline based on investigations and final reports submitted by either COPA or BIA. Due process requires the Department to provide adequate and timely notice; conduct a fair, timely and non-biased investigation; and most important, maintain an even-handed rule application. Due process acts as a procedural safeguard against unfairness, protecting not only the fundamental right to notice but also an opportunity to be heard by an impartial arbitrator mutually selected by the Parties.

Some Arbitrators have held that failure of an Employer to provide a Grievant with due process could automatically compel a conclusion that there was no just cause for the discipline assessed by the Employer. Other Arbitrators focus on the inquiry of whether the due process violation created the possibility, however remote, that a grievant was deprived of fair consideration of his or her case. For example, Arbitrators look at whether any delay has hardened the positions of the parties rendering settlement remote, whether the delay caused the grievant to be subjected to uncertainty, and whether delay has caused witness memories to become impaired. The City has difficulty grasping this concept, despite being told time and time again by various arbitrators.

For example, over the 4th of July holiday in 2020, COPA received notice of a report from the Department of a Police Officer's alleged misconduct while at home. Despite the report being made in July 2020, COPA took three and a half years to conclude its investigation and issued a Final Summary Report in January 2024. COPA summarily concluded that the accused Officer had committed nine different violations of CPD Rules. Based on COPA's findings, the Superintendent agreed with the Investigator's Report and subsequently served the Officer in July 2024 with notification of a 90-day suspension.

The Officer elected to challenge the discipline through the arbitration process, and the Parties selected Arbitrator Brennwald to adjudicate the matter. Subsequently, on October 20, 2025, the Lodge and the City presented their arguments to Arbitrator Brennwald who had to decide if the City had just cause to suspend the Grievant for 90 days (and participate in anger management training). As is practice with any disciplinary proceeding, the City bears the burden of proving that the Grievant committed the violations alleged and that the conduct warranted a 90-day suspension.

At the hearing, the Grievant conceded that some of his actions during that incident were inappropriate and explained the significant amount of stress he felt during that time of his life (which included a family death, working regular 12-hour shifts without a day off, and the everyday challenges of being a Police Officer in the City shortly after the George Floyd riots). The Grievant Officer took responsibility for his actions and apologized. Based on the Grievant's admissions and

other evidence presented, the Arbitrator ruled that the City had just cause to discipline the Grievant for several minor rule violations. But he did not stop there.

Although the Arbitrator ruled the Department had just cause to discipline the Grievant Officer, he then turned to the crux of the Lodge's argument which focused on the City's egregious delays to investigate and conclude the Grievant Officer's case. The Lodge presented sufficient evidence to establish that, during several periods of the investigation, the City substantially and unjustifiably delayed the investigation. For example, after receiving the report of a video from the Department in July 2020, the COPA investigator failed to obtain witness statements until February and October 2021. Additionally, the City did not notify the Grievant of the charges until August 2023.

When questioned why COPA waited almost two years before even notifying the Grievant Officer of the charges, the COPA Investigator testified she attempted to submit a draft of her allegations and findings to her supervisor in 2022, but her supervisor expressly told her to "hold off" on submitting the allegations. When questioned why her supervisor would tell her to hold off, the Investigator testified that she believed her supervisor lacked the necessary skills and ability needed for that position. According to the Investigator, the supervisor remained "ill equipped" for her role as a supervisor and "overwhelmed" by the workload. As such, without a supervisor to approve of the Investigator's allegations, the evidence presented at the hearing established that "nothing happened" in the case for a 14-month period.

This negligent and inexcusable delay directly contradicts Section 8.1 of the Parties' Contract; the Lodge asserts that in order to meet the just cause standard for discipline, the City must adhere to procedural due process by imposing discipline in a timely fashion, meaning "without undue delay" after the occurrence that gave rise to the discipline. Arbitrator Brennwald agreed and accurately stressed that "...an unreasonable delay unfairly subjects employees to suspense or uncertainty." Accordingly, "[i]t is a denial of procedural due process and just cause to hold a charge over an employee's head indefinitely and to revive it whenever corroborating and substantiating evidence might eventually surface." Moreover "[t]he longer the imposition of discipline is delayed, the less effective it is as a means of correcting behavior or performance, and the lesser the benefit to the employer and the employee."

The City made the deliberate decision to delay completing the Grievant's investigation. The City's delay and discipline is even more egregious, considering, by the time they issued the discipline, the Grievant had already taken upon himself to seek anger management therapy and expressed sincere regret about his misconduct.

After considering COPA's severe, deliberate, and unjustifiable investigatory delay and the Grievant's misconduct, Arbitrator Brennwald reduced the Grievant's 90-day suspension to a 15-day suspension.

Ultimately, this decision highlights that, in the disciplinary context, it is not just the City's responsibility to prove an employee's misconduct, but the City must also uphold the employees' right to have their alleged misconduct properly and timely investigated. Due Process demands it.

Tunnel Vision



TIM GRACE

When a police officer is placed into a situation where deadly force is contemplated or actually required, the thinking process is controlled by our brain's analytical processes like threat recognition, interpretation of the offender's actions, and other cognitive activities. During these high stress moments, our body's physical movements and ability to react and perform are also affected in ways that would be different than if we were not under that level of threat. One phenomena that can have a severe impact on our ability to perform is the concept of tunnel vision. While many believe they understand this general concept, most fail to recognize it

as it is happening and account for it after. Yes, officer-involved shootings and their effect on the body is a science, and you can find many scholarly studies on the use of force and specifically tunnel vision. The Chicago Police Board and the Movement (COPA) doesn't like tunnel vision, viewing tunnel vision as a defense officers rely on to make a bad use of force good. Tunnel vision is not an excuse but rather a real thing and should be included into the analysis of whether a shooting is within policy. You first need to understand it to appreciate it.

Tunnel vision or target fixation is deep concentration on an object or action to the exclusion of, or partial exclusion of, everything else that is occurring. In many cases, it can be a good



thing. You are doing a puzzle or, say, cleaning your weapon. Your brain is deeply concentrating on the task at hand. When this happens, you can have auditory exclusion, meaning you are missing the conversation going on around you, or you miss the obvious. Remember the psychological test in high school where a video is played of a group of basketball players passing a ball around, and your instructor tells you to count the number of passes? Then afterwards, they ask you if you saw the guy dressed in the gorilla suit walk through? That's an example of tunnel vision. You hold a bone out to your dog, and he stares at the bone, even though the kids are ripping the drapes down behind you? While dog brains work differently, the general concept of the deep concentration on the bone and missing the chaos behind the pup is an example of tunnel vision. However, tunnel vision can also have a negative effect if the person's fixation and concentration ignores other hazards. Once you sprinkle in a deadly situation with the stresses and natural fears that accompany officer-involved shootings, tunnel vision can and does become a very dangerous concept. It can also be used as a weapon by COPA or the Movement to establish the deficiencies of police officers' use of force. That is not only intellectually dishonest to the ultimate determination of the use of force, it is unbelievably unfair to the officer.

While not wanting to get too deep into the weeds on how the brain works, a couple of simple concepts should help you understand how and why this happens. The brain receives the information from a number of sources. Visually, hearing, feeling, and what it knows has happened or memory. Eyes and ears do not make the decision to act or discharge; they give information to the brain, which makes the call. So, under high stress conditions, the brain is seeing, hearing, and then reacting. Once the brain hits that fight, flight, or freeze mode, which is natural to all humans, some brain activity becomes dulled and is taken over by the things that are more important, like aiming your weapon at a threat. One of the most important tasks of the brain that suffers is memory. When an officer-involved shooting occurs, the officer is so concentrated on the threat, all while enduring the stress, danger, and outright panic of the moment, he or she misses things and thus cannot recall many aspects of the discharge. So many officers cannot recall the number of rounds they discharged. You will ask them, and they will say two or three. During the round count with the detectives, it will be determined that they fired 12 shots. The officers are in disbelief even though the BWC, the actual magazine count, and all other evidence clearly contradict that conclusion. Are they lying? No, they experienced tunnel vision and were so fixated on the threat that counting rounds was not important. Auditory exclusion also occurs. Officers just do not hear certain things. Again, after the threat has dissipated and



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they are in the relative safety of the area, the officers are surprised watching their BWC and hearing what was said. Depth perception, which is the distance when fired and how long the entire incident occurred, also becomes distorted. The officer will tell you that the entire event took a minute. A minute? That is 60 seconds. That is a long time. When you tell them it was less than eight seconds, they will demand to see proof. Not lying or covering up, just experiencing the very natural phenomenon of tunnel vision. Again, this is not a scholarly article, just a 30,000-foot view, but I would encourage you to go to the Forced Science Institute and FBI studies that give you the actual scientific reasoning behind this concept.

So, how do you stop yourself from experiencing tunnel vision during these high stress situations? Sad to say, you can't. The concept is embedded into our DNA and human makeup. Early men smart enough to react to a deadly threat survived and passed along those important genes. Those who cowered in the cave and concerned themselves with the color of the tiger and not the threat it posed? Those genes generally were not passed along due to their demise. Some studies claim that muscle memory, which is training and practice, can eliminate some aspects of tunnel vision. Others suggest slowing down and breathing. Not sure how you can do that in a gun fight, but it is offered as a way to reduce the effects. Just be aware of it, and don't beat yourself up for perceived shortcomings when in fact it is something that is natural to all humans. Stay safe.



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2026 Primary Election Update



DAVE SULLIVAN

The 2026 political primary season is behind us. As always, all of the IL 118 House Districts are up for election in 2026, but few have contested primaries.

In addition, approximately two-thirds of the IL Senate seats (39 of 59) are up this year, few with contested primaries as well.

With this being a presidential midterm, Illinois' constitutional officers will be on the ballot as well. Below are some results of contentious races:

In Statewide elections, Gov. JB Pritzker (D) will face off in a rematch from 2022 against Darren Bailey (R) who handily defeated Ted Dabrowski, James Mendrick, and Rick Heidner. Pritzker is heavily favored to win re-election.

The incumbent Treasurer, Secretary of State, and Attorney General had no real opposition and will face their Republican opposition in the fall.

After incumbent Susana Mendoza decided not to run for re-election, the Comptroller's race was won by State Rep. Margaret Croke over State Sen. Karina Villa, Lake County Treasurer Holly Kim, and State Rep. Stephanie Kifowit.

After long-time senior Senator Dick Durbin announced his retirement, a number of candidates announced their bid for the Senate seat. Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton was victorious over a number of candidates including Cong. Raja Krishnamoorthi and Cong. Robin Kelly. Stratton will face off in the general election against Don Tracy (R).

In Congressional races, four of the 17 Districts had notable races including:

2nd Congressional saw Donna Black Miller victorious in a crowded field of largely sitting politicians.

7th Congressional saw a narrow victory for State Rep. LaShawn Ford over a number of candidates including City Treasurer Melissa Conyers Irvin.

8th Congressional saw returning Melissa Bean victorious over a crowded field of opposition.

9th Congressional had Evanston Mayor Daniel Biss victorious over a crowded field of Democrats including Senator Laura Fine.

In the Illinois House, the Districts to note are as follows:

- House District 1 - Incumbent Rep. Aaron Ortiz won handily against fellow Democrat CTU teacher Guadalupe Rivera.
- House District 8 - There was a crowded primary in the 8th District to replace longtime Rep. LaShawn Ford, who won for Congress. Shantel Franklin came out on top, an employee of the Illinois Attorney General's Office.
- House District 12 - Incumbent Rep. Margaret Croke, now running for Comptroller, endorsed Paul Kendrick, who came out on top.
- House District 13 - Rep. Hoan Huynh announced that he would not seek re-election, instead he made an unsuccessful run for Con-

gress. Demi Palecek, a veteran and communications professional, won in a crowded primary field.

- House District 34 - Leader Nick Smith announced his retirement at the end of his current term. Cleopatra Cowley won in a heated field of Democrats.
- House District 40 - Incumbent Jaime Andrade has held this seat since 2013. He faced off against progressive opponent Miguel Alvelo-Rivera in the Democratic primary. Andrade has lost his re-election.
- House District 42 - Former Rep. Terra Costa Howard, who resigned earlier this year to take a judicial appointment in DuPage County, appointed Rep. Margaret DeLaRosa to fill the vacancy. DeLaRosa was successful in her challenge from DuPage County Board Member Lynn LaPlante.
- House District 52 - Incumbent Republican Martin McLaughlin will have a rematch with Maria Peterson after she handily defeated Erin Chan Ding, journalist and member of the Barrington Board of Education.
- House District 84 - Incumbent Democrat Stephanie Kifowit, who unsuccessfully ran for Comptroller, is now being replaced by Saba Hadier, a DuPage County Board member who defeated Jared Ploger, teacher and former Oswego School Board member.
- House District 94 - Longtime Republican incumbent Leader Norine Hammond was handily defeated by challenger Joshua Higgins.
- House District 118 - Incumbent Republican Paul Jacobs decided to run for the Illinois Senate in lieu of running for re-election in the House. Scott Doody, a former radio host, handily won in a contested Republican primary.

Over in the Senate, there were a few races worth noting:

- Senate District 9 - Incumbent Democrat Laura Fine, who finished third in her run for Congress, was replaced by Patrick Hanley, an entrepreneur who formerly worked for the U.S. Senate and Department of Justice.
- Senate District 14 - Democrat incumbent Emil Jones III handily defeated two primary challengers.
- Senate District 33 - This seat is currently held by Republican Don Dewitte, who announced his retirement. Danielle Penman, a pro-union nurse, won against Jessica Breugelmann.
- Senate District 59 - Incumbent Republican Dale Fowler will not seek re-election, leaving his seat open. Paul Jacobs was victorious in a two-way primary.

In a few more local races:

Cook County Board President cruised to victory against Ald. Brendan Reilly.

Incumbent Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi was defeated by Lyons Township assessor Pat Hynes in the bid for Cook County Assessor.

The General election will take place on Nov. 3, 2026.

Honoring Sisters and Brothers who have passed

Name	Age	Date of Passing	Name	Age	Date of Passing
Robert A. La Fata	78	July of 2015	Joseph Calvo	57	February 6, 2026
Stanley Norka	93	June 7, 2018	Christ Passias	88	February 15, 2026
Joseph Cernivec	96	July 13, 2021	Thomas W. Finnelly Sr.	84	February 18, 2026
Michael T. Davis	78	March 31, 2023	Darlene Wicht	84	February 27, 2026
John Kachka	81	November 8, 2024	Tony Mugnolo	96	February 27, 2026
Derek Stacker	84	December 3, 2025	Jerome Paluch	79	February 28, 2026
Nicholas Tristano	91	December 4, 2025	Randall Spears	64	March 10, 2026
Raymond Trunzo	84	December 11, 2025	Edward Stovall	75	March 16, 2026
Kenneth E. Crowder	89	February 5, 2026			

Retiree Meetings

Check the contact info listed with each location to confirm meetings are being held

North

First Tuesday of the month
@ 9 a.m.
D'Agostino's Pizza and Pub
7530 W. Oakton St., Niles
Steve Marchfield 773-771-0877

South

Second Wednesday of the month
@ 10 a.m.
Country House, 5400 W 127th St.,
Alsip, Illinois.
Rick King
773-585-8500
Subwayk9@aol.com

8-Ball Luncheon

Last Wednesday of the month
@ noon
Les Brothers, Oak Lawn
Dorothy Piscitelli, 773-972-0139

Bomb and Arson

Second Monday of the month
@ 9 a.m.
Fiesta Tapatia Restaurant
Chicago
Ross Horne, 312-613-9182

Orland Park Law

Enforcement Organization
Third Thursday of the month
@ 7:30 p.m.
Orland Park Civic Center
Orland Park

Survivors Lunch

Second Saturday of the month
@ 11 a.m.
Beverly Woods Restaurant
Chicago

**Public Housing Unit
(North, South and
Administration)**

First Wednesday of the month
@ 10 a.m.

George's Restaurant, Chicago
Maurice Brown, 773-577-0154

CPD Arizona Retiree Monthly Luncheon

Third Wednesday of the month
11:00 AM at:
Mandarin Super Buffet
1501 W. Bethany Home Road
Phoenix, AZ 85015
For information contact Brian
DuFour, 623-521-6146 email
bdu4@aol.com.

Arkansas Retirees

Third Friday of the month
@ noon
Elks Lodge
Mountain Home, Arkansas
Bob Zdora, 870-405-5407

Florida Retirees

First Wednesday of the month
@ 1 p.m.
Cop Shop, Cape Coral, Florida
Tom Faragoi, 239-770-7896

Michigan Retirees

First Thursday of the month
@ 8 a.m.
Macks on Main
101 W. Cedar Ave.
Gladwin, Michigan
John Nielson
989-324-0877
jnnielson@gmail.com

Hellenic American Police Association Northsiders Retiree Breakfast

First Monday of the month
@ 10:00 a.m.
Burgundy Restaurant

5959 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago

Hellenic American Police Association Southsiders Retiree Breakfast

Second Monday of the month
@ 10:00 a.m.
Valois Cafeteria
1518 E. 53rd St., Chicago

25th District Retirees Luncheon

1st Wednesday of the the month
Tavern on the Point
6724 Northwest Hwy.
2PM
Barry Eichner
773-852-6438
Barcat84@sbcglobal.net

MEETING NOTICE

GENERAL MEETING

IN THE HALL

1412 W WASHINGTON BLVD

MAY 20, 2026 1900

HOURS



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Chicago Lodge #7

Honoring Retired Members

Name	Rank	Unit	Years	Name	Rank	Unit	Years
Daniel Riemer	PO	20	22	Kathleen Cygnar	PO	24	31
Jeffrey Pacocha	DET	610	21	Frances Escobedo	PO	10	26
Thomas Ellerbeck	DET	640	28	Alberto Garza	PO	16	31
Donald Barker	DET	610	35	Laura Obrochta	PO	4	30
Scott Reiff	DET	610	31	Louis Pinklyn	PO	8	22
Brian Alaniz	PO	22	25	Susan Ryan	DET	620	30
Miguel Cabrales	PO	9	28				

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Life is a Journey, Enjoy The Ride



RABBI
MOSHE WOLF

As this goes to print, our brothers and sisters of the Chicago Fire Department mourn the loss of one of their own, FF/EMT Mike Altman, who lost his life in the line of duty. Many of his relatives have a long history of service in both the Chicago Fire and Police Departments. There are no words of consolation when a life is taken from us so suddenly and tragically. And when there are no words to say, sometimes your mere presence

is one of the strongest gestures of comfort and support for the family. A heartfelt thanks to all who showed up at the scene, the hospital, the Medical Examiner (ME)'s office, the wake, and the funeral. Your presence meant the world to the family. Please keep Mike and the whole Altman in your thoughts and prayers.



As we were leaving the ME's office, one of our members came over and said, "Rabbi, remember the poem 'Life Is A Journey?' It is so appropriate at this moment. Can you please put it in the upcoming newsletter?" Here it is....."Life Is A Journey, Enjoy The Ride!"

Life is a journey filled with lessons, hardships, heartaches, joys, celebrations and special moments that will ultimately lead us to our destination, our purpose in life. The road will not always be smooth; in fact, throughout our travels, we will encounter many challenges.

Some of these challenges will test our courage, strengths, weaknesses, and faith. Along the way, we may stumble upon obstacles that will come between the paths that we are destined to take. In order to follow the right path, we must overcome these obstacles. Sometimes these obstacles are really blessings in disguise, only we don't realize that at the time.

Along our journey, we will be confronted with many situations. Some will be filled with joy, and some will be filled with heartache. How we react to what we are faced with determines what kind of outcome the rest of our journey through life will be like.

When things don't always go our way, we have two choices in dealing with the situations. We can focus on the fact that things didn't go how we had hoped they would and let life pass us by, or two, we can make the best out of the situation and know that these are only temporary setbacks and find the lessons that are to be learned.

Time stops for no one, and if we allow ourselves to focus on the negative, we might miss out on some really amazing things that life has to offer. We can't go back to the past; we can only take the lessons that we have learned and the experiences that we have gained from it and move on. It is because of the heartaches, as well as the hardships, that, in the end, help to make us

a stronger person.

The people that we meet on our journey are people that we are destined to meet. Everybody comes into our lives for some reason or another, and we don't always know their purpose until it is too late. They all play some kind of role. Some may stay for a lifetime; others may only stay for a short while.

It is often the people who stay for only a short time that end up making a lasting impression not only in our lives, but in our hearts as well. Although we may not realize it at the time, they will make a difference and change our lives in a way we never could imagine. To think that one person can have such a profound effect on your life forever is truly a blessing. It is because of these encounters that we learn some of life's best lessons, and sometimes we even learn a little bit about ourselves.

People will come and go into our lives quickly, but sometimes we are lucky to meet that one special person that will stay in our hearts forever no matter what. Even though we may not always end up being with that person, and they may not always stay in our life for as long as we like, the lessons that we have learned from them and the experiences that we have gained from meeting that person will stay with us forever.

It's these things that will give us strength to continue on with our journey. We know that we can always look back on those times of our past and know that, because of that one individual, we are who we are, and we can remember the wonderful moments that we have shared with that person.

Memories are priceless treasures that we can cherish forever in our hearts. They also enable us to continue on with our journey for whatever life has in store for us. Sometimes all it takes is one special person to help us look inside ourselves and find a whole different person that we never knew existed. Our eyes are suddenly opened to a world we never knew existed, a world where time is so precious and moments never seem to last long enough.

Throughout this adventure, people will give you advice and insights on how to live your life, but when it all comes down to it, you must always do what you feel is right. Always follow your heart, and, most importantly, never have any regrets. Don't hold anything back. Say what

you want to say, and do what you want to do, because sometimes we don't get a second chance to say or do what we should have the first time around.

It is often said that what doesn't kill you will make you stronger. It all depends on how one defines the word "strong." It can have different meanings for different people. In this sense, "stronger" means looking back at the person you were and comparing it to the person you have become today. It also means looking deep into your soul and realizing that the person you are today couldn't exist if it weren't for the things that have happened in the past or for the people that you have met. Everything that happens in our life happens for a reason, and sometimes that means we must face heartaches in order to experience joy.

REMEMBER, EVERY DAY OF LIFE IS A GIFT, ENJOY YOUR PRESENT!

**Remember, every day
of life is a gift,
enjoy your present!**

Time stops for no one, and if we allow ourselves to focus on the negative, we might miss out on some really amazing things that life has to offer.

Some humor from the “Moshe Files” to keep you smiling: The English Class:

An English professor wrote the words, “a woman without her man is nothing” on the board and directed students to punctuate it correctly. The men in the class wrote: “A woman, without her man, is nothing.” The women in the class wrote: “A woman: without her, man is nothing.”.... lol.

On behalf of ALL the Chaplains, may G-d bless you, keep you safe, and always keep you in His loving care. AMEN. Should you need an ear to listen, a shoulder to lean on, or perhaps have some good humor to share, (I know you have a good joke to share) please do not hesitate to drop us a line or give us a call. All our contact information is on our Police Chaplain’s website: www.chicagopcm.org.

Chaplains website: www.chicagopcm.org

Compliments of your Police Chaplain

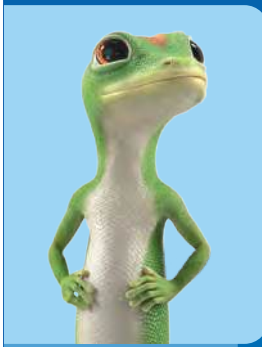
Rabbi Moshe Wolf

773-463-4780 (voicemail)

Cell: 773-230-7872 (text) or e-mail: moshewolf@hotmail.com

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May 27, 2026

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May 28, 2026

8:00AM-3:30PM

Chicago John Dineen Lodge 7

1412 W. WASHINGTON BLVD.

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FATHER DAN BRANDT

I had ankle surgery in February, which knocked me down for just over a month. I was still able to work (almost) my usual routine from my home office, just not able to walk very easily or drive a car.

I was AMAZED at how many of our officers, bosses, PCM donors, friends and others reached out to assure me, "Please let me if you need anything." Some even said, "Maybe a run to the grocery store? You name it!"

I am not accustomed to being on the receiving end of a genuine offer for help. It is very humbling, and it made me realize that the Police Chaplains Ministry, while always giving to our officers and Gold Star Families, is definitely ON THE RECEIVING END of your constant service and kindness.

We love seeing you in the districts, on the street, at hospitals/wakes/funerals (unfortunately), and so many other places. Please never lose sight of the fact that YOU ARE DOING GOD'S WORK.

My little setback served as a reminder to take care of number one. As you've heard at trainings, "Put the oxygen mask on yourself before helping those around you." I've learned recently how true that adage is.

I've also learned an important lesson on GRATITUDE. Thank you to all who have been so kind...offering assistance, grocer-

ies, laundry, Binny's runs (ha!), prayers, whatever!!

Finally, my (our!) dear old friend Phil Haskett (CPD, retired) passed away recently. He was a policeman for over three decades and—until death—a very active Peer Support member. If you wish to pay your respects, I will join his family at Cumberland Chapels on the northwest side Friday, 01 MAY, at 6:00 p.m. The following morning, Saturday, 02 MAY, we will lay him to rest at All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines. Of course, all of his friends/fans are most welcome to come and see him off.

Next month is not only our St. Jude March (03 MAY), but also the Springfield and Washington Police Memorials. To those of you traveling: first, THANKS! What a blessing to have amazing support like yours for the families of our fallen brothers and sisters whose names will sadly be added to the walls in those locations. Second, safe travels!

I pray that as the seasons of Easter and spring come upon us, you'll be resurrected, refreshed, and renewed, just like the dormant grass and plants that are coming back to life around us. What a blessed and hopeful time of year!

Thank you for all you do as a risen people. God bless you and keep you safe!

Fr. Dan Brandt, Directing CPD Chaplain
773-550-2369 (cell/text)

dan.brandt@chicagopolice.org | www.ChicagoPCM.org

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CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS

PHOTOS BY GEORGE GILL



Nominator: Police Officer Kristen N. Sweeney #18287 Unit 215 Rep



On 30 Jul 2025, Area 5 PRT Officers Black & Kranz were assigned to directed patrol in the 016th district. The Officers responded to a call of a “Suspicious Person” checking door handles on the 6300 block of N. Oketo. Upon their arrival, the Officers observed a red van described by the caller who immediately began honking the horn to warn his accomplice. The offender exited the van and attempted to flee but was taken down by the Officers and placed into custody. The second offender jumped into the van and attempted to flee, but the newer model van would not shift into drive because the sliding door was left open. The second offender was placed into custody, and he was found to be in possession

of a loaded Ruger 9mm handgun and suspect crack cocaine. The Officers located additional stolen property inside the red van and recovered gift cards, cash, and prescription medication that the offenders had removed from vehicles. The offenders were charged with multiple counts of theft and UJW and PCS. *Note: Both Officers are the sons of retired CPD.

It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 presents these Officers with the Distinguished Service Award. Nice Pinch!!! Thanks for protecting the homefront.

CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS



Nominator: Sergeant Phillip Hooper #889



On 30 Apr 2025, while on patrol, 002nd District Officers observed a subject walking northbound in the 5600 block of S. Prairie. The subject, who was dressed in a black hoodie and black sweatpants, constantly adjusted his waistband and clothing. The Officers, relying on their training and experience, knew this behavior was indicative of someone trying to conceal a firearm. The Officers initiated a street stop on the subject to conduct a field interview. Upon the Officers' approach, the subject bladed his stance and clutched his waistband trying to remove an object and continue to move away from the Officers. The Officers began to detain the subject who became pinned against a fence. The offender was able to remove a handgun from his waistband and fired multiple times while the Officers struggled to gain control. The Officers utilized multiple closed hand strikes and

verbal direction, finally getting one handcuff on the offender and securing that other handcuff to the fence. The offender still struggled wildly, and a large crowd began to gather and surround the Officers who radioed for backup. The assist unit that responded waded through the crowd and was attacked by two pitbulls that an onlooker from the crowd had leashed. The Officers were able to recover a loaded Springfield Armory XD-9, 9mm handgun and secure the offender. The offender was charged with two counts of Aggravated Discharge/Firearm, two counts of Resisting, and Aggravated UJW.

It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 presents the Distinguished Service Award to these Officers.

CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Police Officer Sheridan Clark-Lawrence
#11266

Police Officer Robert Davis #8884

Police Officer Daniel Eble #16577

Police Officer Tyvelle Emerson #6493

Sergeant Michael St. Clair #1538

Nominator: Sergeant Michael St. Clair #1538



On 23 Feb 2025, reporting Officers responded to “check the well-being,” later upgraded to a “person shot,” call at the location of 7646 S. Ingleside Ave. The Officers entered the apartment building complex, and they were met by an irate male subject who was acting disruptive and yelling that “something happened to his girlfriend.” As the Officers conducted their preliminary investigation, the male subject removed his jacket and threw it onto the floor. The Officers controlled the chaotic scene and ensured that EMS could get to the 35-year-old female gunshot victim safely. The Officers canvassed the scene, speaking with residents who related that they heard a loud noise come from the

apartment and further observed the same male who was acting irate run across the street to the park, toss a gun into the snow, and run back to the apartment. The Officers placed that offender into custody. They recovered his jacket from the ground, which was found to contain a loaded magazine, and a search of the park revealed a black Taurus handgun. The offender was transported to the area and charged with First Degree Murder.

It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge#7 presents these Officers with the Distinguished Service Award. Outstanding arrest.

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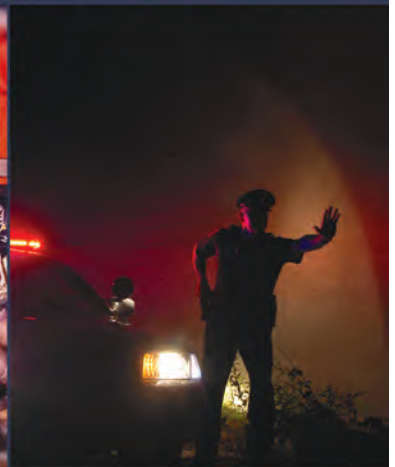
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The Last Dance

To honor the passing of the great John Dineen, those from the FOP who knew him best share some favorite stories, accounts of his historic contributions and what made him one of a kind

By Mitchell Krugel



Episode I: Making a Splash

Did you see the picture of us getting ready to throw John in the pool?

This is longtime Chicago FOP Executive Board member Ron Shogren talking about an adventure as wingman to Lodge 7 President John Dineen.

It was 1979. We were in New Mexico when John was elected National FOP president. Emmett Ebert and I were going to throw him in the pool to celebrate. He knew it was coming. We're in the deep end. And John says, "I can't swim." Oh, man.

Listening in here on Shogren sitting with Harold Brown, another longtime Lodge 7 trustee, and other retired members and contemporaries of Dineen. They have gathered at the Cooney Funeral Home in Park Ridge for the wake to honor their good friend four days after he passed away on March 25.

This is the stuff documentaries are made of.

In another part of the home, Lodge 7 President John Catanzara is sitting with Second Vice President Dan Gorman, Recording Secretary Rob Noceda, Trustee Chair David DiSanti, Illinois State Lodge President Kevin Farrell and State Lodge Second Vice President Scot Ward. Rocky Nowaczyk, the State Lodge national trustee and one of John's best friends, is back and forth between this group and the other.

The laughs flow, the tribute John would want most. Other than toasting with some Powers Irish Whiskey.

Noceda has prepared a toast for this occasion.

As the founder of our labor union, John is like our version of George Washington. Maybe you saw what I posted on social media. It's a big deal because without him, we don't have the right to bargain.

A roomful of photos, memorabilia and special artifacts captivates all who have come. That includes National FOP President Pat Yoes flying in from New Orleans and Secretary Jimmy Holderfield, who has jetted in from Jacksonville. They were supposed to be in Vegas for a big National FOP event but they both said without question it was more important to be here.

These are fellow union leaders whom John mentored and advised up until about a year ago, when his health no longer allowed him to do so. They can document what John Dineen did to change the law enforcement profession in Chicago, and throughout the state and the country.

Farrell puts it this way:

A legend in every sense of the word.

Episode II: Shogren and Tell

What do you know about the legend, Ron Shogren?

One of the smartest guys I ever knew. You never said you worked for him. You worked with him. And he was always fair.

But it wasn't just securing the right to collectively bargain, getting that first contract or even Lodge 7 being named for John Dineen that made him legendary. He had a way of convincing the City to keep improving benefits, like lifting the cap on overtime hours allowed from 200 per year and not getting paid for anything more than that. Shogren saw a lot of that.

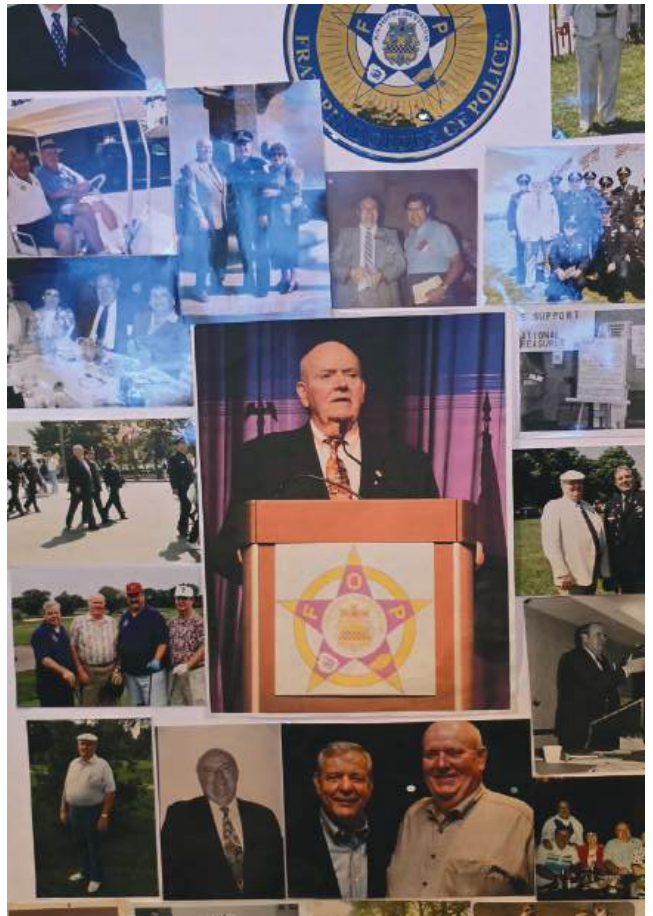
John knew what he needed and what we wanted. And when he fought, he was a smart man. He'd be out there negotiating, and when he needed a favor for something, we got it.

Episode III: Museum Peace

Just look at some of the pictures that you see here at the wake. Believe me, everybody wanted to be around John. He was good. So happy-go-lucky.

Rocky saw the room where the viewing took place at the wake, where hundreds of family, friends and admirers came through. Like the Dineen Wing at the Smithsonian. One more blast of the larger-than-life that was John.

Imagine the details behind just the first poster board with photos tacked on. There is the one of John as part of the detail assigned to Princess Diana when she visited Chicago. That was one of John's final days on the job before retiring in 1994. A great bookend to his first day on the job assigned to the detail for Queen Elizabeth when she visited Chicago in 1957.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

Above Diana is a picture of John with Jim McMahon. Next to that is John with George and Barbara Bush. The range of photos included one with Bill Clinton and one with Mini Mouse. And who is that next to John holding up an FOP T-shirt? Is it really Elizabeth Taylor?

An amazing exhibit features a quilt made of John's T-shirts. More than 30 of them, marking FOP anniversaries, golf outings and members who ran for Lodge 7, state and national office.

Among his five children and assorted sons-in-law and daughters-in-law, 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren, many of them wore that Irish flat cap that was a signature part of John's attire. He even had one in the casket.

Sitting in a chair next to the casket was John's beloved wife of 68 years, Marilyn. She has been battling her own health issues, but she talked to everybody who came to the viewing wanting to share their stories of John with her.

And if there was one photo to remember from the many that filled the poster boards, it was John and Marilyn sitting side by side wearing their Bears Super Bowl XX champion shirts. As much a part of their love story as any image.

Episode IV: Nothing but the Truth

Harold Brown considers how to quantify John's impact beyond his long and distinguished list of accomplishments.

No matter where you went, everyone knew John. He never tried screwing over anybody. He was always honest, he was fair. You ask him a question, he gave you a truthful answer. Even when they didn't like what he said, they listened.

Episode V: Where It All Began

Chicago Police Sergeant Dean Angelo Jr. comes to the wake to pay respects for the man he heard so much about from his grandfather when he was a little boy. He's here representing his family and the lineage of Lodge 7 presidents. His father, Dean Sr., followed in John's footsteps as president from 2015 to 2017.

Patrick was a detective assigned to Area 4 with John. They were part of a Continental Congress of sorts, and their chatter there led to forming an FOP Lodge. It was enough to get into an election to become the bargaining rep for the Chicago Police rank and file.

Shogren noticed early on John's ability to get the stamp of approval from those on the street.

It was a runoff between four different unions, and we won. And it was the police officers who elected him.

A year before that, John had been elected National FOP president. Brown expresses how John's selflessness enabled him to give up National because Lodge 7 needed him to come home.

Because of him, we have the union. We started out, our Lodge had no money at all. Ron will tell you we had to borrow money from the state to open up offices. Before we had the union, there was no collective bargaining. We had to go to the mayor, and we called it "collective begging." And we've come from that to where we are now.

Episode VI: Show Us the Money

John came back to run Lodge 7 in 1980. Shogren observes how that made all the difference.

He got us the right to bargain. Then, he got the first contract. We got extra pay for the officers. And working conditions were greatly improved. Before, if you had overtime on the books and you didn't use it when you're on the furlough, you lost it. And once you accumulated like 400 or 500 hours of overtime, even if you worked all day, you're not going to get paid extra. But things changed. We got time and a half. We got the choice of money or that. We got health insurance.

As a Lodge 7 trustee since anybody can remember, Daniel Trevino has





been part of many administrations. He came to the viewing proudly wearing that FOP star on his sport coat pocket, presumably as a tribute to what John did for him and tens of thousands of others.

Everything was limited when John came back. Our power was limited. Our rights were limited. You had to be close to the mayor in that aspect because we had nothing to defend ourselves.

And then everyone had to work until they were 65 to get a full pension. But most of them, their lifespan didn't last that long because things were so different back then.

We had no rights. They could move officers from one point of the City to another point to punish them for no reason at all. Then John came and he wound up getting us our rights. The other person that helped us a lot was Mayor Byrne.

Episode VII: Byrne Rate

On the photo boards, politicians are well-represented. In addition to presidents, there are momentous images like John standing over Governor Jim Thompson, watching him sign legislation.

And then there is the collage with Chicago mayors — Harold Washington, Richard M. Daley and Jane Byrne — who all seemed to know the benefit of being tight with John. Especially Mayor Byrne, who Brown says set the table and put out the spread of benefits for Chicago Police Officers because of her relationship with John.

She let us get the union, and she loved the police. She and John got along fantastically, both being Irish and having a good time together. They were very close. They would call each other and talk to each other. It was good. She more or less gave us whatever we asked for.

Episode VIII: The View

Very few had a view of John like Rocky. When they would attend State Lodge meetings in Springfield, Rocky was the driver.

We had so many good talks when we went to Springfield. We solved the problems of the world. Really. Until we got out of the car. Then it was back to reality.

So what was the real John like?

Everybody respected him, no matter who it was. He always put the officers first. He always wanted the best for the officers, no matter what. But he never really wanted any accolades. He was very humble.

What about something that most people don't know about John?

You have to remember, he was also the Robert's Rules of Order guy. He knew that book inside and out. Nobody knew it better. Whenever we had a problem, John was the guy. And whatever he said, that was the end of it. That was gospel.

Anything else?

He liked his Irish whiskey. Powers Irish Whiskey. He used to bring a couple of bottles to some of the conference meetings that we had. Afterward, he would put it on the table, and he made everybody take a little shot. We're blessed to have him, and we're going to miss him deeply.

Episode IX: National's Debt of Gratitude

When Pat Yoes was elected National FOP secretary, he first met a past president who he said was 10 feet tall to him. Likely because he knew the Fraternal Order of Police needed to be much more than a fraternal organization.

Looking up to John became natural from that point on.

When John became national president, he recognized that our role as a labor organization was vital. And he put things in place that set us on a trajectory. So when you look back at what we've accomplished and what we are today, we did that on the shoulders of people like John who did their part to elevate this organization for the next person to run with it.

On display at the wake was an award John received from the National FOP

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38



for “Outstanding Leadership and Total Commitment to the Professionalization of Law Enforcement.” Yoes explained why John was so appropriately recognized.

He played a huge part in our legal defense plan. When you look at the cornerstones of what we provide as a national organization, John played a part in that. President Reagan appointed him to a task force on victims’ rights. So John definitely left his mark on the legislative part, but he also left his mark on labor and legal representation.

If there was even more fitting recognition for John, Yoes praised how he was as good a national past president as he was a president.

When you’re president, you’re running this organization. When you’re past president, your job is to be a statesman. Your job is to have that organizational institutional knowledge and be able to share it with the board so that they can make the proper decisions based off of what got us to this point. John filled that role well.

Episode X: Voice Recognition

Nearly everybody who benefited from John’s relentless commitment to the members and making their lives better called him a true leader in every sense of the word. But for different reasons. Including Farrell, who has just become the State Lodge president.

He was a constant voice of reason in a room full of chaos at times. I’ve had some difficult tasks in my time in the FOP. And any time I would do something that he accepted or he thought was worthy, he’d make sure to tell me, “Nice job, kid. I was with you on that one.” After a couple times I said, “John, when you give me a little affirmation, I know I’m doing the right thing by this order.”

And he could be counted on for historical knowledge at the drop of a hat. His opinion always matters. Oh, and he had stories for days.

Episode XI: Funeral for a Friend

The warm, sunny day made the funeral feel more like John and Marilyn hosting a Fourth of July barbecue. Which is John’s birthday. He would have turned 90 this year, and that was another reason the refrain “great run” kept echoing through this dance.

The CPD Pipes and Drums and Honor Guard would have gladly come out for the funeral. But John was more subdued. So bagpiper John Harmony from the Pipes and Drums of Emerald Society/Chicago Police Department played “Amazing Grace” as John’s casket was carried in and out of the Saint Juliana Catholic Church on the City’s northwest side.

Family members offered the readings. The first reading, from granddaughter Madeline Krogstad, came from the Book of Sirach. Though not written about John, it certainly could have been.

He has left us in good name, and we can count his life.... His inheritance will last forever, his glory will not fade.... His name lives on from generation to generation. We will proclaim his wisdom and love of life all of our days.

Yoes was called on to contribute the FOP part of the eulogy. He didn’t need to read from a prepared speech.

He was a visionary. He was a person who recognized that to improve the working conditions of law enforcement, it took dedication, it took perseverance, it took sacrifice. Law enforcement officers today have certain protections, and their families have certain protections that didn’t just happen. They happened because of vision from John Dineen.

I saw John a little different. I saw him as a person who had such vast knowledge and who was always empowering others to do more. He fought for the Police Officers’ Bill of Rights and served to bring the issues important to officers to life.

Yoes also once again spoke about the virtue of John being honored by the naming of Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 in 2023.

That’s no greater respect than for those who have given so much before us than to honor them and show our appreciation for them. Hats off to John Catanzara for naming the Lodge after John and having him there so that



he could see just how the fruits of his work have turned into what we are today. He deserved to witness it and feel that pride.

Everyone in law enforcement today needs to be stewards of the example that he set and carry it further so it will be better tomorrow.

John's children finished off the eulogy with daughter Susan speaking. She praised his service in the Army along with his decades in the Chicago Police Department. She talked about how proud he was to give back to the community through the Knights of Columbus.

And, of course, Susan had some treasures nobody outside the family really knew.

He loved his time at the lake, out on the boat, where every ride turned into a family comedy routine. Also, he loved adventure.

On a family trip to Disney, we were getting on the Aerosmith roller coaster. None of us believed he'd go. We were sure he'd wait on the sidelines. Instead, he looked at us, shrugged and said, "Life's not a spectator sport."

His presence made a room feel steady and safe, but also warm and easy. What we'll miss most is his quiet humor, his kindness and the gentle way he showed up for the people he cared about.

The Last Words

Some closing thoughts would include how the higher-ups in the City and the Department respected John because he was always professional but never hesitated to make the point that Chicago Police Officers were grossly undercompensated. Trevino adds that no one could argue with John because he knew all the information.

Noceda wanted members to never forget this about John:

Chicago cops have no idea how instrumental this man was to our organization. And it's a testament to his character of serving so long and fighting for officers.

Of course, leave it to Rocky for last words everybody else would confirm.

I mean, you'll never see a John Dineen again. When they made him, they broke the mold.



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Ramadan

PHOTOS BY GEORGE GILL

The United Muslim American Association of Law Enforcement Professionals (UMAALEP) hosted an iftar gathering at the Chicago FOP – John Dineen Lodge #7 Hall. Iftar is the evening meal Muslims share to break their fast at sunset during Ramadan. A large number of police officers of the Muslim faith and their families attended, gathering in fellowship to celebrate the holy month and break their fast together. Ramadan is a month observed in the Islamic lunar calendar during which Muslims around the world fast from dawn to sunset.

The observant Muslims broke their fast with dates and water upon hearing the call to prayer. Many then made their way to the rows of prayer rugs arranged off to the side. They stood side by side in rows facing Mecca as Officer Mohammed Khan led the prayer. Once the sunset prayer was completed, everyone returned to their tables to enjoy the meal and continue their conversations.

Lt. Syed Quardi served as emcee, engaging with everyone throughout the evening and visiting each table with a microphone for introductions. Rabbi Moshe Wolf stopped by to share words of wisdom, tell jokes, and pass out candy.

UMAALEP is an organization of police officers of the Muslim faith who work toward the common goal of promoting peace and understanding by applying Islamic principles of justice, peace, freedom, love, mercy, and equality in protecting all Americans. This iftar gathering was a wonderful evening of fellowship, where officers of all faiths came together to share a meal—especially meaningful this year, as Lent and Ramadan began at the same time.

Hysni Selenica
Chaplain
Chicago Police Department





Lunch with the Easter Bunny

PHOTOS BY GEORGE GILL





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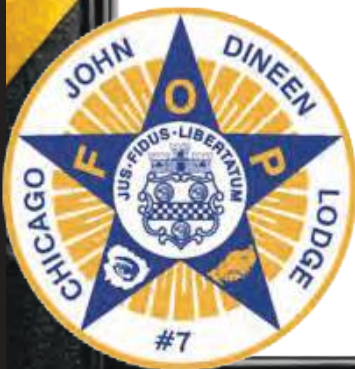
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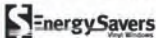


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