



*Fraternal Order of Police*

# CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine • June 2026



**CHICAGO POLICE OFFICER JOHN G. BARTHOLOMEW**

**STAR #12963**

**END OF WATCH: APRIL 25, 2026**





## OFFICER JOHN BARTHOLOMEW

END OF WATCH: SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026



### Statement from Chicago Police Memorial Foundation executive director Art Hannus on the passing of Chicago Police officer John Bartholomew

The Chicago Police Memorial Foundation joins all Chicagoans in mourning the tragic and heartbreaking passing of Chicago Police officer John Bartholomew, who was senselessly murdered while monitoring a robbery suspect receiving medical treatment at Endeavor Health Swedish Hospital on Saturday.

John joined the Chicago Police Department in 2015 and despite the rigors of the job, he remained up-beat, kind-hearted and warm. His colleagues will always remember his sense of humor and infectious smile. He brought intelligence, compassion and enthusiasm to the job every day and eagerly volunteered for assignments. John's quick wit, kindness in leadership and energetic presence left a lasting impression on his fellow officers, who are all better public servants having worked with him.

But more than being a police officer who worked every day on our behalf to make Chicago safer, he was a loving husband and father. Talk to any of John's colleagues and they'll tell you that he always put his family first and wanted nothing more than to finish his tour of duty so he could return home safely to his wife and children.

John was taken from us by a thoughtless gunman intent on causing police officers harm. We are grateful for all the investigators and prosecutors who have worked tirelessly since Saturday to ensure that the person responsible for John's loss is held fully accountable.

Officer Bartholomew's partner, a 21-year Chicago Police veteran, was also shot and critically wounded in the incident. We ask for your continued prayers and good wishes for this officer and his loved ones as he fights for his life. In the coming days, Chicago Police Memorial Foundation officials and Gold Star Family members will meet Officer Bartholomew's family to offer ongoing financial and emotional support in the days, weeks and months ahead.

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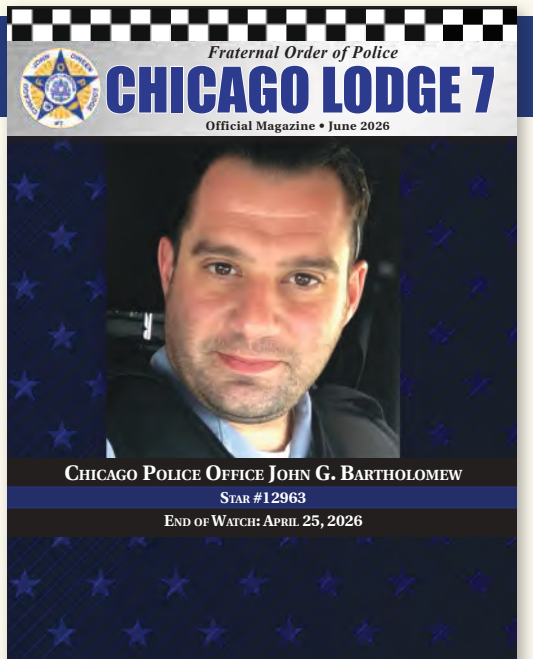




**COVER STORY  
PAGE 30**

# The Blessing of John

Hundreds of Chicago Police Officers celebrated the blessing that was John Bartholomew at the visitation and funeral for their beloved brother. The tributes to the nearly 11-year officer who was tragically gunned down on April 25 told of his passion for his colleagues, his neverending positive attitude and how much he loved being a copper. Additionally, officers from the 17th and 24th districts where John worked offered their insights to his legacy and what we will miss most about him.



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# CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine  
President's Report



## Saluting Our Brother



**JOHN CATANZARA JR.**

At a time of year when we hear so many emotional and moving tributes for our fallen officers, one that moved me beyond tears came from James Bartholomew. Dressed in a snappy, navy blue three-piece suit and wraparound shades, James spoke with humanity and humor to describe what made his big brother, John, a beloved Chicago Police Officer.

You will read comments from many members who worked with John that tell the story of the man pictured on the cover of this issue. The same image, of

the man who wore star #12963, also adorned the cover of the program for his funeral service at St. Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church on May 8.

We also heard from James about the man behind the image on the back cover of that program. Similar three-piece suit, except more of a purple/blue. Similar shades. Everybody in the church could have used a pair with the way James struck a perfect calculated tone without saying too much but saying just enough.

If you have a minute, hit up YouTube to hear James relate a conversation he had with John about his love for his beautiful little girl, Sophia. Only slightly less forlorn than another picture in the program, of Sophia hugging her father.

It's also worth hearing the Greek Orthodox funeral service, which I had never witnessed before. Very poignant and touching. I find these experiences very illuminating, hearing how all religions honor and pay tribute to a congregant who has passed away.

The Greek Orthodox service referred to him as "your servant John." How spot on.

Apparently, it was a little too much for the mayor, however. It was interesting that Mr. Mayor had to excuse himself from the service. I don't know if he was having another panic attack or what, but he disappeared for a good 10 minutes. He definitely looked very unstable before he walked away from that pew.

It reiterates my point about how he despises the police to the fiber of his core, and he cannot tolerate being around something like that for a long period of time. He is just physically uncomfortable even showing sympathy in those situations to police officers. It's just bizarre, but whatever. He'll be irrelevant soon enough.

At the beginning, middle and end of the day, that did not detract from how Chicago Police Officers and the Department created the tribute to John. First off, I must give a tip of the hat to the Department for managing the visitation and funeral, right at the intersection of Hollywood and Sheridan at the very north end of Lake Shore Drive.

That was a very tough location to facilitate a funeral, and they did a phenomenal job making it happen. They shuttled officers from Foster Beach and did a hell of a job getting everybody in and out safely. They were great to me, too.

Our members fittingly covered an entire city block before, during and after the service. As the CPD Honor Guard carried John's casket out of the church, James picked up Sophia and stood next to John's



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President's Report continues on Page 6

wife, Renee. Then, we offered a final salute to John. If you were there and moved to tears at that moment, well, you were in good company.

### Our Gold Standard

The intersection of John's funeral and National Police Week, which started two days later in Washington, D.C., accentuated the standard of support that we have established for our Gold Star families from Lodge 7. As well as families who have had a loved one catastrophically injured, as is the case with Nelson Crespo, John's partner during this tragic incident.

I trace this back to Aug. 7, 2021, when we lost Ella French and Carlos Yanez Jr. was catastrophically injured. That night always comes rushing back whenever we lose a sister or brother, and especially during Police Week.

Some people don't understand why it starts with Ella. She was the first line-of-duty death for me after being elected president and our first female officer killed in 30 years. So many emotional firsts to it all that will stick with me and motivate me to be there for every Gold Star family.

Also, having to explain to Elizabeth French how Ella was lost because David Brown would not do it for three days created a bond that will always keep us together. Same bonding agent to some degree with Dionne Mhoon from crying with her in her living room after her daughter, Aréannah Preston, was shot and killed. Like being there for the Bartholomew family, these are moments you don't just file away. I don't run away. I actually embrace it because it's motivation.

When I have stupid City attorneys arguing out of their backsides, or this idiot mayor issuing a policy that slaps us in the face, or something dumb the Department does, it's gas in the tank to push back and say, "No, we officers mean more than that. We are not just some collateral damage."

I know that the Lodge never did anything near what we now do for these families and are willing to do for these families. The membership has not had an issue with it. I think it is just our No. 1 priority. Or call it 1A and 1B — to fight for the best protections and contracts for our members and also do things for these fallen officers' families that the Department cannot or will not.

These officers matter to us like family. They're our members, and we're going to do everything we can for them. Period. Full stop. So make some room or get out of the way.

It also occurs to me that the Carlos connection with Ella is signifi-



cant because it is such an unbelievable recovery story that reverberates each time an officer is shot or killed.

I couldn't be prouder that Carlos was elected to the Lodge 7 executive board because I just thought it would be therapeutic for him. It would be a way for him to contribute. But he has been willing to do anything and everything for members, especially ones suffering catastrophic injuries. It's just been phenomenal.

And it was reaffirmed yet again when John and Nelson were shot. Carlos could not wait to get to the hospital to provide support and encouragement. It's just in his DNA because he knows that struggle.

## President's Report from National Police Week

# An unprecedented week to remember

A few days after returning from D.C., I finally had some time to catch my breath following the events of National Police Week. Or maybe just exhale.

Police Week takes your breath away in any given year. This year required deep breath after deep breath because of how busy and somber it was with so many names added to the wall at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

The Roll Call of Heroes at the Candlelight Vigil went longer than expected because of all the names read of officers who died due to the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918 through 1920. Chicago had 33 who were lost during two-plus years. And nine during October 2018 alone. Hit us harder than COVID, though having officers who were lost during the pandemic inscribed on the wall paved the way for those lost during the flu epidemic to be added as well.

We did get to see the start of honoring Chicago Police Officer Jeffrey Friedlieb, who you might recall was shot in the line of duty eight years ago. He's now on the Memorial wall and was added to the Lodge 7 Memorial as well this year.

When Jeffrey struggled to recover from that shooting and learned he was never going to get to be the police again, he took his own life.

His father, who did 41 years with the Department, successfully advocated for Jeffrey to be added to the National wall. We need to achieve symmetry for all these line-of-duty deaths to make sure they are added to all four walls — from Lodge 7 to the City to the state to the national.

For example, we are getting there with Officer Benjamin Devlin, who was lost in 1922. He was added to our wall last year and the National Memorial this year. Like at our memorial last year, Benjamin's great-grandchildren were in D.C. to hear his name called.

The next officer we have to honor is Dell Fountain. He was killed in 1996 taking off-duty police action when his son was threatened by a gang member who was on supervised released awaiting trial for murder. I had a 30-year anniversary star made to put by his name, and I didn't realize he wasn't on the National wall, which now I need to work on correcting. The Officer Down Memorial Page has him listed as a line-of-duty death, so you know I will not rest until we take care of one of our own.

Another memorable moment during Police Week comes when we take moments to remember at our annual Gold Star Families dinner. I had a chance to see friends — Elizabeth, Dionne, Edith Huesca, Luis'

mom, and Rosa Mayan, the mother of Enrique Martinez, among so many others. As well as talk at length with Jeffrey Friedlieb's dad, Jeff. And the daughter of Sergeant Philip O'Reilly, who was lost in a vehicle accident in 2003. She was only 5 at the time.

We needed a breath of fresh air from the speech I always make to the room. Never a cookie cutter from me, and with the different circumstances regarding Krystal Rivera's family, I wanted some fresh words of inspiration.

A light bulb went off strangely after a shot of spirits. I encouraged

the other Gold Star family members to be there for the Rivera family because we can't. And the Department cannot. So it's an opportunity for them to give back in honor of their loved ones to another family going through what many of them have.

I think they all embraced the idea to reach out to Krystal's mom, daughter, sister and stepdad. It provided them a direct opportunity to be involved without the emotional weight, or at least the original heaviness, from when their loved one was killed.

And at that time, we all needed a Gold Star moment.

## President's Report: Second Stories

# Just Go, Brandon

Seeing the mayor at the police funeral, the look on his face was like somebody having root canal.

Put it this way: If he had no political aspirations after this term, he wouldn't even show up to police events.

He wouldn't care about the political fallout. And the fact that he got rid of Garien Gatewood, the first-ever deputy mayor of community safety, over a policy issue just reaffirms what I have said all along.

It was also obvious at our suicide memorial that he did not want to be there. He looked so uncomfortable being at the Lodge. He didn't make eye contact with anybody and stared at like a dot on the stage the whole time.

Just when you thought his approval rating couldn't go any lower, even the governor kicked the mayor you know where. It was actually pretty funny to me to hear JB throw Brandon under the bus repeatedly.

Now, we're no big fans of JB. But he certainly understands politics, and for him to call out the mayor should give everybody pause that clearly that clown has no idea what he's doing. And how much worse the City is for it.

In another 10 months, we can fix this. Now, don't go there yet, be-

cause it's not on my radar. Though anything is possible if Alexi drops out.

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias seems to be a serviceable option for mayor. The unions are certainly pushing him forward. He has been hesitant. I guess he's politically savvy enough to not commit to running while he's collecting boatloads of money in his campaign coffers.

The day of reckoning is coming for Brandon. We just had our appellate court hearing on the COVID policy under Lightfoot and that disaster. The City attorneys pretty much all but told the justices that if they're not successful, they're going to the Illinois Supreme Court with this case.

Shocking because all they care about is the Franczek law firm getting paid more taxpayer dollars. They think that gravy train will continue and that there's no way he won't get reelected.

But they will have to start working for a living because the mayor is so stupid and incompetent. The billable hours have got to be insane with all the union business they had to adjudicate because of his incompetence. We can't afford him any more on just about every level.

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# Don't Forget Your Why



**MICHAEL  
METTE**

There are days on this job where it feels like we are just trying to make it to the end of our tour.

The calls pile up. The reports never end. The city keeps moving, and sometimes it feels like nobody notices the sacrifices being made behind the scenes by the men and women wearing the badge. With almost 23 years on this job, I can honestly say there are moments when the stress, frustration, and exhaustion can make even the best officers question themselves. That is why it is so important that we never forget our "why."

I think back to why I became a police officer in the first place. Watching and listening to my father and his friends growing up had a huge impact on my desire to become the police. It was never about recognition or praise. It was about service. It was about wanting to protect people, stand up for those who needed help, and be part of something greater than myself. Like many of you, I came onto this job with pride, purpose, and the belief that what we do matters and it still does.

But this profession has a way of testing us. Over time, if we are not careful, the job can start to harden us. We see tragedy, violence, addiction, broken families, and evil on a regular basis. We miss holidays, birthdays, school events, and family dinners. We carry things mentally that most people will never understand. That is why reconnecting with our purpose matters.

For me, that purpose is rooted in faith, family, and service. My wife and kids remind me every day who I am outside of the uniform. My faith reminds me that even in difficult moments, God has a purpose

for each of us. And the relationships built through this profession, the brotherhood and sisterhood we share, remind me that none of us carry this burden alone.

This past month, I had the honor of riding with Law Enforcement United during Police Week alongside other members of our law enforcement family. As we rode in honor of fallen officers and their families, it was impossible not to reflect on the true meaning behind this profession. Those miles were not just physical. They were emotional and spiritual reminders of sacrifice, commitment, and legacy.

It reminded me that our "why" is not just about us.

It is about the partner beside you. The family that is waiting for you at home. The young officer looking to you for guidance. The victim who needs compassion on the worst day of their life. The memory of the officers we have lost and the responsibility we have to continue serving with honor.

This job will challenge you. There will be days you feel exhausted, frustrated, or discouraged. On those days, I encourage you to pause and remember why you started.

Remember the pride you felt putting on the uniform for the first time. Remember the people who believed in you. Remember that what we do still matters.

Take care of yourselves. Take care of each other. Spend time with your family. Lean on your faith. Reach out when you need help. There is strength in doing so, and no matter how difficult the road gets, don't forget your why.

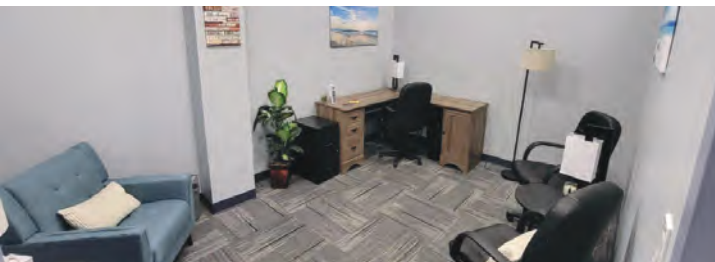
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# Discipline Briefs



DAN GORMAN

Part of my report 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 |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Alleged unjustified verbal abuse; place hands near neck without justification; no TRR; unprofessional. (COPA)                        | 15-day suspension            | 7-day suspension   |
| Alleged "Incompetency;" failure to provide Impound receipt; improperly documenting traffic crash. (District Accountability Sergeant) | 1-day suspension             | Expunged           |
| Alleged false and/or misleading reports (regarding gun w/ extended magazine arrest). (COPA)  | 3-day suspension             | Expunged           |
| Allegedly fail to report for a drug test. Medical Appt for an exposure. Officer's elderly mother had an incident. (BIA)              | 2-days                       | Violation noted    |
| Verbal: Making unnecessary comment to a citizen. (District Accountability Supervisor)  | 3-days                       | 1-day              |

## 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 13-page arbitration decision re: Alleged unjustified verbal abuse; place hands near neck without justification; no TRR; unprofessional. (Investigated by: COPA)**

*"As she [the complainant] attempts to spray the mace, [the officer] takes his right hand to pull the mace out of her hand as he simultaneously grabs the upper back of her coat and hair."*

*"It is clear that Complainant initially was an assailant, and therefore [the officer] was justified in using force to prevent Complainant from using the chemical weapon which could have caused injury to the civilians and himself."*

*"[The officer] characterized the female Complainant's outrageous behavior, evident from the time the Officers first reached the scene, as "acting like an animal" in an effort to change her behavior. Because I do not find that [the officer] called her an "animal"*

*directly, I find Allegation 1 is not sustained."*

*"While I find [the officer] during this conversation blunt and raw, there is no evidence that civilians, including Complainant, heard any of it."*

*"It is also important to note that [the officer] arrived on a chaotic scene in progress, where the Complainant was unruly, highly agitated, and using profanities."*

**Quotes from the 7-page arbitration decision re: Alleged "Incompetency;" failure to provide Impound receipt; improperly documenting traffic crash. (Investigated by: District Accountability Sergeant)**

*"...although the incident occurred on March 21, 2021, [the complainant] did not submit his Complaint until April 25, 2022, AFTER he was found guilty in Traffic Court on all the citations..."*

*"The Department said it will accept a Complaint at any time after an incident. I find the 13-month gap between the incident and when [the complainant] made his Complaint, as well as the circumstance under which he submitted the Complaint, to be highly suspect and retaliatory."*

*"For those reasons alone, I find the Complaint must be dismissed."*

*"I still find there was insufficient evidence to prove the two allegations."*

**Quotes from the 12-page arbitration decision re: Alleged false and/or misleading reports (regarding gun w/ extended magazine arrest). (Investigated by: COPA)**

*"Thus, because I find the BWC evidence inconclusive, the Department has not met its burden of proof, and the allegation that [the officer] submitted false or misleading reports is not sustained. It is also worth noting that [the officer] was not charged with a Rule 14 violation."*

**Quotes from the 7-page arbitration decision re: Fail to report for drug test (Investigated by: BIA)**

*"The Union contends that it is undisputed that [the officer] failed to take the second drug test on May 3, 2022. However, there are mitigating factors that support a reduced penalty."*

*"The failure to appear on May 3, 2022 was an unintentional mistake."*

*"During his interview with BIA, [the officer] explained that although his Case Manager informed him that he needed to return [for a second drug test], it was not specified that he needed to return immediately on May 3, 2022."*

*"His failure to retake the test on May 3, 2022 was a mistake attributable to a miscommunication with his Case Manager."*

*"I find that, based on the specific circumstances of this case, including [the officer's] excellent record and the fact that his failure to appear for the second drug test was an unintentional error, I believe that a Violation Noted will act as a sufficient deterrent for any future similar infractions."*

**Quotes from the 6-page arbitration decision re:**

**Unnecessary comment to a citizen**

**(Investigated by: District Accountability Supervisor)**

“Throughout the transport, [the officer] was mirroring [the complainant’s] language to maintain control...”


“After reviewing her BWC footage, [the officer] recognized that, during the incident, she became frustrated with [the complainant’s] continued verbal taunts and non-compliance.”

“[The officer] indicated that, in hindsight, she would have conducted herself differently from the beginning.”

“In mitigation, I note that, at the time of the incident, [the officer] had an excellent Complimentary History, no Disciplinary Record, and had been on the job for 23½ years. In aggravation, I find that the manner in which [the officer] spoke to [the complainant] was very disrespectful. I note that one of the challenges of being a Chicago Police Officer is maintaining one’s composure even in difficult situations. Here, I find that [the officer] overreacted during her encounter...”


“While the evidence shows that the City had a legitimate basis to issue discipline, I find that when the circumstances are viewed in totality, a 3-day suspension was excessive.”

“Based on the totality of the circumstances, I find that the appropriate penalty in this case is a 1-day suspension.”




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**30 YEARS OF SERVING LODGE 7 MEMBERS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS**

# Law Enforcement United – The Road To Hope



MONICA  
ORTIZ

Every May, my heart leads me back to Washington, D.C., for National Law Enforcement Memorial Police Week—a journey filled with memories, hope, and healing. I still remember 2009, when Law Enforcement United (LEU) was founded. It was deeply meaningful to be part of that very first bicycle ride, surrounded by people who understood both the pain of loss and the power of coming together.

LEU is more than an organization. It's a family. Built entirely by volunteers, it's made up of law enforcement professionals, survivors, and compassionate supporters from all walks of life. Our mission is deeply personal: to honor the brave Officers we've lost in the line of duty and to stand beside their families, reminding them they are never alone.

Every year, the 225-mile bicycle ride feels like coming home. This year, Team Chicago consisted of 12 riders and a support crew, with eight of us experiencing the magic of the ride for the first time. When we arrived in Atlantic City, the parking lot overflowed with hugs, laughter, and a sense of belonging that's hard to describe. Nervousness was met with encouragement, and doubts faded as we prepared together, listening to safety briefings, sharing stories, and feeling the warmth and support of the New Jersey Chapter, especially from our Gold Star families.

As the ride began, we were no longer just cyclists; we were family moving forward together, each mile fueled by compassion, shared purpose, and the knowledge that none of us walks, or rides, this path alone.

But this event is so much more than a bicycle ride—it's a lifeline. I've witnessed firsthand how it helps the families of fallen Officers find comfort, strength, and hope. No one ever wants to become part of the Gold Star family, because it means losing someone you love in the line of duty. Yet within this community, no one stands alone.

Over the course of these days, I've laughed and cried alongside Gold Star families from across the country. We share memories, support one another, and honor our loved ones in ways only we can truly understand. At every stop along the ride, a dedication is read—often by a spouse, parent, or sibling—telling the story of a hero's life and the legacy left behind. We pause for prayer and reflection while families share what the ride means to them. For many, it's a way to keep memories alive and transform grief into a healing movement. On the bike, I've found that sorrow becomes a shared journey—and together, we ensure no one has to carry it alone.

What truly makes this organization special is that every dollar

raised goes directly toward helping others. Because all food and supplies for the LEU rides are donated, every cent supports causes that matter: The Road to Hope Bicycle Ride, Project Active Armor, Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.), the Officer Down Memorial Page (O.D.M.P.), and the Spirit of Blue Foundation.

If you have ever wanted to honor heroes, support grieving families, and be part of something meaningful, I warmly invite you to join us—whether as a rider, supporter, or friend. There's a place for you in this family, and together, we can continue carrying hope forward.

A significant portion of funds raised benefits C.O.P.S., and I can say from the heart that this organization changes lives. C.O.P.S. is a national nonprofit dedicated to helping families and co-workers heal after the unimaginable loss of a law enforcement Officer. Their programs provide free counseling, peer support, scholarships, and specialized retreats and camps for children and families—spreading comfort and hope throughout the country.

C.O.P.S. is there when families need support the most, creating spaces where people can grieve, grow, and remember together. They provide camps for children, retreats for adults, and compassionate guidance for law enforcement personnel navigating the hardest moments of their lives. Every year, C.O.P.S. also helps families travel to Washington, D.C., for National Police Week and the National Law Enforcement Memorial—a journey that means so much to so many. The care, effort, and love they pour into supporting every family are truly inspiring.

Finally, my heartfelt congratulations to Team Chicago 2026. Each of you demonstrated incredible strength, resilience, and kindness through every mile—despite the rain, cold, mechanical troubles, bumps, and bruises along the way. Your dedication brought comfort and hope to Gold Star families and inspired everyone who watched you ride.

I am so proud of each and every one of you: Susan Jordan, Samantha King Griffin, Maria Marmolejo, Rosa Mayen, Michael Mette, Elizabeth O'Reilly, Lily O'Brien, Steve Olsen, Nancy Sanchez, Gabriel Sanchez, Elizabeth Sanchez, and Lauren Szelog. Thank you for your courage, your compassion, and for being the heart of this amazing journey.

If you are a retired or active officer interested in being part of this journey in 2027, registration opens on July 1, 2026—and spots fill quickly. Chicago currently rides with the New Jersey Chapter, though several chapters are available to choose from. For more information, visit [www.leunited.org](http://www.leunited.org).

We would love to welcome you into our family.  
God Bless and Stay Safe.





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# A Close Look at the Numbers



ROB  
NOCEDA

Hello Lodge 7,

I pray this finds you well. During my reports at the General Meeting, I usually mention the department's attrition rate. I will mention our current staffing numbers and year-to-date retirees and new hires. Currently, we have 11,622 active members. This total includes 8,003 members with the 9161 Police Officer title code, 334 members with the title code 9164 Field Training Officer, 1,171 members with the title code 9165 Detective, 1,383 members with the title code 9171 Sergeant, 262 members with the title code 9173 Lieutenant, and 118 members with the title code 9206 Evidence Technicians. All other title codes make up the remainder of the department.

Just to remind everyone, we had 13,348 members in 2018, and in 2019, we had 13,353. If you look at the difference, that is over 1,700 over the last seven to eight years. Chicago, we continue to have a problem. Between massive retirements and resignations, our numbers have dropped to dismal levels. In April 2019, the 006th District had 404 members. In April 2026, 006th District had 299 members. In April 2019, the 008th District had 400 members. In April 2026, the 008th District had 291 members. Numbers don't lie. We have a big problem. The city has shortened and stretched these watches too thin.

My research found that most districts have lost between 75-100 members since 2019. If you calculate that, you have at least 25 less people on each watch. The biggest losses came from the 7th and 11th districts. The 11th district had 466 Officers in 2019. Today they

have 327, which is 139 less Officers. The 7th district had 456 Officers in 2019. The 7th district now has 331 Officers, a 125 manpower difference. How can you do more with much less?

I bring this up to say this, five people just this week (May 18-22) have called me at the Lodge to tell me they are retiring at 20 years. Two of those members are in their mid-40s. Another three members, all under eight years on the job, called to say they are going to other police departments. I have estimated that at least 100 members leave CPD each year. This is a continuous trend that has a terrible impact on officer safety and public safety.

I will take credit for, many years ago, telling the city to get a recruiting team, hit up the military bases, and expedite the process for those service members, as well as giving the city the blueprint for success to achieve an attainable recruiting standard. For what it's worth, the city did take some of my advice. Now I am asking the city to really focus on retention. There are 20-year Officers raising families and still choosing to leave the city and start another job. This will be a major focus going forward as we cannot afford to lose 100-150 Officers to lateral transfers, with also 440 retirees each year. We barely get 400 recruits as it is each year.

The city will have to address the retention side of things to ensure we will retain our seasoned Police Officers. I am sure that will come after the Mayoral election.

Thank you again for all that you do for the city and each other. God bless and stay safe.

You can reach Rob at [rnoceda@chicagofop.org](mailto:rnoceda@chicagofop.org).

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# Honoring the Fallen: Det. Daniel Kranz's Mission to Restore Police Gravesites



**JIM  
JAKSTAVICH**

Hello again, Officers, both active and retired. The Fraternalism Award was recently presented to Det. Daniel Kranz at the last General Meeting on May 20, and the timing could not have been more fitting, as May was Police Memorial Month.

I first spoke with Det. Kranz, a 28-year veteran of the department, in his capacity as Unit Representative in 640. He had mentioned to me that a couple years ago, after reading the WIRE and the stories of the fallen Officers and seeing their photos, something had resonated within him. For those of you that do not know what the WIRE is, it is the department computer system that contains all the programs Officers use in their day-to-day work. There is no more paper version of the "Daily Bulletin." It has been replaced by the WIRE.

Det. Kranz further explained to me that he found some graves and headstones of deceased P.O.s in the cemetery when he was visiting deceased members of his own family and decided to tidy up their graves, now treating them as family. Once he started, he had made it his mission to clean as many gravesites as possible. This is not an easy task and comes with time-consuming investigations into documenting all the fallen Officers, their gravesites, verifying the cemeteries and grave locations. Det. Kranz has discovered that some Officers graves were moved and some were even in new cemeteries, triggering him to notify the department so they could update their records. He has requested headstones for the fallen Officers that do not have a marker or put in requests with the cemeteries to lift sunken headstones. When Dan first started his mission, he brought with him a weedwacker, blower, scrub brush, and jugs of water. He has now perfected his craft by adding a backpack sprayer, power drill with soft bristle brush, and granite polish. He officially has a corner in his garage dedicated to his cleaning equipment that he now brings with him on his endeavors.

To date, Det. Kranz has visited 26 cemeteries, cleaned 224 Chicago Police/Chicago Park District Police and 314 of their family members as well, for a total of 538 graves. He stressed that his mission is not complete and that he has 45 more cemeteries to visit with nine more located out of state. Through Det. Kranz and his investigations, one of the many Officer gravesites that have been cleaned was for Detective Louis A. Abbott Sr. and his wife. Their final place of rest is in a cemetery in Erie, Pennsylvania and the cleaning was performed by Corporal Ben Steiner of the Millcreek Police Department.



Det. Kranz was truly humble about his mission and credited many other active and retired Officers who contributed to the research or cleaning. Det. Kranz made absolutely sure to acknowledge their vast contributions with the cleaning and research and provided the following names: Ret. Captain Kevin Anderson, Ret. P.O. Kathy Antonacci, Ret. Det. Margie Rodriguez, Ret. Det. Thomas Ellerbeck, Det. Donna Albert, and Det. James Whigham. I am honored to be able to write this story and let our readers know the work this Detective and his team are doing on their own time and without seeking any form of recognition. Det. Kranz has ensured that those that died in the line of duty will continue to be honored and that we will never forget. Stay safe.



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# Behavioral Intervention System



MICHAEL COLLINS

Hello again, brothers and sisters, both active and retired. I have been receiving a lot of calls from officers regarding notifications that they are being placed into the Behavioral Intervention System or the Personnel Concerns Program. Most officers are unfamiliar with either program. In this article, I will go over the Behavioral Intervention System, and in next month's article, I will cover the Personnel Concerns Program to help educate officers seeking guidance and a better understanding of both programs.

Placement in either program is generally for one year. However, an officer may be removed from either program before the year is completed, or the placement may be extended beyond the initial year. Any officer who remains in the Behavioral Intervention System or the Personnel Concerns Program for longer than one year may submit a To-From to the Director of the Human Resources Division outlining why he or she believes continued retention in the system is unwarranted.

So, what is the Behavioral Intervention System, and how do you end up being placed into it? The Behavioral Intervention System is designed to identify Department members who may need Department assistance. It is not a disciplinary process, nor is it intended to interfere with promotions, transfers, bidding, or other employment benefits. However, officers should understand that the behavior or performance issues leading to

placement in the system may still be considered by Department managers when making employment-related decisions.

The Behavioral Intervention System is initiated when the Director of the Human Resources Division approves the placement of a Department member into the program. The Director may consider Department members for inclusion based on recommendations from any Department command staff member, the Executive Director of the Police Board, or a Department-contracted psychologist. A recommendation alone does not constitute automatic placement in the system. All recommendations must be made in writing and must clearly set forth the reasons supporting the recommendation.

The basis for any recommendation may not include:

- Sustained Complaint Register investigations older than five years;
- Complaint Register investigations classified as unfounded or exonerated; or
- Traffic crashes involving Department vehicles.

Examples of performance data that may serve as behavioral intervention indicators include, to name a few:

- Sustained CRs in which BIA or COPA recommends enrollment;
- A significant reduction in an officer's performance evaluation;
- Excessive tardiness (five or more instances);
- Two or more sustained CRs within a 12-month period;
- Four SPARs in a 12-month period;
- Excessive medical roll usage; and
- Three or more excessive force complaints within a 12-month period.

Officers placed into the program are instructed to report to the Officer Support Unit at Headquarters (3rd floor) for an interview with a sergeant or lieutenant. The purpose of the meeting is to help you and answer any questions or concerns about the program. You are entitled to have a supervisor, unit or FOP representative present during the interview.

During that interview, officers will receive an explanation of the program and the reasons for their recommendation. You will also be required to sign paperwork acknowledging enrollment and report for a random drug and alcohol screening.

If you choose to appeal placement into the program, you have seven working days to request a hearing with the Director of Human Resources by submitting a To-From addressed to the Director. During the hearing, the officer will have the opportunity to explain why he or she believes enrollment is unwarranted. Within one week of the hearing, the Director of Human Resources will notify the officer in writing of the final decision.

Lastly, records related to the Behavioral Intervention System records are maintained separately from the Department's disciplinary records and employee personnel records. While enrolled in the system, command staff and supervisors are responsible for monitoring their performance. The performance of all personnel will be continually evaluated for both positive and negative developments.

Hopefully, this article provided a general understanding of the Behavioral Intervention System. Please give me a call at the Lodge if you would like to discuss this in more detail.

Stay safe, everyone!

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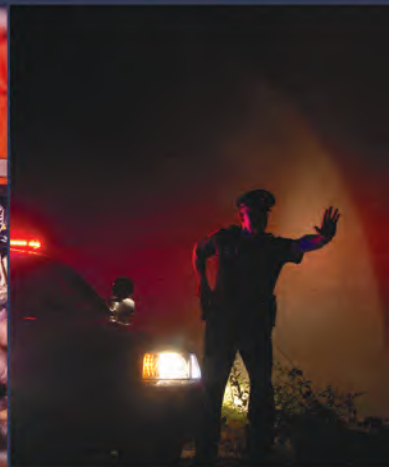
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# Service in Every Note



KENYATTA  
GAINES

When I look at the vibrant makeup of our membership, I will always compliment the strength of this Lodge and continue to forward our mission alongside the President.

A question was asked: **What exactly do you do?** Well, my daily objective is to protect CPD Officers. Headquarters is my “district.”

As an FOP Field Representative, I wear many hats to ensure no Officer stands alone.

My duties include:

- **Liaison roles:** Serving as the FOP court liaison and the deeply personal Gold Star Families liaison.
- **Grievance management:** Handling mostly medical, forced medical, and some disciplinary grievances.
- **Stipends:** Addressing ALL stipend-related issues involving CIT, LEMART, and BIKE assignments.
- **Advocacy:** Assisting with call outs, supporting Officers during the process of being relieved of police powers, and handling member-sensitive tasks assigned by the President.
- **National representation:** Bringing our local perspective to the national stage as a member of the National FOP's

Diversity Committee.

I am incredibly grateful to have secured several significant victories since being appointed to this position.

For instance, when the City of Chicago offered an opportunity for former CPD employees—who mandatorily retired in 2024 at age 63—to return to the department until age 65, the City neglected to expedite and properly process their returns. This caused a damaging domino effect. I worked directly with the Academy, MSS, Human Resources, Finance, and the Comptroller's Office to ensure things were properly adjusted so the member was able to retire/resign without incident.

I have also helped a member's status recover from pending separation down to a 20-day suspension. I've fought for an Officer to get his credentials when they were originally denied. I successfully helped a member maintain their pay status when the department sought to remove them from it.

Again, I am a Field Representative.

Another question I'm often asked is, **“Do you see/hear the hateful things people post about you?”**

First, thank you to everyone who offered kind words. I truly appreciate your support.

I choose not to engage the negativity so I can protect my peace. I value peace over ego. When you protect your ego, you have to react to everything. Every slight, every perceived disrespect, every comment—you're constantly at war with people who really don't matter, just to prove a point that nobody really cares about. While attempting to look strong, you look weak and easily controlled.

If anybody can pull your strings just by challenging your pride, that is a character flaw.

As a woman who tries to maintain peace, I can sit in a room, an office, or a meeting full of disrespect and not utter a single word. My identity is not tied to others' opinions of me. I do not ignore disrespect out of fear. I ignore it because, most of the time, the foolish person is simply not worth the energy it takes to address them.

Ego is a powerful thing, and it can be expensive. Ego can cost you relationships, opportunities, and years of your life defending something that was never worth defending.

As Bruce Lee once said, “You don't find PEACE, you CHOOSE it by what you ignore, what you release, and by what you stop giving energy to.”

With that, I say let the cowards enjoy their keyboards!

Ultimately, my work is about using my platform to uplift the collective. I SERVE our members! And yes, I sing the National Anthem. My voice is my very personal gift to each of you.

Whether it be in song, in a stated speech, or in writing, my voice is the way I serve.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service to this incredible brotherhood.

Stay safe!

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# Another Fond Farewell



PAT  
FIORETTO

*Lord, I ask You to be with me in a very special way,  
As I face the challenges that come my way each day.  
Please give to me compassion for the innocent I see,  
Help me to protect and serve those who depend on  
me.*

*When duty calls to danger, I will rely on You,  
To give me strength and courage and help me make it  
through.*

*And when my shift is over, thankful I will be  
That You have been the unseen guest walking next to  
me.*

— A Police Officer’s Prayer, Author Unknown

Every year, the country takes time to observe National Police Week in Washington, D.C. Established by President John F. Kennedy in 1962, this solemn tradition brings our nation together to honor the courage, sacrifice, and dedication of the law enforcement officers who gave their lives in service to others.

The week-long observance includes events recognizing officers who lost their lives in the line of duty, as well as those who continue to serve and protect our communities with dedication and courage. The events bring thousands of law enforcement officers, survivors, families, and supporters to the nation’s capital to honor and pay tribute not only to the fallen officers, but also the loved ones they left behind. It serves as a reminder that law enforcement officers continue to place themselves in harm’s way to protect others and keep our communities safe.

In his proclamation this year, President Trump stated:

On this Peace Officers Memorial Day, observed during our Nation’s time-honored Police Week, we pay tribute to the men and women of law enforcement who have devoted their lives to safeguarding our families and communities. Our grateful country joins them in honoring the memory of the fallen officers who gave their lives protecting their fellow citizens, and we stand resolutely beside the families they left behind. We also recognize those who have been injured in the line of duty and the families who have stood faithfully by their side through hardship and recovery, and we pledge our steadfast support to those who continue to wear the badge.

This year, the nation honored 363 fallen law enforcement officers whose final watches ended in 2025. Their names were officially engraved on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and read aloud during the emotional 38th Annual Candlelight Vigil on the National Mall – a truly moving experience for anyone who has attended.

This year’s memorial observance hit home for many of us in Chicago, following the tragic incident which occurred only two weeks before. On April 25, 2026, we lost one of our own when Police Officer John Bartholomew was fatally shot while guarding a violent criminal at Endeavor Health Swedish Hospital. His partner, Police Officer Nelson Crespo, also suffered critical injuries during

the incident.

I had the privilege of meeting Officer Bartholomew through my brother, who worked with him before joining the Chicago Police Department. After sharing several dinners together, I quickly learned what made him an exceptional officer and a remarkable human being. Soft spoken, caring, and intelligent, Officer Bartholomew possessed qualities that left a lasting impression on everyone who knew him. He always enjoyed a delicious meal and shared his vast knowledge of history. Officer Bartholomew cared about his profession.

National Police Week is both a time of solemn remembrance and a celebration of the men and women who serve with integrity and bravery every day. It reminds us that behind every badge is a story of service, sacrifice, and family. Officer Bartholomew’s life, though unjustly cut short, made a lasting difference.

He leaves behind not only a wife and children, mother, and two siblings, but also a legacy of honor, respect, civility, selflessness, and unwavering commitment to his vocation. Our continued thoughts and prayers remain with Officer Bartholomew’s family, Officer Crespo, and all law enforcement officers who continue to serve and protect us each day. Let us honor their sacrifice, and the sacrifice of all members of the law enforcement community, by never forgetting.

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# Vehicle Pursuits



**TIM GRACE**

Over and over again, we are teeing ourselves up for discipline over the vehicle pursuit general order. COPA is never giddier than when an Officer is found to have violated the order regarding a pursuit and to play Monday morning quarterback on the actions of well-intended Officers. We will never get COPA to understand the dynamics of a pursuit and all of the moving parts involved in the decision to initiate and continue a pursuit. However, it is ultimately on us, the individual Officer and his or her partner, to be able to clearly explain and articulate those decisions. That can only be done when we truly understand the general order.

We are not talking about simply reading the order; we are talking about fully comprehending what the order requires. An Officer who appreciates and understands the purpose behind the general order cannot only act within policy but can also withstand cross examination from COPA investigations or attorneys during a civil deposition.

General Order G03-03-01 governs vehicle pursuits. At a 30,000-foot view, the policy is about minimizing collateral damage to innocent civilians and saving the City of Chicago money. There is no easier way for an attorney to secure a large settlement or verdict than through a questionable vehicle pursuit that results in serious injury or death. The City knows this, which is why discipline for pursuit violations is often severe and can even result in termination.

A pursuit is defined as: “[a]n active attempt by a sworn member operating an authorized emergency vehicle to apprehend any driver or operator of a motor vehicle who, having been given a visual and audible signal by the officers...fails or refuses to obey such direction, increases or maintains his or her speed, extinguishes his or her lights, or otherwise flees or attempts to elude the officer.”

The policy establishes a balancing test for the “initiation, continuation, and supervisory authorization of each motor vehicle pursuit.” This means that when a motorist refuses to stop or pulls away during a traffic stop, the Officer must immediately decide whether pursuing the vehicle is justified.

The balancing test the Officer should be considering is if “[t]he necessity to immediately apprehend the fleeing suspect outweighs the level of inherent danger created by a motor vehicle pursuit.” An easier way to look at it is to ask yourself: Is taking this person into custody worth the potential risk to myself and the public?

Once a vehicle refuses to stop, the Officer must determine whether the pursuit is authorized. Can I chase? This is the initiation of the pursuit and the first important decision. For what offense am I going to chase this guy down and arrest him?

Department policy does not permit pursuits for minor traffic violations or misdemeanors, with DUI being the only exception. You also cannot pursue solely for felony theft or PSMV. If the offense qualifies for a pursuit, you must then weigh the risks involved.

The general order requires you to evaluate the totality of the circumstances on the ground, including:

- The speed and maneuvering of both your squad and the offending vehicle
- Pedestrian and vehicular traffic
- Road and weather conditions
- Visibility and lighting conditions

The general order also cautions Officers to consider terminating or avoiding a pursuit when:

- The suspect’s identity is already known
- Property damage begins occurring during the pursuit
- Additional information from assisting units or air support change the risk assessment

Essentially, Officers must constantly analyze the dangers involved and consider alternative apprehension methods. The general order spells it out clearly, and you should thoroughly study it.

Even when an Officer understands the general order, the challenge remains the same: Officers must process all of this information in real time. Is the offender actually fleeing, or are they about to pull over? Has an attempted traffic stop now become a pursuit? Does the offense qualify? What are the traffic, weather, and lighting conditions? Ultimately, can the pursuit legally and safely be initiated?

All of this takes time. Officers are not AI or supercomputers. While processing these factors, you may have already traversed several blocks before fully making that determination, and COPA may later characterize the moment as the initiation of a pursuit.

However, and this is the crux of this article, if you can articulate to your lieutenant and eventually to COPA why you took the action you did, you will be in a far better position to justify your decisions.

Think about this before every shift, and think about it before you decide to pursue a vehicle. Understand the general order thoroughly, and you will be fine.



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# Honoring Sisters and Brothers who have passed

| Name              | Age | Date of Passing  | Name             | Age | Date of Passing   |
|-------------------|-----|------------------|------------------|-----|-------------------|
| Paul Marolis      | 92  | February 1, 2026 | John Goggin      | 94  | May 7, 2026       |
| James A. Tait     | 81  | March 20, 2026   | Johnny Spencer   | 89  | May 9, 2026       |
| John A. Patton    | 79  | April 7, 2026    | Kevin Doyle      | 68  | May 9, 2026       |
| James Tucker      | 88  | April 9, 2026    | Miriam A. Tammo  | 44  | May 10, 2026      |
| James Miller      | 76  | April 23, 2026   | William Johnston | 83  | May 12, 2026      |
| Mitchell Masalski | 78  | April 24, 2026   | Karl Walter      | 89  | May 17, 2026      |
| John Bartholomew  | 38  | April 25, 2026   | James Jenicek    | 76  | December 23, 2026 |
| Richard Coyle     | 58  | April 30, 2026   |                  |     |                   |

## Retiree Meetings

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

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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

# Honoring Retired Members

| Name                 | Rank | Unit | Years | Name                | Rank | Unit | Years |
|----------------------|------|------|-------|---------------------|------|------|-------|
| Jimmy Krklus         | DET  | 640  | 26    | Michael D'Ambrosia  | DET  | 620  | 30    |
| Lester Fligelman Jr. | TS   | 608  | 28    | Peter Dusick        | PO   | 124  | 26    |
| Richard A. Filas     | PO   | 16   | 28    | Roberto Echeverria  | PO   | 12   | 20    |
| Albert A. Schnauffer | PO   | 24   | 22    | David Healey        | DET  | 650  | 34    |
| Michael Mansor       | PO   | 20   | 26    | Kelley La Bonte     | PO   | 51   | 30    |
| Nora Walker          | PO   | 6    | 32    | Damian O'Sullivan   | PO   | 22   | 21    |
| David Valentin       | PO   | 50   | 32    | Danielle Philp      | PO   | 9    | 24    |
| Angela Pittman       | PO   | 189  | 26    | Andrea Roberts      | PO   | 18   | 29    |
| Eliel Roa            | PO   | 9    | 26    | Richard J. Sullivan | DET  | 620  | 32    |
| Corey Anderson       | DET  | 610  | 25    | Bilos Thomas        | DET  | 630  | 26    |
| Kristophe Lindsay    | PO   | 5    | 26    | Brian Tucker        | PO   | 17   | 26    |
| Mark Mora            | PO   | 51   | 34    | Kenneth J. Urbon    | DET  | 620  | 30    |
| Armando Villasenor   | PO   | 19   | 26    | Reginald Weatherly  | PO   | 124  | 22    |
| Brian Bardsley       | PO   | 353  | 22    | Caroline Burgess    | DET  | 640  | 24    |
| Henry Barsch         | DET  | 620  | 30    | Cynthia Cirello     | PO   | 5    | 14    |
| Chris Beres          | PO   | 125  | 26    |                     |      |      |       |

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- **Michael McNamara (CPD & Army family)**
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# “From One Friend To Another”



RABBI  
MOSHE WOLF

As this goes to print, we join our brothers and sisters of the Chicago Fire Department in mourning the loss of Engineer Steve Decker of Engine 71, who died in the performance of his duty.

Steve was a close friend, everyone’s friend. A good man, a gentleman, one of those people you truly loved working with.

A special thank you to all his brothers and sisters on scene who immediately jumped into action and did everything they could to save brother Steve. Sadly, the Lord had other plans and called Steve home.

On behalf of the Decker family, thank you to ALL members of the CFD, CPD, and the many police and fire departments from near and far who came to the Emergency Room, the Medical Examiner’s Office, the wake, and the funeral. Your presence meant the world to the family, and your kindness will always be remembered.

To our brother Steve, we say, “Rest in peace. Gone, but never forgotten. Your smile and the life you lived will forever be etched in our hearts...”

My heart aches, and I am at a loss for words, as this is now the third month in a row that we, as first responders, have had to say a final goodbye to someone lost in the line and performance of duty.

Yet each and every one of you still wakes up every day, goes to work, doing G-d’s work of keeping our city safe and protecting G-d’s children. No matter the call or the challenge, each and every one of you steps up to the plate without a moment of hesitation!

For that, on behalf of ALL of your Chaplains, we say THANK YOU. GOD BLESS YOU! Thank you for being who you are, and thank you for what you do.

We are honored and humbled to minister to one of G-d’s holiest flocks.

As we enter the summer season, let us all remember to take time to enjoy life with family and loved ones.

It brings to mind a poem sent my way called, “From One Friend To Another.”

## “From One Friend To Another: Lessons in Life I’ve Learned Along The Way”

The best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

When you’re in love, it shows.

One person saying, “You’ve made my day!” can make your entire day.

Having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

Being kind is more important than being right.

Never say no to a gift from a child.

We can always pray for someone when we don’t have the strength to help them any other way.

No matter how serious life requires us to be, everyone needs a friend they can act goofy with.

Sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

Simple walks around the block with our children on summer nights can shape wonderful memories that stay with them forever.

Life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

Money doesn’t buy class. Always be kind to the less fortunate.

It’s the small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

Beneath everyone’s hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

Ignoring facts does not change facts.

When you plan to get even with someone, you only allow that person to continue hurting you.

Love, not time, heals all wounds.

The easiest way to grow as people is to surround ourselves with people smarter than we are.

Everyone we meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

No one is perfect until you fall in love with them.

Life is tough, but we are tougher, especially with faith and prayer!

When we harbor bitterness, happiness finds somewhere else to dock.

I wish I could tell my Mom and Dad one more time that I loved them before they passed away.

Keep your words both soft and tender, because tomorrow you may have to eat them.

A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

Everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth happen while climbing it.

Remember, no one is guaranteed tomorrow. Every day is a gift. ENJOY YOUR PRESENT!

And last but not least, find something to laugh about every day, even if you have to look in the mirror.

Before we close, a little humor from the “Moshe Files” to keep you smiling:

### “The Cab Driver”

A passenger in a cab leaned over to ask the driver a question and tapped him on the shoulder.

The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb, and stopped just inches from a large plate glass window.

For a few moments, everything was silent in the cab, and then the still-shaking driver said, “I’m sorry but you scared the daylight out of me.”

The frightened passenger apologized to the driver and said he didn’t realize a mere tap on the shoulder could frighten him so much.

The driver replied, “No, no, I’m sorry! It’s entirely my fault. Today is my first day driving a cab. I’ve been driving a hearse for the last 25 years.”.....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 or story 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](http://www.chicagopcm.org). Look us up for current and upcoming information.

**Chaplains website: [www.chicagopcm.org](http://www.chicagopcm.org)**

**Compliments of your Police Chaplain**

**Rabbi Moshe Wolf**

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**Cell: 773-230-7872 (text)**

**E-mail: [moshewolf@hotmail.com](mailto:moshewolf@hotmail.com)**

**Snail mail: 3008 W. Pratt Blvd., Chicago, IL 60645**

FROM YOUR DIRECTING CHAPLAIN



FATHER DAN BRANDT

After celebrating a couple of Blue Masses recently, where parishes request an opportunity to pray for our first responders, my spirit has been lifted by the love and respect the general public continues to show you. On behalf of the many hundreds of folks I've been blessed to gather with over the past month or two, THANK YOU for doing God's work!

While I've been visiting the south and west sides, I most recently celebrated a Blue Mass at St. Helen Church on the northwest side. Thank you to everyone who came out to support our brothers and sisters!

We also enjoyed another wonderful Upper Room Club gathering this past month, thanks to the generosity of Pizano's Pizza at 21st and Indiana. Please continue to show Pizano's your support and appreciation.

On 21 JUN, we will celebrate our annual Fathers' Day Mass at 10:00 a.m. at Gold Star Families Memorial and Park. Since this is an outdoor venue, if the weather looks questionable, please call (773) 550-2369 that morning to confirm the Mass is still being held.

You are welcome to bring folding chairs or a blanket...and even a picnic lunch to enjoy after Mass.

The event could be a really good time! "Hilarious Headliners?" (No pressure there!) Nonetheless, I hope to see you there at St. Patrick High School on the northwest side. Proceeds from entrance fees, along with bar and food sales, will benefit the school's scholarship fund for first responder families.

If you'd like to try your hand at stand-up comedy (even as a newbie!) in front of a kind audience, call Ron Rufo, and he'll give you 3-5 minutes on stage.

In the meantime, THANK YOU again for doing God's work! May the good Lord bless you and keep you safe!

Fr. Dan Brandt, Directing CPD Chaplain  
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dan.brandt@chicagopolice.org | www.ChicagoPCM.org

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# CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS

PHOTOS BY GEORGE GILL

## VALOR AWARD

Police Officer Andrew Paulauskas  
#5372

Police Officer Oscar Asilis  
#16671

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Sergeant Peter Toledo  
#2105

Police Officer Ivan Bermudez  
#19626

Police Officer Emmanuel Magbanua  
#17602

Police Officer Vivian Gonzalez  
#18999

Nominator: Lieutenant Michael Santos #335



On 29 May 2025, at the location of 4347 W. North Ave., the 025th District Tactical Team attempted to conduct a street stop on a subject for a narcotics investigation. Upon approach, the subject fled on foot, and the Officers managed to detain him. The subject began to struggle, and the Officers performed an emergency takedown while giving verbal direction to stop resisting and stop reaching. The subject, now an offender, ignored the verbal direction, produced a handgun from his waistband, and discharged his handgun, striking Officer Paulauskas in his upper left thigh. This gunshot caused Officer Paulauskas to roll off the offender, at

which time Officer Asilis discharged his service weapon in defense of his partner and fellow Officers and struck the offender in the head and neck. Immediately following the exchange of gunfire, fellow officers rendered emergency aid to Officer Paulauskas by applying a tourniquet before transporting him to Stroger Hospital for treatment. The offender was transported to Mt. Sinai Hospital, where he later succumbed to his injuries. Nice Shot!!!

**It is with esteemed recognition that Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 presents these Officers with the Award of Valor and the Distinguished Service Award.**

# CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS

## VALOR AWARD

Police Officer Carlos Martinez  
#17697

Police Officer Dustin Dela Cruz  
#2723

Nominator: Lieutenant Michael Santos #335



On 13 Jul 2024, Officers Martinez and Dela Cruz were on directed patrol in the vicinity of North Ave. and Springfield when they came across a group of subjects consuming alcohol in a vacant lot. The Officers exited their squad car to approach the group at which time a subject breaks from the group and starts running from the Officers. The Officers continue after the subject, who now retrieves a handgun from his waistband and continues to run down the middle of the street. The offender is now in full sprint, attempting to evade the Officers by running through the area and finally tries to make good his escape in an alley. The Officers continued their pursuit of the offender and, at one point, the offender turns and faces the Officers with the weapon in his hand pointed at the ground. The Officers seek cover and continue giving verbal directions for the offender to drop his weapon. The offender, undeterred by the Officers, turns to run again and tries

to pitch his handgun over a wooden fence but is unsuccessful. The Officers gave verbal directions to move away from the handgun, but the offender does not comply and picks up the handgun. Officer Martinez, fearing for his life and that of his partner, discharges his weapon into the offender, causing him to finally drop his handgun. The offender was transported to the hospital by CFD after being treated on scene by Officers who applied two tourniquets and a chest seal. The offender suffered gunshot wounds to his right ankle, forearm, hip, inner right thigh, and scrotum. When the offender was mirandized by IRT detectives, he stated, "He was by himself exercising by jogging and that a white dude with a flashlight shot him for no reason."

**It is with great admiration that Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 presents these Officers with the Award of Valor. Nice Shot!!!**

# CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS

PHOTOS BY GEORGE GILL



Nominator: Police Officer Michael Andrasco #4449 (006th District 1st watch rep)



On 02 Mar 2024, 006th District Officers responded to a call of a person with a gun at the location of 87th Street and Lafayette Avenue in the Dock's Fish parking lot. Upon arrival, R/Os observed a white Maserati reported stolen with four offenders inside the vehicle.

R/Os observed all four offenders asleep (a la "Stacks" Edwards), with a rifle in plain view on the lap of one offender. R/Os coordinated their response and safely placed all four offenders into custody without incident.

R/Os recovered from the vehicle one rifle, two handguns with switches, ammunition, a computer adapter for a key fob programmer, multiple blank key fobs, oxycodone pills, cocaine, three additional switch attachments, and an AutoProPad key

programmer.

The offenders were transported to the 006th District for processing. The Vehicular Hijacking Task Force was notified, and the offenders were charged with multiple felonies and misdemeanors, including UUW, Armed Habitual, PCS, Possession of Burglary Tools, CTTV, and multiple serviceable warrants.

The Officers performed an exceptional job, capitalizing on the offenders' food- and drug-induced nap to safely recover dangerous weapons and take multiple offenders into custody without injury to Officers or the public.

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

# CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS



Detective James Jakstavich #20713  
(FOP Financial Secretary)



This Fraternalism Award being presented to Det. Daniel Kranz could not be more fitting during the month of May, Police Memorial Month. We commemorated the line-of-duty deaths of our fellow CPD brothers and sisters by attending the St. Jude Memorial March. The Illinois State Police Officers Memorial in Springfield also took place last month as well as Police Week in Washington, D.C. for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

This year, the tragic murder of P.O. John Bartholomew, whose end of watch occurred just days before Police Memorial Month on 25 Apr 2026, made these observances especially painful. His wake and funeral were then held in May, and we cannot mention Officer Bartholomew without also acknowledging his partner, P.O. Nelson Crespo, who continues to fight for survival.

I first spoke with Det. Kranz, a 28-year veteran of the Department, in

his capacity as Unit Rep in Area 640. During our conversation, he mentioned that he had started cleaning the graves and headstones of deceased Officers and their family members a couple years ago after reading *The Wire* and the stories of the fallen Officers that accompany their pictures. While visiting deceased members of his own family, Det. Kranz came across the gravesites of fallen Officers and decided to tidy them up, treating them as family. Once he started, it became his mission to clean as many gravesites as possible.

This is not an easy task and comes with time-consuming research to document fallen Officers, locate gravesites, verify cemeteries, and confirm burial locations. Det. Kranz discovered that some Officers' graves had been relocated and that others were buried in different cemeteries than Department records reflected, prompting him to notify the Department so records could be updated accordingly.

Det. Kranz has also requested headstones for the fallen Officers who did not have one and has worked with cemeteries to restore or lift sunken headstones. To date, Det. Kranz has visited 26 cemeteries and tended to the graves of 224 Chicago Police and Chicago Park District Police Officers, as well as 314 of their family members – a total of 538 gravesites. Despite these extraordinary efforts, he stresses that his mission is far from complete, with 45 additional cemeteries and nine out-of-state locations still to visit.

Det. Kranz was truly humble when discussing his mission and credited many active and retired Officers who contributed to the research and cleaning efforts. Through this dedication, Det. Kranz has ensured that those who died in the line of duty will continue to be honored and never forgotten.

**It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 presents Det. Kranz with the Fraternalism Award.**

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**CHICAGO POLICE OFFICER JOHN G. BARTHOLOMEW**

**STAR #12963**

**END OF WATCH: APRIL 25, 2026**



# Positively Reinforcing

**John Bartholomew was blessed to be able to lift up his family, friends, colleagues and everybody who knew him**

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

May your memory be eternal, brother, worthy of blessedness and everlasting memory.

With this prayer, the funeral service for Chicago Police Officer John Bartholomew at St. Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church had just about concluded. The eulogies, tributes and remembrances from a cadre of speakers were about to commence.

But all evidence and actions on this sunny May 8 Friday seemed to confirm Brother John's worthiness. His sisters and brothers from the Department stood with those from at least 50 other agencies. That's a conservative count. Elected officials, too, up to the highest level of the City.

They filled Sheridan Road from Hollywood to Bryn Mawr and then some. Way beyond the front of the church. So many that they shuttled them here from Foster Beach, a mile away.

And the sunshine, man. How about that sunshine? Definitely John's ray of eternal light cast on the hundreds standing to offer blessedness and everlasting memory.



"He was a gift," declared Alison Christian, the commander in the 24th District where John worked more than 10 of his 11 years on the job.

Commander Christian delivered her piece of the eulogy from the St. Andrew's pulpit. Commander Jesse Alvarez from 017, where John worked for the six months up to the tragedy that took his life on April 25, preceded Christian with an equally everlasting memory.

"[John] carried an energy that lifted those around him," Alvarez confirmed. "He never hesitated to step forward, volunteering locally and embracing every assignment with purpose and pride. He truly loved being the police."

It's always hard to find the words to describe how family, friends and fellow officers feel in these moments. Suffice to say that from 017 to 024, to City Council to City Hall, to all corners of the City, people wrapped blue ribbons around lampposts and trees and echoed how they truly appreciated what John achieved. How he only wanted to make his City safer.

But on this morning, John's brother, James, sent up the most resonating request

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32



**POSITIVELY REINFORCING** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

while speaking from the altar, standing next to the casket.

“Please don't cry for him. Please,” James sighed. “As difficult as that is, that's not what he would want.”

\*\*\*\*\*

Early on the morning of April 25, Alphonso Talley was one of two men with previous charges and convictions who walked into a Dollar Store in Albany Park, took hold of an employee at gunpoint and attempted armed robbery. Talley was apprehended, and Bartholomew and his partner, Nelson Crespo, were transporting him to lock-up.

Talley allegedly told the officers he was having difficulty breathing because he had ingested multiple bags of drugs before he was detained. So they took him to Endeavor Health Swedish Hospital to be checked out.

According to hospital officials, “In accordance with Endeavor Health public safety weapon detection protocols, the man was wanded upon arrival. He was escorted by law enforcement at all times.”

At the hospital, Talley's left arm was handcuffed to a bed railing while his right hand remained free. Surveillance footage shows Talley “fidgeting” his right arm under a blanket that had been placed over him as he was wheeled by the officers and staff to an MRI/CT area in the hospital, prosecutors said.

Once there, Bartholomew uncuffed Talley so he could begin the MRI, at which point Talley allegedly pulled out a concealed 10 mm handgun from under his blanket and opened fire, striking Bartholomew in the head and hitting Crespo through the mouth. John was killed on the spot. He was 38.

**Mr. Positivity**

The prayer portion of the funeral repeatedly referred to John as a servant. Nothing was more important to him than serving.

His grandfather, Rev. Fr. John Kutulas, served at St. Andrew's for pretty much a lifetime. The Bartholomews were one of the first families in the church, which turns 100 this year. No fewer than seven members of the Greek Orthodox clergy surrounded Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago on the altar, moving a full sanctuary to feel that an angel had left the earth. “A man with a heart of gold,” said James.

James knew how his brother found joy in life's simple pleasures, including his love for good food and his admiration for Batman. He probably heard more than anybody John's unmistakable laugh, which could light up any room.

“He's just Mr. Positivity. Every day, big smile,” James continued. “When he was a kid, he just wanted two things. He wanted to be a cop, and he wanted to be a dad. It's cliché to say, but I have to say it. John wanted to become a peace officer to help people. All people.”

\*\*\*\*\*

When John went into the academy, there was a bit of a hardass instructor there who stayed on top of the recruits. He had them do work-outs, as he called them, which were push-ups in the hallway.

“I was always hard on the recruits, not because I wanted to exert authority over them, because I knew what they were going into,” explained that hardass instructor, now known as Superintendent Larry Snelling. He recalled John getting caught up in one of those workouts and dropping to do his push-ups.

“He did exactly what he was supposed to do,” Snelling praised when speaking at the funeral. “I didn't know a lot about John Bartholomew in the academy. That was a good thing, because if I didn't know your name, if it didn't come across my desk multiple times, you were doing something right.”



As Snelling got to know more about John, he learned he was a cop's cop. He heard from his mother, Kiki, that John had always wanted to be a police officer. And he said he learned something special about John from seeing the strength and resilience in his family.

"Showing up and being the face of peace when there isn't any. When people look at you, they feel comfort and safe," Snelling described. "That's what John represented."

\*\*\*\*\*

Everybody in 024 received the same treatment Christian related about what she experienced in the halls of the district. John would say "Hey, commander" every time he saw her. Even if he had just seen Christian 30 minutes ago.

"He was so optimistic about everything," Christian preached to the sanctuary full of officers. "He just was able to do that to all of us all the time. The way he was able to make people feel appreciated, I hope that I can express this to you. I hope I can get through the passion that he felt for life and the way that he made people feel."

Officers who make a lasting impression on the command staff do so with an ability to deal with difficult people and difficult situations. Christian noted how John could do that in ways that officers learn only after decades on this job.

"He had that skill to be able to talk to people," she added. "He would go into jobs, and he would worry about everything. He would worry about the victim, the offender, the police officer. At the end of the job that he was on, he made sure that everybody felt good. It was his calling."

### We got it

John's life of love, loyalty and service was, unconditionally and un-



limitedly, devoted to his beloved wife, Renee, his stepsons, Oliver and Miles, and his precious daughter, Sophia. His renowned generosity manifested in helping neighbors shovel snow from their driveways and giving from his own pocket without hesitation.

He was all about service, as noted. As Snelling extolled, he helped the helpless and stood in the way of danger to protect others.

"His life is his legacy," the superintendent submitted. "The man who loved his family. The man who loved his profession. The man who loved his city. The man who gave it all to make sure that his city is protected."

Alvarez confirmed that John went where others don't. That he answered the call without hesitation or fear.

"We honor him by continuing to go where others will not and by continuing to do what others do not," Alvarez eulogized. "John, rest easy, brother. We got it."

Christian implored Chicago Police Officers to keep saying, "John, we will take it from here." And, "Every time you think about crying in the wake of another fallen brother, he would want you to start to laugh."

That's the legacy. To feel the way John made everybody feel, especially when the sadness and the madness start to set in.

Christian also had one more charge for all Chicago Police Officers. She made reference to a photo that just stood out among the dozens in the funeral program. It's the one of Sophia and John squeezing each other, with her face pressed against his like she could not get close enough to her daddy.

"She just wanted to just squeeze him so tight," Christian specified. "I hope and I pray that she is able to feel that for the rest of her life."

# Room for a View

Few knew John Bartholomew like the officers he worked with in the 17th and 24th districts

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Make room for more officers from 024 — colleagues, friends, sisters and brothers of John Bartholomew. As the time for the traditional St. Jude service to culminate the visitation for a fallen brother approached, an upstairs classroom/meeting room at St. Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church turned wall-to-wall 024. So elbow to elbow, in fact, that only opening a door leading to the roof created any breathing room.

For most of his nearly 11 years on, Bartholomew worked in 024. Within the past year, he transferred to 017 to be closer to his wife, Renee, and their three children. So around the corner from the room where 024 officers waited, those from 017 hung out in another room and overflowed into the hallway.

With the smiles, laughs and even a little bitching, the talk among both 024 and 017 made it feel like Brother John was still there among them. Conversations taking place and stories being told described what made John a unique, memorable and everlasting Chicago Police Officer.

"He would make me pull over sometimes to help an elderly person across the street," recalled Vince Culloton, who sometimes worked a beat car with John in 017. "You don't see that too much."

Whether in the radio room where he worked some tours, the front desk where he handled citizens coming in off the street with a smile, or the halls of the district, they knew John as the guy wearing the suspenders who kept it light and upbeat with a spontaneous sense of humor. And wise, knowledgeable and confident beyond his 10 years on the job.

"If they were older than him, younger than him, he always called them 'kid' every morning," disclosed Dan Dixon, who during his 28 years in 024 got to know John well. "He's calling lieutenants Uncle Johnny, calling them by their nicknames. We're like, 'Who are you talking about?' And he's like, 'the lieutenant.' We all call him lieutenant. And you're calling him Uncle Johnny, joking around with him."

In those rooms and hallways of St. Andrew's, they could close their eyes, and John would sound like a guy with 30 years on the job, like a police officer from the 1960s. That is the way he carried himself, with his slicked-back hair, the Oakleys and trying to find time to enjoy a smoke break.

Everybody who talked about John while

waiting for the St. Jude service talked about how he knew what he was doing and how he was always willing to help people. On the beat and, more importantly, inside the district.

"All right, kid, let me show you what to do" wasn't just a memory of John. It was his daily refrain, according to those in both 017 and 024. The day shift in any district can be filled with veterans who are sometimes a little grumpy or in a mood at roll call. Not John.

"He was just alive," Dixon added.

For two and a half of his six years in 024, Joe Plaud partnered with John. You know how partners have that insight into the way of life for the person they share a car with. And their special tendencies and quirks. And their coffee orders.

"It was a McDonald's large iced coffee, regular flavor, extra ice," Plaud began. "After work, we'd sometimes go to his house, sit in his backyard, have a couple of pops, just relax and talk about what the future entails: retirement, going on vacation, spending time with family."

In those hallways upstairs, you also heard signature recollections like these from Tom Budziszewski, the timekeeper in 024, who has worked there for 25 years. He recalled John always wearing his sunglasses on the back of his head, seeming like he had way more than 10 years on, and being "just one of the guys you wanted to hang out with, have a beer with."

And terms of endearment like this from Michelle Camarillo, a sergeant in 017 who flashed a smile and quipped, "He was probably the happiest disgruntled guy ever."

Among the throng of 024 officers, it was easy to stumble onto stories about John's unconditional friendship. Mariusz Chojnacki's son Timothy went to school with John's stepson Miles, and Tim would often sleep over at the Bartholomews'. John was up in the morning to greet them and make them pancakes.

He extended that same kindness to Chojnacki.

"I lacked expertise in a lot of the contractual things, and he knew a lot of the answers as far as pension, finances and all that stuff," Chojnacki shared.

So many in 024 and 017 submitted that they knew John well or had some unique connection to him. For Paul Janus, a 20-year veteran in 024, that came through having his locker near John's. When recounting what defined John, Janus evoked the





suspenders, how much fun it was to banter with John and how he cast a persona of seemingly having 50 years on the job.

“Yes, he left an imprint in my mind,” Janus declared. “So I miss him dearly.”

\*\*\*\*\*

Second verse of this story features more like the first.

For the St. Jude service, the groups from 024 and 017 formed two lines down the center aisle of the St. Andrews sanctuary, leading to the casket. The processional ran out of the door, through the lobby and nearly out to the street.

Some of them were there when John was on this particular call. Somebody said they saw a gun thrown on top of their squad car. So John climbed up to get it. And found it was just a water gun.

But now John had to get down. He was afraid to jump off the roof, fearing it might cave in.

“So I was like, ‘Just slide down the side. Just hang over, slide, and we’ll catch you,’” Dixon detailed. “He was throwing his vest off and people were recording it. We finally got him down. You can see the video on YouTube.”

Before leaving 024 to become a detective, Jennifer Douglas worked the same SWAT car with John a few times. From that vantage point, she saw the go-getter part of him. And she saw the servant-to-the-community part of John.

But Douglas also experienced the quick wit, the infinite jokes and the never-ending smile and what all that meant to the district.

“I don’t think I’ve ever seen John mad before,” she added. “He was just a stabilizing force in the district.”

John had the right mentality and temperament to work the desk, where even people coming in off the street couldn’t rattle him. His colleagues said he had a knack for laughing at the B.S.

He also had something to say to everybody, which often included shouting down the hall to ask how you were doing. But he also had a knack for knowing just what to say to somebody, even if he didn’t know them very well.

“As a probation officer, he always made me feel like I was welcome, and I was going to learn a lot of great things about being a police officer,” Yvette Pellerito recalled about when she came to 024 seven years ago.

Life changed in 2023 when John married Renee and became stepdad to Miles and Oliver. And when he and Renee had now-3-year-old Sophie.

“I used to joke with him, ‘You’re one of the few people that actually likes to call their wife and talk to her on the job,’” Culloton remarked. “He always wanted to get the job done so he could get to his wife and family.”

John moved to 017 to work days so he could be home for dinner with the fam. Conversations about the bosses also gave way to talking about his kids and doing work on his house.

But he never lost sight of what made him want to be a copper.

“Probably just helping people,” commented Israel Ortiz, who was in 017 with John. “It was more of an honorable thing to do than just being

a cop.”

John still dropped the funny comments, the little jokes he made without even trying. And even those who met him just once knew, even from a distance, that John was saying something funny, because they saw his lips moving.

“He was very energetic, always happy, always saying hi to people,” remembered Amanda Beltran, who worked with John in 024. “It didn’t matter who it was, he was always greeting people. And I think that’s what everyone remembers. I think it was just the way that he was talking to people.”

Eventually, it became harder and harder to get officers from 017 and 024 to talk about John because, well, when you realize you have lost such a revered friend, you’re at a loss for words. So when asked about his legacy, many just smiled. That picture was worth a thousand words.

Tyler Hays worked with John for two years in 024 and offered one more definitive statement on John.

“He was always a brother in blue.”

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A bagpiper plays "Amazing Grace" at the conclusion of the Chicago Lodge 7 Memorial Service.

# Meritorious Service

Lodge 7 Memorial once again provides a special place to honor fallen officers

BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

From the moment President John Catanzara stepped up to the microphone and began the annual Chicago Lodge 7 Memorial Service on May 29, the feeling of a warm blanket seemed to envelop the FOP Hall.

Gold Star family members shed tears, of course, but also reveled in sitting and standing together to honor the fallen and share the feel-good moments of retelling stories about their loved ones lost. Chicago Police Officers, active and retired, and civilian supporters backing the blue filled the FOP Hall to form a force field of strength around the families.

After a month of memorial services and events to remember and honor Chicago Police Officers lost in the line of duty, one more might have seemed to be just a little too much. And with the beginning of May devoted to Officer John Bartholomew, who was shot and killed on April 25, the Lodge could have easily passed on the event this year after canceling the originally scheduled May 1 date.

But the Lodge 7 Memorial Service has been unlike any other remembrance since the current administration set a new mission for it six years ago. Including a new level this year of accentuating milestone anniversaries of fallen members from 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years ago.

And with the Chicago Police Department Honor Guard, the Pipes and Drums of the CPD, vocalist and Chicago Police Officer Kenya Gaines, the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation (CPMF) and the 100 Club of Chicago present to lend another layer of comfort, the Lodge 7 Memorial could not have been more cathartic.

"I knew we needed to do this no matter what, to keep the tradition alive," Catanzara began, intermittently pausing to overcome getting choked up. "There is nothing I think this Lodge should not try to do to ease your pain, support you, whatever we can possibly do to get you



Lodge 7 President John Catanzara speaks at the Memorial wall.





Chicago Police Officer Cynthia Rivera pulls the tape to reveal the name of fallen officer Krystal Rivera added to the Lodge 7 Memorial wall.

through the darkest hours. As long as I'm here, we're going to keep doing our best to make sure that that pledge does not go awry."

Even the circumstances surrounding the loss of Officer Krystal Rivera in June 2025 only enhanced the mission. Few occasions for speaking in public bring out raw humanity in Catanzara like the Memorial service. It almost tattoos his heart on both sleeves.

So the comments about Krystal were mixed with genuine sorrow, remorse and words never heard before.

"Krystal deserves that memory from us," he declared. "I'm asking for prayers for the tragic circumstances that cost Krystal her life. We pick up the boat oar, and we row no matter what in the same direction, ultimately."

Taking a moment to also console Krystal's partner and his fallout from that tragic day took an unexpected turn. Catanzara recalled the tragic circumstances surrounding the death of Dorelle C. Brandon, the first female CPD officer lost in the line of duty. On Jan. 25, 1984, Dorelle was killed while working undercover and trying to make an arrest. Shots from an assisting officer mortally wounded her.

Dorelle's husband, Matt, has continued to keep her name alive, including helping with the renaming of the 3rd District in Dorelle's name.

"The night Krystal's shooting happened, it just occurred to me to reach out to Matt, because if anybody knows what [her partner] was going through, it might be him. He didn't hesitate and said, 'I'll be right

there."

According to Catanzara, Matt waited nearly three hours to speak with him. At some point, Matt will hopefully speak to the Rivera family.

"Matt, if you ever met him, it's just a really unique experience," Catanzara added. "He's pledged to talk to the family whenever they're ready to talk because he knows firsthand absolutely what they're going through. I hope that that reconciliation can occur, and they can find some peace in their hearts. They deserve it."

Intimacy has always been the charm of the Lodge 7 Memorial Service. Gold Star Family members get to commune with each other and share the great memories of their loved ones.

They are in a room full of people who understand what it takes to move forward every day. They know what those left behind have had to endure.

Retired CPD Commander Maureen Biggane, the CPMF director of operations, recognized the virtue of family members that the Lodge 7 Memorial Service celebrates.

"Y'all can hear that police officers are resilient, strong and courageous," she explained. "But the truth is, families, you are every bit of that same character. You are noble and courageous and committed, just as committed as your fallen officer. We didn't know them, but

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Attendees gather in the courtyard at the conclusion of the Lodge 7 Memorial Service.



Maureen Biggane, director of operations for the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation, speaks at the service.



Dionne Mhoon, left, and Elizabeth French at the Lodge 7 Memorial Service.

**MERITORIOUS SERVICE** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

through you, we feel like we get to know them. We have that privilege now. We get to see their light shining every day through you.”

Through family members like Donna Marquez, the brother of Donald Joseph Marquez. Next year will be 25 years since Donny was shot and killed as he was serving an arrest warrant.

Donna holds on to all memories of her big brother, who took care of her since they were little kids. A picture of him hanging at headquarters had been lost, but ironically, the night before the Lodge 7 Memorial, she ran into an officer who had it.

Her faith, her courage, her resiliency help keep the tradition alive. Not everybody can do what Donna does by coming to the Lodge 7 Memorial Service every year.

“You know why a lot of Gold Stars don't come? It's too painful,” she confided. “But I have to. It helps me heal.”

Healing power also comes from gestures like Lodge 7 creating stars with pictures of fallen officers whose passing hits one of those milestone years. Catanzara places them where their names are inscribed on the wall of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C., during National Police Week. It's one more way to promote never forgetting.

The Lodge also reaches out to Gold Star families experiencing these milestones to have them at the Memorial. Elizabeth French was there on the occasion of five years since her daughter, Ella, was lost. Eric Sorlario's mom came for the 20th anniversary of Eric being lost.

And on the 25th anniversary of Chicago Police Officer Eric Lee being killed, his wife, Shawn, daughter, Erica, and brother Mark came to the Lodge 7 Memorial. Seeing Eric's name on the Memorial wall in the Lodge 7 courtyard is part of celebration of life for the Lee family.

“I think it's always an emotional ceremony, but I think the positive of

it just outweighs everything,” Shawn submitted. “You just are so happy that when people say they are not going to forget, they have not forgotten. And that's so important.”

Erica just earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Chicago State, where her father received his degree. She is considering going to law school and going into nonprofit work like her mother, who is in youth development.

The underlying love Erica said she felt at the Lodge seemed to help her embody some of her father's best qualities.

“I think one of the biggest ones, especially recently, was education and being determined and persistent,” said Erica, who was 6 years old when Eric was lost. “I'm making sure that I'm keeping that in the forefront because that helped to forge a path for him.”

The culmination of the Lodge 7 Memorial is revealing the names of members added to wall in the courtyard. As is often the case, bright sunshine washed over everybody in attendance when they gathered in front of the wall. Make of that ray of light what you will.

A single name was added this year. But with no family members present, Catanzara asked Chicago Police Officer Cynthia Rivera of the Special Activities Unit to pull back the tape and reveal the name of Officer Krystal Rivera.

After that, Chicago Police Chaplain Rabbi Moshe Wolf offered final words, reminding that the biggest support and comfort one person can give another person is mere presence. Toward that end, Rabbi Wolf had a request that seemed to define the tradition of the Lodge 7 Memorial.

“Before we close, close your eyes for 10 seconds. I want you to think of somebody in your life who can use a hug. Somebody in your life who can use a smile. Somebody in your life who's going through some hard times,” the rabbi stated before offering one last charge.

“Reach out to the person next to you and give them a big hug.”



Chicago Police Officer Kenyatta Gaines sings the National Anthem.



Chicago Police Chaplain Rabbi Moshe Wolf speaks to close out the service.



At attendee at the service wears a shirt with “Never Forget” on it.



# With Honor

Police Week begins the hero's recognition due to Chicago Police Officer Jeff Friedlieb

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Twenty-thousand people — maybe more —who gathered at the National Mall for the annual Candlelight Vigil during National Police Week all at once went silent. The 363 names of officers included in the Roll Call of Heroes were about to be read.

These are the ones lost in the line of duty the previous year, as well as names added to the wall at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. And names of officers who made the ultimate sacrifice.

There were 34 Chicago Police Officers' names called on May 13. One was Officer Krystal Rivera, who was shot and killed while responding to a call of a man suspected of having a weapon on June 5, 2025. Another was Benjamin Devlin, who died on Nov. 15, 1922, several days after responding to a paint factory fire. And 32 officers who died between 1918 and 1920 due to the Spanish Flu epidemic were also recognized.

Then, there was a name called totally unexpectedly: Chicago Police Officer Jeffrey Friedlieb. End of watch: Aug. 25, 2023. At the age of 41.

"He touched a lot of lives in a shortened period of time," acknowledged Jeff's dad, Detective Jeff Friedlieb Sr., who served 41 years on the Department and retired in 2007.

And he will likely touch a lot more.

In July 2011, Jeff and partner Ruben Del Valle stopped a gang member during a narcotics investigation. After a struggle ensued, the suspect pulled out a gun and shot both officers at close range.

One of those rounds struck Jeff in the head, directly behind the left ear. Despite a near-fatal gunshot wound, Jeff maintained his compo-



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sure, called for backup, gave chase, returned fire and hit the banger. The wounded gunman was later arrested and eventually convicted of two counts of attempted first-degree murder.

Jeff did his best to overcome the pain and anguish that he was forced to live with every day for 12 years. The bullet could not be removed and remained lodged in his skull.

He just wasn't the same after being shot. It took a toll on both his physical and mental health. Jeff had testified during the trial that he suffered from constant headaches, trouble with balance and partial hearing loss in his left ear. The shooting also left him struggling with PTSD and severe nightmares.

"Even though he seemed to make a relatively full recovery, his mental capacity was definitely different," Chicago Lodge 7 President John Catanzara explained. "At one point, he thought he was coming back to be an academy instructor, but [First Deputy] Eric Carter stripped his police powers. I'm not sure why. I didn't get that part of it. But once Jeff realized he was never going to be the police again, no matter what kind of physical recovery he may achieve, he couldn't take it anymore."

On Aug. 25, 2023, Chicago Police Officer Jeffrey Friedlieb tragically took his own life.

Fortunately, Jeff Sr. had been documenting his son's medical battles and what led to his line-of-duty disability. When Jeff died, his father had all the evidence necessary to apply for and earn Public Safety Officer Benefits (PSOB) from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Essentially, Jeff's passing became a line-of-duty death. And at National Police Week this year, the honors for such a hero began. They also included becoming a Gold Star Family and being part of the National Peace Officers Memorial Service on May 15 at the U.S. Capitol.

And Jeff's life, his 12-year battle after being shot and his subsequent hero status will pave the way for other officers suffering similar tragedies to get PSOB. As well as suicide caused by being on the job to be considered a line-of-duty death.

"From what I understand, they're setting guidelines now or something, but this has already been approved," Jeff Friedlander said. "He was included with the honor guard and everything at Police Week. They were going to put him on the wall this year, so we went to D.C. They're waiting to do it next year while they get the guidelines set."

During Police Week, Lodge 7 hosts a dinner each year for Gold Star Family members. During this year's event on May 12, Catanzara met Jeff Friedlieb Sr. A wonderful conversation broke out between two retired coppers who personally and passionately care so much about officers who take their own lives. As many members know, Catanzara has created a riveting memorial at the Lodge for those who have suffered such a fate.

It was then that Catanzara began his efforts to ensure Jeff's name would be added to the Lodge 7 memorial wall and to get it added to the City's wall at Gold Star Park.

"Jeff wrote a letter of advocacy for his son's case along with Jeff's sister," Catanzara added about Jeff sending his letter and documentation to the Department of Justice. "They definitely found the right



ear to listen and got it done. God bless him. I'm all for fighting for what you believe in."

Jeff was destined to become a Chicago Police Officer and to be like his father. To get a real sense of their bond, check out Jeff Sr.'s Instagram page. Posts of them in Junior's Corvette and other cars he collected. Pictures of them flexing, Semper Fi and so much more.

"From the day he was born, he wanted to follow in my footsteps," Jeff related.

Junior graduated from St. Patrick's High School in 2000 and briefly attended the University of Iowa. In 2003, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, just like his dad had done. Shortly after enlisting, Jeff was deployed to Iraq, where he took part in the Battle of Fallujah in November 2004 as a M1A1 Tank Crewman.

He reached the rank of sergeant before his honorable discharge in 2007. The day after his discharge, Jeff started at the academy. He became his class commander, which earned him the choice of where to go to work after graduation.

Dad proudly reported how Jeff picked 011, the Fillmore District.

"He wanted to go to the biggest and the baddest," Dad added. "What he loved about it was the number of jobs and how you can learn fast. He was really big on enforcement. He also felt you could help the people. You could arrest the bad guys, but you could also help the victims."

He became known in the district. People on the street would come to him with information about crimes and criminals using a special street handle he had earned.

In October 2013, Jeff and Ruben Del Valle were presented the Carter Harrison Award — the Department's top honor — for pursuing and shooting that drug suspect who had shot them two years earlier. That shooting actually turned out to be a tipping point in Jeff's passing becoming a line-of-duty death.

"The cause was that he was shot in the head, and actually there was an amendment in 2022 to the PSOB to include catastrophic injuries," Jeff said. "Also, after he was shot, I followed through on every doctor visit pertaining to his injury. He wanted to go back to work, but he couldn't because of his injuries. And every year, I'd go to the jury when they put him on disability. And I had documentation."

Jeff shared how, at his son's wake, people that he had worked with 15 or 16 years ago attended. Even some who had worked with him for just a couple of months.

"Jeff never forgot him because they learned so much from him," Jeff added. "He had a good attitude and kept them smiling. They told me, 'I'll never forget him from what he taught me.'"

So many reasons to never forget Chicago Police Officer Jeff Friedlieb. For those families who have lost an officer to suicide in which a duty-related incident is the underlying cause and then receive PSOB, they can be comforted by how this door was opened. For those among them who are honored as heroes lost in the line of duty, well, that certainly was Jeff.

"It means everything and gives him a legacy not to be forgotten," Jeff confided. "I think John actually said it the other day. Everybody comes forward from here. It means where it started."





# Special Effect

**CPD Special Activities Unit goes extra mile to give heroes lost more than 100 years ago a place at the Memorial**

■ BY DAN CAMPANA

The heartfelt commitment to never forget a fallen officer echoes throughout the solemn ceremonies of National Police Week and lives in the hearts and minds of the law enforcement community that gathers in Washington, D.C., every year.

But, in some instances, those officers need to be remembered before their names can be recognized eternally on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Especially if they were lost in the line of duty more than a century ago.

CPD's Special Activities Unit took on the challenge of honoring 34 officers who died during the Great Influenza epidemic — also known as the Spanish flu — between 1918 and 1920. The movement to inscribe those names on the Memorial wall was inspired by the more recent addition of police officers who lost their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Officer Cynthia Rivera of Special Activities.

"The Officer Down Memorial Page did the research on it ... and provided a list of 34 officers along with their death certificates," Rivera explained. "We went through the process of doing an application for each one. It takes some time. We were able to get those packets done and submitted in a timely manner by the end of last year."

"Humbling" was the word that came to mind for Sergeant Enrique Cervantes to describe the expansive effort to acknowledge those officers. As he escorted members of CPD's Gold Star families into the National Mall for the annual Candlelight Vigil on May 13, he related how much it meant to hear these names included in the Roll Call of Heroes on this night.

"It's the opportunity to correct something that was historically overlooked [for] these officers who ... went out every day, did the job policing in 1920s Chicago and as a result became ill," commented

Cervantes, a supervisor in Special Activities "The ability to give them their proper place in history and the Chicago Police Department was very important."

For Cervantes and others in the unit, Special Activities is a calling. He called the legwork and long hours to see these 34 honored, along with their regular duties in support of Gold Star families, a true labor of love.

"The people who are on the Special Activities section team are uniquely capable," Cervantes added. "They're inspiring people."

Chief of Community Policing Angel Novalez, who oversees Special Activities, emphasized the special nature of the team's work, particularly when it comes to the historical names.

"They're continually looking back to see if somebody was missed, and then making sure they're recognized is important," Novalez stated. "It's a noble profession, and anybody that does it, and does it faithfully, deserves that recognition."

Although it might not always be possible to connect with the families of such officers, the opportunity to introduce relatives to their long lost loved ones through a special honor is deeply meaningful to the unit, according to Novalez. Such an opportunity came to fruition for descendants of another officer added to the Memorial this year.

Officer Benjamin Devlin died of complications from smoke inhalation and pneumonia after he ran into a paint factory fire in 1922. Just five months on the job at the time of his death, Devlin was added to the Lodge 7 Memorial last year and is now part of the National Memorial — a moment of great meaning to his great grandchildren, who attended the Vigil and heard his name included in the Roll Call of Heroes.

"I think this and all the other events are living testaments to the courage of officers," said Kathleen Gargano, Devlin's great-granddaughter. "Even someone 104 years ago won't be forgotten."



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Chicago Police Officers Oscar Asilis, left, and Andrew Paulauskas at the NAPPO Top Cops Awards.

# Two Good

**Elite response from 025 officers creates tactical advantage to take down man shooting at them**

■ **BY DAN CAMPANA**

Sitting in a room filled with heroes and hearing their stories, Chicago Police Officer Andrew Paulauskas had something of an out-of-body experience as video replayed from that May 2025 night when he took a bullet to the leg in a scuffle with a suspected drug dealer.

“It’s a bit surreal, especially seeing yourself on the screen, seeing yourself through the body camera,” Paulauskas related after he and fellow 25th District Officer Oscar Asilis were honored at the 33rd annual Top Cops Awards, presented by the National Association of Police Organizations in Washington, D.C., as part of National Police Week.

“It was a night that no one, no officer, expects to endure,” he declared.

As members of the renowned 2563 tactical team, Asilis and Pau-

lauskas are no strangers to high-risk situations. Their job is to seek out bad guys with guns and drugs or who are running from the law for one reason or another.

Famed actor Gregory Jbara, from the TV show “Blue Bloods,” presented the duo’s story and award as part of the star-studded program, which honors the best of the best in policing each year. He praised their team as “elite” and “proactive” — and noted Asilis and Paulauskas have fit right into the mix in a short amount of time.

“They’ve both made multiple arrests and have each learned that the only predictable element of the job is its unpredictability,” Jbara told the audience before bodycam footage of the incident played on big screens at the front of the ballroom in the Omni Shoreham Hotel.

On May 29, 2025, the officers encountered a man who appeared

to be selling drugs on the City's west side. The man fled but was quickly apprehended. That's when a struggle began, as he resisted the officers before pulling a gun from his waistband and firing off a single shot, which hit Paulauskas in the upper thigh.

"Shots fired, 10-1, 10-1!" another officer can be heard radioing frantically.

Seeing what happened to Paulauskas, Asilis responded by firing his service weapon and hitting the suspect to end the threat. Asilis then helped fellow officers get Paulauskas into a nearby squad car for a lightning-quick trip to the hospital, where he was treated for the gunshot wound. Paulauskas spent just one night at the hospital, walked out the next morning to a standing ovation from fellow members, and returned to work six months later.

"I'm just thankful that I have phenomenal teammates," offered Paulauskas as he rattled off numerous names of those who worked so quickly to save him, from the officer who tied off a life-saving tourniquet to the officers who drove him to the hospital and several others who supported him throughout the recovery process.

He then turned to Asilis.

"Not only is he a great officer, a phenomenal teammate, top cop tonight — he's also a top shot," Paulauskas added.

Taking the stage to accept the award, Asilis spoke of humility and gratitude, as well as respect for all the brothers and sisters in blue who do the job every day not knowing when the unthinkable might present itself.

"No officer ever hopes to face a situation where deadly force becomes necessary. That moment was difficult, fast-moving and something that stays with you long after the incident ends," Asilis shared. "I'm grateful to be here today, and I'm grateful for the training, support and professionalism of the officer beside me. This recognition is not just about me. It belongs to my fellow officers, the dispatchers, supervisors, first responders and my family, who stood behind me throughout it all."

After the ceremony, Asilis talked about needing to quickly process what was happening that night last May and reacting even faster to prevent a tragic outcome.

"If I didn't, he may not have been here today," Asilis states. "So my primary concern at the time was just to make sure he doesn't get shot again."

The Top Cops Awards offered both men perspective on the experiences of their peers from all corners of the United States, officers who all started their shift with a goal to get home safe, but not knowing what they would be faced with before they did.

"It's truly amazing to hear their stories, from off-duty encounters to what these officers go through around the country on a daily basis," Paulauskas shared. "I'm super appreciative to NAPO and our administration that put us in for this award to be able to be here tonight. It's an amazing experience."



Oscar Asilis speaks during the NAPO Top Cops banquet after he and Andrew Paulauskas received their awards.



Chicago Police Officers Andrew Paulauskas and Oscar Asilis walk up to the stage to receive their NAPO Top Cops Awards.



Chicago Police Officers Tim Bell, left, and Juan Alba-Chavez receive their Top Cops awards at the Omni Shoreham Hotel ballroom in Washington, D.C.

# Stranger Police Things

A response from two Chicago Top Cops that is above and beyond anything on TV

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Actor Gregory Jbara might have felt like he was reading from a script for the TV show “Blue Bloods.” Having played New York Deputy Police Commissioner Garrett Moore for 13 seasons on the renowned CBS cop show, Jbara no doubt has seen some rather dramatic storylines.

But no way what he described when presenting a Top Cops award from the National Association of Police Organizations could have actually happened. Could it?

With each detail Jbara recounted, the thousand or so people packed into the ballroom at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., for the NAPO Top Cops Awards on May 12 collectively gasped.

A man with multiple weapons charges showed up with his 15-year-old son at the residence of a woman to settle an argument.

Four other children, ages 8 months to 12 years old, were inside the house. The man shot an 18-year-old on site.

When two officers showed up, the man shot at them. He hit one of the officers, who took the round in his body armor.

The officer down stayed in the fight. His partner took out the shooter.

The officer who took the round in the vest had come out of the academy a week earlier. It was his sixth shift on the street. His FTO stepped right into the fire to make sure this domestic didn’t escalate.

“We might be planning a funeral here,” Jbara declared as he continued to provide details. “It could’ve been a mass casualty if not for officers Bell and Alba-Chavez.”

Tim Bell is an FTO in the Chicago Police Department’s 22nd District. Juan Alba-Chavez is the PPO assigned to Officer Bell. *Chicago*

P.D., *The Rookie*, *Law & Order*, *Criminal Minds*, *CSI* and *Elsbeth* combined could not produce fiction stranger the truth that took place in 022. On Dec. 7 of all days last year.

"The difference between the academy and the streets is that everything is real out here," Bell sighed. "There's no computer-generated nothing."

Nine responses from across the country, including federal agencies, were honored as Top Cops from 2025. At least one officer from each response offered acceptance remarks. In some, all officers spoke. Both Bell and Alba-Chavez stepped up to the microphone after Jbara handed them trophies that looked like bronze Oscars, adorned with a cop, not an actor.

Alba-Chavez concluded his remarks, which lasted about a minute, by saying, "I gained a brother that night."

When the ballroom began to empty out after the banquet, Alba-Chavez had a chance to add some thoughts about being a Top Cop.

"Because I'm still on probation, I don't think I deserve these awards," he expressed. "At the end of the day, I was just doing my job. But one thing Bell kept saying is, 'Hey man, you got to take it because you're here for a reason.' We were there for a reason."

Bell, who has been on the Department for seven years and has been an FTO for 18 months, realized there was something unique about his PPO even before they went out on their first tour together.

"Yeah, I got to tell everybody, 'Man, he shook the shit out of my

hand,'" Bell recalled about first meeting Alba-Chavez. "It was one of the strongest handshakes I ever received from my people."

Aaron Brewster was able to get off only the one shot that lodged in Alba-Chavez's vest. Bell took decisive action, shooting Brewster multiple times before he could get off another shot.

Even though he was down, Alba-Chavez immediately drew his service weapon and went to his partner's aid. He helped Bell with the victims as well as making sure the threat definitely had been ended.

Brewster survived his injuries and was charged with attempted first-degree murder, home invasion with a firearm and multiple other felonies. What could have been really didn't hit Bell and Alba-Chavez perhaps until Jbara brought it up at Top Cops.

"This wasn't our beat. We decided to go to this call knowing the seriousness of it," Bell related. "So you kind of ask yourself, 'Why us?' Well, why not us? We come to work every day, and this is what we decided to do."

The account Jbara read in presenting the award ended with him telling how Bell and Alba-Chavez were each asked if they wanted to continue working together after the incident. They have stuck together just like they did on Dec. 7, 2025.

"Officers make mistakes when they hesitate, but one thing that he instilled to me was trust," Alba-Chavez confirmed. "Just be confident for what I do. He's one of the main reasons that I decided to come back to the job, because he had his full trust in me."

Seemingly the perfect ending. On TV or in real times.



Blue Bloods star Gregory Jbara greets Tim Bell and Juan Alba-Chavez as they come up to receive their Top Cops awards.



Tim Bell makes his acceptance speech while Juan Alba-Chavez looks on.



# Making Music That Matters

CPD Pipes and Drums tunes in for a performance worth 'Gold'

BY BRITTANY KRUGEL

The hush before the blasts from the Pipes and Drums of the Chicago Police Department sets up one of the most resounding moments of National Police Week. The Steve Young National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Tribute set the stage. The front of the U.S. Capitol provided the setting.

Competing against the full-time pipers and drummers from Customs and Border Patrol and several other bands was not the motivation to blow it up for these Chicago Police Officers, who do this primarily on their own time. On May 14, by the reflecting pool at the Capitol, the Pipes and Drums of CPD put the power to the music for the Gold Star families watching and listening.

"There's nothing we can say to make these families of fallen officers... it's tough. I don't have the words right now," said Chris Daum, the pipe band drum sergeant. "But where words stop, music begins."

So even if there was no pipe band competition, it's still important for CPD to be there to honor the fallen. They practice at least once a week to always be ready for events like the funeral for fallen Chicago Police Officer John Bartholomew, which they played three days before leaving for Police Week.

As they add more practices leading up to Police Week, it's to be sharp for the families of the fallen. No way CPD will have its three-tune set of "MacPherson's Lament," "Lord Lovat's Lament" and "La Boum" fall flat in front of the Gold Star members.

"This is the culmination of what we do. We're not a competition band. We're a memorial band, and our job is to make sure that we never forget all of our fallen," longtime drum major Bill Schield commented. "No matter if it's 100 years ago or if it was one week ago. That's what we do. We make sure this brings a national spotlight on all of those great men and women who gave their lives."

Daum admitted to being nervous when the band marched out to begin playing, even though it was his second time performing in D.C. Something drowned out those nerves quickly, however.

"We have an important job to do, so you get out there, you get into a groove, and it kind of just locks in," Daum added.

And the piping and drumming comes from a special place.

"Because we're out here representing the Chicago Police Department," Schield noted. "We're passionate about it, so we want to just do the best we can."





## CPD Honor Guard shows it can shine in the rain

■ BY BRITTANY KRUGEL

Raindrops accumulating on the brims that still gave off a reflection of the checkerboards, the CPD Honor Guard members stood tall and strong in the mist. A Fab Five, they were the picture of honor amid units from departments across the country joining them at the Candlelight Vigil for the crescendo of National Police Week on May 13.

Even their double-breasted overcoats couldn't fully hide their chests puffing proudly. Clearly, the Chicago Police Honor Guard came to Washington, D.C., to do what it does best.

Honor.  
Remember.  
Represent.

"I think it's extremely important to be here and represent the City of Chicago, especially our Gold Star families, as well as the Gold Star Family Foundation," veteran honor guard member Rich Robles affirmed. "It's very important for us to be here, just to pay tribute to those families and the officers that gave their life protecting you and I."

Police Week is used to seeing CPD highlight the honor guard competition in front of the U.S. Capitol reflecting pool. But you need six members to participate in that event, and with a line-of-duty-death funeral just two days before Police Week, they were a

group of five — Robles, Ramiro Alvarez, Casey Jordan, Eboni Adams-Jones and Jeff Dohnal — who opted to come and represent the best way they know how.

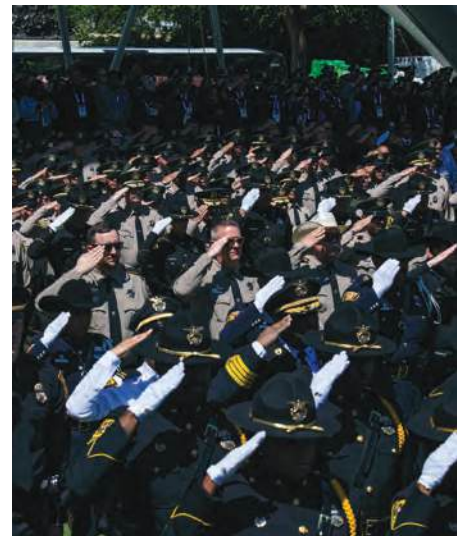
"It's just a nice thing to honor the family that has lost someone and just to show them that we're still here and we didn't forget their loved ones," Adams-Jones explained.

The CPD Honor Guard did not need to be in the competition ring to reap the reward of being part of National Police Week. Dohnal, for example, served in the military and works in SWAT, so he joined the honor guard this year apparently as yet one more way to serve. And the unity of the CPD Honor Guard seemed to attract Adams-Jones.

"Just the experience of being all together," Adams-Jones added.

Standing together with other honor guards in two lines as Gold Star families walked into the National Mall for the Vigil, they also experienced the solemn part of what they do. Again, this is the reward.

"For me, my personal gain is being able to honor the fallen and also come back and just keep doing the job and be loving what I'm doing," Robles described. "It's a reset. The moment where you come out here and you're amongst your law enforcement brethren, you just enjoy that company, and you come back to serve your city refreshed."





## An avenue to never forget Officer Enrique Martinez

Now, friends and family and residents of the West Lawn neighborhood where he grew up will have a forever tribute to Chicago Police Officer Enrique Martinez.

Enrique was shot and killed when making a traffic stop near 80th Street and Ingleside Avenue in the East Chatham neighborhood on Nov. 4, 2024. He had been on the job for nearly three years when he and his partner stopped a vehicle with three people inside after the car had been blocking traffic.

Members of the Chicago Police Department joined his family on May 24 for a street renaming. The 6400 block of Komensky Avenue in the West Lawn neighborhood on Chicago's Southwest side has

been designated as "Officer Enrique Martinez Avenue."

The honorary avenue is located in the West Lawn neighborhood, which is where Officer Martinez grew up.

Among those in attendance was 23rd Ward Alderman Silvana Tabares, who posted a tribute on Facebook.

"Officer Martinez embodied courage, service, and dedication to the city he loved. His name will now live on these streets — a permanent reminder that heroes walk among us, and that we must never forget those who gave everything to protect our communities."



## A new 'Way' to honor Officer Thomas Wortham

Fallen Chicago Police Officer Thomas Wortham IV now has his name inscribed in a place where so many in Chicago will see it.

Wortham, of course, was killed on May 20, 2010, at his parents' home when four men tried to steal his motorcycle. He was shot in the stomach and run over. His father, who was a retired police sergeant, shot one of the suspects.

Ironically, he was leaving his parents' house after coming by to show them pictures from his visit to National Police Week in Washington, D.C. Wortham also had just returned from his second tour to Iraq with the National Guard.

Family members and fellow police officers gathered this past May 21 to unveil a street sign designating a stretch of Martin Luther King Drive in Chatham as "Honorary Ofc. Thomas E. Wortham IV Way."

His sister, Sandra Wortham, president of Chicago Police Memorial Foundation, spoke at the street-naming ceremony.

"The best way that we can honor Thomas is for less people to die," she said. "The best way we can honor Thomas is to remember what happened to him and refuse to allow them to keep doing this to other people."

# Taste of FOP

■ BY MICHAEL GARZA

Food! Food! Food! All around me, my kingdom for a fork! Greetings everyone, the annual Taste of F.O.P. was held on May 20 this year with plenty of organizations representing their wonderful food. It was a beautiful day to stuff yourself beyond your imagination. There were a lot of old friends and a couple of new people to add to the festivities. The first arrival was the Emerald Society with some home-cooked corn beef and Irish soda bread. Stephanie and Tom, along with their pretty daughter, Teagan, were serving up the delicious fare. The President and Vice-President Daniel Kearns and Timothy O'Donnell were also on hand greeting everyone. The Shomrim Society of Illinois also served enjoyable corn beef sandwiches that the Great Harold Brown picked up from Manny's on Jefferson. President Dave Appel monitored the sandwiches for over-tasting. The German American Police Association (GAPA) had a very tender chicken schnitzel and a nice plump veal sausage. Of course, Cora and Gary were there with John Meindl and Paul Kurtzner. GAPA was well represented. The Puerto Rican Police Association (PRPA) always brings great food items. This time, it was some Lechon, marinated slow-cooked pork, and Arroz con Gandules. Evelyn was there serving the plates. The pork was juicy, and the rice had all the good ingredients for perfect Puerto Rican Rice. On to the Polish American Police Association (PAPA), where there was a good line for the pierogis and Polish stew (cabbage and sausage in a tomato-based sauce). You can tell a lot of care and time was put into that stew. Thank you, Debby, Connie, and Ewelina, for the table. The United Muslim American Association of Law Enforcement Professionals (UMAALP) had some great coffee and chai tea. I kept going back for more and more. Naveed and Arif were very accommodating for my glutenous drinking. The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement (NOBLE) had a beautiful table with jerk chicken and the most scrumptious macaroni and cheese. Thanks for the extra portion, Kristen. I loved it! The Italian American Police Association (IAPA) had plenty of help serving up roast beef with the lovely Lisa and the goodlooking couple of Phil and Margaret Tenerelli rolling out the sandwiches. The Hellenic American Police Association (HAPA) had pork and chicken shish kabobs and Greek salad. It was going quickly, but there was plenty. Big man Elias Voulgaris laid it out for us and let us go at it! And thanks for all the extra good stuff you had! I love going to the Assyrian American Police Association table to scoop up some good hummus, a few pieces of falafel along with a plate of chicken shawarma and rice. Thanks, Dave, for the bountiful plate. The Asian American Law Enforcement Association (AALEA) had rice and egg rolls made with rice noodles and vegetables. Henry Lai, David Chu, John Phan, and Roger Geremino were serving the food and having a great time treating us to the tasty food. A couple special shout outs to two organizations, Andrea and Nane with the Romanian American Police Association who had schnitzel, meatballs, mash potatoes, polenta and.... crepes! They cooked them up and filled them with strawberry jam or Nutella. Although they blew a couple fuses, putting us in the dark, it was worth it! Finally, the guys at the Alliance of Hispanic Law Enforcement (AHLE) really put in a lot of time and effort cooking steak, chicken, and al pastor tacos, along with the rice and beans. It was truly a treat. Thanks to Arturo Torres, Jose Sandoval, Chris Silvera, Omar, Eli, and everyone else who helped. Well, I'm 10 pounds heavier, but some experiences are worth it. Plan to come next year and you'll enjoy yourself.

As usual, if I missed anyone or messed up your names, sorry! I carbo loaded and had the meat sweats with only one day to write this article. Thank you all for participating in this wonderful event!



PHOTOS BY GEORGE GILL





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