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COVER STORY PAGE 30

Birthday Wishes

A story 250 years in the making features some of Chicago Lodge 7's eloquent statesmen lending perspective on America's great milestone. Their thoughts explain why what the founding fathers envisioned and created more than 250 years ago has made for the greatest country in the world. And why Americans should never take for granted what they have that so many have fought so hard to secure and protect their rights and freedoms.



COVER DESIGN BY JENNA RAMOS

MESSAGES FROM LODGE 7

President's Report	Page 5	FOP Labor Report	Page 20
First Vice President's Report.....	Page 8	FOP Legal Report	Page 22
Second Vice President's Report	Page 10	Legislative Report	Page 24
Third Vice President's Report.....	Page 12	Retired Members	Page 25
Recording Secretary's Report.....	Page 14	Deceased Members	Page 26
Financial Secretary's Report	Page 15	Compliments of Rabbi Moshe	Page 27
Field Representatives' Reports..	Pages 16 & 18	From Your Directing Chaplain	Page 28

IN THIS ISSUE



June Awards



A new voice for Lodge 7



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CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine
President's Report



Don't Miss the Boat



JOHN
CATANZARA
JR.

What does George Washington see standing defiantly and powerfully on that boat crossing the Delaware?

Not much different than what we're looking at today.

Don't be deterred or distracted by the waves crashing over the bow. Or that it's a freezing December night. Or that it's Christmas night. Or that America declared its independence just 174 days earlier.

Yes, 250 years ago, we still had to navigate the Delaware and that Valley Forge plight. But shortly after the birth of this nation, we were rowing that boat toward becoming the envy of the civilized world.

A little ice and snow couldn't keep our founders from doing whatever it takes to enjoy the basic concepts of freedom, individuality and home rule. And from that day to this day, I don't think this nation has ever not been the greatest on the planet.

I don't even think there's a close second, to be honest. You didn't think so many people from around the world wanted to be in the U.S. on our 250th birthday just for soccer.

You don't see people from Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland or Japan — generally considered among the second-best countries in the world — having fun and raising the roof at home like they have been doing here for the past month.

There's a reason everybody wants to come here more than anywhere else on this planet times 10. Any time of the year. Any year.

America isn't easy. It's advanced citizenship. You got to want it bad. Be willing to row through icy waters.

Now, more than ever, we are reminded that it's the only place where you can become anything you want to become. We pretty much have the opportunity and freedom to do that.

I spoke to a group of 8-to-15-year-olds at the City Kids Camp in Lewistown, three hours south of Chicago, on June 18. I told them that there's no other place like America where what you make of your life is entirely up to you. If you're willing to put in the work and you don't make excuses, you will achieve your goals and your dreams.

In Chicago, we had some 250th celebration spirit. The Department even had a patch designed to commemorate. On the Fourth of July, there was a celebration, which likely included some undertones about how this country was built and the comments about reparations and everything else, because it couldn't be a celebration in the moment.

This is my point about taking the same view as Washington in that boat. I think the Founding Fathers were resolute about the structure and foundation of the country they had formed. They realized that it would always be an ongoing experiment.

And with experiments, you constantly tinker with measurements, calculations and everything else, always searching for perfection that you never attain. There is certainly no harm in that, and usually a lot of greatness is discovered along the way to perfection.

As the experiments continue, I just hope that people remember history. After all, the erasing of history that people do not like can be more dangerous than disavowing loyalty to the king.

Whether it's inconvenient truths or whatever the case may be, the problem with taking an eraser to the past is that it creates the tendency to repeat it. People must not lose sight of bad things that have happened, causing civilizations to crumble. It has happened historically forever.

I don't know if I have to worry about it happening in my life, but sometimes it seems like a slow decay. And the sad reality is that some people in this country have the absolute goal of destroying the current way of life.

There definitely seems to be acceptance by far too many people that we're headed down some ultimate path of another civil war, so to speak. As if that's a healthy way to resolve this divide. Nobody ends up a winner there. We have to remember that we're all in the same boat.

I was listening to Fox News, and they were talking about the Knicks NBA championship parade in New York and how everybody's just so "kumbaya" and euphoric. And how hopefully we can maintain this.

It made me think about how we're coming up on the 25th anniversary of 9/11. That tragedy united this country like nothing else in my lifetime.

But it didn't last. The national pride and unity that was there for, I don't know, maybe two, three years

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President's Report continues on Page 6

has waned significantly. It's hard to be hopeful that this can change.

I keep hearing the words of my friend Willie Wilson: "Ain't going to solve nothing without talking."

That's a PR battle we have been horrible at. Even for this organization, it just doesn't seem to be a priority to get the message out except for the people who already see your point of view. They do so no matter how many shots come across the bow.

I've always said that it's easy to go in a room of people who think like you. You have to change hearts and minds in the other rooms. And it's like we're just refusing to go there and even make an attempt.

I don't know if anything changes until that happens, because facts don't care about feelings. We certainly have the facts on our side, but the feelings right now are much louder and sadly getting much more attention.

There's more and more of them. You have that goofy governor in

Virginia, the mayors in D.C. and Seattle, and the governor in New Jersey with her electoral college nonsense. When is the breaking point going to come?

So here's what Washington is looking at as they crossed from Pennsylvania to New Jersey. The grueling, hourslong voyage utilized cargo vessels known as Durham boats to transport troops, horses and artillery.

Braving a severe winter storm, this bold maneuver allowed the Americans to surprise and defeat Hessian forces in the Battle of Trenton. This success, combined with the subsequent engagements of the next "Ten Crucial Days," fundamentally changed the trajectory of the Revolutionary War

And so as we continue to commemorate America 250, remember that sometimes you have to endure icy waters for the sake of freedom.

President's Report: Second Stories



Making Camp

When our political action results in making an impact on City kids who need a helping hand, that's real money doing the real thing.

I spoke to a group of approximately 100 of those kids in late June at the City Kids Camp. We became involved with Hector and Diane Corona, who founded the camp, through our support of Paul Vallas in the 2023 mayoral election.

The camp is open to any disadvantaged inner-city youth in 4th to 12th grade. They have a unique opportunity to become more independent and self-confident by experiencing what life can be like outside of their urban communities. Spending a week in nature helps them calm down and minimize their natural defenses, which makes them more receptive to new experiences and dialogue.

Hector asked me to come down and speak to the kids for an hour or so, and I tried to exchange some dialogue to affect bad behavior before it becomes a pattern. I tried to be honest with them about life, about what we do in police work, why we do it, how we do it. The good, the bad and the ugly dealing with the misconceptions, the lies, the slanderous things about law enforcement.

Certainly many of them have had negative experiences with the police, whether directly or indirectly with family members. So I encouraged them to chase their dreams, stay away from bad crowds. Don't use the N word.

I also wanted to take the opportunity to be real with them, especially about education. Sure, I emphasized that schooling matters,



but so does having a functional career. It's not necessarily about going to college, I told them, because AI is going to change their lives more drastically than even the cell phone probably changed ours.

It was good for them to feel free to ask questions without their parents around, who might not want them to be told certain things. One of our members from the Sixth District was a chaperone there. I could see her nodding as I was explaining things. She came up to me and said, "Thank you for everything you said."

Ultimately, I spoke about my frustration with using the N word. How ignorant it sounds when you use it. And whether it's in every rap song you ever hear or not, you are not going to have a realistic professional career if that's a regular word in your vocabulary.

I stressed how they need to change little things like that. How you present yourself, how you're perceived, how you speak. Surround yourself with people that make your life better and easier. Get rid of

the ones that don't.

Another girl was asking about shootings and other problems in her neighborhood.

I said, "Listen, the politicians are the ones who are responsible for the conditions in your neighborhood. They are not doing anything but basically pointing a finger at somebody else, that it's their fault your neighborhood isn't changing. How can that be when they're the ones in charge of your neighborhood?"

All I was trying to explain to the girl was about her parents voting differently instead of believing every two or four years that something's going to change by electing the same people who promised them change two or four years earlier. It never does, but they keep voting for them over and over again for whatever reason. When that changes, then your life will change.

Life, Larry and the Pursuit of Leadership

Now, I don't have a scoop on this, but my sources are better than the sensationalized print news media. I firmly believe Brandon caught wind that people were recruiting Larry Snelling to run for mayor, and he asked for the superintendent's resignation. And Larry gave it to him with a future date attached.

Whether Larry wants to run or not, at that point, he probably said fine on the resignation. You could have it effective for whatever date. I don't think it's going to come out as a story until it actually happens. But I really believe that's already occurred with that chain of events.

If Larry does run, he's got some skeletons. And too much of a thin skin to even be superintendent. God forbid the mayor would be criticized. Oh my God. He'd have so many self-imposed enemies in City Council alone. So yeah, his ego is not designed to be mayor, that's for sure.

The real question, of course, is whether Department leadership needs to change?

Well, you have no first deputy. You have an acting chief of patrol. The first deputy he named quit after three months because she had too many skeletons in the closet to be effective, especially with the fact that Brandon made her hire happen. Snelling tried convincing everybody that that was his pick. Yeah, right. Like the mayor didn't tell him to do it.

I can guarantee whoever is coming for a Lodge 7 endorsement for mayor is going to have a very in-depth conversation about the Department and how the selection process should go. And that our involvement in the selection process goes a long way to determining the next super. Whoever it is must give me ironclad assurances that we're going to have a seat at that table for the final decision.



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The Gift of Being Present



**MICHAEL
METTE**

Summer has a way of reminding us to slow down. The days are longer, families gather for cookouts, kids are out of school, and there are more opportunities to spend time with the people who matter most. Yet for police officers, slowing down is not always easy. Even when the uniform comes off, our minds often remain on the job. We replay calls, check our phones, or prepare ourselves for the next shift.

That awareness and readiness are necessary on the street, but they can follow us home. We may be sitting at the dinner table while our thoughts are somewhere else. We may attend a family gathering but spend most of it looking at our phones or thinking about work. Our families can tell when we are physically present but mentally distant. Sad to say, I know because I did it for years!

Being present does not require a perfect vacation, an expensive outing, or a carefully planned day. It can be as simple as sitting outside with your spouse, having breakfast with your children, calling a retired partner, or listening without trying to solve every problem. That is something I still have to work on myself. The people closest to us usually do not need more things from us. They need our time, attention, and genuine presence.

Faith can also help guide us. It reminds us that each day is a gift and that the people in our lives are blessings entrusted to our care. As officers, we understand better than most how quickly circumstances can change. We have seen ordinary days become life-changing mo-

ments without warning. That knowledge should not leave us living in fear. Instead, it should encourage us to appreciate what is right in front of us today.

Prayer can help bring us back to the present. It does not have to be long or complicated. A quiet prayer before a meal, a moment of gratitude while driving home, or asking God for the patience to truly listen can change the way we enter our homes. Faith gives us a place to lay down the burdens we were never meant to carry alone. It reminds us that our worth is not measured by how many hours we work, how many problems we solve, or how much responsibility we carry.

Our families have also made sacrifices throughout our careers. They have adjusted plans, celebrated holidays around our work schedules, worried when we were late getting home, and supported us through difficult seasons. Being intentional with them is one of the best ways we can honor those sacrifices.

This July, make a deliberate effort to step away from the distractions competing for your attention and reconnect with the people around you. Whether it is sharing a meal, taking a walk, attending your kid's game, praying together, or simply having an honest conversation, the important thing is to be fully present and allow those moments to become meaningful memories.

We cannot control how quickly life moves, but we can choose how fully we show up for it. Our presence may seem like a small gift, but to the people who love us, it may be the greatest gift we give each and every day.

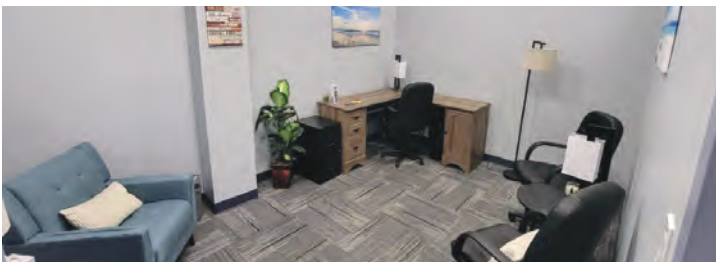
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Discipline Briefs



DAN GORMAN

Part of my report given at the monthly General Members’ meetings includes examples of arbitrators’ 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 no probable cause (COPA)	10-day suspension (2x)	Expunged
Fail to “immediately” notify OEMC after an OIS. Late BWC activation & early deactivation (COPA)	5-day suspension (2x)	Violation Noted - No Discipline only for early BWC deactivation
Pursuit lasting 9 seconds. Fail to notify OEMC of said pursuit. No BWC (BIA Investigator)	15-day suspension 10-day suspension	3-day suspension 1-day suspension
Verbal: directed towards supervisor (BIA Investigator)	10-day suspension	8-day suspension

No BWC during riots (COPA)	1-day suspension	Violation Noted, No discipline
Fail to report misconduct. No GOCR to citizen. (O.I.G. -Inspector General’s office)	7-day suspension (2x)	Reprimand

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.

Quote from the 8-page arbitration decision re: Alleged no probable cause (COPA)
“COPA did not claim the Grievant [officers] were lying, but rather relied on the criminal court’s finding there was no probable cause for the search. Again, this search was based on consent, not on probable cause.

While COPA claimed to have taken the Grievants’ personnel histories into account in forming its recommended punishment, it is difficult to understand how it did so. Both were highly decorated officers with unblemished records.”

Quote from the 6-page arbitration decision re: Fail to notify OEMC “immediately” after an OIS (COPA)
“[COPA’s] rationale is somewhat perplexing.” “COPA seems not to recognize that the second pointing incident was a much more personal threat to an individual officer, which understandably had a more direct impact on the threatened officer’s state of mind.” “This situation is no different from a scenario where an officer has





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been physically injured and unable to contact OEMC."

re: BWC

"[The officers] were caught by surprise when [the offender] suddenly appeared with a weapon pointed at them." "They did not have time to turn on their BWCs when giving chase or when [the offender] was pointing a gun at [one of the officers]. The Department recognizes that there are emergent times when officers cannot divert their attention away from the moment to activate their BWCs. This was one of those moments."

Quotes from the 11-page arbitration decision re:

Pursuit (9 seconds), fail to notify OEMC, no BWC (BIA Investigator [REDACTED])

"I also note that [the] Officers did initially begin a vehicle chase, but quickly [within 9 seconds] abandoned the chase. In addition, the events occurred over a very compressed time period."

"Further, as to reporting to OEMC, and activating their BWCs, the situation unfolded very quickly and the Officers were focused on dealing with the situation. While the Officers clearly did not follow the Rules to the letter, the situation required a quick reaction. I also note that two members of the CCR recommended decreases in the penalties for Officer [A], and one member recommended a decrease in the penalty for Officer [B]."

Quote from the 7-page arbitration decision re:

Verbal: directed towards a supervisor (BIA Investigator [REDACTED])

"It is clear that Officers are required to comply with the Rules and Regulations of the Chicago Police Department, including behaving appropriately towards Superiors. Specific mechanisms identify the procedures with which one must comply to report a complaint regarding a Supervisor. In this case, [the] Officer did not follow said procedures. I note that the Department is a paramilitary

organization, in which the chain-of-command must be respected."

Quotes from the 7-page arbitration decision re:

No BWC during riots (COPA)

"[The officer] was served with a 1-day Suspension on September 7, 2022, approximately 28 months after the incident. I note that the Union has indicated that the delay in the Investigation was a significant mitigating factor. I note that the delay in issuing the discipline is a mitigating factor in determining whether the penalty was appropriate."

"It is uncontested that the instant incident was extremely chaotic and the Department's resources were overwhelmed by the situation." "[The officer] admitted that he failed to activate his BWC. I note that while [the officer] failed to activate his BWC on the night in question, I cannot find that this is a serious violation in light of the overall circumstances."

Quotes from the 9-page arbitration decision re:

Fail to Report Misconduct and no case report for a citizen (Inspector General's Office)

"The CCR reviewers raise reasonable concerns as to a 7-day suspension for what amounts to a mistaken belief that a report did not need to be submitted, especially when the supervisor had taken over the investigation and failed to give the Officers adequate guidance as to their responsibilities. While the excessive delay in this matter may not have prejudiced the Grievants, as already discussed, a 7-day penalty would serve no corrective purpose after nearly 5 years. Instead, it would be punitive and contrary to the progressive discipline principles agreed upon by the parties in their CBA. It is also an excessive penalty for a document oversight by two Officers who believed they were doing everything by the book."

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MONICA
ORTIZ

In previous articles, I've highlighted organizations like K9 for Veterans that support officers in need of service animals. Through conversations with a peer support officer, I recently learned about another organization that may benefit some of our colleagues: Rising Star Ranches. Interested in its use of horses for therapy, I reached out to learn more about their offerings.

First responders and officers face unique pressures and challenges every day. For those seeking new ways to recharge, manage stress, or heal from trauma, Rising Star Ranches offers an innovative approach: equine therapy. This nonprofit organization was created specifically for first responders, providing a supportive and welcoming environment for anyone seeking renewal.

Founded by retired Chicago Police Officer Kenny Boudreau, Rising Star Ranches was established after a series of tragedies in the department which highlighted the urgent need for mental health support. The organization provides free equine therapy sessions for those coping with trauma, stress, or the everyday demands of service. Its vision is to help officers and first responders rediscover hope, resilience, and connection through structured interactions with horses.

What sets Rising Star Ranches apart is its absolute accessibility: no insurance, no cost, and total confidentiality. Whether you're looking for peer-supported activities or evidence-based professional care, you can find the right fit at a convenient partner stable—without any hoops to jump through. Everything is designed to make your path to healing smooth, private, and genuinely supportive.

You can also pick the location that works best for you. Plus, no board member gets paid, so every dollar goes straight to helping those who serve.

What does a session look like? Imagine leaving behind the day's pressures and stepping into the peaceful atmosphere of a ranch. There, you're greeted by gentle horses whose presence is calming and supportive. Activities might include grooming, leading, or simply spending quiet time with the horses. These experiences can be grounding and uplifting—horses naturally sense emotion and provide honest, nonjudgmental feedback.

Here's how equine therapy can make a difference: Equine therapy is effective and supported by clinical research. Studies show it can greatly improve emotional, social, and physical health for people of all ages, including veterans with PTSD, and those who haven't found success with regular talk therapy.

Horses have special qualities that make them great partners in trauma recovery. Their calm and intuitive nature creates chances for deep healing that traditional therapy often can't offer.

Curious about how horses help with healing and the science behind equine therapy, I took some time to research the topic. Here's what I discovered:

Psychological calming: Horses' large electromagnetic heart fields measurably lower blood pressure and pulse rates in nearby humans, creating an immediate physiological response that promotes calmness and reduces anxiety.

Emotional regulation: Interaction with horses builds trust, enhances emotional regulation, and teaches mindfulness—critical skills for PTSD recovery that carry over into daily life and relationships.

Confidence building: Horses respond authentically to body language and emotional states, helping veterans rebuild confidence, improve nonverbal communication, and develop essential social skills.

Connection and community: Bonding with horses and other participants helps people feel truly connected. It can greatly reduce feelings of isolation and anxiety while building strong support networks.

Officers of all backgrounds—including those with disabilities—are welcome to participate in the equine program at Rising Star Ranches. For first responders seeking a new way to manage stress, recover from trauma, or find a sense of renewal, equine therapy

may offer a fresh opportunity for growth and healing. Exploring this program could open doors to improved wellbeing, meaningful connections, and a revitalized outlook on both work and life.

For more information about how to participate, support, donate, or learn about upcoming events, visit the Rising Star Ranches website. A full list of participating ranches, as well as contact details, are available online. You can also reach them by phone at (708) 620-2203 or email at info@risingstarranches.org.

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Safety Report



**ROB
NOCEDA**

Hello, Lodge 7. I pray this message finds you well.

We met on June 23rd for our second-quarter Safety Meeting. I thanked Risk Management for addressing the potholes in the 11th District. They also shared that there is a plan to repair potholes in other districts. While they did not provide a detailed timeline, they indicated the work will be completed district by district.

The 20th District has experienced issues with several doors not locking properly. In addition, some doors that require a key fob for entry are only opening with physical keys due to a malfunctioning fob system. This creates a security concern for members who do not have a physical key. I submitted a ticket through the online maintenance system, and Risk Management will investigate the issue and send an inspector to evaluate the unsecured door.

The 003rd District roof has now been repaired. They had experienced significant roof leaks, particularly during heavy rainstorms. Fortunately, there weren't leaks during the recent severe storms. The 003rd District is also undergoing HVAC and plumbing renovations.

Headquarters still does not have an update on when the main gate on 35th Street will reopen. For members who have not visited Headquarters recently, the State Street entrance just south of 35th Street has been serving as the primary entrance for some time.

We also discussed the maintenance ticket system in the Service Now section of The Wire. Currently, maintenance requests may be automatically closed if they are not addressed within a certain timeframe, even if no work has been completed. This prompted a

lengthy discussion about improving the system so IT can more effectively track outstanding requests.

In my own experience, I submitted a maintenance request that was automatically closed without any action or notification. I only discovered this when I logged back into the system to check its status. Representatives from the Lodge, Labor Relations, and other unions all agreed that the tracking system needs to be fixed so legitimate maintenance requests remain open until they are properly resolved. Risk Management committed to discussing the issue with IT during its next facilities meeting.

Another topic discussed involved an incident in the 11th District in which a female Lockup Detection Aide was assaulted while transporting a prisoner from the lockup to court. The committee reviewed the safety protocols surrounding prisoner transport, as well as accessibility and functionality of the security camera system.

If you have questions or concerns regarding safety issues at Department facilities or any other workplace safety matters, please let me know. I want to ensure every members' concerns are heard, addressed, and brought forward at the appropriate time so we can work toward meaningful solutions. The best way to reach me is at rnoceda@chicagofop.org.

As always, it's better to ask whether an issue has been addressed than assume someone else has taken care of it. I sincerely appreciate the members who keep me informed about conditions in their districts and work locations. As I was taught in the Marines, "Safety is paramount."

God bless you. Take care, and be safe.

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Staying in the Fight



JIM
JAKSTAVICH

Hello again, Officers, both active and retired. I recently fielded a call from retired Police Officer Mark Bean. He had reached out to the FOP and wanted to inform us of an upcoming attempted murder trial for the offender who shot him in the head while he was working in the 018th District. Officer Bean was concerned about his wife, Kathy, of nine years who would accompany him to the trial but would be alone and possibly exposed to family or supporters of the offender while he was testifying or required to remain in the jury room while another testimony was taking place. I connected

Officer Bean with Trustee Chairman Dave DiSanti, who offered to attend and put the word out to the elected trustees, asking anyone available to appear in court in support of Officer Bean and his family.

In the following days, I received another call from Officer Bean who related that the offender took the deal offered to him by the State's Attorney's Office and was sentenced to 35 years for the attempted murder of a police officer. He was not disappointed with the outcome. Officer Bean stressed that, if this went to a jury trial and just one juror was not convinced with the overwhelming evidence against the offender, the offender could walk. This was the best result for Officer Bean, who is ready to continue enjoying life as a retiree.

I followed up with Officer Bean and asked him if I could write my monthly newsletter article about him and his ordeal. He just seemed so positive and in the "drivers' seat" about this incident. Officer Bean recounted the day he was shot as if it were yesterday. At the time of this incident, he was already on the job for 25 years and was 60 years old. He had just switched sectors and beats after working the 30 sector of 018 for 20+ years and went to the slower 10 sector to a beat car of an Officer who just retired. Officer Bean was immediately familiar with his beat and its problem spots, mainly the area of North Ave. and Sheffield. At this nearby intersection, a small shopping mall contained a Best Buy and an Ulta, which experienced thefts and theft-related offenses daily. Officer Bean explained his policing strategies on his new beat. If he was not on a radio assignment, he would sit in that mall or nearby to deter crime just by his mere presence. If there were problems there, he was there.

On this particular October day in 2021, Officer Bean, who was working his RDO as voluntary in-district overtime, and his partner grabbed their coffee and went to the mall. Officer Bean recounted that this was the first day that Officers were being called to Headquarters and being unlawfully ordered to enter the Portal regarding their COVID vaccination, and he was looking for some updates on his phone. They were there for just 20 minutes when a hand waiver came by and alerted them to a disturbance inside Ulta. They immediately responded and were trying to make sense of this disturbance and its catalyst. A female subject on scene pointed out the male subject on scene and related that the male had a gun. Officer Bean, being a seasoned street cop, already looked at this subject and scanned him when he entered the location. Officer Bean noticed the male subject's sagging pants halfway down his ass, tight shirt, and his quick body movements but no weapon on his person or in his hands. As the disturbance continued, the male subject exited the store and began walking to his car. Officer Bean knew that if there was a gun, it was more than likely concealed in the subject's car. When the male subject opened the door of his Malibu and sat down on the front seat with his feet still outside the car, Officer Bean got in between the open door and the seated male subject. Officer Bean scanned the immediate area known for offenders to conceal or place a gun. He did not see anything. During this short encounter, the offender then stated to Officer Bean, "You wanna fight? I got a gun and you're gonna die!" The offender reached under his thigh.

Officer Bean related that, in this split second, he made the decision to stay in the fight, not retreat. He instinctively reached almost simultaneously with the offender and felt the gun underneath his thigh. He

yelled "gun" to alert his partner, who called for more cars and charged in to help. At this point, it was hand-to-hand combat over control of the weapon. The offender was physically much larger than Officer Bean and his partner. During the struggle, the offender attempted to bite Officer Bean and his partner in an effort to gain complete control of the gun. Officer Bean kept his hands on the barrel, and, at the last minute, was able to push the barrel enough that when the offender fired, Officer Bean was struck by the bullet in his left cheek, and it exited his neck. He noticed blood splatter on his hands and the offender's shirt but did not know he was hit and, if he was, maybe in the shoulder area of his body. The gunshot did not even seem that loud. A second round was fired through the offender's windshield when the cavalry finally arrived. Officer Bean stepped back from the car with the offender's gun in his hand. He had won control of the gun, handed it to a fellow Officer on scene, and muttered the words, "I did the best I could." Officer Bean's assist units placed the offender into custody, and other Officers on scene began tending to Officer Bean's injuries while he waited for an ambulance. One of his female coworkers told Officer Bean to "shut up already" because every time he talked, he would bleed more.

Officer Bean was transported to the hospital by EMS but was looking for his phone to call his wife. One of his good friends in the district texted Kathy. She immediately called that officer, who shared the harrowing story and good news that Officer Bean would be OK. Officer Bean remembered getting a phone call from President Catanzara with whom he worked in the 018th District and another call from Officer Carlos Yanez, Jr. Officer Bean related that he was shot just a couple months after P.O. Ella French was murdered, and Carlos nearly lost his life in August of that same year. Officer Bean related that speaking with Carlos was the first time that he became emotional. He could not believe the ordeal Carlos had gone through himself, and now he was asking Officer Bean, "How are you doing?" Officer Bean related that when he is asked if he was just in the wrong place at the wrong time, he responds with a resounding "No."

Officer Bean will stress that he was in the "right place and at the right time, that this is what [he] signed up to do." Officer Bean stated that he was glad he did not second guess himself or hesitate. He doesn't blame anyone, and he came out of this alive. He even described the fact that the offender's gun was loaded with ball ammo as a "beautiful thing," because the bullet did not splay and strike anything vital or cause tremendous damage, only a "nice clean entrance and exit wound." Officer Bean will have the scars as a constant reminder. He also suffered ligament tears to his wrist, verifying the intensity of the struggle over the gun.

As Officer Bean continues to share his thoughts with me and with most coppers on this job, we find humor in the most life-threatening or gory situations. He jokingly mentioned that his wife was mad at him for working on his RDO and getting shot when he could have been at home working on his "honey do list." He gave some solid advice as well. Officer Bean stressed that if he would have hesitated, the outcome may have ended differently. He said, "My life matters, not just because some scumbag tried to take it from me, but because I'm just a guy on this flaming ball of shit (Earth) trying to make it." He imparted additional wisdom that we can all apply to our lives. "Don't wait until you retire to do things you want to do. You will have enough money. Don't just work and put it away. Enjoy it now. Tomorrow is not guaranteed, and we don't know how much time we got." He continues to stay in good shape, is an avid ultra marathoner, and "does not look his age." God, continue to bless this warrior.

My message to Officer Mark Bean is that I only hope I was able to put what we shared into words so that others would be able to hear your message.

Stay safe, everyone.

Personnel Concerns Program



**MICHAEL
COLLINS**

Hello again, brothers and sisters, both active and retired. In this article, I will go over the Personnel Concerns Program and how you might find yourself being placed in it.

The Personnel Concerns Program is a structured program of supervision designed to provide an Individualized Performance Plan (IPP) for an officer that has been identified as having difficulties that are affecting the officer's competency as an employee of the Department. The thrust of the Personnel Concerns Program is non-disciplinary. Through the Personnel Concerns Program, the Department attempts to intervene in an employee's problems, behavior, or performance issues that, without assistance, may lead to severe disciplinary measures or separation from the Department.

Placement in the program is for one year and is made by command staff, BIA, COPA, the Medical Section, the Police Board, Department psychologists, etc. A few examples on how one may be placed into the program are: all sustained excessive force CR#s; intoxication CR#s for on- or off-duty incidents; all sustained CR#s that result in a 10 or more day suspension; five or more sustained CR#s within the last five years; poor performance evaluations; and incidents for which the member has already received counseling as part of the Behavioral Intervention System (BIS), yet the member failed to comply with the IPP and

did not change the subject behavior to the satisfaction of his or her commanding officer within 12 months of being identified for the BIS.

Once you have been placed into the program, you will be notified to report to the Officer Support Unit located on the third floor of headquarters. Upon arrival, officers will get an explanation of the program and why they have been placed in it. Officers will also have to submit to a drug and alcohol test and a mandatory physical or psychological examination to determine the presence of any medical reason for the officers' performance or behavioral problems.

An officer who believes that he or she has been improperly placed in the Personnel Concerns Program will be afforded an opportunity to meet with the Director of the Human Resources Division Joy Brown or her designee. The officer may request such a meeting by submitting a To-From-Subject report to the Director of the Human Resources Division, requesting a hearing. Officers have seven working days to appeal placement into the program. The hearing will not be conducted until both parts of the mandatory physical examination have been completed.

Lastly, if you feel you have been wrongly placed into the program, please call the FOP, and we can assist you with your appeal process.

Stay safe, everyone!

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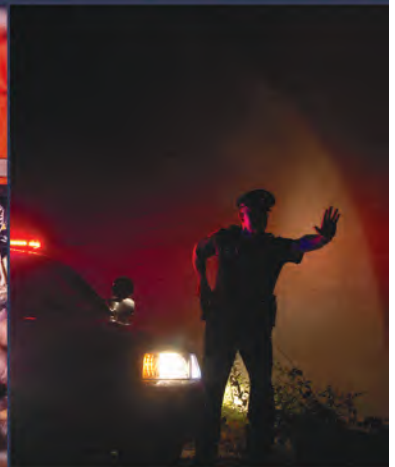
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A Mother's Voice Through Grief: Remembering PO Aréanah Preston



KENYATTA
GAINES

I had the pleasure of speaking with Mrs. Dionne Mhoon, and this is my interpretation of what she shared.

People often ask me if it gets easier. The answer is no; you simply learn to carry something that was never meant to be carried. Just recently, I left the cemetery with my dog. As I turned the corner on 123rd Street heading toward Lincoln Cemetery, the tears came without warning. They still do. Grief doesn't make appointments. It just shows up, and I've learned that fighting it only makes it hurt more.

My daughter, Aréanah—Aree to those who loved her—was everything to us. She was a Chicago Police Officer, but before she wore a badge, she was my daughter. She was a loving sister, a student, a traveler, a loyal friend, and very much a girl's girl. She loved fashion, laughter, good food, and living life to its fullest. She had finally landed what she proudly called her "big girl job," and she absolutely loved serving the City. That's why her birthday means more to me than the day she died. She was a blessing.

This year, instead of focusing on her End of Watch, I gathered 30 to

40 of her closest friends, and we celebrated her life. This year, we went to a crab boil restaurant because crab boils were Aree's favorite meal. We laughed, shared stories, and remembered the joy she brought into every room she entered. After dinner, we visited the cemetery. When we arrived, we discovered that someone had stolen the flowers from her grave. It was heartbreaking.

Aréanah is buried next to a woman named Maxine. While searching for a cemetery after my daughter was taken from us, I noticed Maxine shared the exact same birthday as Aree. Somehow, in the middle of unimaginable pain, it felt like a sign that this was where she was supposed to rest. When I bring flowers for Aréanah's birthday, I also leave flowers for Maxine. I've never seen visitors at her grave before, but this year, someone placed flowers for her, too. The woman who helped coordinate Aréanah's burial is a feisty, spirited woman whom I still talk to presently. Looking back, I know I made the right decision choosing that place for my daughter.

There are days when I replay everything that happened. I imagine the moment Aréanah was confronted by the men who took her life. As her mother, I believe she was probably shocked at first. Then I picture the woman I raised—the fearless, determined young woman who never backed down. I imagine her deciding, "I'm going to protect myself. I'm going to protect this home." That was who she was. She was brave and selfless. She probably wondered, "Why? If you need something, just ask me." Her heart was that big.

Ironically, I learned something was wrong because of



technology. Her Apple Watch sent an alert to my phone saying she had been in a car accident near our home. I quickly threw on my clothes and rushed over. When I saw her car parked in front of the house, I was confused. I still believed it had been a traffic accident until I arrived at the hospital.

We were an incredibly close family, and I don't think people fully understand what happens after a child is murdered. Everything changes! The person you instinctively want to call is gone.

There are moments when I wonder if I could've been there to change the outcome. Then I remember something my own mother once told me. "Things are already planned. We are simply walking into those preplanned events." Those words don't erase the pain, but they help me breathe when my thoughts become overwhelming.

Aree believed in her calling. She possessed all the qualities that embody a good Officer, but I never want people to forget that underneath the uniform was a young woman who loved deeply and lived fully.

One of the hardest parts of this journey has been attending court hearings. Every appearance forces us to relive the worst day of our lives. But every time I look around that courtroom and see members of the Fraternal Order of Police, fellow Officers, and supporters sitting behind us, I feel a little less alone. I never expect anything from anyone, but I appreciate everything people have done. Their texts, phone calls, and simply showing up matter more than they will ever know. I wish more people understood that our grief doesn't end when the Department marks another End of Watch anniversary. Families continue living after the headlines disappear. That's why I believe Gold Star families should be connected with one another. No one understands this journey quite like someone else who has walked it. We could help each other survive the days that feel impossible.

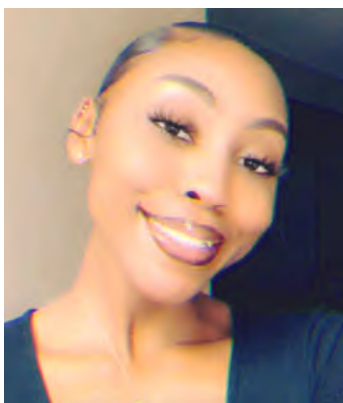
I also believe the people assigned to work with grieving families must possess more than professional qualifications. They need empathy, patience, and compassion. Families navigating unimaginable loss should never have to navigate someone's ego too. You should never be made to feel like, "You're just a number, and it's on to the next."

The people who murdered my daughter stole so much from our family because of their greed. But they cannot steal her legacy. That is why I devote myself to the Peace for Preston Foundation. It has given me a little peace. Through the foundation, we continue Aréannah's dream of serving others by supporting Chicago's youth and communities. Our vision is to build a community center that offers resources, opportunities, mentorship, and hope for future generations. That is the future she deserved to help create. Since she no longer can, I will. The

world lost an extraordinary young woman, but I refuse to let the world forget her!

If you would like to honor Aréannah's memory, please support the Peace for Preston Foundation through your time, your talents, or your financial contributions. I will continue showing up for my daughter because she deserves nothing less. As her mother, that is my promise.

Stay safe!



City Forced To Significantly Reduce Yet Another Suspension



PAT
FIORETTO

On June 1, 2026, nearly seven years after a heated exchange between a Police Officer and a citizen, the Grievant finally received his vindication. Arbitrator Weathers issued an Opinion and Award finding that the City could not justify the imposition of a 90-day suspension on a stellar Field Training Officer (FTO).

The disciplinary grievance stemmed from an incident on May 25, 2019, during the busy Memorial Day weekend. At the hearing, the Lodge presented evidence that the Grievant, an FTO assigned to two Probationary Police Officers (PPOs), responded to a call involving a purported burglary or trespass at a residential location. Grievant, who had an impeccable record, has been employed at the Department for over 25 years, serving as an FTO for nearly 14 years.

When the Grievant and the two PPOs arrived, the scene was already chaotic, with neighbors and bystanders gathering nearby, a major concern for the Grievant who remained responsible for the two PPOs' safety. The Complainant immediately confronted them and began shouting at the Grievant, apparently unhappy that it took the authorities "too long" to arrive.

The Complainant immediately began to explain the situation to the Grievant and directed Grievant to speak to another witness. When the Grievant told the Complainant to relax and indicated that he did not want to hear what the other witness had to say, the encounter between Grievant and Complainant deteriorated. Complainant became visibly frustrated and agitated to the point where the Grievant warned the Complainant that he would be handcuffed if the hostility continued. By this point, the Complainant came within inches of the Grievant's face, and his agitated speech caused droplets of spit to be sprayed onto the Grievant's face.

Complainant gestured for the Grievant to proceed with handcuffing him, and Grievant complied, separating him from the immediate area while Grievant and the two PPOs continued investigating the underlying incident and the alleged offender. The verbal argument continued between Complainant and Grievant throughout the investigation, with the Complainant constantly being belligerent and hostile. The Grievant eventually removed the handcuffs, and the Complainant remained on scene and subsequently signed a Complaint so the Officers could arrest the offender.

At the hearing, the City asserted that the physical contact between the Grievant and Complainant constituted improper force and that Grievant failed to apply de-escalation techniques. The City also contended that Grievant engaged in unprofessional, disrespectful, and escalatory conduct throughout the interaction, violating multiple Department rules prohibiting disrespect, unjustified altercations, and conduct that brings discredit upon the Department. The City argued that Grievant's conduct warranted a 90-day suspension, given the "seriousness" of the conduct and the Grievant's position as an FTO.

The Lodge, however, presented evidence at the hearing that the 90-day suspension exceeded suspensions given to other

similarly situated Officers and the City overlooked not only the unique circumstances of the encounter, but also the Grievant's long-standing positive employment record. Moreover, the Lodge highlighted the egregious length of time between the initiation of the investigation and the imposition of a penalty—nearly five years later.

The Arbitrator, after considering all the evidence, found that the situation did not rise to the level of "a significant force case." The City did not prove any improper sustained or substantial use of force used. Rather, the Arbitrator noted that Grievant's conduct merely amounted to a failure to exercise the expected level of restraint, professionalism, and judgment for an experienced Officer of Grievant's caliber.

The Arbitrator also found that the 90-day suspension was not proportionate given the alleged misconduct. He highlighted the fact that the Complainant suffered no injury; the City could not establish any violation of the Department's Use of Force policy; and he commented on Grievant's employment record as a significant mitigating factor. Citing the length of Grievant's career, his numerous commendations and positive performance reviews, as well as the absence of any prior discipline, the Arbitrator concluded that the incident in question did not represent Grievant's overall service.

Furthermore, the Arbitrator also considered the recommendations of the exempt members of the Channel Review Command, all of whom proposed substantially shorter suspensions than the Department ultimately sought. Ironically, even the Superintendent acknowledged in his partial nonconcurrence that the Grievant has a "noteworthy complementary history and his disciplinary record is beyond reproach."

Finally, and most importantly, the Arbitrator raised the "extraordinary delay" between the 2019 incident and the imposition of discipline five years later. The City tried to blame the delay in large part on the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Arbitrator refused to accept the City's argument, finding instead the passage of time to be "remarkable." Though such a delay did not cause prejudice to Grievant's ability to defend himself, the passage of time did "substantially diminish the corrective and rehabilitative purposes of discipline." As he went on to explain:

Progressive discipline is intended, at least in part, to correct behavior and reinforce expectations. The effectiveness of that objective is significantly weakened when discipline is imposed years after the underlying conduct occurred. By the time the 90-day suspension was imposed, the incident had long since passed. Under these circumstances, the delay weighs heavily in mitigation.

The Arbitrator ultimately reduced the penalty from a 90-day suspension to just 10 days, finding that the City's discipline "substantially overstates the seriousness of the misconduct established in the record." A huge relief for the Grievant and another success for the Lodge!

As the Chicago weather begins to warm up, please continue to be careful and stay safe.

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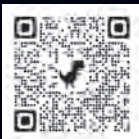
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TIM
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As police officers, we are members of the law enforcement community and are entrusted with special privileges. One of those privileges is access to information that is not available to the public. With that access comes significant responsibility. Most importantly, that information cannot be used for personal or non-law-enforcement purposes.

Many readers may think this is obvious and move on to the next article. However, we continue to see officers accessing systems and databases for improper reasons. I am not here to judge, but I am here to warn: do not do it. Misusing law enforcement databases can result in serious discipline, placement on a do-not-call list, termination of employment,

and, in some cases, criminal charges.

The most commonly used system is the Law Enforcement Agency Data System (LEADS), administered by the Illinois State Police. LEADS provides “services, information, and capabilities to the law enforcement community in the State of Illinois.” 20 ILCS 2605/-45. Under Illinois law, the State Police maintain the system and provide authorized users access to information from multiple agencies.

Through LEADS, law enforcement officers and criminal justice personnel can access Criminal History Record Information, FBI records, National Crime Information Center, Illinois Secretary of State records, and other databases that assist officers in perform-

ing their duties.

Federal regulations place strict limits on how this information is collected, stored, accessed, and disseminated. Federal authorities vigorously protect both the privacy of individuals and the integrity of the data. Just as importantly, they carefully control who may access the information and for what purpose.

Access is limited to agencies involved in the “administration of justice,” including “detection, apprehension, detention, pretrial release, post-trial release, prosecution, adjudication, correctional supervision, or rehabilitation of accused persons or criminal offenders.” 28 C.F.R. §20.3. Improper use of LEADS, even simply accessing information without a legitimate law enforcement purpose, may constitute a crime and could result in criminal charges. LEADS exists to further legitimate law enforcement objectives. It is not a tool for checking on neighbors, former partners, or personal acquaintances.

Misuse of LEADS creates another serious concern: the Illinois State Police have the authority to restrict or revoke an agency’s access to the system. Such a loss would have serious consequences for the Chicago Police Department.

Recognizing the sensitivity of this issue, the Department imposes substantial administrative penalties for misuse. Chicago Police Department General Order G09-01-01, “Access to Computerized Data, Dissemination and Retention of Computer Data,” states:

“Any member who accesses information through the Department’s computerized information systems is accountable for the



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appropriate use and disposal of the information. Access to information is restricted to official police business. Access of information for personal or other reasons is strictly prohibited.”

In simple terms, the Department knows when you access these systems. Every inquiry leaves a digital trail tied to your PC number. If you access information without a legitimate law enforcement purpose, it can be discovered, investigated, and disciplined accordingly.

Many readers may be nodding along or thinking none of this is new. We are not breaking new ground here. However, particularly for younger officers, it is important to understand how often these situations arise.

How does it happen? You suspect a partner is being unfaithful. A neighbor is causing problems. A vehicle has been parked outside your home for several days. A friend asks you to “look into something.” Every one of these situations presents a temptation, and every one is an improper use of LEADS.

You must have a legitimate law enforcement purpose before accessing this information. But what if the concern is legitimate? Suppose an occupied vehicle repeatedly parks outside your home under suspicious circumstances. You believe there may be a valid public safety concern. In that situation, do not handle it yourself through LEADS. Notify your sergeant. Contact the district where the issue is occurring. Make a report and request assistance. There are proper channels that allow concerns to be investigated while keeping you in compliance with federal law, state law, and Department policy.

Before you run that name or plate, stop and think. A moment of caution can save you from significant professional and legal consequences.



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Session Adjourns for the Summer



DAVE
SULLIVAN

The Illinois Legislature worked until nearly dawn on June 1 to conclude its spring legislative session. While many proposals, including the Bears stadium package, failed to advance, the House and Senate did pass a state budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Legislators are not expected to return to Springfield until the fall, following the November elections.

Throughout the session, we worked closely with our law enforcement colleagues, including the Illinois Sheriff's Association, Illinois State Police, the Chiefs of Police Association, and the Illinois Public Labor Relations Council. This unified law enforcement voice has been instrumental in advocating for key legislative priorities and ensuring lawmakers understand the impact of proposed legislation on public safety.

The spring session often felt disjointed, as the House and Senate were rarely in Springfield at the same time. One week the House would be in session, followed by a week for the Senate. Without a consistent legislative cadence, collaboration suffered, contributing to some of the late-session dysfunction.

Attention now shifts to campaign season as Illinois heads toward

the November elections. All 118 seats in the House of Representative are on the ballot, along with one-third of the Senate. Every constitutional office is also up for election, as is the U.S. Senate seat currently being held by the retiring Senator Dick Durbin. While most legislative races are expected to be noncompetitive, several contests in the suburbs and downstate Illinois will be closely watched.

Governor Pritzker has since signed the state budget, which takes effect July 1. Discussions also continue regarding efforts to keep the Bears in Illinois. Although the legislature did not act on a stadium package this spring, the Bears have announced plans to move forward with a development in Hammond, Indiana. However, several Illinois legislators have indicated that discussions between the team and state officials remain ongoing. The saga continues.

As the session concluded, Senator Dale Fowler announced his retirement. Representative Paul Jacobs, who won the Republican primary in March, is expected to be appointed to fill the vacancy. Senator Fowler had previously announced he would not seek reelection but decided to step down before the end of his term. He has been a tremendous advocate for Southern Illinois and a steadfast supporter of law enforcement.



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The Knights of Columbus were founded in 1882 by the Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney, dedicated to the principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.

K of C Council 12173 was founded in 1998 by the Chicago Police Head Chaplain Rev. Tom Nangle. The mission of the Knights of Columbus is to provide members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service of the Catholic Church and first responders.

All Catholic men over the age of 18 are welcome to join us!
Meetings are normally at the John Dineen FOP Lodge 7 on
the third Tuesday each month at 1830 hours.

Find us on Facebook or at
<https://uknight.org/CouncilSite/about.asp?CNO=12173>



Honoring Retired Members

Name	Rank	Unit	Years
John Thompson	PO	9	25
Tim Ziemba	PO	12	29
Juan R. Diaz	PO	50	29
John C. Giltmier	PO	18	29
Alan Lasch	SGT	20	31
Nicole Velazquez	PO	15	20
Richard Blackburn	DET	610	30
Robert Bracke	PO	50	29
Thomas Budziszewski	PO	24	25
James Campagna	PO	9	27
Edith Casselle	PO	701	36
Josephine Christopher	FTO	17	23
Cleveland Coleman	PO	51	30
Andrew Cuomo	PO	353	26
Arthur Davis	DET	181	26
Clark Eichman	SGT	2	28
Wendel Ellis	PO	124	28
Thomas W. Freitag	DET	184	27
Elvira Garcia	PO	171	24
Kevin Graham	PO	128	31
Thomas Hogan	LT	10	30

Name	Rank	Unit	Years
Pamela Jones	PO	3	21
Charemi Jones	FTO	124	25
Jose Martinez	PO	19	31
Michele McMahon	PO	1	30
Tonia Morin	ET	277	29
Michael Nestad	DET	610	31
Karen Potts	PO	2	31
Marc Ranallo	PO	50	25
Daniel Rebeles	PO	544	23
Lisette Rosado	PO	50	29
David Santos	FTO	25	22
John Schiro	DET	650	29
Richard Schlecht	DET	610	26
Paul Staudacher	DET	620	30
Verliser Syas	PO	189	29
Matthew Urquhart	PO	50	30
Adrienne Vanorsby	PO	7	22
Octavia Watkins	PO	721	26
Deanna Weatherspoon	PO	17	25
Nicholas Corr	PO	22	20
Jean Laureore	PO	116	11

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Honoring Sisters and Brothers who have passed

Name	Age	Date of Passing
John S. Massi	68	January 26, 2026
Joseph A. Gorz	86	May 15, 2026
Harry Dantolan	84	May 22, 2026
Kathleen Murdock	78	May 25, 2026
James E. Doran	81	May 27, 2026
Joseph Jugovich	87	June 19, 2026
William Donovan	52	June 22, 2026
Frederick Collins	57	June 22, 2026
Luke Daly	61	Unknown

Retiree Meetings

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

North

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

South

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

8-Ball Luncheon

Last Wednesday of the month
@ noon
Les Brothers, Oak Lawn

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
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

Been Hit By A Brick Lately?



RABBI
MOSHE WOLF

A young and very successful executive named Josh was traveling down a Chicago neighborhood street. He was going a bit too fast in his sleek, black, 12-cylinder Jaguar XKE, which was only two months old.

He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something. As his car passed, no child darted out, but a brick sailed out and – WHUMP! It smashed into the Jag's shiny black side door. SCREECH! Brakes slammed. Gears ground into reverse, and tires madly spun the Jaguar back to the spot from where the brick had been thrown.

Josh jumped out of the car, grabbed the kid, and pushed him up against a parked car. He shouted at the kid, "What was that all about, and who are you? Just what the heck are you doing?!" Building up a head of steam, he went on, "That's my new Jag. That brick you threw is going to cost you a lot of money. Why did you throw it?"

"Please, mister, please... I'm sorry! I didn't know what else to do!" pleaded the youngster.

"What do you mean? You wild crazy boy," screamed the executive. "You didn't know what else to do other than throw a brick on my Jag? You will pay dearly for this."

"I threw the brick because no one else would stop!" said the boy. Tears were dripping down the boy's chin as he pointed around the parked car. "It's my brother, mister," he said. "He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair, and I can't lift him up." Sobbing, the boy asked the executive, "Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's badly hurt, and he's too heavy for me."

Moved beyond words, the young executive tried desperately to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. Straining, he lifted the young man back into the wheelchair, took out his handkerchief, and wiped the scrapes and cuts, checking to see that everything was going to be OK. He then watched the younger brother push him down the sidewalk toward their home.

It was a long, slow walk back to the sleek, black, shining, 12-cylinder Jaguar XKE. Josh never fixed the side door of his Jaguar. He kept the dent to remind him not to go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at him to get his attention, because some bricks are softer than others.

How true. Often, we get so caught up in our rat race that we can't pay heed in a real way to many things that are really important. A child is begging us to stop and listen – and this may be our own child. Let us remember never to get that tied up in our daily routines that it takes a brick to wake us up and bring us back to our family and loved ones.

As we move into the summer months, don't forget to make some time for all those that make your life special and worth living.

Some Age Old Wisdom

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered;

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, some people may accuse you of being selfish, and having ulterior motives; Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies; Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you; Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, there are those that may be jealous; Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough; Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God; It never was between you and them anyway.

Some humor from the "Moshe Files" to keep you smiling:

BRAINS vs. BRAWL

A strong young man at the construction site was bragging that he could outdo anyone in a feat of strength. He made a special case of making fun of one of the older workmen working at the site. After several minutes, the older man had finally had enough.

"Why don't you put your money where your mouth is?" he said. "I will bet \$500 that I can haul something in a wheelbarrow over to that outbuilding that you won't be able to wheel back here to where we are standing."

"You're on, old man," the braggart replied. "Let's see what you've got."

The old man reached out and grabbed the wheelbarrow by the handles. Then, nodding to the young man, he said with a smile, "All right young man, now you get in!" ...LOL

Moral of the story: Don't mess with an old-timer. What they lack in muscle, they make up with street smarts.

On behalf of all the Chaplains, we wish you and your loved ones a healthy and safe summer. 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 good 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 at www.chicagopcm.org. Look us up for current and upcoming information.

Chaplains website: www.chicagopcm.org

Compliments of your Police Chaplain

Rabbi Moshe Wolf

773-463-4780 (voicemail)

Cell: 773-230-7872 (text)

E-mail: 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 (which parishes request as an opportunity to pray with and for our first responders), my spirit has been lifted by the love, gratitude, and respect the general public has for you. On behalf of the many hundreds of folks I've prayed with in recent months, THANK YOU for doing God's work!

While I am often invited to the South and West Sides, I celebrated my most recent Blue Mass at St. Helen Church on the Northwest Side. Thank you to all who came out to support our brothers and sisters!

We enjoyed another Upper Room Club session this past month, thanks to the generosity of Pizano's Pizza at 21st Street and Indiana Avenue. Please continue to show Pizano's your love.

Recently, at an event on the Northwest Side, I bumped into P.O. Alfredo Rios, 025th District, and insisted on a picture for my next FOP magazine article. He obliged, so I beg his co-workers in 025: cut out this picture and plaster it all over the station!



This could be a really good time! "Hilarious Headliners?" No pressure there! I hope to see you at St. Pat's High School on the Northwest Side. Proceeds from the evening's entrance fees and bar and food service will benefit the high 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 three to five minutes on stage.

Another opportunity to get up on stage and make people laugh will be on 25 SEP. Join me at a charity comedy night at the FOP Hall! To register, give me a call and I'll direct you.

Finally, as you probably know, the Chicago Brotherhood for the Fallen Gala is in Rosemont on 19 SEP. This is an event NOT to be missed!

In the event you may happen to be near Boston on 14 NOV, a Chicago contingent will be travelling there to support the Brotherhood's nationwide cause. On stage, I'll be joining Mike Neal, the Arkansas officer who took out the father-son bank robbery team and infamous Walmart parking lot shooters several years ago.



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

Fr. Dan Brandt, Directing CPD Chaplain

773-550-2369 (cell/text)

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

CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS

PHOTO BY GEORGE GILL



Nominator: Sergeant Violet Rey #2148



On 05 Nov 2025, responding Officers were notified of a homicide in which the offender had fatally stabbed his mother multiple times about the body and neck. The Officers obtained a photograph of the offender and began coordinating investigative information with their fellow Officers. This real-time information was received from the offender's sister, who related that the offender was operating a rental vehicle. The Officers began using the GPS tracking to locate the offender. The offender disabled his location services, causing the Officers to reach out to the offender via cellphone, reactivating his GPS location. The Officers provided the updated GPS coordinates to their teammates, and the offender

and vehicle were spotted in the vicinity of the tracked location. The Officers conducted a felony traffic stop and safely placed the offender into custody without incident. The offender was still covered in blood from the violent acts he committed on his mother. His father arrived and scene and positively identified his son as the offender. The offender was charged with Murder. This display of teamwork and professionalism led to the arrest and apprehension of this violent offender.

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



Lodge 7 Recording Secretary Rob Noceda, left, with his U.S. Marine Corps unit in Iraq.

Revolutionary Documentation

*Birthday greetings from the Lodge 7 family
that provide perspective on America 250*

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Say, can you see... to the Republic for which it stands... We hold these truths to be self-evident... We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union... Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech... Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country... O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

How those words from statesmen, soldiers, poets, scholars and leaders still resonate so prominently and mightily now that the United States of America has turned 250 years old. From Thomas, John, Francis, George, Hamilton, Ben, James, Paul, Patrick and so many more.

So as a birthday card to America, some Lodge 7 favorite sons add some 21st-century thoughts in the spirit of those reverberating historic documents and verses. More statements about one Nation under God and Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

Declarations of Independence

With the words from that renowned declaration document — “These United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States” — the states became united, and a new nation, the United States of America, was born.

Inspired by these lines, our Lodge 7 envoys — each of whom served their country, on battlefields in Iraq, Afghanistan and Vietnam — make their own declarations.

“The greatest civilization, the greatest society that has ever existed on God's green earth. The American way has been the best

way for 250 years,” begins Rob Noceda, the FOP recording secretary, a U.S. Marine and member of the Army National Guard who did two combat tours in Iraq. His reasoning includes this:

“You got people telling people how wonderful it is to be here,” Noceda continues. “And you might have some people that try to come and live here on a regular basis. It just tells you the exceptionalism of the American dream.”

From serving 25 years on the front lines of CPD and 21 years in the Army National Guard — including on the front lines of Iraq in 2007-2008 — Luis Rivera pushes back on anybody who talks down the opportunity to enjoy the freedoms.

“Those individuals who want to say something like, ‘Oh, well, America’s not so great and this and that,’ I’m like, ‘This is the only country in the world that I know where we’re able to have opportunities, take chances, succeed or fail, look back and say, at least I gave it a shot, and then reinvent yourself and start over again.’”

After enlisting in the Marines in 1964, serving in Vietnam, beating two cancers contracted from exposures to toxins during that war and ascending to Chicago Police Superintendent in 1998, Terry Hillard offers perhaps the most astute declaration of where these United States are at 250.

“We have not reached the top of that totem pole,” he surmises. “We still got some work to do, but I think we’ll get there. And that’s one of the reasons I don’t talk politics with anybody. Because everybody has their own ideas, and that’s the reason for freedom of speech.”

Pledges of Allegiance

Indivisible, with liberty and justice for all, the original pledge was written by Francis Bellamy, a Baptist minister, in August 1892. He structured this public school program around a flag-raising ceremony and a flag salute.

From his experiences, Noceda has developed a very direct pledge about where America is at 250.

“It’s what some people would say is a society as close to perfection as you can get,” he asserts.

In 2021, James McCloughan came to Lodge 7 to provide the keynote speech as part of a Military Buddy Check Day program. He served in Vietnam as an Army medic and saved the lives of 10 soldiers who were hit by an RPG. While taking enemy fire. For his actions, McCloughan received the Medal of Honor in 2016.

When told he hadn’t just saved 10 people, he had planted 10 family trees, McCloughan began forming this pledge:

“So as we think of all those patriots that have come before us and showed us the way, we realize that much has been given with the freedoms and the liberties and the security that you and I have today,” he explains. “So I say, if you don’t like it, get the hell out of here. Go to some other country and see what it’s like.”

Rivera makes a pledge based on all those who see him wearing his Army hat and thank him for his service.

“It just instills this idea of wow, people haven’t forgotten, people are still grateful, people still remember their roots, people still understand that there ought to be a sense of pride,” he interjects.

Coming up on retirement with 25 years on the Department and after 25 years in the U.S. Army Reserve, which included a deployment to Afghanistan, Mike Henderson offers a 250 pledge echoing that this is the best country ever.

“Do we still have some work to do? We do,” he details. “But you still have the blessings to express your opinion and to be free to use your own will.”

The Constitution of these United States

Establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.

The four-page document known as the Constitution of the United States, signed on Sept. 17, 1787, established how much power to allow the government of the United States and how representatives should be elected. The work of many minds, its lasting lega-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32



Chicago Police Officer Luis Rivera serving in Iraq with the Army National Guard.

REVOLUTIONARY DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

cy made a lasting impact on Hillard, whose love for the country should be bottled and passed around to every citizen.

"These folks, the forefathers, when they started this thing, they did not want to be ruled by one person," he states. "It's about we. It's about us. And that's one of the things that I always said, even in my superintendency."

Only in America do you get this kind of justice, tranquility, welfare, blessings, etc., according to McCloughan.

"Those are the kind of things that obviously I think we are sharing and celebrating, you know?" he expresses. "In other countries, you're in a socioeconomic level and never move out of that."

What has grown, then, over the first 250 years, is held so preciously by those on the outside looking in.

"My time in Iraq, I just remember I spoke to the Iraqi soldiers, and they were always asking me how it is to live in this country because they always wanted to acquire my belief and what is it, like what freedoms I enjoy," Rivera recalls. "Even when I've lived over there, lived amongst them, walked with them, did my part to protect them, educate them, whatever, it's when I come back home, I had the sense of relief where again, this makes me proud to be an American."



Medal of Honor recipient Jim "Doc" McCloughan, second from left, speaking at Lodge 7 Military Buddy Check Day in 2021.

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Fill the Bill of Rights

The first 10 amendments to the Constitution were written by future U.S. President James Madison and ratified in 1791 to protect individual liberties and limit government power. They explicitly secured foundational rights like freedom of speech, due process and the right to trial by jury.

So, funny story about the sanctity of rights for U.S. citizens from our Medal of Honor recipient.

"I didn't have electricity in my house until I was 4. Didn't have running water or a toilet until I was 9," McCloughan describes. "We had a two-hole around back and had to pump water out of the well. Now, I live in a house where I can flush six toilets if I need to. Only in America can you do that."

On a more traditional note, he articulated what on the bill drives protectors here and abroad.

"You have no idea what'll happen that day, but you know that you're protecting a family's liberties, you're protecting your town's liberties, you're protecting your state's liberties and you're protecting the liberty of the United States of America," adds McCloughan, whose son served as a Michigan state

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

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REVOLUTIONARY DOCUMENTATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

trooper for 31 years. "You're actually fulfilling the largest oath that anyone can serve, and that is the oath to protect, defend and serve the United States of America and its values."

From some of those Iraqi posts, Noceda and fellow Marines had a way to talk about how they viewed those rights.

"You think about everything that's back in the world, as they say," he observes. "You actually think of all the things that you enjoy about America. It's crazy because you're bringing me back to that, where I'll think about what are you going to eat? You're going to be able to hang out with your grandparents, your family, your mom. People take them for granted while brave young men and women go on a regular basis to make sure that that enemy doesn't come here. They keep it at bay so that you don't have to worry about it."

So don't take simple rights you have in America like a sidewalk, a front yard, a steady paycheck, a pension lightly. Like being able to ride your bicycle down the street and not get killed.

"We have the right to freedom. We have the right as you and I got up this morning to walk outside and just breathe," Henderson says. "You and I got up this morning and said, 'We thank God that we're not behind bars. We don't have to live behind a gate. We're not in a compound.'"

All-Star Spangled Banner

What so proudly we hailed... Whose broad stripes and bright stars... And the rockets' red glare... Gave proof through the night... That our flag was still there.

In 1814, poet and lawyer Francis Scott Key looked out at dawn to see the massive American garrison flag still flying triumphantly above Fort Henry. A glaring signaling an American victory in the War of 1812.

Rivera sees as much in the way that our flag is still there.

"You see the American flag, the symbol, what it represents, the history, everything our Founding Fathers have built, have created. I think that's the testimony of what it is to be an American," he emphasizes. "Keep those values, those ideals, and always remember it's in this country you're able to thrive and progress. And every time you walk by an American flag or you see an individual in uniform, just remember: Something as little as a 'thank you for your service' carries a lot of weight."

No matter what you see and hear here, Noceda assures that it's not what you might see in Afghanistan, Iraq, Vietnam, etc.

"You're talking about the Civil War, so it goes back 150-plus years that we haven't seen war in true blood where it was large-scale for a long time on our home soil. And I think people take that for granted because no one has seen it in their lifetime," Noceda comments. "Americans are so prosperous. They're part of the 1 percent of the world that gets to travel and see how other people live. And if that doesn't tell you how to be grateful and thankful of America, God bless and be grateful to be an American, I don't think there's anything else that will."



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Call Carlos

Taking on a new role puts Carlos Yanez in position to help Lodge 7 members deal with their trauma

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Go to a hearing or trial at 26th and Cal for some a-hole who shot, killed or catastrophically injured a Chicago Police Officer in the past three years, and chances are Carlos Yanez Jr. is there. Or when an officer has been put in the hospital, Carlos is there. And there for the family.

When members get stripped or have to go to callback, Carlos has been there to talk to them. Many seek him out to meet at a café or even his home to talk, because they know he has been there. And has dealt with more than they will ever have to, considering Carlos is still paralyzed from the knee down on his left side after taking those five bullets on that horrible August 2021 night.

He offers words that keep them going. The ones that have kept him going.

“Our trauma doesn’t get any easier,” he relates. “But as time goes on, we learn to live with it better.”

Now, Carlos Yanez Jr. will be able to bring those words, his unmatched support and never-ending compassion to Lodge 7 members with formal and perpetual care. He will be serving as the Chicago FOP Wellness Advocate, charged with spreading his welcoming, helping hand to members and their families in times of crisis.

This is the latest brainstorm from Lodge 7 President John Catanzara: to bring Carlos into the FOP’s full-time fold to provide another premium service to members.

“Carlos is going to focus on injured officers, whether cata-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36



strophically injured or otherwise,” Catanzara explains. “Make sure there’s nothing they need. If they do, address them and even hold group therapy sessions with the catastrophically injured officers to talk about their struggles.”

Carlos confides that he can’t even find the words to describe what this opportunity means, but know that it fits in with his motivation and mantra for pushing through those many painful months of rehab and recovery, when support and prayers got him and his family through.

“Every little thing that I do is my way of thanking everybody,” Carlos shares. “I can’t ride with my brothers and sisters in the car and help them. But now I have the opportunity to work closer, to have an impact on mental health that’s so important.”

Perhaps it was hearing from officers Carlos met in callback about how they have maintained relationships that triggered Catanzara’s idea to bring him on. Or maybe the Lodge 7 president was inspired to charge Carlos with the wellness watch by seeing him respond immediately when Nelson Crespo was shot and catastrophically injured at the end of April. No member or executive board member has been to the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab to hang out with Crespo more than Carlos.

Is there a more powerful sign of what this all can do for members than Carlos constantly returning to the place where he once lay without being able to speak, see or even move? Prior to finalizing the move, Carlos met with Dr. Carrie Steiner, the police psychologist and former Chicago Police Officer, who meets with members regularly at the Lodge wellness facilities on the second floor of the offices on West Washington Avenue.

Dr. Steiner, too, suffered through some extreme trauma on the job that led to her taking an early retirement and pursuing counseling the police. She sees the healing that Carlos can bring to those enduring similar trauma.

“He can give that mindset and help other people to have that inspiration and say, ‘Yeah, OK, here’s what I can do rather than what I can’t do,’” Dr. Steiner submits. “I think it could really benefit the Chicago Police Officers because I don’t know anybody that has met Carlos who hasn’t been in awe of him.”

Probably because Carlos knows no rest when responding to sisters and brothers who can use his help. Seems like he’s always on the move.

As he was discussing details of this new position, background noise kept crackling though his phone. Turns out, he was on his way to court for a hearing for Alphonso Talley, who shot Crespo and killed Officer John Bartholomew.

“[It’s] so important to be there, not only supporting the families because they have to deal with the loss, but then the families of those offenders, because some of them can be very ignorant,” he says.

If a call comes in to Lodge 7 of an incident involving an officer, whether they have discharged a weapon or been injured, Carlos will be called into action, he reports.

“I drop what I’m doing and go to the hospital,” he says.

But that’s not all, especially in these excruciatingly trying times for Chicago Police Officers.

There are options to speak with licensed clinicians between Dr. Steiner and the Department’s EAP and peer team. Carlos just offers another option, with support that is not available anywhere else.

“So any officer who wants to give me a call just to talk, shoot the shit, sometimes that’s pretty much what we need,” Carlos declares. “I’m not a licensed clinician. I tell everybody I just go off what my experiences are.”

Members get that immediate shot of rejuvenation when talking with Carlos. It’s the awe that he’s still here, he’s talking, he’s not giving in to his limitations and is even thriving from them. He’s a medical anomaly, of course, which has made him an inspiration to the medical community.

But Carlos is not doing this to be a miracle worker. In fact, it’s the



value of not taking any day for granted that will be so valuable for his fellow members.

"As psychologists, we're constantly trying to help people live for the day," Dr. Steiner submits. "When people have anxiety, depression, PTSD, it's because of the past or because it might happen in the future. That's where most people get stuck. You're happiest when you're present. I think that's what you're seeing with him. He lives more presently, and that's why he's fun to be around and inspirational — because he does value [the idea that] 'Wow, I'm able to walk down this hall today.'"

Clinically speaking, research shows that the more grateful you are, the happier you're going to be. Perhaps that will be Carlos' greatest contribution as the wellness advocate.

Or perhaps it will be giving fellow officers one of their own to talk to. Dr. Steiner can confirm that she hears that from just about every cop she works with.

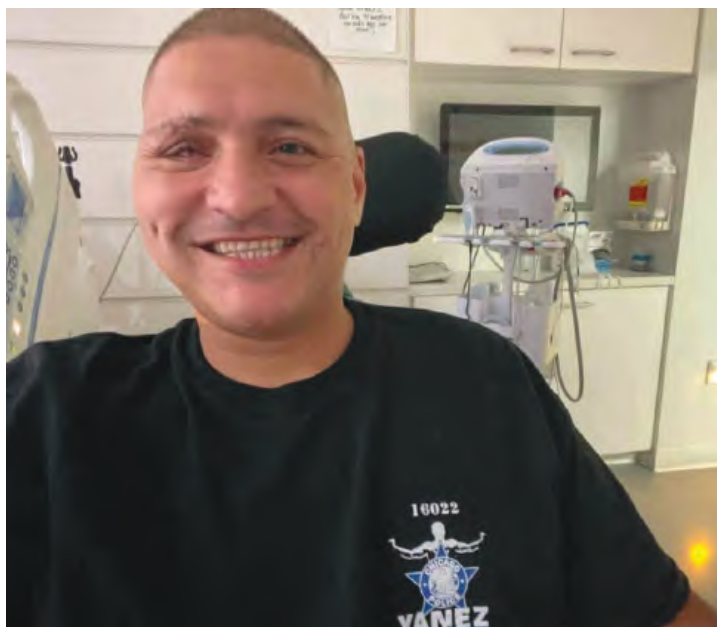
"I think that that is going to be monumental for him," she continues. "Not only being a police officer, but a Chicago Police Officer, and one that was in a very public incident. It's almost like, 'Oh my gosh, I got to speak with Carlos.' I think that people are going to feel that way."

Carlos has been experiencing that connection for much of the last three years. He knows the virtue of talking about what happened on that horrible August 2021 night.

"Every time I talk about my incident, it makes it easier," Carlos reveals. "Then I see officers open up quickly to me. Usually the first words out of the officer's mouth are like, 'I'm not going through anything close to you.' I always stop them there. I'm like, 'Everybody's trauma is their own trauma.' And we just try to find healthy methods to cope with the trauma."

Do you need to talk?

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