

**Don Fortunato, Jr.**  
**First Responder Wellness Bio**

*An Illinois native, Don is a 1991 graduate of Northern Illinois University (BA - Sociology/Criminology). Shortly after graduation, he was hired by the Arlington County Police Department (Virginia) where he served for almost 27 years, retiring in 2018.*

*Don began his career as a Patrol Officer and served as a Field Training Officer, training recruit police officers who recently graduated from the police academy. In 1998, Don was promoted to the rank of Corporal, where he served in a variety of assignments and specialty units. This included work as a crime scene technician and 13 years as a detective in both the Burglary and Homicide-Robbery Units. Don's varied skill sets and abilities led him to assignments with the Critical Accident Team, the Crisis Negotiation Unit, as well as serving on federal task forces with the US Secret Service and the FBI.*

*Due to his extensive work as a detective, particularly in the Homicide-Robbery and as a member of the Critical Accident Team, he responded to and investigated numerous death scenes, violent crime cases and dozens of fatal motor vehicle and pedestrian accidents. These included fatal accidents involving children as young as 7 years old and serving as the lead investigator for a near fatal accident of a fellow officer and friend.*

*In 2013, Don was promoted to Sergeant and assigned as a Patrol Supervisor on Evening Shift. In this capacity, he responded to an officer involved shooting where one of his squad members was nearly killed.*

*Don Fortunato was a first responder to the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attack at the Pentagon. He was initially in triage and was later assigned to Recovery Team Bravo which conducted evidence and body retrieval inside the Pentagon and searched for remains in the "rubble piles" spread out in the northern parking lot. Don also worked the Beltway Sniper series in 2002.*

*He has a wife of over 30 years and two grown children. Post-retirement, Don is seeking to promote awareness and support of mental health and resilience for public safety professionals.*

**Deputy Chief David Giroux  
Arlington County Police Department**

Deputy Chief David Giroux is a 28-year veteran of the Arlington County Police Department. He is currently assigned as the Commander of the Criminal Investigations Division and the Wellness and Safety Section. He is also the founder and former commander of the department's Peer Support Team. His interest in mental wellness for police began after a friend and co-worker died by suicide. Since that time, David has been involved with the development of programs and resources for officers and first responders who are struggling with personal and professional challenges. He has travelled around the country to present to a wide variety of police, first responder and community groups on this topic to help break the stigma of first responders seeking mental health services. David was a coordinator for Peer Support services for the US Capitol Police in the aftermath of the January 6<sup>th</sup> incident and the line of duty death of Officer Billy Evans. He provides support and information to departments throughout the National Capitol region when their officers need help and assistance. David is currently involved in a long-term research partnership with the Cummings Foundation for Behavioral Health. This project seeks to develop a template for public safety departments looking to provide wellness resources to their employees. David possesses a Bachelor's Degree from Emory University and a Master's Degree from George Washington University. David was a first responder to the Pentagon on 9/11. He has served in a variety of assignments during his career to include Patrol, Community Policing, the Tactical Unit, Internal Affairs and Vice-Narcotics.