



Fraternal Order of Police

CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine • October 2026

608

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other 607 Chicago Police Officers inscribed
on the Gold Star Families Memorial wall**



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What's in the Names

It's a daunting number to say the least: 608 Chicago Police Officers killed in the line of duty; 608 names on the Gold Star Family Memorial wall; 608 names called at the annual Chicago Police Memorial Foundation Candlelight Vigil on Sept. 30. The most recent name added to the wall and included in the Vigil is another one of those emotional and amazing stories of honoring the heroes and continuing to never forget their loss. Starting with John Bartholomew, here's a special look back on the fallen and those who continue to honor them.



COVER DESIGN BY JENNA RAMOS

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Honoring Her Sacrifice



A Day on the Green



CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine
President's Report



Number Crunch



JOHN
CATANZARA
JR.

The number leaves me with no words.
608!

Six hundred and eight Chicago Police Officers who have been lost in the line of duty. It hit me hard during the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation Candlelight Vigil to remember and honor the fallen on the night of Sept. 30.

Earlier in the day, we gathered at Gold Star Families Memorial and Park, where the names of all 608 are inscribed. We unveiled number 608: John G. Bartholomew, who we know was taken from us in April. Rain streamed down the wall like teardrops at Gold Star Park as his wife, Renee, and her children stood by.

Our brother joining his fellow heroes on the wall had an Arlington National Cemetery feel about it. I could almost hear Trace Adkins' song "Arlington" playing amid the rhythm of the raindrops.

*They folded up a flag and told my Mom and Dad
"We're proud of your son"*

*And I'm proud to be on this peaceful piece of property
I'm on sacred ground and I'm in the best of company
I'm thankful for those thankful for the things I've done
I can rest in peace
I'm one of the chosen ones
I made it to Arlington*

Not a place anybody wants to be. But if your number is up, there is no more noble a place an officer can be.

The reckoning of the 608 and recognizing them on the cover of this issue came over me maybe along with a tear as the vigil began. It was that emotional.

With everything else that has gone on in the past year, I've become more reflective about the past seven years. No one knows what the future holds. I might not be in this position six months from now. I hope I am. I plan on being here.

But this might have been my last candlelight vigil as Lodge 7 president and, more importantly, my last honor of speaking on behalf of a fallen officer as the name is unveiled at the wall. If nothing else, I hope there are no other names. We have lost 11 members during the six and a half years of this administration and another five who died from COVID and were later confirmed as LODDs.

It is humbling to be able to speak at these events. Every single time, we ask ourselves, "Why did this officer end up on the wall? Why today? What if they did this differently? What if they did that differently?"

Bottom line is that it doesn't add up. The what ifs could easily be, "What if I did something different in my own life? Is it too late?" Why don't we all take a look at ourselves and say, "What if I did something different to affect my life or someone else's life positively in this very divisive world?" I think that should be a lesson we all take from the ceremony.

A big what if is this: What if that change necessitated showing up to the court hearings for the filth that have killed our members? That's where our numbers can make a difference. We need hundreds of us there when John's killer is in court, and for the other families.

We do not have great turnouts at these status hearings. We need to do a better job. We say never forget, but we need to start proving it because I can tell you Renee Bartholomew and her family have experienced some very uncomfortable and aggravating moments in court because the offender's family has no sympathy for us. No consideration. No care.

In those moments, it is re-traumatizing these family members almost as much as the loss itself. So when they turn to see who's in the courtroom supporting them, they need to see hundreds of us. If we're not there, shame on us.

You know who will always try to be there? Nelson Crespo. He was at the unveiling of his partner's name. I'm thrilled that he wanted to be there for that moment. That's huge mental recovery for him.

At the Hellenic Association benefit a few days earlier, I had a chance to talk with Jim Mullen. If you recall, he was catastrophically injured on the job 26 years ago and has lived on with the same paralysis as Crespo.

Jim let me know that he had spent some time with Nelson and I said, "Jim, I think realistically you're the one person that he can pick up something from because he is going to have setbacks. He's going to

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have realizations that he's not progressing as quickly as he might want to or hope to. And I think words from someone like you would ring differently than someone who recovered from the original injury. I hope you keep maintaining that contact. I think it'll mean the world to Nelson to pick him up when he's having those moments of doubt."

The ceremony at Gold Star Park and the candlelight vigil were filled with Kodak moments. I wish we could have heard from Fred Waller

about one of his.

I've watched superintendents present flags to loved ones of fallen officers. I could see the emotion in Fred's eyes when he was giving Renee a hug after he gave her the flag. It was as genuine sorrow as you can imagine, and that hasn't always been the case with past sups. I'm not saying they cared any less or any more. But it's nice to see the genuine emotion in the superintendent as he reached out to the loved ones.

President's Report: Second Stories

Supreme Power

Hopefully, you saw me coming to you live from Springfield on Sept. 24 in a video we posted after hearing arguments on the arbitration for termination case at the Illinois Supreme Court. It would be great if we had some breaking news here, but at least we can give you what we have down to the minute.

After all, we have been waiting three years for a termination case to be heard in arbitration. It's disgusting. It shouldn't be that long to get a decision from the Supreme Court. We anticipate hearing sometime before the end of the year.

We are looking to overturn the appeals court, which basically ruled that arbitration needs to be public, not private. Our attorney, Matt Pierce, did a phenomenal job with the oral arguments. The Supreme Court justices were engaged.

The City was asking them to vacate the whole thing, including the remaining paid status, which the appellate court overturned the chancery court. Chancery court ruled that you have a right to arbitration, but it has to be public, and then you do not remain in a paid status.

The appellate court overturned the paid status part but ruled that it's

still a public event. So we are asking for that to be overturned and the original award of private arbitration and remaining in paid status to be enacted in full.

It's something we have fought for several years now. The reality is that this provision was never exercised in the past when we had much friendlier administrations that wouldn't have challenged it. I have no idea why no one ever thought, "Let's at least have an option to take the police board to arbitration." But that never occurred for whatever reason.

Matt did a phenomenal job pointing out that the City had never even challenged the First Amendment part of this argument in the appellate level. So, you can't make that argument now, even though they tried.

There is no basis for what the City is trying to do. City attorney Jim Franczek himself in negotiations acknowledged that this was probably going to be a loser. But it seems like they have committed to stringing this out until a new Bears stadium opens . . . and putting officers through hell making them wait for this process.

In Her Name



There will never be a more momentous National Women in Law Enforcement Day like this past Sept. 12. There might never be a day to remember for the Chicago Police Department and the 3rd District like this past Sept. 12.

At a long-overdue and memorable event, 003 officially became the 3rd District Grand Crossing Dorelle C. Brandon Police Station on Sept. 12. Current and past members from 003 came out in force to witness the first female Chicago police officer ever killed in the line of duty receive unprecedented due in this Department.

It was sad that it had to be such a political hot potato and that there was even pettiness from people there like Alderman William Hall, who had to point out to everybody there's no one person responsible for all these kinds of things. Bullshit.

There is one person responsible for all of this, and it's Rita Pritchett, who was on the job for 30 years and put in more than 40 years with the Department. Rita's commitment and tenacity to bug people to get this done puts respect on her name and that of pretty much every female officer who has ever worked for the Department.

If Rita didn't come up with this idea, it would have never happened. If

she didn't get the ball rolling and bother Congressman John Jackson, it would have never happened. If she didn't keep bothering Hall, he would have never drafted the ordinance to do it. It was never going to happen without Rita and that's just the simple, God's honest truth.

She has such class and grace. Dorelle's husband, Matt, who met her when they were in the same academy class in 1977, cried, especially when Rita started singing. She told me, "John, they don't want me to sing." I'm like, "It's your friend. It was your coworker. If that's what you want to do, then you sing for your friend, and you sing for Matt." And that's exactly what she did. She has a heart of gold, and I'm glad she got to see this all the way through.

They spruced up the outside of the 3rd District. I've never seen it look that good, so kudos to everybody there. Kudos to the 3rd District alumni. They show out, man, in big numbers.

When she decided to do this, I just simply said, "Rita, you tell me what your vision is, and I will do everything I can as far as the Lodge's ability to make it happen for you. I believe in your cause, and I certainly think we owe it to our first fallen female officer."

Being There on 9/11

Not sure we've ever had a four-day run like the one that took us to New York to be part of the 9/11 25th anniversary ceremony. We drove the 800 miles with our food trailer, landing on Sept. 10, then went to the World Trade Center site before the sun came up on 9/11. On Sept. 12, I flew to Chicago for the ceremony at the 3rd District, flew back to New York that night and hit the road right away to come home.

We never hesitated to go the distance for this cause. The police and firefighters in New York were absolutely phenomenal in getting us in and out of lower Manhattan, which was not easy. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Department and their union Local was a huge help in securing our trailer and moving through the streets of New York City.

Once we were there, we were stationed very close to the fire department's annual setup right across from the World Trade Center site. Those guys were just outstanding. Gave us any rides we needed on their golf cart.

They had some of our beef sandwiches and invited us over to their tent once we were done for the day. They couldn't have been more grateful that we came and acknowledged their 343 firefighters who were lost that day, plus the hundreds more lost since due to the terminal illnesses they contracted

working rescue and recovery following the attack.

It was just a way for Chicago to let them know we remember. It was not, as some people tried to make it out, some glorious vacation. This was a business trip with a very small window to come so far so fast and accomplish the mission.

Steve Olsen, one of the Lodge 7 trustees, made the drive with me. David DiSanti, our trustee chairman, and Rob Noceda, recording secretary, were also there.

For our generation, the attack on 9/11 was the most significant event in American history. I'm sure the greatest generation would say the same thing about Pearl Harbor. That got us into a major world war during which millions were lost.

Standing outside the firehouse across from Ground Zero, the firefighters had their own little service. It was a unique perspective on how quickly 25 years went by.

I can't say there's one specific image that defined the trip. It was a series of just interactions amongst human beings from all walks of life who had one sole purpose. It was kind of like that feeling shortly after 9/11 when we were all American again. It's neat experiencing that again in this very divided society that we live in today.



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Leadership is More Than a Title



**MICHAEL
METTE**

Over the course of my career, I have had the privilege of serving in several roles—on patrol, tact, MSF, Area Saturation and Area Gun Teams, as an elected Lodge officer, in officer wellness and Peer Support, and alongside organizations that support law enforcement families. Each experience has reinforced the same lesson: Leadership is not defined by the title printed beneath your name. It is defined by how you treat people, particularly when doing the right thing is difficult or inconvenient.

It is easy to lead when everyone agrees with you. The true test comes when someone asks a hard question, challenges a decision, or holds a different opinion. Strong leaders do not silence disagreement or treat questions as disloyalty. They listen, explain their decisions, and ensure that every person receives the fairness and respect they deserve.

Leadership also requires transparency and accountability. None of us is above making mistakes. What matters is whether we acknowledge them, correct them, and learn from them. Trust is not created by demanding loyalty. It is earned through consistent actions, honest communication, and a willingness to be held to the same standards we expect of others.

Within our Lodge, protecting fairness and due process must never

depend on who a person is, what position they hold, or whether they agree with those in authority. Principles only have meaning when we defend them for everyone—including those with whom we may disagree. If fairness is applied selectively, it is no longer fairness.

Titles and positions are temporary. Eventually, every one of us will hand our responsibilities to someone else. When that day comes, we will not be remembered simply for the offices we held. We will be remembered for whether we answered the phone, returned a message, stood beside a member during a difficult time, and had the courage to speak when remaining silent would have been easier.

Leadership is not limited to elected officials. Every day, officers lead during roll call, on the street, and in their homes. We lead when we guide a younger officer, check on a coworker who is struggling, or step forward when something is not right. Some of the finest leaders I have known never held an elected title.

As we look toward the future of our Lodge, we should expect leadership that listens, communicates openly, respects our governing rules, and places the membership ahead of personalities or personal interests. Those should not be controversial expectations. They are the foundation of a strong and united organization.

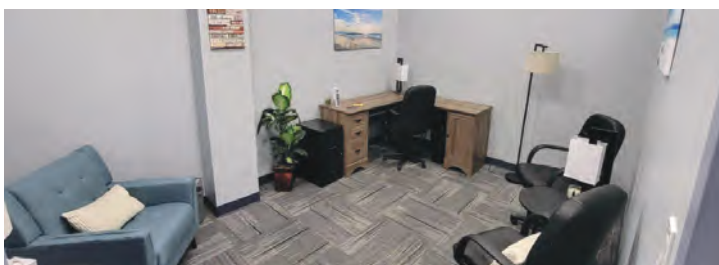
Authority may come with a title, but leadership must be earned. In the end, our titles will change hands. The integrity, courage, and example we leave behind will remain.



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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
INTERNAL AFFAIRS Failure to adequately secure a prisoner in lock-up/glass inhaler bottle	1-day suspension	Not sustained
INTERNAL AFFAIRS Pursuit-related allegations and BWC	30-day suspension	Expunged
INTERNAL AFFAIRS Fail to inventory found property after foot pursuit	20-day suspension	5-day suspension
INTERNAL AFFAIRS Alleged misuse of department equipment	2-day suspension	Upheld
INTERNAL AFFAIRS Fail to report officer misconduct and BWC related	7-day suspension	5-day suspension

QUOTE BOARD

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

Quotes from the 9-page arbitration decision re: Failure to adequately secure a prisoner in lock-up. (B.I.A. - Investigator's name redacted)

"I find that despite his well-intentioned gesture to accommodate [the arrestee's] professed medical need, [Ofc #1] violated General Order... allowing [the arrestee] to retain a small glass bottle containing his nasal medication while in the ... processing holding cell. Thus, the Department has met its burden of proof that it had just cause to issue discipline to Ofc. [#1]."

"There are situations where two or more Officers involved in a task may have designated responsibilities that warrant different degrees of accountability."

"Next, I find insufficient evidence that either Officer was negligent in monitoring [the arrestee]. It was undisputed that the physical layout of the processing area, particularly where the computer terminal is placed for personnel to do the required reports, does not provide a clear view of the entire holding cell."

"I concur with Cmdr. Spreyne's comment that there is no BWC video from the arrest itself in the CR file..."

Quotes from the 11-page arbitration decision re: Pursuit and BWC (B.I.A. - Investigator's name redacted)

"Prior to considering the merits of the allegations, I must first address the Lodge's affirmative defense that the CR and 10-day suspension constitute Double Jeopardy because the Officers had each accepted a SPAR (reprimand) submitted by their supervisor...and subsequently approved by the Commanding Officer..."

"In the instant case, the Department increased the discipline from a reprimand to a 10-day suspension after more than three months."

"In view of the foregoing, I find the BIA's CR and 10-days suspension recommended discipline Double Jeopardy and lacking just cause."

Quotes from the 10-page arbitration decision re: Fail to inventory found property after foot pursuit (B.I.A. - Investigator's name redacted)

"Even though [the officer] could not establish ownership at that time, he nonetheless stated on video that "here's the guy's shoes..." Thus, he suspected they belonged to the person they were chasing but who outran them."

"First, it is not lost on this Arbitrator that [the officer] derived no benefit from his actions. He discarded the cellphone believing it was broken, and he showed kindness and goodwill by giving the gym shoes to an unhoused person who frequents the Jefferson Park CTA terminal."

Quotes from the 9-page arbitration decision re: Alleged misuse of department equipment (B.I.A. - Investigator's name redacted)

"As a preliminary procedural due process matter, I have reviewed the Lodge's arguments that the allegations against [the officer] should be dismissed because of the non-compliance with Appendix L. As this is an affirmative defense, it is the Lodge that

bears the burden to prove its assertion.”

“The Department argues that the lack of certification by the head of either COPA or BIA in the case file is a minimal oversight.”

“As stated, I find the relevant language of Appendix L is clear and unambiguous. Paragraph 9 states that there are exceptions to the certification requirement set forth in paragraphs 1 through 4. I have reviewed those exceptions and do not find them applicable here.”

**Quotes from the 6-page arbitration decision re:
Fail to report officer's misconduct and BWC related allegations
(B.I.A. - Investigator's name redacted)**

“I find there were several mitigating factors that must be considered.”

“I also found [the officer's] interview with the BIA compelling.”

“It is widely accepted among arbitrators that a penalty may be reduced when there is an unlikelihood that the employee may repeat the misconduct.”

“After carefully reviewing [the officer's] interview with the BIA, I can find no evidence to suggest that the mistakes [the officer] admitted making in this case would likely be repeated. I also note that the record is unclear whether any of the Officers who acknowledged seeing [misconduct], but who allegedly failed to report [the] misconduct at the time, received similar discipline to [this officer].”

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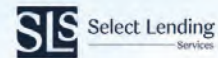
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After 35 Years in the 25th District, “Papi” Reflects on the Job



ROB
NOCEDA

Hello Lodge 7. I pray this finds you well.

I only met Dan Mieszcak right after he retired because we had to file a grievance for him regarding retirement credentials. (We are working on getting Dan's credentials for his minor CR.)

Dan “Papi” Mieszcak retired this September from the Chicago Police Department after a 35-year career, all spent in the 25th District.

Rob Noceda: How does it feel, and what do you want to say after 35 years?

Dan Mieszcak: First off, I have to thank my family for putting up with everything that was dished out for the last 35 years. I had a great run. I come from a family who wears the uniform, which includes my father, who served in WWII, and my oldest son, who is also on CPD with 14 years now. We all wear a uniform. They know what it's like.

Rob Noceda: That's impressive. Do you have any words for the members on how 35 years goes by? What's the secret?

Dan Mieszcak: No secrets. Those early years, the 5-to-7-year range, are when you have to decide. It was probably prior to that, in the early '90s, that I had a veteran officer tell me, “You better make yourself love this job, or else it will be difficult.” So, slowly but surely, I got what she was saying. I looked forward to going to work every day. You make yourself love the job, and it goes by a lot easier.

Rob Noceda: That veteran officer really inspired you to dig deep. What advice would you give to young members on the job?

Dan Mieszcak: We are a much better department than we were in the '90s with character, honesty, and technology. I have seen it grow by leaps and bounds. These kids who have the drive to come on the job are better than we were. I am always impressed with the determination of people to get on the job. It was not always professional in the early '90s. We fought our way to here. Embrace the technology, such as the new PCAD.

Rob Noceda: What else would you like to say to instill or inspire in Officers?

Dan Mieszcak: Certain lifestyles are not your friend. Keep yourself physically fit. Watch your time at work. Balance it with your family and get your sleep. You can't serve the public unless you serve yourself first.

Dan Mieszcak: I also want to add that, given my situation, it is important to stay in the union, even after retirement. I was honored, celebrated, and had a very nice sendoff from the 025th District. I walked out of Headquarters without credentials. The next day, I was at FOP filling out a grievance with you. I am not angry or bitter. I also filled out my pension deduction form and paid my \$50 to stay in the union. This might not be the only thing. A year from now, I might get a notification. Staying in the union is important. It is peace of mind. In 35 years, I never took a day. I thank the Lodge and the FOP attorneys. They were always sharp.

Rob Noceda: I thank you, Dan, for doing this interview. It is a pleasure and an honor to talk to you. We appreciate you serving 35 years as a CPD and Lodge 7 member.

Dan Mieszcak: Like an old-timer said regarding a conversation on five-year step raises – I don't know who it was, but he said, “Don't wish it away, kid.” Now I know what he was talking about. When you're having a good time, it goes by fast. It's like that other veteran officer said: “Make yourself have a good time.”

Rob Noceda: It is a pleasure to have this interview with you. It is a breath of fresh air that you have such a positive mentality.

Dan Mieszcak: In a funny way, I am kind of glad it worked out this way. I never put a grievance in before. If it wasn't for this foul-up, which will get straightened out, we would have never met.

Rob Noceda: Also, thank you for the challenge coin.

Dan Mieszcak: I saw all your coins and thought, “I've got to send you one of mine.” In closing, I am not sore about leaving. It's time to get out of the way. It is time to open my spot for a younger, smarter, and more trained person.

Rob Noceda: That is very complimentary of you to say about the members coming on. How did you get your nickname “Papi?”

Dan Mieszcak: I have a beat tag that is PAPI22. It just came along one day. The kids on afternoons would call me Dad, and I would say, “That's Papi.”

Dan leaves you with a joke. Many of Dan's friends and co-workers on the job got promoted and left 025. They would tell Dan they were going to call for him. Dan's tradition was going to the desk and asking the desk officers:

“Did anyone call for me?”

The desk would always respond: “No.”

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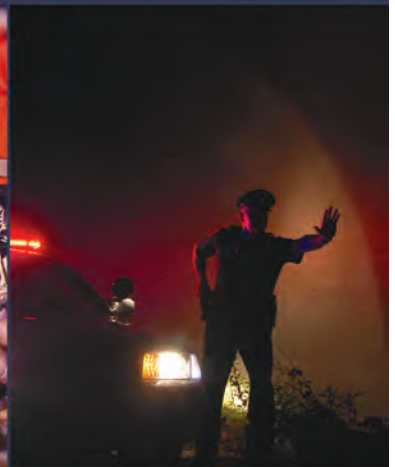
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Chicago FOP Fishing Derby Brings Members Together



JIM
JAKSTAVICH

Hello again, Officers, both active and retired. We recently held the 3rd Annual Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 Fishing Derby at Lake Marie in Antioch, IL. We had 30 boats with over 60 fishermen of all ages and skill levels. I must give credit to P.O. Jon "Cat-fish" Morlock for organizing the derby with the participants, planning with Fox Waterway Agency, hustling raffle prizes, and putting together the weigh-in and luncheon at the Sandbar Bar & Grille, situated on beautiful Lake Marie. This could not have been possible without the membership's participation, which had some

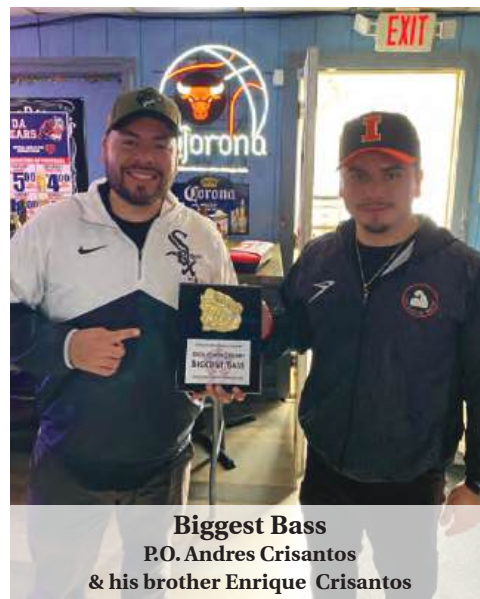
lifelong friends, father-and-son teams, and entire families partnering up in their quest to hook into the largest bass on Lake Marie. This derby has created lifelong memories for some and bragging rights for others. The following derby winners are:

Biggest Bass – P.O. Andres Crisantos & his brother Enrique Crisantos

1st Place – Sgt. Joseph Chlipala & Det. Kevin Eberle

2nd Place – Retired Det. Ed Beazley Jr. & Al Favata

3rd Place – P.O. Joseph Cappello & Andy Ciabattari



Biggest Bass
P.O. Andres Crisantos
& his brother Enrique Crisantos



1st Place
Sgt. Joseph Chlipala & Det. Kevin Eberle



2nd Place
Retired Det. Ed Beazley Jr. & Al Favata



3rd Place
P.O. Joseph Cappello & Andy Ciabattari



Off-Duty Incidents Resulting in Arrest



MICHAEL COLLINS

Hello again, brothers and sisters, both active and retired. An issue I would like to address is off-duty incidents and what to do if you should be involved in something off-duty. As you all know, being a Chicago Police Officer is a very difficult job, and it comes with a great deal of stress. Sometimes that stress leads to poor judgement. We are all human and make mistakes just like everyone else in different professions. One mistake should never define you as a person or what kind of police officer you are.

If you have been placed in custody and subsequently released, there are a few steps you must take. First, contact FOP and speak with a field representative who will advise you and put you in contact with one of our Legal Defense team attorneys. Please do not answer questions related to your case with anyone other than your union representative and attorney.

From there, it is on you to notify the Department via a To-From made out to your District Commander, notifying him/her of your arrest. You do not need to go into great detail; it is simply a notification that you were involved in an off-duty

incident that resulted in an arrest. Please provide the date and location of the incident. The subject of your To-From should be "Notification of Off-Duty Incident."

Next, you must notify the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB) via a Notice of Incident/Arrest Form. I have attached a sample form for reference. This form can also be found at www.ptb.illinois.gov.

The form is pretty self-explanatory; however, it is very important that you fill this out and send it back to www.ptb.complaints@illinois.gov within 14 days of your arrest. In the summary/description of incident box, please include the following narrative:

"Based upon advice of Counsel, I am invoking my right to remain silent under the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution and the right not to incriminate myself under the Illinois Constitution. I will acknowledge that I was placed under arrest by the (Law Enforcement Agency) on (Date), and I have a court appearance in the Circuit Court of (Name of County)."

You will then be notified to appear at BIA and Human Resources. If you were not stripped the day/night of your arrest, this is when you will be stripped. You are to bring your ID, star, and shield. **DO NOT BRING YOUR WEAPON TO BIA.** BIA will then take possession of those items, and hand you a copy of the property form. Please keep that copy for your records.

It should be known that you will not be asked any questions or be interviewed at this time. This is simply an administrative stripping. From there, you will walk down to Human Resources to be detailed to Unit 376, Callback/Alternate Response Section (ARS), and issued a temporary ID. While you are at Human Resources, it is important to request your preferred watch at Callback/ARS. I will say they are very accommodating and try their best to make this process as smooth as possible for you.

Eventually, after your court proceedings have ended, BIA will notify you of your CR/LOG#, the formal administrative allegations made against you, and the date and time to appear for a statement regarding those allegations. At this time, please make sure you contact me at FOP so I can review your case and determine whether mediation is your best option for limiting your penalty as much as possible.

If we determine that mediation is your best option and BIA accepts our mediation request, you will not have to give a BIA statement. You will simply accept the terms of the mediation agreement and serve your agreed-upon suspension.

I hope this gives you a basic understanding of the process. Please contact me at FOP to discuss this matter in more detail. If you are ever arrested and need immediate assistance, please contact the FOP. A Field Representative is on call 24 hours a day.

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NOTICE OF INCIDENT / ARREST

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Name:		Agency:
SUBJECT OFFICER Information		
Subject Name:		Subject PTB ID:
☐ This report is for myself. ☒ My agency has been notified of my arrest. ☐ My agency has NOT been notified of my arrest.		☐ This report is for an officer at my agency. ☐ This report is for an officer at _____.
OFFENSE Information		
Date of Arrest:	Arresting Agency:	
Summary/Description of Incident: Based upon advice of Counsel, I am invoking my right to remain silent under the 5th Amendment to the United States Constitution and the right not to incriminate myself under the Illinois constitution. I will acknowledge that I was placed under arrest by the (Law Enforcement Agency) on (Date) and I have a court appearance in the Circuit Court of (name county).		
Charging County:	Court Case Number:	Next Court Date:
Charge(s):		
Signature:		Date:

Please use additional pages if needed and attach all relevant documentation.



A Worthy Cause



KENYATTA
GAINES

After serving as President of CAWLE for 10 years, CAWLE's founder, Sgt. Janice Brown decided it was time to pass the torch of presidency. With a well-rooted mission, a healthy budget, and the monumental success of hosting the International Association of Women Police (IAWP) conference here in Chicago, Sgt. Brown felt she had secured her legacy and wanted to devote more time to her growing family. She was confident in longtime member Antoinette Alcazar's ability to lead CAWLE into the future. Now, Sgt. Alcazar carries an unrelenting passion for the organization and its potential to catapult women into leadership through mentorship.

-Sgt. Alcazar recounts her experience -

Law enforcement is more than a uniform. More than rank. More than titles. It is resilience, service, sacrifice, leadership, and the relationships built through some of the most demanding and meaningful work anyone can do. That is the heart of the Chicago Association of Women in Law Enforcement (CAWLE). As CAWLE celebrates more than a decade of service, people ask why I have continued my mentorship and accepted the privilege of serving as President. Well, shortly after the organization was founded, I attended one of its early events and found myself surrounded by women I deeply respected. They encouraged me, believed in me, and saw qualities in me that I wasn't yet sure I saw in myself. They made me feel seen. They made me feel that I belonged. That experience stayed with me. It gave me friendships, confidence, purpose, and a deep sense of pride in being part of a community of women committed to serving others. I knew I wanted to help preserve that experience so other women could discover the same encouragement and support that I had found. Serving as President has only strengthened that commitment.

One of the greatest privileges has been learning the stories of the remarkable women throughout our profession. Most of those

stories will never make headlines, yet they are extraordinary. They are stories of women who quietly show up every day with integrity, resilience, compassion, professionalism, and unwavering dedication. They remind me that leadership is not always measured by rank or public recognition. More often, it is found in faithfully serving others, one day at a time.

CAWLE strives to recognize, support, connect, and empower the women who strengthen our profession. Our mission is rooted in mentorship, leadership development, education, recognition, scholarships, professional networking, and community service. Through these opportunities, we seek to encourage women at every stage of their careers while building lasting relationships that strengthen both the individuals and the profession as a whole.

CAWLE proudly welcomes sworn and civilian women because we recognize that law enforcement is far greater than those who wear the badge. Every day, these professionals work side by side in service of the same mission. Whether serving in communications, administration, records, forensic service, victim services, technology, logistics, legal and public affairs, or countless other essential roles, the expertise of our civilian sisters support those on the front lines. Our organization is stronger because it reflects the many ways women contribute to public safety.

Throughout the year, CAWLE brings people together through events such as our Sip & Paint fundraiser and Annual Bingo Night. While these events are filled with laughter, fellowship, and friendship, they serve a greater purpose. They create opportunities for retirees, families, supporters, and community partners to connect while raising funds that allow CAWLE to continue providing scholarships, education, leadership development, recognition programs, and outreach. One of the greatest joys of serving this organization has been presenting scholarships via the CPFTA program to deserving recipients. Watching young women walk across the stage and seeing the pride and emotion on the faces of their families is something I will never forget. Those occasions remind me that we are investing in the future of our

profession and encouraging the next generation of women leaders.

The moments that stay with me the longest are those that happen in the hallways. They happen when a colleague quietly stops me to say, "Thank you for giving your time. Thank you for helping women continue to be seen and move forward." Those simple interactions remind me why organizations like CAWLE matter. Every woman deserves to know that her service is valued, that her contributions make a difference, and that she has a community standing beside her. Every membership, every sponsorship, every event ticket purchased, and every donation directly supports our mission. Those contributions help fund scholarships, leadership opportunities, educational programing, recognition events, mentorship, and initiatives that strengthen women serving in law enforcement. Whether you are a sworn officer, civilian professional, a retiree, a student preparing for a career in law enforcement, or someone who simply believes in supporting women who serve, we invite you to become a part of

the CAWLE family. Together, we are building a profession where every woman is seen, supported, encouraged, and empowered to lead. To learn more, become a member, or support our mission, visit www.cawle.org.

-From the board members-

For a long time, the culture of the Chicago Police Department was divided by gender, with women facing additional barriers when it came to advancing through the ranks. Thankfully, a former ADS was honest enough to recommend that his female co-worker should be his replacement because he felt she was smarter than his two male counterparts combined. His tutelage was invaluable. I have an enormous amount of appreciation for the women who came before me who endured the barriers and obstacles of yesteryear. They created a path for us. I want to help make that path wider and easier for the women who come after us.

When I joined CPD, I knew I

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20



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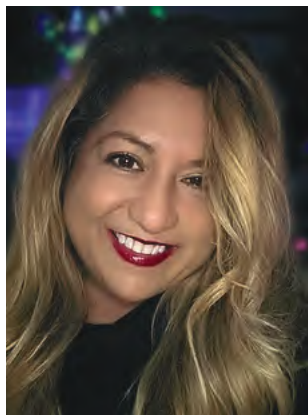
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would have to navigate the “old boys’ club.” I was not prepared for a culture of women that did not support one another. I naively believed that experienced female officers would naturally take me under their wing, mentor me, and help me grow. I was fortunate to meet some incredible women. I also encountered unhealthy competition, exclusion, and environments where success was sometimes viewed as a threat rather than something to celebrate. Thankfully, CAWLE is built on mentorship, encouragement, and professional development. It unites women of every rank who are willing to share their knowledge, offer guidance, and help others navigate the unique challenges of policing. It is a place where experience is shared, confidence is built, and women are encouraged to succeed together rather than compete against one another.

CAWLE’s mission extends beyond networking. We provide leadership opportunities, promotional preparation, and specialized training that equips women to excel in every aspect of the profession. We are currently working to expand our training opportunities to include firearms and tactical defensive skills so that women are even better prepared for the realities of this job.



To the entire CAWLE body, thank you! Together we serve. Together we lead. Together, we continue building a stronger future for women in law enforcement.

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Let's Not Forget Our "Labor" History



PAT
FIORETTO

Since we observed Labor Day last month, it might be a good time for a quick labor history review. A labor union, in general, is an organization of workers who join together to negotiate with employers, with its main purpose being to secure better pay, health benefits, safer working conditions, and fair treatment through the collective bargaining process.

Unions began forming in the mid-19th century in response to the social and economic impact of the Industrial Revolution. National labor unions began to form in the post-Civil War era. The Knights of Labor emerged as a major force in the late 1880s, but it collapsed because of poor organization, lack of effective leadership, disagreement over goals, and strong opposition from employers and government forces. American labor unions benefitted greatly from various policies enacted by the federal government, leading to the passage of the National Labor Relation Act, which does not apply to public-sector employees.

The American Federation of Labor ("AFL"), founded in 1886 and led by Samuel Gompers until his death in 1924, proved much more durable and held itself out as a craft union. It arose as a loose coalition of various local unions and helped coordinate and support strikes. The Congress of Industrial Organizations ("CIO") was a federation of unions that organized workers in industrial unions from 1935 to 1955. Together, the AFL and CIO were the

two strongest labor advocates in the country. In 1955, the AFL merged with the CIO, ending a division that sought to undermine the very foundation of organized labor.

The percentage of workers belonging to a union peaked in 1954 at almost 35%, while the total number of union members peaked in 1979 at an estimated 21 million workers. However, union membership has declined since, with private-sector union membership beginning a steady decline that continued into the 2010s. However, membership in public-sector unions continues to grow. A recent report shows about 800,000 sworn law enforcement officers across the country, working for 18,000 federal, state, county, and local police agencies. Between 75% and 80% of them belonged to a union. This has not always been the case.

In 1892, the Police Benevolent Association (PBA) of the City of New York formed in New York City, originally acting as a fraternal organization. In 1915, the first chapter of the Fraternal Order of Police was formed in Pittsburgh, where members fought to better the working conditions of Police Officers. However, securing collective bargaining rights would take a lot longer.

In June 1919, Samuel Gompers (a British-born American cigar maker who served as the first and longest-serving president of the American Federation of Labor) championed one of the first strikes by police officers who worked for the Boston Police Department. The short-lived strike resulted in four days of public disorder, a handful of deaths, and widespread property

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damage. Then-President Wilson declared the strike to be a “crime against civilization.” Meanwhile, Massachusetts Governor Calvin Coolidge sent Gompers a telegram proclaiming: “There is no right to strike against the public safety by anybody, anywhere, any time.” For decades afterward, police and other public employees were prevented from organizing, and today there remains a universal prohibition on Officers and other public safety employees from striking.

In the 1960s, many state laws changed to allow public-sector employees the right to collective bargaining. On January 7, 1963, the FOP granted a charter to “Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge No. 7,” establishing Lodge 7 as a subordinate lodge with full power under its jurisdiction for the City of Chicago.

In November 1980, the FOP fulfilled its goal when Chicago Police Officers elected Fraternal Order of Police Chicago Lodge No. 7 as their representative. It was not until August 19, 1981, that FOP Lodge No. 7 became the collective bargaining agent and union for 8,202 Chicago Police Officers. Today, that number is nearly 11,000.

In November 1980, Mayor Jane Byrne officially granted union recognition to Lodge 7 following a representation election in November 1980, which made Lodge 7 the official bargaining voice of all police officers employed by the Chicago police Department below the rank of Sergeant. Shortly thereafter, on June 30, 1981, the parties negotiated and signed the first formal, written contract, making Chicago the last major city in the United States to officially unionize its police force.

On September 23, 1983, Governor Jim Thompson signed into law the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act (“Act”), establishing collective bargaining rights for all public-sector employees,

including law enforcement officers.

The Act and the numerous successor contracts negotiated by Lodge 7 have served its membership well. Although they are not perfect by any means, but for the Act and contracts in place, the Chicago Police Department would have free reign to do whatever it wants with no repercussions.

On November 15, 2023, Lodge 7’s membership unanimously voted to rename the organization the “Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7” in honor of the man who negotiated the very first contract.

The Preamble to Lodge 7’s Constitution and By-Laws currently reads:

To support and defend the Constitution of the United States; inculcate loyalty and allegiance to the United States of America; to promote and foster the enforcement of law and order with justice; to improve the individual and collective proficiency of our members in the performance of their duties; to work for and provide improvements in the salary and fringe benefits and other terms and conditions of employment of the sworn members of the Chicago Police Department; to advocate for appointment and promotion; to create a tradition of esprit de corps insuring fidelity to duty under all conditions and circumstances; to cultivate a spirit of fraternalism and mutual helpfulness among our members and the people we serve; to increase the efficiency of law enforcement and thus more firmly establish the confidence of the public in the service dedicated to the protection of life and property.

It remains vital to remember our history. Lodge 7 continues to do what it can to ensure the legally protected rights of every single member are protected.



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What the BWC Sees and Doesn't See



**TIM
GRACE**

A major question that is commonly asked by COPA in officer-involved shootings and use-of-force cases is, "What did you see?" Now, in a fair and reasoned investigation that is seeking the truth or gathering facts, it seems like a very practical question. However, we are dealing with COPA. In reality, it is a question based upon the premise that they know what the BWC depicts and hence that means you must have also seen it. Then they ask the follow-up question, "How did you miss it, then?" It is such an amateurish approach to an alleged truth-seeking investigation and one that already has a predetermined conclusion. That conclusion is either that the officer is lying or that the officer violated the use-of-force general order. Recently, with respect to

this BWC issue, we have some help.

Force Science is an organization that looks to use actual science to assist oversight agencies, train law enforcement officers and provide research in the use-of-force arena. Their mission statement actually states, "[T]hrough high-quality research and training, Force Science advances expert decision-making, superior performance, and honest accountability in public safety." They provide amazing consultation nationally to all aspects of law enforcement and accountability. Check out their website, as there is a wealth of knowledge and information that can actually explain the dynamics of an officer-involved shooting and take into account the natural frailties of human behavior. Recently, they came out with an excellent article on the BWC. The

article was published by Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group and is titled "The eyes have it! Functional field of view differences between visual search behavior and body-worn camera during a use of force response in active-duty police officer." Police Practice and Research, 2024, Vol. 25, No. 4, 490-497. The article's major conclusion is that BWCs have a limited field of view, are subject to bias, and do not account for the factors that an officer experiences in a rapid and dynamic decision-making environment. The research shows that they took 44 active-duty police officers who ranged from barely any time on the street to over 20 years of service and put them through a deadly-force scenario. Each officer was given glasses with an eye tracker and a BWC and put through the same scenario of a traffic stop that ended with the assailant presenting and discharging a firearm at the officers and civilians. The actor playing the assailant was able to interact and maintain the same demeanor and movements with each of the officers with little variation to ensure the integrity of the results. Essentially, the researchers were later able to compare the view of the BWC with the view of the officer's eyes through the eye tracker. They time-synchronized the BWC and eye tracker. The eye tracker was able to provide head motion and visual scan data. The BWC provided the position of the officer's body and direction of the BWC. Now, I am not doing the research justice here, as there were significant amounts of other data collected. The tests were scientifically supervised, and if you read the article, you will learn about angular velocity and three-axis points. But the gist of the article was to essentially compare the actual BWC footage with where the officers' eyes were looking and the corresponding head movements. The results were amazing, as the BWC was not always tracking where the officer was looking.

Let's dive in deeper. The test looked at what they called "critical incidents." These would be certain important events or points during the scenario: women exiting the truck, a bat hitting the truck, a bottle being thrown, the assailant retrieving the weapon, and the assailant actually discharging the weapon. Evidently, these critical incidents were important to the scenario and the use of de-escalation and eventual deadly force by the officer. The BWC captured only 66% of the identified critical incidents, whereas the eye camera captured 80%. The BWC missed so much more and simply failed to account for what the officer was viewing as opposed to what the BWC was viewing. The BWC misses where your attention is going (your eyes) as you assess the threats involved in the encounter.

So where does that leave us? COPA is only looking at the BWC. Out of ignorance or intent, they ignore what the officer is experiencing during an officer-involved shooting. You are seeing, perceiving, and downloading into your brain these threats. You are doing this very quickly and making decisions based upon how quickly you can view and then process the threat before you. A BWC, at least according to this study, is only capturing about a third of what you are retaining. Now you may ask yourself, why is this information not being used at the Police Board? Very simple: the Police Board has, for about the last 15 years, refused to allow Force Science and their research to be presented. The Police Board claims that it is not accepted science and thus is not expert testimony. That's what they claim. I suppose the Police Board does not have to worry about use of force, as due to the FOP's winning the right to proceed to arbitration on termination cases, they will probably rarely see any officer-involved shooting cases anyway. Hopefully, the arbitrators who will get these cases will be more open to this type of research. Either way, I would suggest you take a look at the article on their website, as it is a real eye-opener to the limitations of the BWC.



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RICHARD LIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This is the application form for the annual scholarship drawing of Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7. The scholarship awards are in the amount of \$1,000.00 each and are given in honor of our late State Lodge President, Richard Lis. There will be twenty names drawn at the November 18, 2026 General Meeting, and we will also draw five additional names, in case some of the winners are not in college or elect not to continue their education. All applications are to be filled out and mailed to: FOP, Chicago Lodge #7, by police mail or U.S. Post to 1412 West Washington Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60607-1821, Attention: Scholarship Committee.

The following rules apply to applicants requesting scholarships:

- Scholarship grants are available to the sons and daughters (including stepchildren) of members of FOP Lodge #7, who will be attending a college or trade school for the first semester of the school year, with passing grades.
- There will be 20 scholarship grants given for \$1,000.00 each on a one-time basis. Payment will be made at our general meeting in January after proof of attendance is received by the Scholarship Committee.
- Scholarships will be available to high school graduates and any student who is presently attending a college or recognized trade school.
- The college attended must be recognized by the North Central Accrediting Association or the trade school must be recognized by the Illinois Department of Registration.
- **Only one** application per eligible child will be accepted.
- The scholarship grants will be awarded on the basis of a **drawing** of the submitted applications at the **November 18, 2026. General Meeting.**
- **Applications may be submitted up to the time of the drawing at the November 18, 2026 General Meeting.**

RICHARD LIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND APPLICATION

Applicant's First Name: _____

Applicant's Last Name: _____

Member's First Name: _____

Member's Last Name: _____

Member's Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Member's Phone: _____ Unit# or RTD: _____ Star #: _____

Relationship to Applicant (Son/Daughter) : _____ College or Trade School: _____

*Mail To: Richard Lis Scholarship Fund.,
FOP Lodge 7,(Unit 541 via Police Mail), 1412 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago, IL 60607
Or email to ashanahan@chicagofop.org*

Fall Campaign Season is Here



DAVE SULLIVAN

The Illinois General Assembly is scheduled to return to Springfield November 17-19 and December 1-3 for the fall veto session. Currently, there are no plans for the General Assembly to reconvene before then, even though several legislators have called for a special session to address the possibility of the Bears leaving Illinois. To date, there have been limited negotiations between the Bears and Illinois, as the team appears to be considering several sites in Indiana. Discussions continue, so let's keep hope alive.

In this second year of the 104th General Assembly, 395 bills passed both chambers. As of today, all bills have been transmitted to the governor, and final action has been taken on all 395. Only one bill has been vetoed: the FY27 budget bill. However, those line-item and reduction vetoes were made to correct errors. Even with the vetoes, the budget has taken effect, and no action on those items is anticipated.

As you have probably heard, complaints have been lodged against several House members, including, now disgraced, former southwest suburban Democrat Rep. Harry Benton, who resigned from his House seat amid sexual harassment allegations. County chairs appointed Jessica Dixon Heitman to the post, and she is now running to keep the seat this fall. She is the granddaughter of former U.S. Sen. Alan Dixon.

Recent allegations were also lodged against Rep. Amy Murri Briel, who denies the allegations. Champaign-area Democratic Rep. Carol Ammons was recently indicted on allegations of wire fraud, making false statements, and conspiracy to obstruct justice. A House Special Investigative Committee was formed to address the allegations involving Ammons.

The House speaker has also been under fire for the handling of sexual harassment complaints in district offices. A House working group was assembled to address issues involving sexual harassment.

In the Senate, Republican Dale Fowler retired, and former Rep. Paul Jacobs was appointed to the seat. Jacobs had served in the House since 2020. The vacancy created by Jacob's appointment was filled by Republican Scott Doody.

We also anticipate action during the veto or lame-duck session regarding data centers. There has been a lot of news surrounding energy and water use, as well as the noise attributable to data centers. A working group involving the House, Senate, and governor's office met several times over the summer to develop a framework for the fall. Interest groups are anticipated to be added to the negotiations shortly.

This spring, the legislature failed to enact the governor's call for a suspension of the data center tax credit, but that didn't stop the governor from doing it on his own through an Executive Order. Beginning July 1, Gov. JB Pritzker unilaterally paused the processing of applications for developers to apply for the data center tax credit. However, applications processed before that date will continue to receive the tax benefit.

There are 34 approved data centers that are projected to receive approximately \$667 million in tax credits over the next 20 years. Additionally, two more that were approved before the pause (Joliet and Sangamon County) will also be allowed to access the benefit.

Labor is vocally opposed to the suspension as the credit is key to

ensuring that these projects are constructed with union labor. Under the tax incentive program, developers must sign a project labor agreement. Without the tax credit, the developers can choose any contractor they wish, regardless of whether they are union, non-union, or even Illinois-based.

Campaigns

This November, the entire Illinois House is up for election, while nearly one-third of the Senate will be on the ballot. There are also a number of judges, Chicago School Board members and the presidency as well as a number of county officials seeking election this fall.

The 2026 Illinois general election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026. Democrats currently hold a substantial financial advantage over Republicans.

There are eight competitive Illinois House races this year. Republicans are defending six of the eight seats:

- 47th District: Democrat Erica Bray-Parker is facing Republican Robert Vrankovich for the open DuPage County seat being vacated by Republican Amy Grant.
- 48th District: Republican Jennifer Sanalidro is defending her DuPage County seat against Democrat Amanda Zahorak.
- 52nd District: Republican Marty McLaughlin is defending his northwest suburban seat against two-time Democratic challenger Maria Peterson.
- 65th District: Republican Dan Ugaste is defending his Kane County seat against Democratic challenger Ricky Rivard.
- 76th District: Democrat Amy Murri Briel is defending her LaSalle County seat against Republican Liz Bishop, who is challenging her for a second time.
- 97th District: Democrat Jessica Dixon Heitman is facing Republican Gabrielle Shanahan for the seat vacated by former Democratic Rep. Harry Benton.
- 104th District: Downstate Republican Brandun Schweizer is defending his seat against Democratic challenger Mary Catherine Roberson.
- 114th District: Metro East Republican Kevin Schmidt is defending his seat against Democrat George McLellan Jr.

There are six competitive Senate races. Republicans are defending five of the six seats:

- 24th District: Republican Seth Lewis is defending his DuPage County seat against Democrat Ben McAdams.
- 26th District: Republican Darby Hills is defending her northwest suburban seat against Democratic challenger Nabeela Syed.
- 32nd District: McHenry County Republican Craig Wilcox is defending his seat against Democratic challenger Karen Battaglia.
- 33rd District: Republican Danielle Penman is facing Democrat Michelle Clark for the Kane County seat being vacated by retiring Republican Sen. Don DeWitte.
- 48th District: Springfield Democrat Doris Turner is defending her seat against Republican challenger Frank Lesko.
- 56th District: Metro East Republican Erica Harriss is defending her seat against Democratic challenger Marsha Geldert-Murphy.

Three factors are working against Republicans this cycle: a horrific national environment, heavily favorable to Democrats; a weak statewide slate led by Darren Bailey, whose lack of statewide infrastructure and inability to raise money weighs on down-ballot Republicans; and a decisive 7x financial advantage held by the Democrats. Current projections have Democrats picking up at least two seats in each chamber.

In the 2027 Chicago mayoral election, petitions have been circulating for over a month. Several high-profile candidates have entered the race, including:

- Alexi Giannoulias, Illinois secretary of state
- Brandon Johnson, incumbent mayor
- Susana Mendoza, Illinois comptroller
- Mike Quigley, U.S. representative
- George Cardenas, Cook County Board of Review commissioner
- John Kelly, lobbyist
- Willie Wilson, philanthropist
- Bill Quinlan, attorney

Several other less high-profile candidates are also circulating petitions. Early polling puts Giannoulias in a strong position to make the runoff, with Johnson second and Mendoza third. Giannoulias benefits from more than \$20 million raised and is the only candidate currently spending on paid media. While Giannoulias is the frontrunner, no other candidate has spent any considerable money, nor has anyone spent money knocking down Giannoulias. In addition to the mayoral race, all 50 Chicago City Council wards are also up for election in early 2027. It is anticipated that there will be several challenges to progressive incumbents. Currently, candidates are circulating petitions.



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Name	Rank	Unit	Years	Name	Rank	Unit	Years
Edith Casselle	PO	701	35	Debra Preus	PO	8	25
Derek Duszak	DET	620	20	Murphy Rayl	LT	3	32
Michael J. Gardner	PO	2	28	Javier E. Rivera	PO	50	29
Malissia L. Harper	PO	544	28	Richard Sanabria	PO	19	40
Lashawn Harris	PO	3	25	Ramon Sandoval	DET	650	29
Percy Henning	PO	544	29	Ramon Silva	PO	10	30
Eric E. Kujawa	PO	9	29	Hugo Thurmond	PO	124	25
Marvin Loftin	PO	171	25	Pawel Turbak	ET	277	20
Augustine Lozano	PO	10	29	Robert Watson	PO	184	20
William T. Mullen	PO	4	28	Myron Wimberly	PO	3	36

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Retiree Meetings

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

Northside Breakfast

First Tuesday of the month
@ 8:30 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

Survivors Lunch

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

Public Housing Unit

(North, South and
Administration)

First Wednesday of the month
@ 10 a.m.

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

CPD Arizona Retiree Monthly Luncheon

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

Arkansas Retirees

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

Florida Retirees

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

Michigan Retirees

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

Hellenic American Police

Association Northsiders

Retiree Breakfast

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

5959 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago

Hellenic American Police

Association Southsiders

Retiree Breakfast

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

25th District Retirees

Luncheon

1st Wednesday of the the month

Tavern on the Point

6724 Northwest Hwy.

2PM

Barry Eichner

773-852-6438

Barcat84@sbcglobal.net



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or share members' updated
contact information with
Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7.

To update your information, please email:
update@chicagofop.org



Honoring Sisters and Brothers who have passed

Name	Age	Date of Passing
Stephen Agin	82	April 10, 2014
Melvin Kaplan	84	August 14, 2018
Stanley Martinkus	85	February 6, 2024
Donald Hughes	91	January 31, 2026
John A. Smith	84	April 11, 2026
Joseph M. Berry	80	May 3, 2026
Arthur J. Buckley	88	May 26, 2026
John T. McAvoy	90	June 17, 2026
Norval Edwards	88	June 18, 2026
Robert R. Rommelfaenger	84	June 23, 2026
Harold E. Warren	87	June 29, 2026
James J. Hellmann	84	July 9, 2026
John S. Campise	93	July 12, 2026
Thomas A. Kelly	78	July 18, 2026
Philip A. Duhr	86	July 23, 2026
Thomas G. Granias	79	August 2, 2026
Milton Scott	70	August 9, 2026
Linda Dixon	77	August 10, 2026
Herman Kluth	90	August 15, 2026
Arlene Adamson	89	August 21, 2026
Raymond Savage Jr.	81	August 25, 2026
Lawrence Bartoli	88	August 25, 2026
Roman Tapkowski	75	August 27, 2026
Peter M. Albanese	85	August 28, 2026
Cornell Webb	85	August 29, 2026
John Kinnane	82	August 30, 2026
John P. Phelan	85	September 1, 2026
Edward W. Bunch	83	September 8, 2026
Jack Bilanzic	92	September 8, 2026
Lorry Jenkins	73	September 13, 2026

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My Special Teacher



RABBI
MOSHE WOLF

Recently, I visited some of our members in the emergency room after their vehicle was struck on the way to a call. They had the right of way, with their emergency lights on and siren blaring.

The other driver was under the influence. Thank G-d, all our members were treated and released, banged up, but okay. They all shared the same message: "Rabbi, life can change in an instant. Please tell the troops to be careful out there."

Isn't that the truth? Sometimes, no matter how careful we are, things happen. The expression rings true: "There, but for the grace of G-d, go I."

It reminded me of the story "My Special Teacher."

I had a very special teacher in high school many years ago whose wife died suddenly of a heart attack. About a week after her death, he shared some of his thoughts with our class.

As the late afternoon sunlight streamed through the classroom windows and class was nearly over, he moved a few things aside on the edge of his desk and sat down. With a gentle, reflective look on his face, he paused and said, "Class is over. I would like to share a thought with all of you that is unrelated to class, but that I feel is very important.

"Each of us is put here on earth to learn, share, love, appreciate and give of ourselves. None of us knows when this fantastic experience will end. It can be taken away at any moment. Perhaps this is the power's way of telling us that we must make the most of every single day."

His eyes beginning to water, he went on: "So I would like you all to make me a promise. From now on, on your way to school or on your way home, find something beautiful to notice. It doesn't have to be something you see. It could be a scent – perhaps freshly baked bread wafting out of someone's house – or the sound of a breeze rustling the leaves in the trees, or the way the morning light catches one autumn leaf as it falls gently to the ground. Please look for these things and cherish them.

"For although it may sound trite to some, these things are the 'stuff' of life: The little things we are put here on earth to enjoy, the things we often take for granted. We must make it a point to notice them, for at any time, it can all be taken away."

The class was completely quiet. We all picked up our books and filed out of the room silently. That afternoon, I noticed more things on my way home from school than I had that whole semester.

Every once in a while, I think of that teacher and the impression he made on all of us. I try to appreciate the things we sometimes overlook.

Take notice of something special you see on your lunch hour today. Go barefoot. Walk on the beach at sunset. Stop off on the

way home tonight for a double-dip ice cream cone. Tell your family and friends how much they mean to you. As we get older, it is often not the things we did that we regret, but the things we didn't do.

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

Please let me share some excerpts from attendees of a lecture I attended recently titled "The Best Sermons in Life, Are Lived, Not Preached."

1. Today, I interviewed my grandmother for a research paper I'm working on for my psychology class. When I asked her to define success in her own words, she said, "Success is when you look back at your life and the memories make you smile."

2. Today, I asked my mentor – a very successful businessman in his 70s – for his top three tips for success. He smiled and said, "Read something no one else is reading, think something no one else is thinking, and do something no one else is doing."

3. Today, after a 72-hour shift at the firehouse, a woman ran up to me at the grocery store and gave me a hug. When I tensed up, she realized I didn't recognize her. She let go, with tears of joy in her eyes and the sincerest smile, and said, "On 9/11/2001, you carried me out of the World Trade Center."

4. Today, at 7 a.m., I woke up feeling ill but decided I needed the money, so I went to work. At 3 p.m., I got laid off. On my drive home, I got a flat tire. When I went into the trunk for the spare, it was flat, too. A man in a BMW pulled over and gave me a ride. We chatted, and then he offered me a job. I start tomorrow. G-d sure works in ways I'll never understand.

5. Today, as my father, three brothers, and two sisters stood around my mother's hospital bed, she uttered her last coherent words before she died. She simply said, "I feel so loved right now. We should have gotten together like this more often."

6. Today, I kissed my dad on the forehead as he passed away in a small hospital bed. About five seconds later, I realized it was the first time I had kissed him since I was a little boy. So, if you're lucky and your mom or dad is still around, give them a hug and tell them how much you love them.

7. Today, in the cutest voice, my 8-year-old daughter asked me to start recycling. I chuckled and asked, "Why?" She replied, "So you can help me save the planet." I chuckled again and asked, "And why do you want to save the planet?" "Because that's where I keep all my stuff," she said.

8. Today, a boy in a wheelchair saw me struggling on crutches with my broken leg and offered to carry my backpack and books. He helped me all the way across campus to my class, and as he was leaving, he said, "I hope you feel better soon." Never pass up an opportunity to help someone carry their burden.

9. Remember, we can all make a difference in the world we live in simply by sharing kindness. "Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared."

Last but not least, remember "Moshe Wolf's Rule in Life": Find something every day to make you laugh, even if you have to look in the mirror! LOL.

**None of us knows when this fantastic
experience will end. It can be taken
away at any moment.**

Before we close, some humor from the "Moshe Files":
"The Man in the Pit"
A man fell into a pit and couldn't get himself out.
A subjective person came along and said, "I feel for you down there."

An objective person walked by and said, "It's logical that someone would fall down there."

A Pharisee said, "Only bad people fall into pits."
A mathematician calculated how deep the pit was.
A news reporter wanted the exclusive story on the pit.
An IRS agent asked if he was paying taxes on the pit.

A self-pitying person said, "You haven't seen anything until you've seen my pit."

A fire-and-brimstone preacher said, "You sinner, you deserve your pit."

A scientist observed, "The pit is just in your mind."

A psychologist noted, "Your mother and father are to blame for your being in that pit."

A self-esteem therapist said, "Believe in yourself and you can get out of that pit."

An optimist said, "Things could be worse."

A pessimist claimed, "Things will get worse."

A chaplain, seeing the struggling man, took him by the hand and lifted him out of the pit. (That's what I'm talking about!) LOL.

The moral of the story: When a friend needs your help, save the speeches for later. Roll up your sleeves and give him a hand, a hug

Happiness never decreases by being shared.

or a kind word. You will both feel better!

SPECIAL NOTE, PLEASE: Our very own Directing Chaplain, Fr. Dan Brandt, is convalescing and recovering from serious ankle surgery. If you get a chance, please call or text him at 773-550-2369, or e-mail dan.brandt@chicagopolice.org to let him know he is in your thoughts and prayers. It would be MOST appreciated.

On behalf of ALL the chaplains, I wish you and your loved ones a healthy and blessed fall. May G-d bless you, keep you safe and always keep you in His loving care. AMEN.

Should you need an ear to listen, a shoulder to lean on, or perhaps have some good humor to share – I know you have a good joke or story – please do not hesitate to drop us a line or give us a call.

All our contact information is on our Police Chaplain's website: www.chicagopcm.org. Look us up for current and upcoming information.

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773-463-4780 (voicemail) Cell: 773-230-7872 (text)
E-mail: moshewolf@hotmail.com
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CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS

PHOTOS BY DAVE DISANTI



Nominator: Police Officer Mary Lindahl #16522 024th District Unit Rep

On 04 October 2024, Officers Massoud and Lateef were traveling westbound on Howard Street from Sheridan Road when they heard people yelling for help. They observed a frantic hand waver in the alley directing them toward a multi-unit building whose rear porch was fully engulfed in flames.

The Officers notified OEMC to get CFD rolling and for additional



units. Onlookers gathered at the scene advised the Officers that residents were still inside the apartments. The Officers, knowing that time was of the essence, began to formulate a plan to get rescue efforts underway.

Officer Massoud kept OEMC updated and secured the perimeter while Officer Lateef entered through the front of the building, alerted residents, and made his way to the third floor. There, he encountered a resident who initially refused to evacuate. Officer Lateef guided the resident through zero-visibility, smoked-filled hallways using the stair rail and firefighters' voices to reach safety.

The fire was determined to be incendiary and displaced 11 residents, prompting the Officers to reach out to Human Services and the American Red Cross. Officer Lateef was treated for smoke inhalation at St. Francis Hospital.

These Officers' brave and decisive actions led to all the residents of this apartment fire being saved.

It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 presents these Officers with the Life Saving Award.

CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS



**Nominator: Police Officer Mary Gallardo #12078
024th District 1st Watch Rep**

On 26 Jun 2025, Officers Massoud and Lateef were conducting directed patrol in the area of Magnolia and Devon. The Officers were aware of a recent uptick in catalytic converter thefts, burglaries to work vans, and vehicle thefts in the 024th District. The Officers came upon a vehicle stopped in the roadway and obstructing traffic. A license plate check revealed that the vehicle had been reported



stolen. As the Officers approached this vehicle, the driver attempted to pull away, and four individuals suddenly exited the vehicle. The Officers were able to apprehend and place the driver into custody.

The Officers recovered multiple guns and ammunition from the vehicle which included an AR-style pistol, rifles, gun lasers, drum magazines, and suspected narcotics. Another stolen Jeep was recovered next to the offender's vehicle.

These Officers' proactive efforts and arrests of multiple offenders significantly led to a reduction in theft-related offenses on their beat.

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

CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Police Officer Lawrence Mills #17923
 Police Officer Samuel Brokop #10123
 Police Officer Shandra Brown #10298
 Police Officer Brian Patino-Sanchez #16055
 Police Officer Gary Wendt #4335
 Police Officer James Gornick #11832

Nominator: Police Officer Donald Klein #12446
 022nd District Unit Rep

On 28 May 2025, ROs responded to a call of a robbery in progress at 9438 S. Justine Ave. The first Officers on scene learned from the two victims that two offenders had exited the gangway and pointed guns at the victims and demanded their valuables. The offenders fled the scene after taking the victims' belongings.

The Officers gave a detailed flash message of the offender's



descriptions to responding units who observed possible offenders matching the descriptions at 9000 S. Ashland Ave. The victims were transported to the scene of the street stop for a show-up and positively identified both offenders.

These juvenile offenders had multiple prior felony arrests in their backgrounds including aggravated unlawful use of a weapon and vehicular hijacking. The offenders were charged with two counts of armed robbery and an outstanding warrant.

Due to the Officers' combined efforts and quick response to the scene, two violent offenders were removed from the streets of Chicago.

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

CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Police Officer Joseph Gunning #10547
 Police Officer Krisada Daorek #16422
 Police Officer Christian Diaz #18877
 Police Officer Felipe De La Garza #4620
 Police Officer David Nguyen #17902
 Sergeant Patrick Bowery #2357

Nominator: Police Officer Carlo Rubino #3307 (Retired 019th District Unit Rep)

The 019th District Tactical Team was on directed patrol in the vicinity of 2619 N. Clark St. in response to recent thefts and robberies of the 7-Eleven convenience store when an OEMC call came out for a "hold-up alarm" at that location. The 7-Eleven had previously provided the tactical officers with a picture and description of the offender who had committed the earlier reported thefts and robberies. This offender's crime spree which had compiled five RD#s involved the thefts of bottles of Yellow Tail wine. Each time,



the offender took five bottles of wine and fled the store. Under one reported incident, the offender threatened to shoot the victim and displayed a revolver in his waistband after he loaded his backpack with 15 bottles of wine and fled.

Upon the Officers' arrival at the scene, they observed a subject matching the description of the wanted offender. The Officers conducted a street stop. The Officers further observed an object protruding from the subject's waistband consistent with a weapon. The Officers detained the subject, and a protective pat-down revealed a folding knife with a five-inch blade and a replica-style handgun.

The offender was placed into custody after he was positively identified. The offender was charged with four counts of aggravated robbery, two counts of retail theft, and two counts of UPW-1 involving a replica gun and knife.

Due to these Officers' dedication to their mission, an armed and violent offender was removed from the streets.

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



Count Them Heroes

From the first to the most recent, the amazing stories behind the names and numbers of Chicago Police Officers lost in the line of duty come to light at the CPMF Candlelight Vigil

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Six hundred and eight Chicago Police Officers killed in the line of duty come together in an illustrious manner at the annual Chicago Police Memorial Foundation (CPMF) Candlelight Vigil. Outside of Soldier Field, academy recruits hold wooden poles with the picture and end of watch for each of the 608. They line both sides of a walkway, forming a corridor for families and friends of the fallen to enter the Vigil.

Earlier that Sept. 30 day, officers stood side by side in rows at Gold Star Families Memorial Park, where the 608th name was covered by a piece of CPD checkerboard-colored tape. Rain poured down so thick that the dress uniform for the day—outside of the CPD Honor Guard—consisted of the long raincoats with the star on the front.

As Renee Bartholomew revealed the name of her husband John G. Bartholomew as the most recent addition to the wall, raindrops clung to every letter. Could it be God shedding tears?

"Every year this ceremony is meaningful," said Sandra Wortham, the CPMF executive board president whose brother Thomas was lost in the line of duty on May 20, 2010. "Every year this ceremony is heavy. But every year this ceremony is a privilege."



These words that Wortham shared at the ceremony seemed to describe one of the indelible images from this year's event. The man who narrowly avoided becoming number 609 came to see the name of his partner unveiled.

Covered in a blue-line blanket, Chicago Police Officer Nelson Crespo sat in front of the wall focusing on John's name one line under Arceanah Preston and Luis Huesca and just to the right of Krystal Rivera. Hard to fathom what's going through his mind at this time when looking at John's name, though maybe he's sharing that he has dedicated his rehabilitation to his partner.

This is a venue to be sure where emotional moments happen all the time. Like Nelson's new wife Jimena embracing Renee Bartholomew in one of those never-let-go hugs. And moments.

"It was definitely different seeing Nelson Crespo being present and

that whole experience of a surviving partner viewing his partner's name," said Gold Star Families Chair Maria Marmolejo. "It was a moment that touched my heart and that I wasn't expecting."

Maria has been to the past eight Vigils and unveilings, of which there have been 15 since she lost her husband, Eduardo, on Dec. 17, 2018. See, here's the thing about those names on the wall.

"I always notice people, and I do it myself whenever I pass it," Maria continued. "I try to touch his name at least, just as another sign of love and respect."

Every name, every sacrifice

The blue lights radiating from Soldier Field on Sept. 30 let all of Chicago know that it was the night for another Candlelight Vigil, the 23rd annual this year. The rain moved the ceremony indoors to the United Room, where the only concession to the weather was replacing actual candles with pen lights that gave off a similarly memorable glow.

A different kind of hue comes off when the pictures of the 608 on their poles are posted outside the stadium. It's amazing what you see and learn among the faces and the names. And not just that the Department could count on each and every one of them.

Like the seemingly bronzed-over photo of Patrolman Arthur D. Mutter in his jacket and tie sitting on his motorcycle. He was shot and killed during an armed robbery in a saloon on April 18, 1933.

Or the image of Patrolman John J. Sweeney in what looks like a mounted police hat. He was killed in an alley between Noble Street and Ross Street (now Bishop Street), just off Chicago Avenue, with a bullet through the heart on July 7, 1929.

You see the photos turn from black and white to color around 1971. And that the years with the most LODDs this century were the five lost in the COVID year of 2020 and 2010.

The '70s were rough with numbers like the nine lost in 1974 and the 10 in 1970, preceded by nine in 1969.

There was that stretch from 2012 to 2016 when no officers were lost in the line of duty. After going without LODDs in 2005 and 1994, you have to go back to 1963 when CPD went without one. Between 1929 and 1934, more than 70 Chicago Police Officers were killed in the line of duty.

Maria momentarily tried to recall how many officers had been lost since her husband was killed. But she didn't want to do the math, because the count is always too much if it's just one more.

"Honestly, I can't even engage," she confided.

So, together as a Chicago Police family, they gathered in honor of the 608 to enable their names to live on. And the roll call included every name, as it does every year, going on for hours with family members of so many coming up to read them.

Every name was heard. Every sacrifice was remembered.

"However many hours we have to sit there and speak all their



CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

names, I think we should, because it symbolizes never forgetting,” Maria confirmed. “It is heartbreaking for me sometimes to think, ‘Wait, what if we are not there?’ There’s always going to be something that’s going to carry [my husband’s] legacy on. And whether it was 100 years ago or six months ago, their service will never be forgotten.”

However long it takes

Being able to honor the service from Nelson certainly adds an element of divine providence to the events. As Lodge 7 President John Catanzara watched Nelson, he noted how he could see a healing moment actually pass before his eyes.

This might have been enhanced by family members gathered at Gold Star Park touching the newly engraved name on the wall. With every one of the 608 names engraved at the memorial, there are 608 stories. Each one of a family whose lives have been changed forever.

The latest one includes a 3-year-old daughter now adopted by the Department and two teenage sons realizing they are now the men of the house. Her boys stepped up with Renee, all clad in sweatshirts with his star number—#12963—over the heart to read his name.

Maria related the feeling of being among the 608, of stepping up each year as she does with her three daughters whenever possible.

“For me, personally, I just feel drained—emotionally drained—because the emotions come back,” she described. “I feel like you go through the process of wake and funeral and stuff, but once you start memorializing somebody, even though in honoring them, it’s a beautiful thing, it’s also a reminder that he’s really gone.”

Seeing the family members come up to call their names of the 608, there’s sometimes whispering of, “Who is that?” Like recognizing Maria’s daughter Rebecca, who was 15 the first time and is now a college graduate working as an emergency department nurse. Or that Sandra was a young lawyer when Thomas was lost and first read his name and worked as a civilian deputy director with CPD before opening her own law firm.

“You’ve seen people reading names [who] were children, and they’re 50



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years old," Marmolejo acknowledged. "It's humbling, and it's also a perspective of what my kids will be in 42 years."

Where there is hope

There are no two ways about it for any family that is part of the 608. It's all heart-breaking all the way around.

It's certainly been that way since Dec. 5, 1853, when Constable James Quinn became the first Chicago Police Officer killed in the line of duty. He succumbed to injuries sustained in two previous incidents in which he was attacked and severely beaten while in the discharge of his duties. He was on the job for just nine months.

The Bartholomew family will eventually come to the point that the Quinn family reached. That they all have reached. They will be proud of their loved one's service and sacrifice and will carry the grief a little bit easier than that first year.

The Vigil reveals that the pain and loss never go away. And of course there are the reminders of the day the officer was lost.

But maybe being around so many others who know how you're feeling provides comfort. Something, for sure, comes out within the friendly confines of Soldier Field.

"Absolutely. Hope, hope, hope," Maria explained. "And people supporting you and people giving you encouraging words. You just need it because sometimes the thoughts in your head can go really dark and get really discouraging. But if you have people pulling for you and praying for you, that will help you move forward."

The number of Chicago Police Officers who attend the ceremony at Gold Star Park and the Vigil counts so much. If you are one of those, and you're not quite sure what to say, don't worry about it. Sometimes, being at a loss for words enables a Gold Star family to know that you feel their pain and understand it. And how comforting that can be.

Go ahead and touch the names on the wall, too. It also helps these families in the 608 feel that they're not alone. For if the numbers tell us nothing else, it truly takes a village.

Maria wanted to offer a message about the power of the Vigil and the memorial when she spoke from the podium in the United Room as the Gold Star Families chair and a survivor of eight years.

"When you see their name or hear their name," she began, "it's definitely a respectful, honorable thing that the City does to memorialize these officers who sacrificed their lives."



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ENDORSED CANDIDATES

2026 General Election

EARLY VOTING IS UNDERWAY

In-person early voting begins in all 50 wards on October 19.

STATEWIDE

Mike Frerichs Treasurer

Margaret Croke Comptroller

ILLINOIS HOUSE

Jawaharial Williams District 10

Mike Kelly District 15

Brad Stephens District 20

Angelica Guerrero-Cuellar District 22

Kam Buckner District 26

Robert Rita District 28

Marcus Evans District 33

Mary Gill District 35

Rick Ryan District 36

Justin Cochran District 55

CHICAGO SCHOOL BOARD

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Michelle N. Pierre District 1B

Anthony Hargrove District 5B

Angel Gutierrez District 8A

Juan Ignacio Gonzalez District 8B

Therese Boyle District 9B

Patrick C. Watson District 10B

U.S. CONGRESS

LaShawn Ford District 7

ILLINOIS SENATE

Elgie Sims District 17

Fran Hurley District 18

ELECTION DAY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD, 2026

IT'S TIME: 2027 OPEN ENROLLMENT

YOUR BENEFITS. YOUR CHOICE. YOUR FUTURE.

The City of Chicago's Annual
Open Enrollment period runs
OCTOBER 14 – OCTOBER 28, 2026.

This is your once-a-year opportunity to
review, enroll in, change, or cancel your
benefit elections for the plan year
beginning **JANUARY 1, 2027.**



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



OCTOBER 14, 2026

Open Enrollment
begins.



OCTOBER 28, 2026

Deadline to submit
all benefit changes
through the portal.



DECEMBER 1, 2026

Absolute deadline
to submit required
dependent
documentation.



JANUARY 1, 2027

Your 2027 benefit
elections take
effect.

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2027?



FSA ELECTIONS DO NOT AUTO-RENEW

Want a Healthcare FSA in 2027?
You must make an active election
during Open Enrollment.

Your 2026 FSA election
will not carry over to 2027.



HMO PARENT & STEPPARENT COVERAGE

Under a new Illinois insurance mandate,
employees enrolled in City HMO plans
may now be able to add qualifying
parents or stepparents to their coverage.

ELIGIBLE DEPENDENTS MUST:

- ✓ Live in Illinois
- ✓ Meet applicable IRS financial requirements
- ✓ Have a gross income under \$5,050

**Important: This change does not
apply to self-funded PPO plans.**



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HOW TO COMPLETE YOUR ENROLLMENT



OPTION 1: ONLINE

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www.cityofchicagobenefits.org



OPTION 2: BY PHONE

Call the Benefits Service Center at
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Before beginning your enrollment, have the following
available: Employee ID, dependent Social Security
numbers, and required legal documentation, such as
birth or marriage certificates.



QUICK TIPS FOR A SMOOTH ENROLLMENT



DON'T WAIT UNTIL OCTOBER 28.

Logging in early can help you avoid
last-minute system slowdowns.



SAVE YOUR CONFIRMATION.

Download or print your final enrollment
confirmation statement and keep it
for your records.



CHECK YOUR FIRST 2027 PAYCHECK.

Verify that your benefit deductions match
your elections. If you identify an error, you
have **10 days** from your enrollment
confirmation to report and correct it.



**MAKE YOUR ELECTIONS.
MEET THE DEADLINES.
START 2027 WITH CONFIDENCE.**

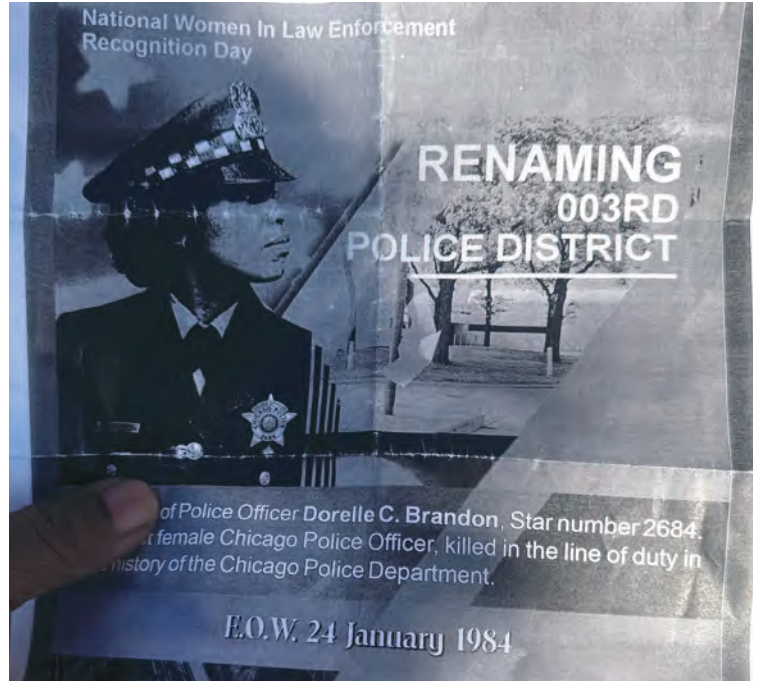


OPEN ENROLLMENT:
OCTOBER 14 – OCTOBER 28, 2026
BENEFITS EFFECTIVE:
JANUARY 1, 2027

Honoring Her Sacrifice

On September 12, 2026, the Chicago Police Department's 003rd District station was renamed in honor of Officer Dorelle C. Brandon, the first female Chicago police officer killed in the line of duty. Officer Brandon served the department with courage and dedication until her death in 1984. Her name on the station is a lasting tribute to her service and sacrifice and a reminder of the legacy she leaves for the officers and community of the 003rd District.

PHOTOS BY GEORGE GILL





A Great Day on the Green

The Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 Annual Golf Outing brought members and friends together on September 3, 2026, at Silver Lake Country Club as we celebrated the nation's 250th anniversary.

Thank you to everyone who attended and shared the day with us. We are especially grateful to our generous sponsors for their support and to the volunteers whose time and hard work made the outing possible.

We appreciate everyone who helped make the event a success!

PHOTOS BY GEORGE GILL







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XL	16.5"	24"



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