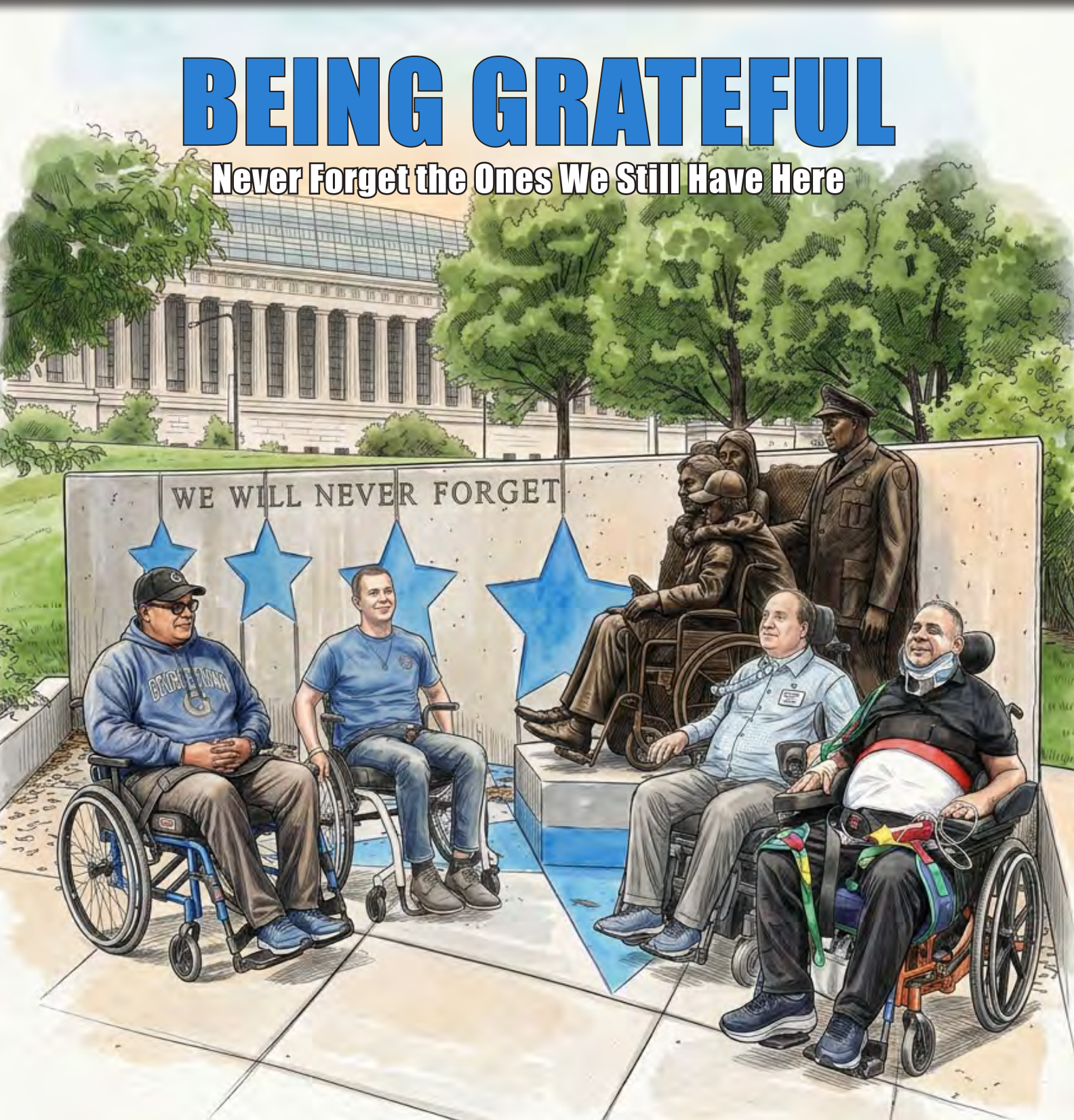
Fraternal Order of Police

CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine • November 2026

BEING GRATEFUL

Never Forget the Ones We Still Have Here





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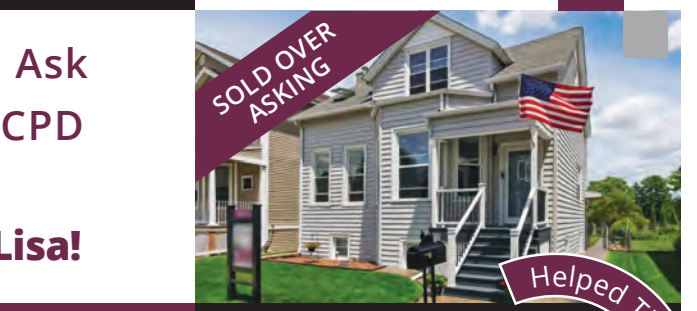
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IN THIS ISSUE OF CHICAGO LODGE 7 MAGAZINE

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Thanksgiving Pause

With the holiday coming, some of our catastrophically injured Chicago Police Officers express what they are most thankful for. From Jim Mullen, who was left paralyzed by a gunshot more than 30 years ago to Nelson Crespo, who was paralyzed by a gunshot this past April, this is a group of officers who have found ways to keep moving forward. Their fortitude, appreciation and dedication come shining through in this special report that will inspire all Lodge 7 members.



COVER DESIGN BY JENNA RAMOS

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INSIDE STORIES



OCTOBER AWARDS

CHICAGO LODGE 7
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CHICAGO LODGE 7
Official Magazine
President's Report



Let's talk turkey about supporting our catastrophically injured officers



JOHN CATANZARA JR.

Not your typical Thanksgiving imagery that we have pictured out front this issue. But a cornucopia nonetheless, bringing together some of our catastrophically injured officers, Nelson Crespo being the most recent to join 11 others, including Jim Mullen, Danny Golden, Cedric Brumley and Carlos Yanez Jr.

You know Carlos would put a hug around all of them if he could. He wanted to during a small event at his home recently on behalf of Tunnel to Towers. See, these men symbolize that copia with the way they represent good fortune, wealth of spirit and generosity.

For me, they are a reminder that God is good. We have a lot to be thankful for, largely perhaps because our catastrophically injured members remain so grateful, so positive. You know that every drink they take this holiday season will be from a glass that is half full.

We are forever thankful that we remember the officers we have lost in the line of duty. But we should never forget the ones we still have here, especially those who were almost lost.

I hope that the continuing effort of this administration to help out members and their families never goes unnoticed or unappreciated. We have recently created the CPD 606 charity to generate tax-deductible donations to be used for members, so we will not have to dip into member dues and the Lodge coffers.

Mike Cosentino, a Lodge 7 field rep and our political director, took our board of directors in a direction I never considered with our charitable foundation. It is one of the most ingenious ideas that charity and missions can accomplish outside of supporting law enforcement and its members as a whole.

Cos has a goal to use the charity to help pay property taxes for these disabled officers. They should have that tax break, but there's no way currently in the statutes for them to get the relief. So the talk is to take care of the property tax bills every year.

Our 606 will get their six because we can't count on the Department to do so. I mean, check out how shortsighted this Department can be. A request was made for Nelson to visit Jim Mullen, to see Jim's setup and how he gets around since Nelson is going to be, at least for the time being, in a very similar setup.

The City denied a handicap transport for Nelson to do so. To me, that's a civilian making an inhumane decision. A sworn officer would never, I hope, make that stupid-ass decision.

We need to power-wash away the dead weight at the City and the Department and make up for their lack of consideration for our injured officers. Cedric has constantly been on our ass to keep fighting for the property tax relief for the catastrophically injured officers. And rightly so.

I have learned an important lesson about rowing the boat in the same direction for our injured officers. Actually, I've been watching these reels about it that pop up for me. Primarily, it's Tony Robbins. I always thought of him as way back in the day, but now more and more, especially recently. Last week, I was watching him explain to people that if your life is shit, it's because you're focusing on yourself and not others.



Focus on others and you don't have time to think about how crappy your life is because it really isn't. You start doing things for others. Spread that good fortune, wealth of spirit and generosity to friends and brothers we don't do enough for. Our injured officers not only deserve such support, they deserve all the recognition and respect that we can give them.

President's Report continues on Page 6

CHICAGO
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A 606 pack

While some of you might be thinking about how the idea to create a charitable foundation adds up to 606, many of you know that Hymn 606 is famously titled "Where true charity and love dwell." Outside of Lodge 7, maybe we can develop a charitable organization affectionately thought of as Lodge 606.

The 606 will be a great way to make up for Department shortsightedness and inhumanity when we get there. We will have a deliberate run-up for our charitable organization and let you know when it's ready to go and able to accept donations.

I'm going to support the 606 just like the rest of you. I'm not part of running the charity. There will be an independent board administering it. It's something the Lodge is percolating primarily for two reasons.

We are trying to take the liability with the food trailer and all the travel expenses off the membership and the Lodge itself. And transfer that liability to the charity. Getting donations also will enable us to stop using membership money to support the trailer.

Some people have already decided to make it something it never was intended to be or anything like they said. Like it's dark money or something.

Let me repeat, I have no attachment or involvement in 606. I'm not on the board of directors. None of the board of directors are even salaried spots, which is the way it's going to remain. There will be other, non-FOP board members, I'm sure, as it goes forward and becomes bigger.

It's just sad that people want to spit all over the best intentions and sacrifices of personal time that they never are willing to make themselves. I know they've said it at the microphone at general membership meetings, trying to make it some type of campaign fodder.

When I made the comment about this charity and that the ability to fundraise will present opportunities to help other entities with their missions, I was told ... well, let's say somebody tried to drag me down into the mud. Shame on the people who decided to make it that, because it is not that. It was never designed to be that, and it never will be that.

It just blows my mind in the seven years I've been doing this, how so many people like to sling mud. Most of them have never offered to help or do something positive for the membership. They literally like to snipe from the outside, disappear, come back when it's election time, and tell everybody what's wrong with the union and how they have a plan to fix it.

Not well suited

The latest big stink at City Hall is how they cry poor but all of sudden can budget $280 million to settle meritless lawsuits. Maybe they need the cash for the City's inexperienced or agenda-driven attorneys. And it's not worth fighting because they're either incompetent or part of the problem.

These are mostly or all related to lawsuits against police officers, ones who might have been in the unit with Berge. So automatically there's a connection, like a battery cable. Then, once you have one claim that you basically ram through, everybody else wants to make the claim. And now it becomes a thing with no basis, facts or evidence tendered. Just accusations.

Hundreds of millions of dollars have been pissed away by this City over people who actually committed crimes and then complained they were tortured. Whether the claims are true, we probably will never know. But what gets lost is the actual evidence and guilt.

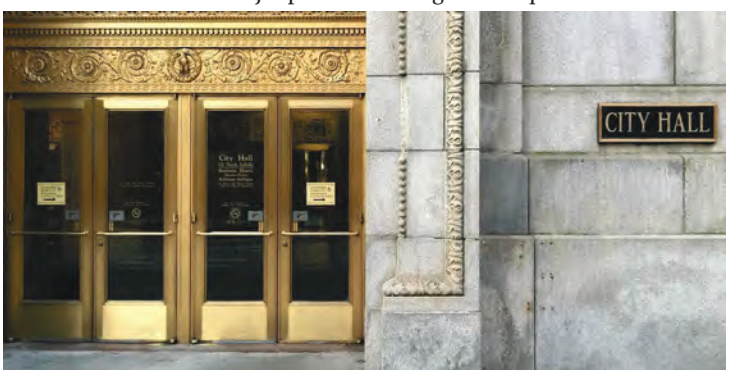
All that cash, and they can't afford to pay officers money they owe them for working overtime a decade ago.

Sometimes, I feel like it's the attorneys from the private sector colluding. Not that they are getting kickbacks. Unless you consider campaign donations a nice kicker.

The City has struck out on this matter more than the White Sox in the playoffs. For at least the fifth time during the past several years, overtime past due is not going to be paid out in a timely fashion.

How do you think that looks? You can find $280 million to pay out to these pieces of crap, but you can't pay your officers for work performed. It is just such a litany of dysfunction at City Hall and at public safety headquarters.

There needs to be a major power-washing of headquarters when a new





mayor takes over, if he or she has the guts to do it. A new City administration will need to take on the civilian unions specifically and clean out a lot of the useless dead weight. I mean, they're afraid to get rid of an employee who has repeatedly brought bedbugs into police headquarters, resulting in multiple cleanings, repurchasing of furniture and re-carpeting.

While they have the power washer out, let's finally scrub the Community Commission on Public Safety and Accountability (CCPSA), which is an utter and absolute failure. It absolutely has no reason to be in existence. Its concept might have been cute at one time, but now it is ineffective.

They claim to have captured 50,000 signatures to even get that thing voted in. I'd love to know where those 50,000 people are, because they never show up to these district meetings. Most of them have fewer than 10 attendees. So what is the purpose of this whole organization other than to just have another layer of oversight and grease the squeaky wheels of the crybabies?

Hopefully, we have a new City Council with the sack to sack the CCPSA. There is enough oversight, and they're going to save money by eliminating it altogether. The best part of that would be the pick for the superintendent going directly back to the mayor's desk entirely.

You have aldermen who championed the commission a few years ago and thought we needed it, like Ray Lopez, who are now presenting ordinances for abolishing it altogether. Tells you all you need to know.

We have a billion-dollar shortfall in the City. Well, you can start to close that gap by getting rid of the CCPSA or using that money to pay the overtime. You can also get rid of the police board. That's another entity whose time has passed, and the arbitration for termination, whether it's public or private, is going to render that irrelevant.

Take their breath away

Now that we are post-election, the reality that we are supposed to crawl into a corner and not work with the supermajority that has passed terrible legislation, in our opinion, and basically just ignore them, is no breath of fresh air.

How did that work out for Jim Durkin? He's gone. Couldn't get anything done effectively.

How did that work out for Governor Bruce Rauner? Didn't get anything done. He's gone, though good riddance for being anti-union.

But my point is that you have to work with people you don't politically agree with. You can't cry over spilled milk. You just move on to fight the next fight or you're never going to get anything done and then you'll be called ineffective.

We're not going to highlight every single time a conversation is had with a politician that results in a bill getting tabled or just totally ignored because we said it's a bad piece of legislation. Members don't necessarily see those moments because you don't always need to know how the sausage is made.

For example, there has been ongoing cooperation on the SAFE-T Act, blocking attempts to reinstitute parts that were carved out of the original version. They have tried, but we have fought to keep those out by articulating why they weren't in there in the first place and why they have no place to be in there now.

There have been small tweaks to the SAFE-T Act during the past several years, clarifying some things and basically making them better, that people forget. Still, the worst provision at this point is the cashless bail system.

The only way that's going to change is with a continued fight by the state's attorney's office, which has been doing a yeoman's job publicly and even behind the scenes of trying to get that rectified. Along with a new mayor who can work with Springfield and articulate why that needs to be readdressed.

There is no reason for violent offenders to not be automatically detained. It's a no-brainer. They just go back to the old bail system for violent offenders.

Cashless bail was designed to not keep a shoplifter in jail because they can't afford a bond. Everybody understood that part of it. But the comedy team of Lightfoot and Foxx took advantage of an opportunity and made it a blanket process, along with an assist from Stacy Gates and the teachers union. Which was shortsighted to say the least.



So when it comes to Springfield, the new mayor has to be toothpaste and mouthwash, not a pack of Tic Tacs just for fresh breath.

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Grateful, Even When It's Hard



MICHAEL METTE

As Thanksgiving approaches, we hear a lot about being grateful. For some, that comes easily. For others, especially those going through a difficult season, finding something to be thankful for takes effort.

In our profession, we know that struggle doesn't take a holiday. We still answer the calls, work the shifts, and carry the weight of things most people never see. Some of us are dealing with family concerns, grief, health issues, or frustration with the job. Those burdens don't disappear because November arrives.

But I believe gratitude amidst struggle is one of the things that can help get us through.

We don't have to wait until everything is resolved to recognize something good. We can be frustrated, hurt, or exhausted and still appreciate the partner who checks on us, the friend who answers the phone, or the family waiting for us at home. Sometimes, those are the very things that give us enough strength to face another day.

After more than 20 years on this job, I know how easy it is to let its demands follow us home. A difficult tour can occupy our thoughts long after we take off the uniform. We replay conversations, worry about things we cannot control, and give what little energy we have left to problems that will still be there tomorrow.

Meanwhile, a good moment can pass almost unnoticed. A laugh with our kids. Dinner with our spouse. A quiet cup of coffee. A conversation with someone who understands. Those moments deserve our attention, too.

Through the Chicago Blue Line Support Foundation, I've seen the value of giving officers time to step away and connect. There is something powerful about sitting together, sharing a meal, and having the space to talk. We each carry our own burdens, but being around people who care can make them feel a little lighter.

This Thanksgiving, I encourage you to take a few minutes to name the people and things you are grateful for. Be specific. Then, if you can, tell someone. Thank your partner. Let your family know what their support means. Reach out to the person who helped you through a hard stretch.

And if you are struggling to find gratitude right now, start small. You don't need a long list. One person, one moment, or one reason to keep moving forward is a place to begin. You can also tell someone you're having a hard time. Gratitude and asking for help can go hand in hand.

We may not get to choose every circumstance we face, but we can make time to notice what sustains us along the way.

My hope this November is that each of us finds something to be thankful for, even in the middle of a struggle, and helps a fellow officer find it, too.

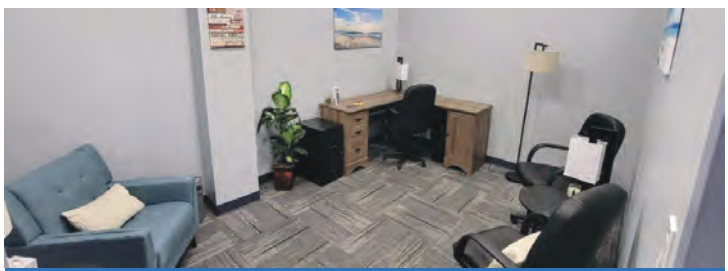
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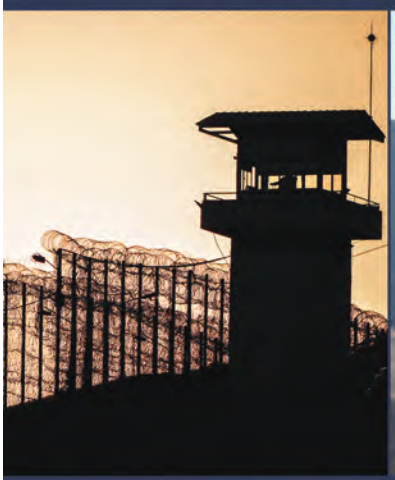
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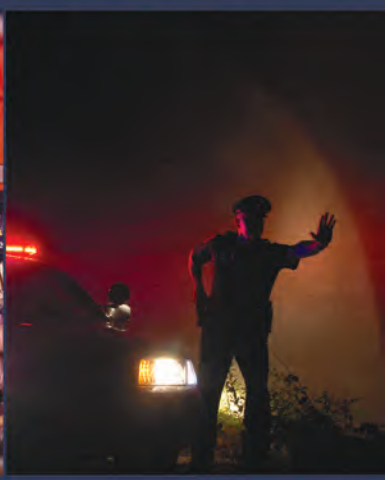
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Discipline Briefs



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
Pursuit for traffic offense; fail to notify OEMC of pursuit; no BWC (District Accountability Sgt-NAME REDACTED)	5-day suspension	2-day suspension
Alleged Interfere with another officer's traffic stop. (BIA Sgt-NAME REDACTED)	3-day suspension	Expunged
Alleged fail to report a "traffic crash." (BIA Sgt-NAME REDACTED)	1-day suspension	Expunged
No BWC/No ISR (COPA)	3-day suspension	Reprimand
Alleged failure to arrest (BIA Sgt-NAME REDACTED)	Reprimand	Expunged
9 total alleged "Rule" violations regarding: Alleged unjustified search of vehicle; Fail to inform complainant that BWC was recording; Fail to "timely" attend traffic court. (COPA Angela HEARTS-GLASS)	25-day suspension	Violation noted/No discipline

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 7-page arbitration decision re:
Pursuit for traffic; failing to notify OEMC; No BWC
(District Accountability Sergeant NAME REDACTED)

"First, I find that while [the officer] stated that he discontinued the pursuit of the offending vehicle until he saw the plume of smoke, I find that he nonetheless did continually follow the driver, albeit without lights and sirens engaged."

"He also admitted that he did not contact OEMC or activate his BWC. Thus, I find that the City has met its burden…"

Quotes from the 6-page arbitration decision re:
Alleged interfere with another officer's traffic stop
(BIA Investigator NAME REDACTED)

"I find that a preponderance of the evidence supports [the officer's] account of her role in the incident and does not support the Allegation that [the officer] 'interfered' with the investigation. I agree that [the officer] was attempting to calm a very agitated [officer]."

"Based on this evidence, I cannot find that [the officer] interfered with [another officer's] traffic stop."

Quotes from the 6-page arbitration decision re:
Allegedly fail to report a "traffic crash."
(BIA Investigator NAME REDACTED)

"After a review of the facts and circumstances of this case, I cannot find that the City has met its burden to prove that [the officer] engaged in the relevant error."

"First, Complainant, Sgt. [NAME REDACTED], acknowledged that…he was not a witness to any of the conversations…"

"The BIA did not interview [other listed witnesses] in its investigation."

"I note that [the officer's] entire statement and her actions were not controverted. Second, the BIA's report states that [the officer] acknowledged she should have notified the Police at the time of the occurrence."

"Further, she specifically asked the [alleged complainants] if they wanted her to file a Police report, and they told her that this could be handled between them and that they simply wanted their fence replaced."

"I find that while this may have been a technical violation regarding filing a Police report, I find that this matter could have easily been dealt with through some counseling, and I cannot find that any discipline is necessary. Thus, I find that the Department did not have just cause to issue discipline."

Quotes from the 7-page arbitration decision re:
No BWC/No ISR
(COPA)

"…although COPA interviewed the Complainant shortly after the incident in January 2023, it was not until January 2024 when COPA interviewed [the officer]."

"I find COPA's delay in the Investigation problematic and consider it a mitigating factor. I also note that one member of the CCR indicated that [the officer] should receive a Violation Noted or a Reprimand. Therefore, based on the totality of the circumstances, I find the 3-day Suspension to be excessive, and that a Reprimand is a more appropriate penalty in this matter."

Quotes from the 5-page arbitration decision re:
Alleged failure to make an arrest
(BIA Investigator NAME REDACTED)

"The Union contends that the unexplained delays in this case warrants overturning the discipline. The alleged incident occurred on April 20, 2019, and the Sworn Affidavit was signed on May 9, 2019, but [the officer] was not interviewed until two years after the incident."

"It was nearly three years after the incident that BIA would serve [the officer] with the Reprimand."

"[The officer] explained that he did not feel comfortable arresting the subject because he was undergoing a mental health crisis. The Union argues that BIA failed to take the totality of the circumstances into account when concluding the Investigation."

"Further, the Union contends that [the officer] provided objectively reasonable explanations to address the allegations."

"I find that [the officer], under the circumstances, made a reasonable judgment call when he determined that [the subject] was suffering a mental crisis and would be best served by going to a hospital for evaluation."

Quotes from the 9-page arbitration decision re:
Alleged unjustified search of vehicle;
Fail to inform complainant that BWC was recording;
Fail to "timely" attend traffic court
(9 total alleged "Rule" violations)
(COPA Angela HEARTS GLASS)

" I find that the totality of the evidence shows that there was a justifiable reason to search the vehicle."

"However, I find that [the officer] did fail to inform [the complainant] that her BWC was recording and that [the officer] did not appear in court in a timely manner."

"I note that I have rejected the allegation that [the officer] searched [the complainant's] car without justification and have only upheld the two other minor violations. Significantly, I agree that there is no explanation in the record for the excessive delay of the Investigation."

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

Notice of Lodge #7 Election

Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 will accept nominations for Lodge officers and trustees at its December 16, 2026 General Meeting at 7 p.m.

The election will be conducted as outlined in the Lodge #7 Constitution, Article VII. Please note that nominations must be made at the December 16, 2026 General Meeting. Completed petitions will be accepted during that meeting, and then thereafter at the Lodge #7 office (3rd Floor) during regular business hours until noon on December 23, 2026. There will be a meeting with the eligible candidates in January 2027 to discuss the election procedures.

Ballots for the election will be mailed to all members in February 2027 and will be counted at the Lodge #7 hall on March 3, 2027. Members who do not receive a ballot for whatever reason can vote in person on March 3, 2027 at the Lodge #7 hall from 8:30 a.m. to noon.



Chicago Lady Knights



MONICA ORTIZ

I recently had the pleasure of meeting Officer Sabrina Hernandez at an FOP meeting. She works in the 015 District and founded the first Chicago policewomen's softball team, the Lady Knights, in August 2026. When I asked her why she chose softball, she said she played in high school and has always loved the game. Her objective was to get the women together and build a sisterhood.

She started off by inviting her friends in the CPD. With help from the Knights baseball team, they produced a flyer and sent it to women in the department who might be interested in joining. Sabrina quickly started getting calls from women keen to get involved. Many said they'd been waiting for something like this and were looking forward to getting back to a sport they loved.

The squad is now at 50, with a mix of former high school and college players and some who have never played softball before. Sabrina says the women feel it's been the most enjoyable time they've had on a team and that they feel like a real sisterhood. Four volunteers from the Knights men's team coach this team.



In their first game in the Humboldt Park softball league, they came from behind to win 10-7. Because the team is so large, they're going to join other leagues next year so everyone gets a chance to play.

When I asked Sabrina what she hoped the Lady Knights would achieve, she said she wanted to give women with such stressful jobs an opportunity to relax, have a go, have a bit of fun, and get away from it all. She pointed out that officers are always helping people, and softball gives them a chance to have a bit of fun and meet new friends.

Sabrina also coaches girls in basketball and softball. She wants to show the girls they can play sports, be police officers, and be leaders.

Part of the Lady Knights' remit is community engagement. They recently ran a back-to-school event where they handed out school supplies and are planning further holiday events, including a toy drive. Given the level of interest, they will hold tryouts next year.

Law enforcement teams from across the country (NYPD, New Jersey, LAPD, to name a few) have heard of the Lady Knights and contacted Sabrina to discuss hosting a tournament. The Lady Knights' mission is to bring together and empower women within the Chicago Police Department through softball, build camaraderie, promote wellness, and build relationships with the communities we serve. We want to be a positive representation of our department through pride, integrity, and sportsmanship, and to give our women the opportunity to compete, lead, and inspire. Well done, ladies, and above all, have fun!

The Lady Knights are on a mission, and you can be part of it! Your donations will support equipment, uniforms, travel, and community events for our women officers. Every gift, big or small, makes a difference and helps the sisterhood grow. To donate or get involved with the Lady Knights, please email cpdladyknightssoftball@gmail.com. Step up to the plate and be part of something special!

God bless and stay safe.

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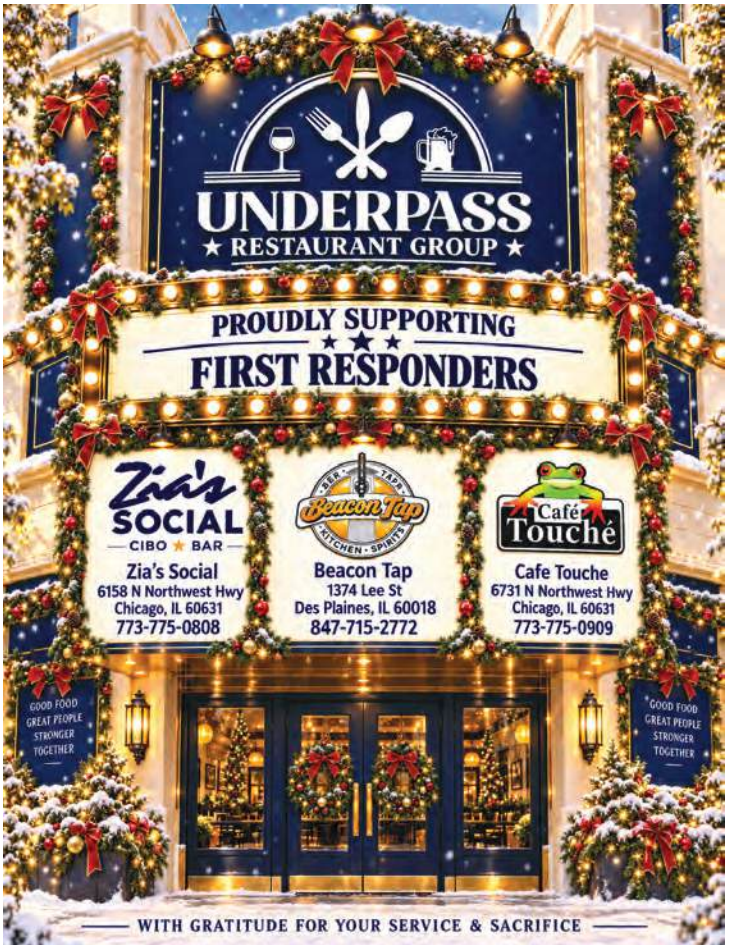
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Hengyi Yang, widow of
Ofc. Kevin Meng, Dec'd

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Thank a Veteran November 11th



ROB NOCEDA

After my disabled daughter's doctor's appointment, my son and I took her to Culver's. After ordering, we saw a man sitting wearing a Cold War hat. I reminded my son we thank those who serve. My son thanked him, as did I. I knew he had to be close to 90. He is 87. We had a nice, brief talk about being in the service.

There's a special bond and camaraderie among veterans. The title of veteran is limited to only 5.9 percent of the population, per the U.S Census Bureau. Approximately 15.7 million veterans have taken the oath and served our great country. So when you get a chance, thank a veteran and have a nice chat with them. They would appreciate your time and words of encouragement. I know this Korean War veteran made my day a little more special.

Marine Corps birthday is November 10th. Semper Fi and happy birthday to my fellow Marines!

Parking Lots

Parking lots across the districts are getting newly paved. I recently saw the 25th District parking lot while assisting a member on a CR statement. The newly paved lot looked really good. No more bumpy roads in your own parking lot.

Parking lot maintenance is one of the things I have consistently fought for at safety meetings over the years. Members don't need a flat tire or a bent rim when just going to park at work. These are small things that add up and frustrate our members.

I have also taken complaints from other districts that we have been able to resolve through our relationship with Risk Management. Please never hesitate to email me rnoceda@chicagofop.org or call me at the Lodge if you have a building or facility issue in your unit, or any other safety concern.

God bless and stay safe.



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From Start to Finish



JIM JAKSTAVICH

Hello again, Officers, both active and retired. Most of us, when we joined the CPD, were ordered to fill out a ton of paperwork in our first couple of days at the academy. For some new recruits, it was their first "real job" offering health benefits and a pension. They were given the difficult task of picking a beneficiary for their pension fund death benefit as well as the death benefit provided by the FOP when they signed up to become members of our union. Then came the $75,000 life insurance policy provided by the department, with each Officer having the option of purchasing additional insurance coverage through the employer at the negotiated rate. Most of us were so excited to have the job that we hurried through the extensive paperwork without reading the fine print. We named our parent(s), spouse, children, niece or nephew, or significant other as our beneficiary if, heaven forbid, we were killed in the line of duty, died from illness or just passed naturally. Let's be honest: if you were hired in your early 20s like I was, these things were the last thing on your mind. You didn't think about health insurance because you were a healthy young recruit. Shit, you didn't even go to the doctor, and the last doctor you probably saw at that time was at the department physical required to get on the job.

Then comes trying to understand the pension. When you are a young Officer, you aren't even thinking about retirement. You are more than likely trying to get on a tact team, get off the midnight shift and onto 3rd watch so you can partner up with your friend, or monitor the seniority in your district to see if you will get a decent furlough or watch bid. That's pretty much as far into the future of our careers as we were thinking, nothing about the pension. Well, as time goes by and we start to age or experience our first health problem, having good health insurance becomes important. As we become the benefits providers for our families, good health insurance for our kids becomes super damn important! As we near retirement, the thought of leaving the job and collecting that earned pension starts to become reality. We want to leave, move away and collect as many checks as possible.

Here is where we need to pay close attention and start reading the fine print. The people we listed on our beneficiary forms may have passed on themselves, divorced us or simply parted company. I am here to tell you that each Officer should check with the pension fund and ensure that their beneficiary is the person they currently want to receive their death benefit. The same goes for the FOP death benefit. The reality is we have had ex-wives collect that death benefit when the Officer had already escaped their clutches years before and moved on to marital bliss, having forgotten only to change their beneficiary. There was a funny line told to me when I was new: "Join the force and get a divorce." Well, it's an unfortunate reality of our jobs. This goes for both male and female Officers.

While you are checking those beneficiaries, ask yourself another question: Would your family know where to start if something happened to you tomorrow? Make a list of your pension, insurance policies, and other benefits, along with contact information for the pension fund, the FOP, and any other providers. Keep it with your important documents in a secure place, and make sure someone you trust knows where to find it. We may know whom to call and what benefits we have earned, but our families may not. Giving them a place to start is one more way to take care of them.

Lastly, many of us think that we will be around forever with no chronic health problems. God willing, we will. But while working at the FOP, I have been exposed to many Officers facing unfortunate tragedies such as strokes, comas, and accidents. These Officers are often nonverbal or incapacitated and unable to make the necessary decisions about their care. Officers need to take the time to plan for the unexpected and take care of their families. There are a few simple things, like preparing a will and trust and appointing a POA (power of attorney), that can make an unfortunate tragedy easier for your family or loved ones and allow them to navigate your care and finances on your behalf. Officers should look out for the "Wills for Heroes" programs offered through the department or check our magazine for an attorney who can provide these services.

As always, stay safe and have a Happy Thanksgiving.

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Retirement Credentials



MICHAEL COLLINS

Hello again, brothers and sisters, both active and retired. At the FOP Pre-Retirement Seminar held on October 21, I spoke to those in attendance about the steps they need to take to make sure they are in good standing with the Department before their retirement date so they receive their much-deserved retirement credentials, which consists of a star and official Chicago Police Department ID. For those who were not at the seminar, I would like to touch on this to help you understand what you need to do before retirement.

First, I recommend that about eight to twelve months prior to your planned retirement date, you call the Bureau of Internal Affairs (BIA) records and request to review your disciplinary history. This is so important is because the Department is denying officers their retirement credentials for just about any open CR/LOG#s. A lot of times, officers didn't even know they had an open CR/LOG# until their retirement date, when they unexpectedly were denied their credentials. So, please do not allow yourself to be blindsided on your last day of service. You will also need to serve any pending suspensions prior to your retirement date.

Once you receive your discipline history from BIA records, you will be able to see if you have any open CR/LOG#s. If you have any open cases or grievances, please write down the CR/LOG# and call me at the FOP as soon as possible so I can immediately start working to resolve those open cases. The same goes for any pending suspensions. If you have any pending suspensions that you have not yet served, I will write an email on your behalf requesting that you serve them as soon as possible, since you plan on retiring and want to do so in good standing. I will say that the Department has been pretty accommodating in resolving these matters.

Reaching retirement as a Chicago Police Officer carries a special meaning that can be difficult for others to understand. You endure danger daily; sacrifice family time and holidays; face lawsuits and false allegations; live with the stress of knowing one wrong split-second decision can cost you your job and freedom at any time; and carry the cumulative emotional weight of the job. Many of our brothers and sisters have made the ultimate sacrifice and died for this job and the people of Chicago. Reaching retirement is more than just leaving any job. As a Chicago Police Officer, it means that you made it through.

Retirement stars are badges of honor. They represent brotherhood and dedication. They represent a career defined by service, sacrifice, responsibility, and commitment. Your credentials recognize the completion of a career devoted to serving the Department and people of Chicago. Please do not let some nonsense CR/LOG# hold back what should be yours.

Stay safe, everyone!

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KENYATTA GAINES

Law Enforcement Officers,

As families across our city prepare to gather around tables filled with food and surrounded by loved ones, it is important to take a moment to express heartfelt gratitude to those who will not have the chance to fully participate in this cherished holiday. To all the dedicated law enforcement officers who will be working tirelessly to protect our communities, we extend our deepest thanks and admiration.

Every day, you go out understanding the risks to yourselves to ensure the safety and well-being of others. You sacrifice precious moments with your families, selflessly dedicating yourselves to the noble cause of maintaining law and order. The holiday season can be an especially challenging time for those in law enforcement. While many are enjoying the warmth and comfort of their homes, you are out patrolling the streets, responding to emergencies, and upholding justice. Your dedication to duty and your willingness to protect others, even during times when you cannot be with your own families, is a testament to your character and selflessness.

I recognize the sacrifices you make, not only during the holiday season but every day throughout the year. Your willingness to show up each tour to positively affect this city has a profound impact on the lives of countless individuals. The peace of mind that comes from knowing there are brave men and women like you standing guard, ready to respond to any situation, is immeasurable.

Maintain your resolve in the face of adversity, show compassion to those in need, and perform your duties with confidence. Your commitment to justice, fairness, and the well-being of others is inspirational. Your presence in our communities brings hope, reassurance, and a sense of security that allow us to celebrate the holiday season with peace of mind. You embody the true spirit of Thanksgiving, as you give of yourselves so that others may enjoy the blessings of safety and security.

During this season of gratitude and reflection, I would like to extend thanks to your families as well. They, too, make sacrifices as they support you in your important work. They provide a foundation of love and strength that allows you to carry out your duties with dedication and passion. We recognize and appreciate their support, understanding, and the endless prayers for your safe return home.

As we soon gather around our tables, let us remember those who cannot be with their families this Thanksgiving. Let us hold them close in our thoughts and extend our gratitude for their service. Let us honor their dedication and sacrifice by fostering a spirit of unity within this department.

In closing, please accept our deepest thanks and heartfelt appreciation for all that you do. May you find strength and comfort in knowing that your efforts are valued. Hopefully the supervisory staff will adopt the motto "For us, by us" and stop seeking to separate, humiliate, and aggravate the rank and file. We have enough oversight committees trying to do that already.

With profound respect and gratitude, Happy Thanksgiving!

Stay safe!

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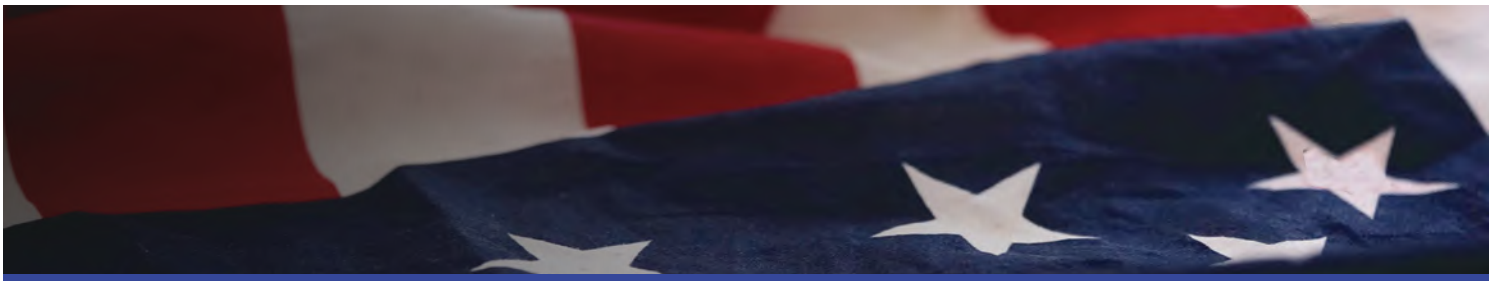
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Happy Thanksgiving



PAT FIORETTO

It seems you can't turn on the news (or scroll through your cell phone) without being bombarded with negativity and hatred. Our communities, city, state, country, and world seem to be in chaos. One thing, however, that rarely gets mentioned is the stability brought about in our communities by the presence of law enforcement officers. Police officers are the unsung heroes who allow the rest of us to enjoy our lives and celebrate the holidays peacefully with our families, without worrying about the evil that surrounds us in the streets of Chicago.

Since this article will be published in November, it might be rewarding for officers to be reminded of just how noble their vocation is and the value their service provides us all. I came across this tribute to police officers on the Police Poems website and thought it should be shared to honor the brave men and women who patrol our streets:

"A Cop's Thanksgiving Prayer"

No festive meal for me tonight
Spare me calls of senseless fights
Make there be no children lost
No drunk drivers and the resulting cost

Let there be peace in our town's homes
Don't make me hear a battered wife's moans
Let the gang-bangers enjoy a turkey feast
And spare the streets their bloody lease

May those with no roof find shelter tonight
And those who are lost find a guiding light
Let those who on the helpless prey
Leave their victims untouched this day

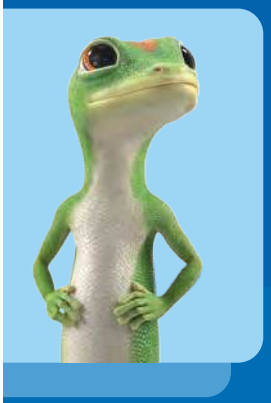
Don't ask me to deliver news of the death
Of loved ones, far away, in a wreck
Show me no children who have been abused
Whose haunted eyes reveal the parent accused

Give me a night without guns, blood or tears
A night without useless pain, suffering or fears
If you spare me this night all of these things
I'll call it even, Lord, and a Happy Thanksgiving
– written by dkb

As we all celebrate this holiday season, please know that citizens of the City of Chicago owe you all a great deal of gratitude. While most families will be celebrating with their loved ones, eating turkey, and all the trimmings, many of you will be at work making sure we are safe.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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AI-Generated Police Report



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]through 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 "criti-

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cal 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.

GRACE & THOMPSON

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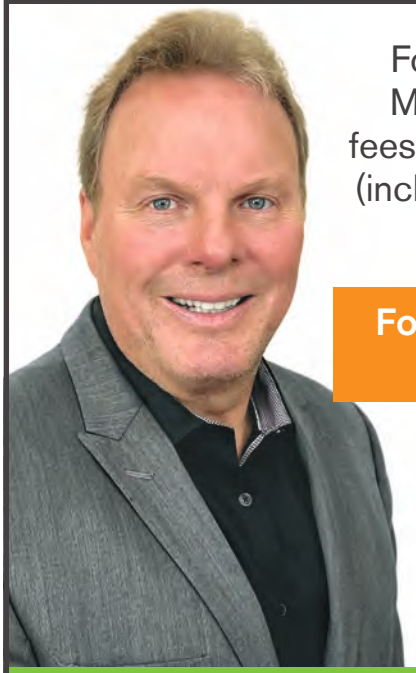
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28 YEARS OF SERVING LODGE 7 MEMBERS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

Honoring Retired Members

Name	Rank	Unit	Years
Sean S. Brandon	PO	191	31
Peter Bucks	FTO	20	25
Terri M. Conway	DET	640	29
Ramiro Cortez	PO	2	21
Peter C. Cruz	DET	620	26
Salvador Gaud	PO	17	29
Sonia Hernandez	PO	19	24
Tion Horton	PO	189	26
Kenneth Jackson	PO	15	34
Eli Jacobs	DET	650	29
Richard Kazimierski	DET	603	31
Mark La Civita	PO	15	20
Dan J. Mieszcak	PO	25	35
Anthony Nowakowski	PO	18	31
Lillian Pena	PO	2	26
Brian Richards	FTO	20	28
Erich Richter	PO	16	27
Adrienne Seiber	PO	124	29
David A. Smith	PO	18	29
James D. Sullivan	PO	9	31

Honoring Sisters and Brothers who have passed

Name	Age	Date of Passing
Walter Vallee	93	March 18, 2022
Arnold Sikler	89	February 28, 2023
Dennis H. Olson	84	July 19, 2023
Edward Schwarz	91	June 13, 2024
Patrick J. Hosty	79	March 14, 2026
Kathleen Quenzel	83	August 12, 2026
Lawrence O'Connell	76	September 5, 2026
William Thompson	89	September 5, 2026
Marvin S. Streske	84	September 10, 2026
Cheryl Dust	72	September 14, 2026
Gerard J. Carroll	71	September 16, 2026
Paul Bernatek	85	September 17, 2026
Robert Tatham	88	September 18, 2026
Frank E. Amato	84	September 19, 2026
James H. Humphrey	87	September 20, 2026
John Matranza	81	September 21, 2026
David N. Sandlund	84	September 22, 2026
Raymond J. Connors	82	September 25, 2026
Sylvester Marshall	82	September 28, 2026
Jean E. O'Donnell	80	September 29, 2026
Joseph Caputo Jr.	92	October 1, 2026
Dominic Spedale	94	October 1, 2026
James J. Zarno	100	October 1, 2026
Mark D. Sepdale	67	October 5, 2026
Harry Thome	83	October 11, 2026
John P. Chomiak	81	October 12, 2026
Carlo Zyrkowski	56	October 13, 2026
Ronald Harris	91	October 14, 2026
Jesus Avila	66	October 15, 2026
James L. Green	89	October 21, 2026
Edward M. Todd	81	October 21, 2026

The Thank You Basket



RABBI MOSHE WOLF

As we are about to celebrate the holiday of Thanksgiving, we pause to reflect on this past year. There were good moments that made us smile and laugh, and moments that broke our hearts and made us cry. We had good times, and times when we were shown more than we could understand. As the saying goes, "One thing in life is certain: Nothing is certain." The trick is to take a few moments each day to stop and give thanks for what we have. That's why it is called "the present."

It brings to mind an old story about two angels and two baskets. Here it is.

Once upon a time, G-d sent two angels down to earth, each carrying a basket. The first angel's job was to collect all the prayers and requests in which people asked for all their different needs. The second angel's job was to collect all the prayers in which people said, "Thank you."

The first angel, carrying the "requests basket," was busy from morning till night: "Please help me get that promotion." "Please let my kid pass the test." "Please let the car make it through one more winter." "Please get me home safe tonight." "Please let me win the lottery." His basket was overflowing with requests even before lunch, and he had to fly back up twice just to empty it!

The second angel, carrying the "Thank you, G-d" basket, walked the same streets, past the same houses, people, and cars. He waited, waited, and listened. At the end of the day, he flew back up with just a few little "thank you" notes rattling around the bottom of his basket.

G-d looked into both baskets. He wasn't angry. He was a little sad and perplexed, like a father who gives and gives and only hears from his children when they need something, with very little acknowledgement or appreciation for all his kindness and goodness. End of story.

Brothers and sisters, as first responders, we know this feeling better than anyone. People call us when something goes wrong. Nobody calls 911 to say, "Thanks, everything's fine over here!" or "I'm having a party; please join us!" We know what it's like to give everything we've got and hear no appreciation in return. So, let's not do that to G-d or to the people we love.

This Thanksgiving, fill up that second "Thank You Basket." Thank G-d for getting you home safe after every tour. Thank your partners and peers who always have your back. Thank your family, the ones who wait up, worry, and love you for who you are. Pick up the phone and call the old-timer who trained you when you were a rookie. A thank you costs nothing, and it can make someone's whole week.

At the request of many of our readers, here is a Thanksgiving prayer for use at your Thanksgiving dinner. Print out and keep in your pocket.

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Lord, thank you for having given us life. G-d, You have given us everything that we need and could ever want. Help us to see with Your eyes all the beauty that exists around us. Often, we look around but don't really see how lucky we are. Help us not to complain about small things day in and day out, but rather let us thank You for the simple things in life, like sunshine, family, and loved ones.

G-d, help us to be conscious of everything that we have going for us, even if we are afflicted by illness or the challenges of everyday life. You are glorious and can grant us the strength to use the power we possess to change our lives. Lord, we are happy for all that we have and will have because it comes from You. Whatever comes from You is filled with glory, and we accept it.

Thank You for having created the ocean, for it is beautiful; the sun, for it is bright; the moon, for it is romantic; and the day and the night. Thank You for giving us food every day to eat and water to drink. You know our needs and fulfill them. Many worry, saying, "What shall we eat tomorrow?" or "How are we going to cope with all that is shown to us?"

But we should be like the birds in the sky and the fish in the sea and live with faith. They worry not as to what they will eat today or tomorrow, yet You provide for them, Lord. Help us to have greater faith in You, Lord, and help us not to worry so much.

We thank You, Lord, for all the beautiful things You bring into our lives each day. Lord, help the thankful nature within us to become more present in our lives, so that when we begin to think negatively or complain about small things, we can begin to realize how small our problems are and be thankful for everything we already have. And last but not least, Lord, please remind us to find something in this beautiful world of Yours to smile about every day, even if we have to look in the mirror. Help us to remember this prayer, Lord, today and every day, and let us say, Amen.

There is never a better time than today to share some time with your loved ones. Let them know how much they mean to you and how precious they are to you, as no one knows what tomorrow might bring.

A little humor from the "Moshe Files" to keep you smiling:

The Unbreakable Comb

A salesman was demonstrating unbreakable combs in a department store. He impressed the people who stopped by to look by putting the comb through all sorts of torture and stress.

Finally, to impress even the skeptics in the crowd, he bent the comb completely in half, and to his surprise, it snapped with a loud crack. Without missing a beat, he bravely held up both halves of the "unbreakable" comb for everyone to see and said, "And this, ladies and gentlemen, is what an unbreakable comb looks like on the inside."

LOL…That's called being quick with a comeback!

On behalf of ALL the Chaplains, wishing you and your loved ones a healthy, safe, and happy Thanksgiving. And on Veterans Day, a special thank you to all our troops who have served our country twice, first in the military and now as first responders. Your service will always be remembered. May G-d bless you, keep you safe, and always keep you in His loving care. AMEN.

If you need an ear to listen, a shoulder to lean on, or some good humor to share (I know you have a good joke, a good laugh, or a story to share), please don't hesitate to drop us a line or give us a call.

All our contact information is on our Police Chaplains' website: www.chicagopcm.org.

Compliments of your Police Chaplain, Rabbi Moshe Wolf.

Compliments of your Police Chaplain • Rabbi Moshe Wolf
773-463-4780 (voicemail) Cell: 773-230-7872 (text)
E-mail: moshewolf@hotmail.com
Snail mail: 3008 W. Pratt Blvd., Chicago, IL 60645

Making Time for Faith and Fellowship



FATHER DAN BRANDT

During the upcoming season of Advent, many people try to pray more intentionally. So, just a reminder: Every Friday at 1:00 p.m., the Chaplains Section continues to facilitate a Bible study/prayer/faith-sharing group at the police academy. No matter your faith tradition, ALL are welcome to share and hear words of encouragement at these brief Christian-based gatherings.

A similar (though more intimate in size) nondenominational Christian prayer opportunity is offered every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room at Public Safety Headquarters.

Muslim (Jumma) prayers are offered every Friday at 1:00 p.m. in room 202 of the academy.

To confirm times or if you'd like more information, please email Joseph.Jackson@ChicagoPolice.org, Kimberly.LewisDavis@ChicagoPolice.org, Rafael.Yanez@ChicagoPolice.org, or Hysni.Selenica@ChicagoPolice.org.

Due to a broken ankle (a fun revisit to an injury endured during that nutty summer of 2020) and the related mobility issues I'm temporarily facing, the regular second and fourth Sunday Masses at Mercy Home have been suspended until (hopefully) Christmas. More information can be found on the "Police Mass" link at www.ChicagoPCM.org. Despite this injury, I'm still quite available; don't hesitate to call, text, or send sweets!

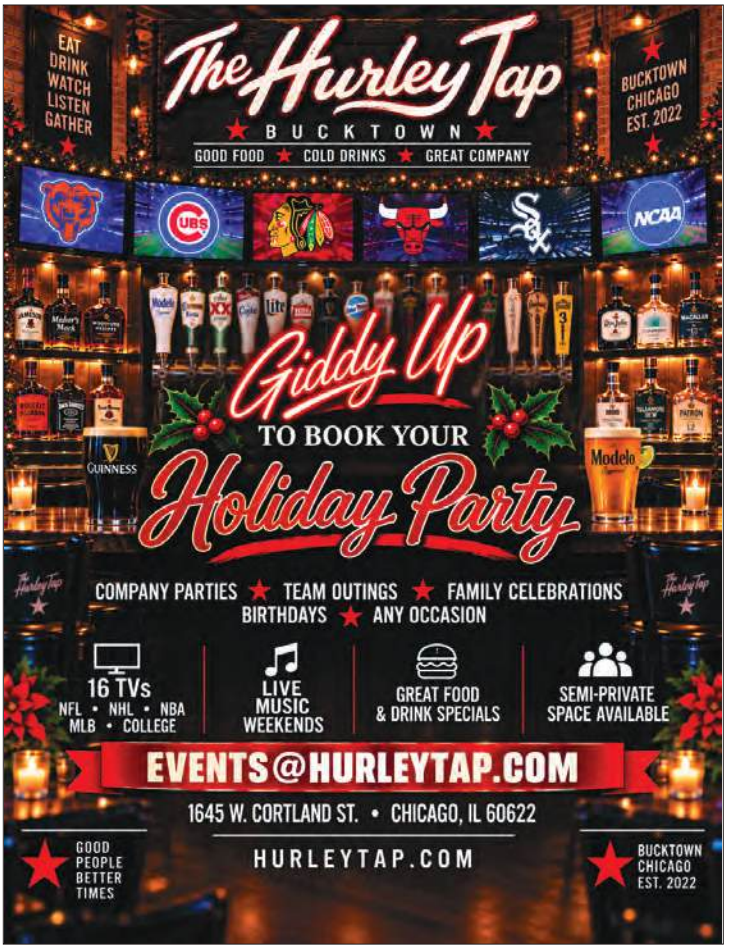
If the CPD Chaplains can ever be of ANY assistance or support to members, retirees, or families, please don't hesitate to call on us: Chaplain Joe Jackson (312/771-6684), Chaplain Rafael Yanez (773/519-4907), Chaplain Hysni Selenica (312/771-6692), Chaplain Bob Montelongo (773/459-5089), Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis (312/771-6638), Rabbi Moshe Wolf (773/463-4780), or me (773/550-2369). All of these numbers (also listed in your FOP directory under "Chaplains") are cell phones and receive text messages. You can also email us through the chaplains' website.

As with our colleagues at EAP, you can be assured of our nonjudgmental confidentiality.

Keep up with all of the above and LOTS more (including some terrific pictures) at www.ChicagoPCM.org.

God bless you and keep you safe!

Fr. Dan Brandt, Directing CPD Chaplain
773-550-2369 (cell/text)
dan.brandt@chicagopolice.org | www.ChicagoPCM.org





PHOTOS BY GEORGE GILL

LIFE SAVING AWARD

Police Officer Steven Gilbert #3084

Police Officer Yisell Salgado #3208

Nominator: Sergeant Timothy Fitzpatrick #1581







On 31 Jul 2025, Officers Gilbert and Salgado were dispatched to 3418 N. Lincoln Ave., Unit #205, for an EMS call. Upon arrival, they learned from a frantic husband that his wife was 37 weeks pregnant, her water had broken, the baby was crowning, and she was in active labor.

The Officers made their way to the bathroom and observed the woman screaming while standing over the toilet, surrounded by blood. The Officers helped her to the floor and, with the help of CFD, began assisting with the delivery.

Officer Gilbert observed the baby's feet emerging from the mother and safely supported the baby as the delivery progressed. Officer Salgado noticed the umbilical cord wrapped around the baby's neck. Officer Gilbert gently removed it to allow the baby to breathe.

The mother and baby were transported to the hospital for observation. The baby's father requested a photograph and a police report to document the Chicago Police Officers' role in his son's birth.

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

LIFE SAVING AWARD

Police Officer Jasmin Mehmedagic #5089

Police Officer Juliano Sciortino #9603

Police Officer Robert Carrillo #11813

Nominator: Police Officer Brian Richards #19379 20th District Unit Rep





On 10 Feb 2025, 020th District Officers responded to an OEMC call of "marine distress" after a man was observed jumping from the pier at Osterman Beach into the icy waters of Lake Michigan. The Officers made contact with the bystander who had called and was maintaining contact with the man in distress.

The Officers located a rescue buoy and repeatedly attempted to throw it to the man, who was unable to grab hold of it due to hypothermia. With assistance from CFD, the Officers were finally able to reach him, pull him from the frigid waters, and place him into a waiting ambulance. Their care and determination saved the man's life.

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

LIFE SAVING AWARD

Police Officer Joseph Mumpher #15738

Police Officer David Doria #18044

Police Officer Patryk Masnica #11412

Police Officer Raymond Gochee #3909

Police Officer David Gonzalez #12291

Nominator: Police Officer Michael Kearns #19068





On 03 Nov 2025, CIRT Bike Officers were on patrol when they responded to a "marine distress" call at 1559 S. Lakeshore Drive, Burnham Harbor. The Officers began searching the shoreline when they were waived down by a fisherman who related that an elderly man had stumbled and fallen forward into the harbor. R/Os observed the victim clinging to a fishing net and pleading for help.

The Officers coordinated their rescue efforts by notifying OEMC and requested CFD EMS and CPD Marine units. They summoned a nearby fishing boat, which picked them up at the dock and took them to the victim. The Officers pulled the victim from the cold water and onto the boat. The boat then returned to the dock, where the elderly man was carried to a waiting ambulance and transported to Northwestern Hospital.

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

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Police Officer Curtis Alequin #10028
Police Officer Joseph Cappello IV #10626
Police Officer Mitchell English #7647
Police Officer Lonnie Felters Jr. #14938
Police Officer Jose Hernandez #15925
Police Officer Martin Hernandez #6529
Police Officer Nicholas Chovanec #11376
Police Officer Mark Hawkins III #7085
Police Officer Lawrence Nickerson #9410
Police Officer James Ceglarek #17705
Police Officer David Marciano #12409
Detective Anthony Noradin #21252
Sergeant Joel Lopez #1101
Sergeant Cameron Mays #1154
Sergeant Jason Edwards #1963
Sergeant Daniel Conway #1658
Lietenant Michael Moreth #379
ATF Intelligence Research Specialist Daniel Golden

Nominator: Sergeant Daniel Conway #1958



This Distinguished Service Award is presented to the Area 4 HIST Team for their dedication, professionalism, and exceptional performance. During the course of 2025, the Area 4 HIST Team conducted relentless and highly effective operations both within the city limits of Chicago and across the state of Illinois, collaborating with different municipalities and state and federal agents to place homicide offenders into custody. The Area 4 HIST Team's combined efforts and close partnership with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office led to the arrests and prosecution of 46 homicide offenders, providing justice for the victim's families and a voice for the victims of the senseless violence plaguing our great city.

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



Thank You For The Lift

The inspirational stories of CPD's catastrophically injured officers who talk about why they have so much to be thankful for this holiday season

BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Since that damn bullet hit him in the throat, Chicago Police Officer Nelson Crespo has worked his ass off to keep moving forward. The fortitude is strong with this one, as is the way with catastrophically injured officers in our city.

When Nelson got his voice back after the April 25 shooting by an escaping criminal who also killed his partner, John Barthnolomew, Lodge 7 President John Catanzara marveled at how Crespo could not stop talking. When his brothers from the 17th District, including former watchmate and Lodge 7 Trustee Chair David DiSanti, would come to visit during his ongoing rehab residence at the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab, Nelson percolated with wits and grins. And battling quadriplegia could not keep Nelson from marrying his beloved Jimena right there at Shirley Ryan.

Nelson continues to move forward. Actually moving. He can now sit up in bed. He can move his arms.

"He's made some powerful progress," DiSanti declared. "It's a blessing."

It's that time of year to count blessings, though that's a daily occurrence for your catastrophically injured brothers. It's also the time of year for miracles, which another officer on total and permanent disability described when he visited Nelson.

"I see his face when all of his district officers are coming in," said Carlos Yanez, Jr. "His face lights up, and he has a burst of energy. I don't know how to explain it. You can see the endorphins, the happiness coming back."

Having endured an excruciating recovery from paralysis after being shot five times in the tragic incident when Ella French was killed in August 2021, Carlos certainly has a lot to be thankful for. From his seat at the Thanksgiving table, Yanez, Jr. offers the uplifting expressions of those who have come back from the near-dead mentally, emotionally and as much physically as anyone can come.



"I mean, there's blessings all around us," he continued. "Look at your family. Look at your loved ones. See how you make each person smile every day, and realize that you're surrounded by miracles."

Thanks So Much

A bronze statue at Gold Star Families Memorial Park depicts an officer in Class A uniform, hat in his lap, sitting in a wheelchair. A woman to one side holds a baby. A small boy hugs the officer, and another officer in uniform stands behind the wheelchair with his hand on the shoulder of his "partner."

Set on a blue star in the marble and concrete, the one-of-a-kind statue was built in 2010. A wall next to it shows four more blue stars and the words "WE WILL NEVER FORGET."

Chicago Police Officer Cedric Brumley, who was left paralyzed from the waist down when his vehicle was rushing to respond to a shooting and hit by another vehicle in 2002, helped designed the statue. As did Officer Jim Mullen, who was shot in the cheek in 1997 and has been paralyzed from the neck down and on a ventilator since. As well as Denise Domaglia, whose husband Bernard was also catastrophically injured by a gunshot in 1988 and lived out his life in a wheelchair before passing in 2017.

At the time of his catastrophic injury, Cedric had a 15-month-old daughter and 6-year-old son. There is said to be a resemblance of his family to the statue.

Calyn Brumley did not know her dad before his injury, but the statue has reportedly prompted her to tell a friend, "My daddy was a police officer. He's a hero."

So this is more than a story about being thankful. It is about never forgetting, tribute and sheer awe.

This is exemplified by Mullen, who was responding to a disturbance call and took the bullet that severed his spinal cord. De-

spite his disability, Mullen, who became known as Chicago's "Comeback Cop," has started a wildly successful business selling applesauce, did some television work and even ran for public office.

"You just got to do the best you can every day and hope and pray everything gets a little better every day, as it did in my case," Jim explained. "You're learning how to live with an injury that nobody's ever trained for. I think for me it's a matter of just getting up and keep[ing] swinging the bat."



Give Thanks

The attitude, appreciation for life and audacity flowing through catastrophically injured officers seems to inspire everlasting hugging. Lodge 7 Field Rep Mike Cosentino, the FOP's political director, relates how the union has extended its arms by working on groundbreaking support for the 12 living officers and members who have been so injured. Please, read on for that important announcement.

Cos observes how many members should see their brothers who have had that near-death experience. Or likely how they do.

"I think those are people who stared death in the eye and said, 'not today,'" Cos submitted. "And because they came that close and their lives are affected the way they're affected, they're grateful. Sometimes we're not grateful for what we have, and I think they are grateful."

Following that thought, let's proceed with that Thanksgiving tradition of going around the table to say what they are thankful for.

Starting with Danny Golden, who was shot while breaking up a fight outside of a bar in Beverly in July 2022. He was off duty at the time and now no longer has the ability to walk.



He just celebrated his third wedding anniversary with the beautiful Casey, who gave birth to son Danny four months ago. His gratitude begins at home, thanking Casey for keeping his drive alive. Beyond that, it's a fairly simple statement about what he faces every day.

"I'm too young and I wasn't dead, so it's put your boots on, get back to work," Golden stated. "I never really felt sorry for myself. Shit happens and you can't change it, so might as well get back after it."

Mullen was in his early 30s with a new wife and baby when he was injured. Now that he's coming up on mandatory retirement age, his list of people to thank could run on like an Academy Award acceptance speech.

He said he is grateful for his care team, who knows just how much freedom to give. He added gratitude for his friends who like to come over on Sundays to watch football and have a few beers or get a party together.

He's grateful to always be out in his van, going to lunch or dinner at one his favorite restaurants. Wildfire, Seasons 52 or Joe's Seafood, Prime Steak & Stone Crab on Grand Avenue to name a few.

"It's still life worth living," Mullen deadpanned. "The only difference is I beat everybody else to the chair before you guys get to one in your retirement years."



On Oct. 30, 2002, Cedric Brumley responded to a call of an officer shot. On the way to the location, the police car that crashed into his left Cedric with a severed aorta, comatose for two weeks and hospitalized for almost four months.

Eight years later, Brumley served as the honorary starter for the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation 10th Annual Run to Remember. It was there he expressed what he is thankful for, starting with being able to watch his children grow up and concluding with what has injected immense healing power into this man who speaks up for catastrophically injured officers as much as anybody.

"I'm sure any guy or gal not here any longer would trade my position any day," he proclaimed.

Carlos confides that he doesn't know where to start with what he is thankful for. He calls being in the status of total and permanent disability the best-case scenario under current Department parameters. Because he couldn't talk, walk or see after the shooting, he emphasized, "I am so grateful and appreciative of how far I've come, the things that I'm able to physically and mentally do and be there for my family."

Sure, it's been a long road back from being bedridden and not being able to go to the bathroom by himself or feed himself. He knows Nelson is currently working his way through the same challenges to reach the point of gratitude Carlos, Jim, Danny and Cedric all seem to feel.

"Having life and breathing every day," he added.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

THANK YOU CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35

Carlos also echoes a conviction that every officer who has ever been injured in any way would share.

"A special thank you to my wife," he praised of his majestic partner, Brenda. "Other than my father, she is my hero. When I see Nelson, I'm like, 'We married angels.'"



Thanks in Advance

In this season of giving, Lodge 7 has embarked on a great act of charity for its catastrophically injured members. At the October general membership meeting, Catanzara announced plans to form Chi 606, an independent charity that will gather donations to benefit members.

The goal is for one of those benefits to be paying property taxes for catastrophically injured members who own their own homes, much in the same way the military does for its soldiers who come out in permanent and total disability.

The military program has been legislated. Cosentino reported that they looked at doing something similar in Illinois, but getting any legislation passed in Springfield these days seems to require 15 concessions on other issues.

"There's more that can be done for these people," Cosentino amplified. "The Department really doesn't do enough."

While the current group of catastrophically injured includes 12 Chicago Police Officers, Cos noted they would like to look at including families of those who have been killed in the line of duty in the property tax program. It's certainly part of the Lodge 7 philosophy: There's always more that can be done.

Chi 606 increases the just-do-it approach that certainly will have a profound impact on the officers who most members know and want to be there for.

"I think it would feel unbelievable because most of us came on this job for one reason, and it's because we enjoy helping others," Cos added. "And to help your own, there's nothing like it in the world."

Thank Goodness

So time for some Thanksgiving toasts. From a glass-half-full perspective, of course.

Here's to Cedric Brumley, whose positive attitude has been as omnipresent as his smile. He went to college at Prairie View A&M University in Texas, where he studied criminal justice and pitched for the school's baseball team before returning to the Chicago area to become a police officer.

He was coaching his son's baseball team until that day when his car rolled over after the crash. Still, before too long, Cedric began working toward his master's with the goal of one day becoming an academy instructor.

And to Nelson Crespo, who receives regular toasts from officers in 017 and across the city coming to visit and share in good cheers. They don't talk about his treatment or his progress. It's like he is still in roll

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call, listening to the guys complain about the sergeants.

"We hang out, we BS, we joke around and he really gets a lot out of it," DiSanti related. "So do I."

Golden also still hangs out with his boys. Some of that comes from working alongside former CPD coppers in his job with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Chicago Gun Intelligence Center. He also goes to his lake house outside of South Haven, Michigan, where they hunt and fish.

His toasts are to loving being the police, continuing to be a go-getter and life made better with Casey.

"She's my saving grace," Danny cheers. "She never has a bad day, so she keeps me going. I'm just staying active, never feeling sorry for myself. You have to keep yourself motivated. Life's not over. Basically just keep going, keep being yourself."

Mullen's cup runneth over with optimism in a toast to Crespo and the resilience inherent in Chicago Police Officers. If he follows Jim's path, Nelson will learn something new every day to make things faster, easier or smoother. Mullen also professes that Crespo will gain more independence as he begins to heal.

But mostly Mullen wants Crespo's glass to be full of the fortitude that has been his force multiplier the past 30 years.

"Well, I think you have to have it because there aren't any other options," Jim shared. "I think it's the spirit that you got to keep on keeping on."

Carlos raises a glass to his fellow members who provided the support in his recovery. In return, he gives his all representing them as a Lodge 7 trustee.

"Now I can be a voice for my brothers and sisters in blue," he exclaimed.

With that voice, something needs to be said. A message to the Department to not forget about their catastrophically injured officers.

"I think the city needs to do more to have us involved," Carlos implored. "Invite us to one event a year, like the valor awards. The job is a big part of our heart."

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