

POLICE OFFICER HELMUTH RUPPE



LIFETIME MEMBER P.O. HELMUTH RUPPE

1/1/1944 – 1/30/2023

We regret to inform our members and fellow retirees of the passing of **Lifetime Member, Ret. P.O. Helmuth Ruppe**, on January 30th, at the age of 79 years. Helmuth was appointed to the Transit Police on July 20, 1968, and retired August 26, 1989. He leaves behind his wife, Ingrid.

Condolences may be sent to Ingrid at 39 Caroline Ave, Elmont NY 11003-5017

Helmuth was a long-time member of the Retirees Association, FOP Lodge 317, The Long Island Shields, the International Police Association and his

beloved Transit Police Steuben Association. Helmuth was big man who was known for having a big heart as well his generosity. Both Helmet & Ingrid frequently attended Florida Reunions.

Helmuth, was better known as “Big Red” and was a very active and “Good” cop. As a larger than life individual, with an impressive record of arrests, he was featured in a number of newspaper articles, including a major expose in a New York City Daily. He worked in Districts 4, 1, and City-Wide A/C. He was also well known among the ne’er-do-wells on the “Deuce” (42nd Street/Times Square), while he had a reputation for firmness, but also known to be fair. Consequently, he was also highly respected among the criminal inhabitants of the deuce cultivating symbiotic relationships that developed into a sense of cooperation.

Our deepest condolences and sympathies to Ingrid. May our friend and colleague Helmuth Rest in Peace.

Helmuth’s obituary is posted on Krauss Funeral Home web yet.
Check <https://kraussfuneralhome.com/>.



The Continuing Travels of Helmuth

By Helmuth Ruppe, Region 5

For the end-of-year holidays, it was time to head out on a well deserved vacation. During the past five years I have travelled internationally - six times to Asia and three times to Europe. It was decided to visit Europe again and specifically, Austria and Italy. In the past I have spent considerable time in Salzburg and the surrounding areas visiting with friends and family. The weather was comfortable and there was no snow except when travelling into the Alps, which was considerable, as we discovered after an hour's drive into the mountains.

In Austria, we visited with **Rudy Koenig**, who resides in Lustenau near Lake Constance and the Swiss border, and

has been affiliated with the IPA for many years. Rudy is also a collector of police memorabilia and is in the Guinness World Book of Records as having the biggest collection of police hats. To make our visit special Rudy and his wife, Marlene, arranged for us to have dinner with them at the Palace at Hohenems, which is in the region of Voralberg, also near the Swiss border. As seen in the attached photograph, we enjoyed

our beer in tube-like glasses. While I enjoyed the novelty of the glass, I do not recommend it for drinking anything. However, it did make for an interesting picture.

We had spoken of driving along the Amalfi coast which begins south of Naples. In Europe they have wonderful

highways which are flat and straight, and you can attain very high speeds because of the well maintained roads - not like the Belt Parkway or the Long Island Expressway. Driving on this road is only for seasoned mountain drivers as the road is narrow, with cliffs on side and drop-offs on the other. There are many hotels up and down the coastline and many busses, which makes the drive treacherous. We have been in Italy often and, so as not to repeat seeing the usual tourist areas, we drove back north towards Rimini. This is a resort on the Adriatic very much like Miami Beach. It is also the entrance to San Marino. San Marino is an independent republic

entirely inside of Italy but separate from Italy.

On New Year's Day 2005, we drove up from Rimini to San Marino, which is located on a mountain. The area has many tourist shops and is very modern. We drove nearly to the top where we saw a restaurant that was open for breakfast and had a lovely view of the valley below. In the restaurant we met two San Marino police officers, **Bartolomeo Filippo** and **Nacci Matteo**. They were very cordial and explained that they only had

to work five hours on the holiday although their regular work week consisted of 36 hours. One of the officers was age 35 and the other was 42. Can you guess which is which from the attached photo?

The language in San Marino is Italian but, as I said before, it is not a part of Italy. In fact, they have their own stamps,

which are considered collectors' items. Upon returning home we discovered that the postcards we had mailed from San Marino arrived at their destinations much faster than usual.

I want to recommend that if you travel anywhere in the world you should take police patches with you. You cannot imagine how many times that I needed a



Helmuth Ruppe, on the left, and Austrian IPA friend Rudy Koenig drinking beer the hard way.



San Marino police officers Nacci Matteo and Bartolomeo Filippo pose with Helmuth on New Year's Day.

good place to eat or a clean and reasonable place stay. The police officers in Europe and Asia are always willing to help an IPA member and to trade and accept patches from the USA.

After arriving home in the good old USA it was time to unpack my suitcase and then repack to head out to Asia again.

Editor's Note: Helmuth Ruppe has been a frequent contributor to the IPA National Reporter for many years. We thank him