



Hernando 10 – 13

P.O. Box 5785
Spring Hill, FL 34606



The Newsletter of the Hernando 10-13 Club, Inc., An Organization of Retired New York City Police Officers All Ranks.
10-13 is a REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF THE NEW YORK 10-13 ASSOCIATIONS OF AMERICIA INC., A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

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Meetings At:

The VFW on

Edward R. Noll Dr.
Spring Hill, FL.

Upcoming Meetings

Jan. 14th

Feb. 11th

March 11th

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

January 31, 2026

I hope this newsletter finds you well. Here in Florida, we have been going through an extended period of cold weather that has not been seen around here for quite some time. The coldest temperature recorded in Florida was minus 2 degrees in Tallahassee in 1898. Whatever happened to "Global Warming?"

Our RMP is **17 years old**, and it is beginning to have some maintenance issues. Currently we do not have enough money in the RMP fund to provide for long term upkeep and maintenance of a 17-year-old vehicle. We are investigating our options regarding repair or replacement of the RMP. All donations to the RMP fund are appreciated.

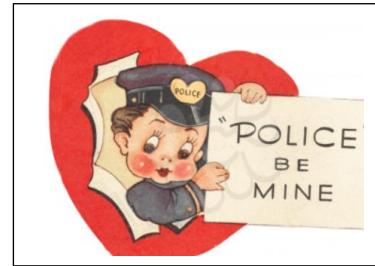
It is an honor for the Hernando 10-13 Club to provide the RMP and Honor Guard as a final tribute and salute for deceased member of the Hernando 10-13 Club. This service is provided at no cost to the member's family. We also participate with the Hernando County Sheriff's Office at ceremonies and funerals of their members. To the best of our knowledge, we have the only "Club owned" RMP in the state of Florida. Additionally, upon request the Club will provide an Honor Guard Detail with RMP for deceased retired NYPD personnel who are not members of the Hernando 10-13 Club (Subject to availability). An appropriate donation to support the costs associated with the final salute to such deceased non club members is respectfully requested.

Hope to see you at the next Hernando 10-13 Club meeting, scheduled for February 11, 2026, and we hope to see you regularly during the upcoming year.

Just a reminder annual dues are due. Please pay your 2026 dues promptly.

*HAPPY VALENTINES DAY
TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY*

*Arthur Babcock,
President*



Booster Club

We would like to see your name here in the next edition of the Newsletter. Your name will appear in the Newsletter indicating your contribution for one year from this edition. A member who contributes \$100.00 or more during any Year becomes a Life Member of the Booster Club.

Annual Dues \$40.00

Member 75 + Donation

John O'Halloran	\$400.00	Joseph Maya	200.00
Ed Flood	330.00	Serano Family	100.00
Tom Zaccione	325.00	John Connor	100.00
Ed Wright	310.00	F. Greifenberger	"
Mike Ferruza	300.00	Joan Kelly	"
Rene Reigert	300.00	John Cellia	"
Ed Dunbar	280.00	Joe Montali	"
John Phille	230.00	Mike Cipho	"
Tony DeMarzo	225.00	Rocco Acocolla	"
Willard Cleaver	205.00	William Powell	"
Larocca Family	200.00	Barbarite Family	"
Vinny Pecorella	"	Keith Sellons	"
Frank Mulledy	"	Don Anderson	"
John Sivon	"	Felix Zelinski	"
Juan Caban	"	William Grodner	"
Robert Brown	"	Erin Daly	"

RMP FUND

Tom Zaccione	\$700.00	Joe Montali	\$100.00	Robert Brown	\$100.00
Ed Dunbar	550.00	Jaun Caban	100.00	Eugene Pacinella	100.00
Artie Babcock	300.00	Joseph Maya	100.00	Carlos Cortez	100.00
William Palmer	280.00	James Boyle	100.00	Ray Diaz	50.00
Fran Greifenberger	200.00	Bill Koenig	100.00	Jim Driscoll	50.00
Wilberto Rodriguez	150.00	Felix Zelinski	100.00	Richard Johns	20.00
		Berine Codaro	100.00	Rich Baumgartner	RMP REPAIR

TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO REMEMBER

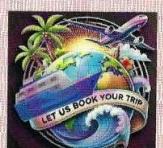
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S.B.A.	(212) 431-6555	OPERATION UNIT	(646) 610-5580
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January Membership Meeting.

The guest Speaker at the January 14, 2026, General Membership meeting was Jerry Campbell, chairman of the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). Chairman Campbell reviewed the structure of the BOCC and the direction of real estate and sales taxation by both the state and county. Chairman Campbell received questions from the membership relating to the effects of rapid population growth, the imposition of impact fee and prioritization of infrastructure improvements. We thank Chairman Campbell for an informative presentation and success as chairman of the BOCC.



File photo

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

(January 31, 2026)

Upcoming Meeting (February 11, 2026)

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, February 11th. The meeting will be held, at the VFW on Edward R. Noll Dr. Spring Hill, FL. @ 7:30pm. Mr. Craig Gross, VP, Gold Star Awareness, Inc. is our scheduled guest speaker at this meeting. The primary purpose of this organization is to provide emotional, peer, and resource support to Gold Star Families who have suffered the death of a loved one who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Look forward to starting off the new year with a full house at the meeting.

Day at the Races



We are again partnering with the Suncoast 10-13 for the annual "Day at the Races" at Tampa Bay Downs. The date is set for February 28, 2026. We will be in the Skye Terrace which is on the 3rd floor of the Clubhouse Building. It is much more upscale from the other room with better food ...so of course it costs more. The cost is \$45.00 per person. Fee includes Admission, Racing Program, Lunch, and non-alcoholic beverages. Free Valet Parking if you choose to use it. There is a bar on premise for those wanting alcohol and a betting window to service the room.....Friends & Family Welcome.

Payment must be in by February meeting.



N.Y. 10-13 Associations of America Presidents Meeting



Several members of the Hernando 10-13 Club attended the N.Y. 10-13 Associations of America Presidents Meeting on January 17, 2026. Mike Barasch and Richie Alles (Retired Deputy Chief, NYFD) from the Law Firm of Barasch and McGarry spoke on the status of the WTC Health Program including the “25 Year Rule” regarding a spouse of a deceased member continuing to receive, under certain circumstances, the deceased member’s pension as a survivor’s benefit.

In addition, Mike Barasch and Richie Alles spoke about the anniversary of NYPD Detective James Zadroga's passing and their efforts to get Congress to fully fund the WTC Health Program. Following Mr. Barasch provides a short introduction to CBS News' inspiring story which recently aired, on the 20th anniversary of NYPD Det. James Zadroga's death at the age of 34 due to his 9/11 pulmonary illness. Jimmy's death and subsequent autopsy (showing toxins in his lungs) were instrumental in getting the entire 9/11 community the health benefits that both responders and civilians deserve.

We owe him an enormous debt of gratitude.

To all NYPD 9/11 Responders,

This month marks the 20th anniversary of the passing of our client NYPD Detective James Zadroga. Jimmy died of pulmonary fibrosis at the age of 34. His death serves as a solemn reminder of the ongoing health crisis facing 9/11 responders and civilians. Detective Zadroga was the first 9/11 responder whose death was officially attributed to WTC toxins. His autopsy revealed ground glass and many carcinogens in his lungs. His legacy is the Zadroga Health and Compensation Act which continues to provide a lifeline for thousands of families today.

Leah Betso of Barasch & McGarry spoke with CBS News about her father, NYPD Officer James Betso, and his battle with 9/11-related glioblastoma.

Leah shared that thanks to the Zadroga Act, her father was able to receive health care. Today, Leah works for our firm to ensure other families aren't left behind. She is one of two dozen staff members at the firm who have lost loved ones due to their exposure to the toxic dust.t

[Watch the Interview Here](#)

With the WTC Health Program facing a 2027 funding cliff, the fight for the "9/11 Health Funding Correction Act" is more urgent than ever. If you spent time in Lower Manhattan after 9/11, please make sure you have enrolled in the WTC Health Program and get the health benefits to which you are entitled.

It is a privilege to represent the 9/11 community.

With deep respect,
Michael Barasch

Medicare Scam

Zohran Mamdani campaigned on the idea that the government should make life better and more affordable for the working class and protect them from corporate greed and corruption. His critics have attacked his platform as delusional and dangerous.

Mayor Mamdani can prove his critics wrong, and demonstrate his commitment to his principles, by making traditional Medicare a central pillar of his health policy.

Medicare is a public health insurance program for senior citizens. Under traditional Medicare, the federal government pays doctors directly for the services they render. Seniors can go to virtually any doctor (since nearly all doctors accept traditional Medicare) and receive whatever care their doctor orders (since there is no insurance company denying coverage).

When combined with a Medicare supplemental plan, which the city has always provided to Medicare-eligible retired municipal workers, costs are minimal. In short, traditional Medicare is effective, life-saving, and affordable.

Medicare Advantage ("MA") – a private, for-profit alternative to traditional Medicare – is none of those things.

Under MA, money flows through insurance companies. The federal government pays insurers to cover seniors who enroll in their MA plans, with the payment amount varying based on the seniors' health (as reported by the insurers). The insurers profit by pocketing whatever they don't spend. The original idea behind MA was to let market forces drive down the cost of health care and improve efficiency. It has been a spectacular failure.

As countless empirical studies have confirmed, MA plans cost taxpayers far more than traditional Medicare despite spending far less on, and delivering worse outcomes for, patients. Why is that? Corporate greed and corruption.

MA insurers (i) fraudulently overbill the government by exaggerating patients' medical problems and (ii) improperly deny coverage for care these elderly, infirm individuals desperately need. Such greed and corruption have resulted in historic profits for MA plans (indeed, MA plans are the most profitable insurance product). They have also resulted in criminal charges and civil fraud lawsuits against most of the leading MA insurance companies.

Making matters worse, a large percentage of medical providers refuse to accept MA plans. According to an

BE OUR GUEST

BY MARIANNE PIZZITOLA

October 2024 U.S. Senate report, "61% of health systems are either considering ceasing to accept all Medicare Advantage patients within the next two years, or will definitely do so." Doctors despise MA plans because the insurers make it nearly impossible for them to do their jobs. The insurers drown them in prior authorization paperwork, refuse to cover their patients' care, and deny and delay payment.

Because MA plans impede access to doctors and life-saving treatment, patients are often forced to choose between paying out-of-pocket and forgoing medical care. In short, MA plans are a nightmare for seniors when they become sick, particularly if they are low-income.

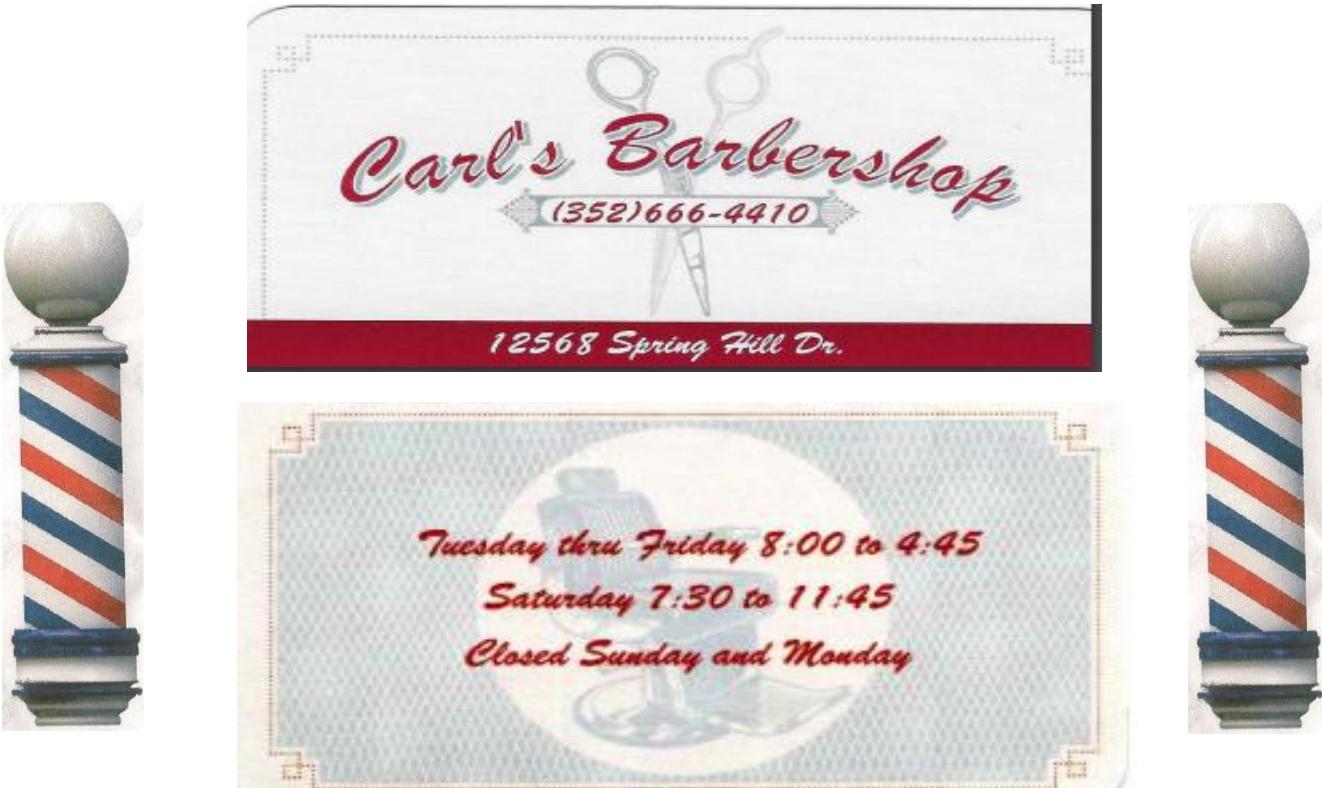
Disgraced former Mayor Eric Adams opposed MA when he ran for office in 2021. He said it would "devastate" and "traumatize our retirees." However, after becoming mayor, he quickly reversed course and sought to force retired city workers into an MA plan. He claimed it would help balance the city's budget. The New York City Independent Budget Office found this to be false.

The truth was that the MA plan would have funneled money from low-income seniors to a discretionary fund controlled by the mayor and union leaders. Adams also claimed that an MA plan could be just as good as traditional Medicare. Retirees exposed the truth in litigation, leading the courts to find that MA would irreparably harm seniors. Eventually, Adams gave up.

During last year's campaign, Mamdani quietly posted a statement on his website pledging to "reject Medicare Advantage." However, since taking office, he has not publicly addressed the topic. That is a missed opportunity. Mamdani should proudly reaffirm his commitment to traditional Medicare. This health care program is one of the most compelling examples of the government making life better and more affordable for the working class and protecting them from corporate greed and corruption.

MA enriches insurance companies at the expense of vulnerable senior citizens. No city leader, especially none with Mamdani's political beliefs, should ever force retirees into it.

Pizzitola is president of the New York City Organization of Public Service Retirees, representing 300,000 retired members of the city's municipal work force who are Medicare retirees.



Annual Dues

It is that time of year again for Annual Dues. Dues Payments can be sent to the Post Office Box (address on first page of this newsletter) or paid at the upcoming meeting on February 11, 2026.

For those members under 75 years of age, annual dues are \$40.00.

For members over 75 years of age, annual dues are \$20.00.

Prompt payment is appreciated.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE HERNANDO 10-13 CLUB IN YOUR WILL OR TRUST

To observe the correct method of naming the Hernando 10-13 Club in your Will or Trust, please ask your attorney to use the following terminology. "I give devise, and bequeath (amount, article, stock, etc.) to the Hernando 10-13 Club, Inc. and his successors in office a Corporation Sole, for the use of the Hernando 10-13 Club, Inc., An Organization of Retired New York City Police Officers All Ranks.

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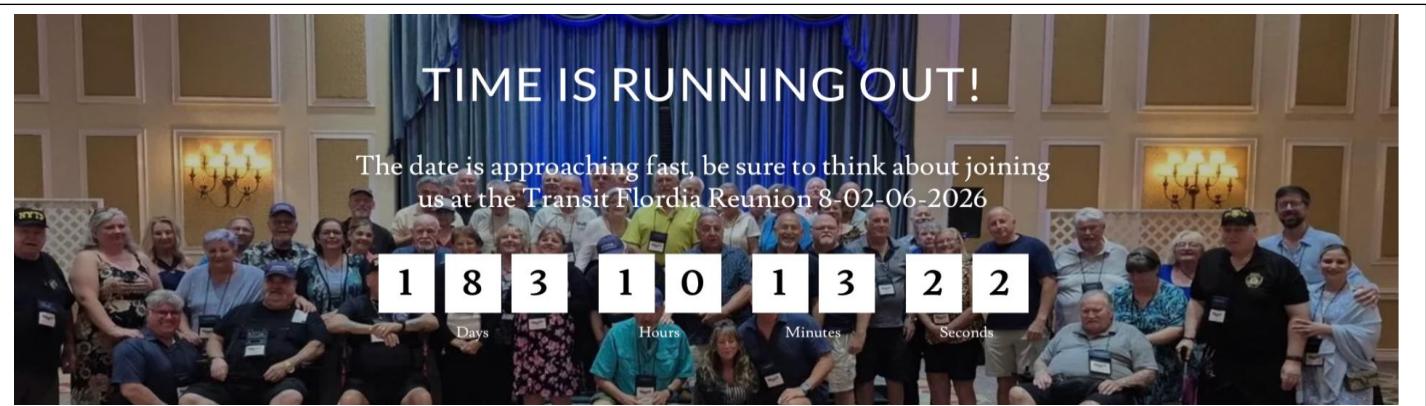
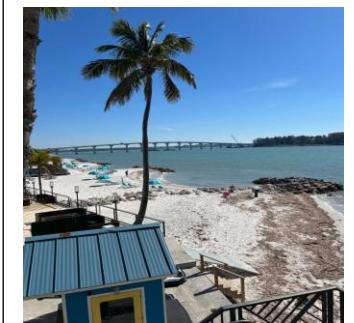
Foreign & Domestic

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**13419 Cortez Blvd • SR 50 & Sunshine Grove Rd.
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On Thursday January 29th Club President Artie Babcock and other members of the Hernando 10-13 Club attended this year's NYPD W E Coast Florida Reunion Luncheon at the Holiday Inn & Suites Clearwater Beach FL. Mike & Rich from Barasch & McGarry were guest speakers and brought the group up to date about recent 9-11 Victims Fund Legislation that is currently being voted on in the U.S. Senate. In addition to providing some unique gift bags, Barasch & McGarry sponsored an additional 2 hours of the open bar that was included with the luncheon. Many thanks to Kristina Notghi for organizing this annual event! (See photos)





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