

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO TEXAS LAW ENFORCEMENT



THE *POLICE MAGAZINE*  
**BLUES**

FEBRUARY 2020 • VOL. 36 NO. 2



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## THE TEAM

MICHAEL BARRON  
publisher  
REX EVANS  
editor-in-chief  
MISTY ROBERTS  
editor  
RUSTY BARRON  
outdoor editor  
TINA JAECKLE  
blue mental health  
REBECCA CESARI  
sales manager

## CONTRIBUTORS

JOE GAMALDI  
president, HPOU  
ALYSSA AHLGREN  
guest editorial  
T. EDISON  
light bulb award  
DR. BRIAN A. KINNAIRD  
contributing writer  
MELISSA CORREA  
khou.com reporter

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CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO TEXAS LAW ENFORCEMENT



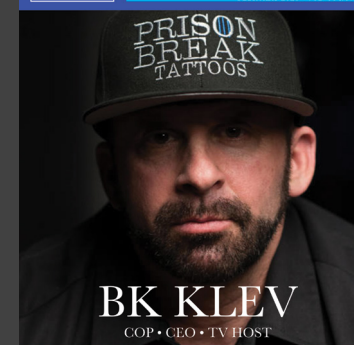
# THE BLUES

POLICE MAGAZINE

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## On the cover / Feature Story



This month we honor a man who's a COP, a CEO and a TV HOST. B.K. Klevens is the owner & founder of PRISON BREAK TATTOOS and the TV HOST of HERO INK. Let's meet the man and the story behind this unique business near downtown Houston.

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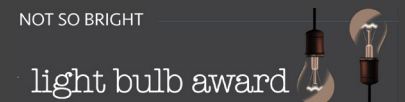
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my thoughts !!

Michael  
Barron

## WOW. It's 2020! Think about that for a minute.

Wow it's 2020! Think about that. 2020 !! While it's just the beginning of a new decade, much like 2010, it seems like so much more. Fact is, I hardly remember New Years of 2009. Now, 1999, that was a different story. I can remember that like it was yesterday. I was flying with HPD Helicopters and assigned to fly the 11pm-1am shift with Lt. King. At 11:30pm, we decided we'd better find a "hole" to sit down in rather than collect lead from all the celebratory gunfire that was sure to come. So, we headed to Brown & Root's tree lined headquarters out west and waited. At 12:01, we picked up to a hover just above the tree line and I swear it looked like the night we launched Desert Storm. As we turned 360° it looked exactly the same...like tracer rounds fired at approaching aircraft. It was a sight I will never forget. But within minutes of midnight, our personal fireworks show was about to end as I heard, "We need a Fox on Northeast, Fox on Northeast."

As we pointed the helicopter towards the east and started across the city, I remember asking King, "So, if a rifle round travels at 2500 feet per second and a hand gun travels at 1500 per second and we're at 300 feet...." We immediately climbed to 4000 feet. I also re-

member calling the units on the ground when we arrived on the scene and the first unit was "Fox, where are you?" Look up! Way the hell up! LOL

So, 2000 was a lot of things. We survived Y2K. The world didn't end. Computers didn't crash. The electric grid didn't fail. Nothing significant, but it was the beginning of something new, a new decade and a new millennium. We all felt it. 2020 feels much like that. The beginning of something completely different. And one only needs to look at new cars to see that things have changed dramatically. One of my managers just purchased a new Hyundai and the car will back itself out of a tight parking space.

"Officer I just pressed the remote and the car took off and the last I saw it, it was headed north on Ave M." LOL

My point is, I think 2020 will be a revolutionary year for Law Enforcement and the tools at our disposal. Non-Lethal weapons will increase. This month we wrote about the BoloWrap that looks like a tool from Batman's belt. Tasers will eventually be lasers that stun. No more prongs! (You think Taser training sucked, wait until you're Lasered)

I predict by the end of 2020, all patrol vehicles will be electric and much faster. Handheld



scanners will identify a subject in seconds and provide criminal background and open warrants. Blood tests for drugs and alcohol will be instantaneous. ROB-OCOPS will join you on patrol. Helicopters will be replaced with manned and unmanned drone. Just watch any futuristic movie and you're looking at your not too distant future in law enforcement.

Hopefully, someone will develop a bullet proof uniform and helmet that ensure EVERY officer returns home after their shift.

Yes 2020 and the years to come will certainly see changes that previous generations never thought possible. I'm sure my grandfather never imagined his 1950 Ford Patrol car would ever look like today's units. Or that he would have a cell phone in it or that Buck Rogers' wrist mounted walkie-talkie would one day become the iWatch.

I wish I could be around to see what's coming, but then again, I guess I can. All I have to do is rent a movie on NETFLIX that's set in the future and imagine I'm flying that cool-as-crap drone.

Here's to 2020! A new decade, and a new way of life for cops.



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# his thoughts !



There're all kinds of ways to get away. Some folks call it a vacation. Some call it a sabbatical. Some will just be right up front and tell you, "It's for my mental health and everyone else's well-being!"

Such moments were pretty few and far between for me, most of my adult life. I always worked two or three jobs and quite frankly, I just never made the time to take the time. And that, ultimately proved to be a very costly mistake on my part.

Well, I just took one of such breaks last week. I went with some close friends of mine on a short cruise to Cozumel. To be fair, in recent years, this isn't my first one and the Good Lord willing, it certainly won't be my last. Carnival makes it too easy, being just down the road in Galveston! (a favorite town of mine)

What I have learned to appreciate and even love about such trips is this; I don't have to make any decisions. No weight is on my shoulders. Just the sunshine, people watching, those dang (highly addictive) Guy's Burgers, and just about anything else in the world to drink and eat you can think of.

Something else, I always meet some Officers/Firefighters or other First Responders on these little trips. Many times, the conversations are pretty light, easy going and involve those crazy, funny stories only we can tell, because only we've been there!

However, there have been a few times where something quite different occurred. Such

was the case this last time...

I met this retired Lieutenant, from a large municipal agency in Louisiana. He made fun of my accent and I tried my best to understand his. We spoke of some pretty hard calls we both had experienced over the years. We spoke of marriages and divorces, kids, grandkids, and then came the hard part.

We spoke of those whom we served with, worked with, fought with, broke bread with, laughed, cried, cussed, froze, burned up and shared our lives with. Then, at some point, we lost them. Gunfire. Car crash. Assaults, by other means. You get the picture.

I have no doubt our eyes looked about the same at times, in the course of our long conversation. Which led us to another somber component of our conversations, those whom we lost at their own hand.

Neither he, nor I could recall the exact months or years or full names, but we could accurately describe their first name, assignment, how we knew them, and what had occurred. We both equally felt a true sense of sorrow and even guilt. For you see, we both realized those men and women were just like us. Somehow, we pulled through those hard times that we all go through, but somehow, they did not.

Taking a cruise is always fun. There's always something to do, some place to go, food to eat and drinks to drink. However, for me, the coolest part has been meeting and visiting with



those from all over Texas and the United States who wear a badge just like me. The single constant I have found to be self-evident and surly true is this; We are far more alike than we are different.

Whether it was a Highway Patrolman from California, a NYPD ESU Officer, Officers and Deputies from all over, Fire/EMS folks from the largest cities to the smallest towns, the job we do is a remarkable one. There's none other like it, known to mankind.

The synonymous means by which we can relate to each other is astonishing to me and yet, makes perfect sense to me. There's not much that's easy about what we do for a living. So, a real bond, if you will, exists between us. It is a bond that I am forever grateful for.

While the cost of this career I love has at times been very high. I cannot say I wish it could have all been different. I don't. The love we share for what we do and for each other is immeasurable and unquantifiable.

As for the cruising life, I still steer clear of anything about a "Three Hour Tour", but I sure

Continued on PAGE 22



## Undercover deputies are setting 'bait boxes' to catch porch pirates

The Harris County Sheriff's Office is looking to do more undercover stings. They need people to report their package thefts so deputies can pinpoint hot spots.

HARRIS COUNTY, Texas — Consider this a warning. Harris County Sheriff's Office deputies are going after people who steal packages right off a victim's porch. Investigators are working undercover to catch the crooks red-handed.

We'll start by saying, we're not sharing any secrets that would ruin the operation.

Deputies want thieves to know the stings are happening. It might convince crooks not to steal packages in the first place.

We've seen how bold and brazen some of these criminals can be.

Package thefts happen in broad daylight and in busy neighborhoods. The security camera video gets shared on the news and on social media, but the crime is rarely reported to authorities.

"You know, what they don't know is we probably have other leads from other cases," said Javier Ureña. Ureña investigates burglaries and thefts for the HCSO.

"We can create a big case against just one person. So, we need them to report this," Ureña said.

In December, Ureña launched his first undercover sting.

"Right now, we have three homes with multiple packages. One of the packages that we have here as a tracker. And we have our postal inspectors, at a remote location,



[CLICK HERE TO WATCH VIDEO](#)

monitoring the tracker," Ureña said.

No one took the bait in Cypress. But deputies want to try again. They just need to know where to look.

"And we can be proactive in that area, that community," Ureña said.

A new state law boosts the crime to a felony, depending on the number of victims.

"They just take whatever they see. Whatever they can carry. And they open the package. Sometimes you'll see it down the street, where it was a doll or something thrown out the window," Ureña said.

FIVE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOUR PACKAGES:

Make friends with your neighbor

and see if they can pick up your package if you can't secure it yourself.

Invest in a security camera and position it to capture your porch and the street.

Use Amazon lockers which are located at pharmacies and convenience stores.

Have your packages delivered to your place of employment.

Find a hideout on your property, maybe behind bushes or a fence and include the instructions on how to find it in a delivery note.

Melissa Correa @KHOUmelissa Reprinted from KHOU. Video from KHOU..

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your thoughts !!!



## My Generation Is Blind to the Prosperity Around Us!

*I can be heard saying this often. "God only knows what going to happen when today's young generation (18-30) are running this country and its businesses." Then I came across this article written by a 26 year old college student by the name of Alyssa Ahlgren, who's in grad school for her MBA. What a GREAT perspective.*

EDITOR

I'm sitting in a small coffee shop near Nokomis (Florida) trying to think of what to write about. I scroll through my news-feed on my phone looking at the latest headlines of presidential candidates calling for policies to "fix" the so-called injustices of capitalism. I put my phone down and continue to look around.

I see people talking freely, working on their MacBook's, ordering food they get in an instant, seeing cars go by outside, and it dawned on me. We live in the most privileged time in the most prosperous nation and we've become completely blind to it.

Vehicles, food, technology, freedom to associate with whom we choose. These things are so ingrained in our American way of life we don't give them a second thought.

We are so well off here in the United States that our poverty line begins 31 times above the global average. Thirty-One Times!!!

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Virtually no one in the United States is considered poor by global standards. Yet, in a time where we can order a product off Amazon with one click and have it at our doorstep the next day, we are unappreciative, unsatisfied, and ungrateful ??

Our unappreciation is evident as the popularity of socialist policies among my generation continues to grow. Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez recently said to Newsweek talking about the millennial generation, "An entire generation, which is now becoming one of the largest electorates in America, came of age and never saw American prosperity."

Never saw American prosperity! Let that sink in.

When I first read that statement, I thought to myself, that was quite literally the most entitled and factually illiterate thing I've ever heard in my 26 years on this earth. Many young people agree with her, which is entirely misguided.

My generation is being indoctrinated by a mainstream narrative to actually believe we have never seen prosperity. I know this first hand, I went to college, let's just say I didn't have the popular opinion, but I digress.

Why then, with all of the overwhelming evidence around us, evidence that I can even see sitting at a coffee shop, do we not view this as prosperity? We have people who are dying to get into

our country.

People around the world destitute and truly impoverished. Yet, we have a young generation convinced they've never seen prosperity, and as a result, we elect some politicians who are dead set on taking steps towards abolishing capitalism.

Why? The answer is this,?? my generation has only seen prosperity. We have no contrast. We didn't live in the great depression, or live through two world wars, the Korean War, The Vietnam War or we didn't see the rise and fall of socialism and communism.

We don't know what it's like to live without the internet, without cars, without smartphones. We don't have a lack of prosperity problem. We have an entitlement problem, an ungratefulness

Comments from Facebook

"Outstanding comeback from a much simpler time"

"Always Great! Highly recommended."

"This publication has been a Law Enforcement staple for decades. I highly recommend subscribing and the best part is, it's FREE."

"Great articles, good advertisers,"

"I enjoy the things brought up that reminds me of my early THP days."



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your thoughts !!!



## Always Put Family First - Aftermath Author Responds

*Last month in our first "AFTER-MATH" column, we featured a heart-breaking true story from many years ago. I venture to guess that not a single person that read it wasn't touched in some way or another. This month, the author shares some excellent advice to our readers.*

EDITOR

Very few people, other than those in my academy class, even know about my story. And those that do, reached out and asked why after all this time, would you share such a personal and heartbreaking story. I'm not sure really. Guilt maybe. I have always blamed myself for wife's death. I placed more importance on a job than on her. I wanted so badly to be a cop, that I lost touch with reality and what

should have been my first priority—my family. No job, no career, is more important than your family. I learned this lesson in the hardest way possible. I have suffered in ways most would never understand. I've lived that day over and over again in my mind. What if I just had acted differently? Talked to her? Reasoned with her? Anything. We all have to live with the decisions we make in life. Don't make one that you'll live to regret.

I say all this to remind my brothers and sisters in Blue. Love your job, but love your family first. All of us go to work never knowing if we'll come home again, never knowing if you kiss your wife and kids goodbye, if that will be the last time you'll see them. Being a cop is more than just a job. It's way of life most will never understand.

The stress can sometimes be overwhelming. The old saying "it's hours and hours of boredom interrupted by moments of sheer terror," is becoming more and more terror than boredom.

If push comes to shove, never, never, pick your job over your family. You'll regret it the rest of your life. People talk about Hell and burning in eternity. I honestly believe that Hell is here on Earth. God may forgive us for our sins, but our hearts and minds will never forget and rarely forgive.

Learn from my mistakes. Learn from my selfishness. Be a great husband, a great wife, a great dad, a great friend AND a great cop... in that order. As the song says, "Never leave I love You unsaid." And never take life for granted. Live each day as if it's your last.

## The Art of Being Brave

*Our Editor-in-Chief Rex Evans has no doubt a way with words. He speaks from his heart and with a passion unlike any other person I know. I stole this post from his Facebook and hit this little gem here. I hope you enjoy his words as much as I did. PUBLISHER*

Being "Brave" is not about being foolish or taking too many chances. Bravery is an act committed without hesitation or reservation. A decision made without any forethought or pre-planning whatsoever.

Bravery is when you find yourself faced with only a moment to either commit it all or commit nothing.

No one can decide this moment for you. You either do it or you don't.

One thing is certain, should you choose to commit yourself to whatever dire challenge you're facing, do so with all your heart.

A very wise HFD Captain I had the privilege to ride for once told me, "If your heart isn't in it, there's no way you can ever be successful at it..."

Captain Clifford Reed's words, and more importantly his actions, have resonated with me throughout my career and my life.

Anything I've ever been successful at wasn't because I was "that good". It was truly, solely because those whom I learned from were.

You see, Captain, all those hours you spent on me way back then, I hope you've never thought of them

as in vain. Hopefully, you're able to look at all those hours, all those efforts as an investment. And I sincerely hope I've made you proud.

Comments from Clifford Reed:  
Amen my Brother, know your limitations and listen to your heart. Much of what I accomplished, I was at my limits, yet my heart pushed me on either to save someone or put the fire out. I had no death wish, but a heart to serve and to my God that watches over all of us who serve. Rex, proud to have had a small part of sharing what I learned to you. You listened. Know your limitations, know your heart and know our god above all.

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## Harris County Constable Pct. 1

### First in Texas to Carry Device

TEMPE, Arizona, January 15, 2020 -- Wrap Technologies, Inc. (the "Company" or "Wrap") (Nasdaq: WRTC), an innovator of modern policing solutions, announced that Harris County Precinct 1 Constable's Office in Texas has purchased BolaWrap products and accessories and will begin carrying the device in the field in the coming weeks.

More than 100 police agencies across the United States are currently either field testing or have deployed the BolaWrap remote restraint device in the field. "We are pleased with the pace at which police agencies are adopting the BolaWrap since we released our commercialized BolaWrap device in May of 2019," said David Norris, CEO of Wrap Technologies. "Led by Constable Alan Rosen, Harris County Precinct 1 Constable's Office is a forward-thinking agency looking for humane ways to deal with

noncompliant, mentally ill subjects without resorting to high levels of force."

Local NBC news station KPRC 2 aired a comprehensive story on the Harris County Precinct 1 Constable's Office's upcoming BolaWrap deployment. The story covers police use of force with mentally ill subjects and includes an interview with the father of a mentally ill man who was killed during a police encounter. In a video released by Harris County Precinct 1 Constable's Office, Constable Alan Rosen stated: "Anything that will neutralize a threat without hurting anybody is always our goal in law enforcement. That's our mission."

Kevin Quinn, Communications Director at the Harris County Precinct 1 Constable's Office, provided an update on the precinct's deployment schedule: "We are currently finishing up our pol-

icy writing for the BolaWrap and plan to deploy the device in the field in the next couple of weeks."

About Wrap Technologies  
Wrap Technologies is an innovator of modern policing solutions. The Company's BolaWrap 100 product is a patented, hand-held remote restraint device that discharges an eight-foot bola style Kevlar<sup>®</sup> tether to entangle an individual at a range of 10-25 feet. Developed by award winning inventor Elwood Norris, the Company's Chief Technology Officer, the small but powerful BolaWrap 100 assists law enforcement to safely and effectively control encounters, especially those involving an individual experiencing a mental crisis. For information on the Company please visit [www.wraptechnologies.com](http://www.wraptechnologies.com). Examples of recent media coverage are available at <https://wraptechnologies.com/media/>





# Life after Law Enforcement

The transition to civilianhood is not easy, even under the best of circumstances

For a law enforcement officer, leaving active duty can be a difficult time. Whether or not the person freely chooses to leave, is forced to leave, medically retires, or just hits that “mark” of retirement, a strong camaraderie among fellow officers has been developed.

At some point, officers must be prepared to become civilians. A loss of police power and a feeling that one is no longer part of the cop family strongly accompanies the change. To leave this interpersonal web of protection is not easy and is likened to removing an integral part of your personality. In research conducted by police psychologist and author J.M. Violanti, an officer commented: “It’s like I belonged to a big club. I made my mark, I was one of the guys, I did my job. Everyone in the station respects you. Suddenly, all of that is gone and you are on the outside looking in. I felt so different. I called the guys almost everyday to see if they still related to me the same way. I visited the station, wondering what was going on and wanting to be part of the action. Somehow, it wasn’t the same. I wasn’t one of them anymore. It’s hard to explain. I left, but I couldn’t let go of this strong attachment.

It is further suggested that officers continue to experience residual trauma even after separating from police service. A residual stress hypothesis proposes that prior trauma exposure leaves residual effects that are widespread,

deep and long-lasting.

Consider that officers spend much of their time preparing for the worst. Day in and day out scenarios are played out in their minds. What if? On or off duty, training emphasizes the worst possible case scenarios and prepares officers to deal with that event only. As a result, they become occupationally and personally socialized into approaching situations with considerable suspicion, distrust and anxiety. They are hyper-energized, sensitive, irritable, tired and secreting various stress hormones when seemingly trying to relax on the sofa.

Although law enforcement is often routine, it’s also jumbled with quick cuts – responding to death, destruction, violence, interpersonal human aggression and within a confine of personal excitement – goodwill, compassion, indignation and vigilance. Officers can become addicted to this excitement and cannot function well without it when they separate from service.

An interesting hypothesis by police psychologist K.M. Gilmartin examines adrenaline as an addiction that may be a result of learned behavior. Police work creates a learned perceptual set that causes officers to alter the manner in which they interact with the environment. Statements by officers that “it gets into your blood” are illustrations describing a physio-



logical change that becomes inseparable from the police role. An interpretation of the environment as always dangerous may reprogram the reticular activating system and set into motion physiological consequences. This is interpreted as feelings of energy, rapid thought patterns, and speeding up of cognitive and physical reactions.

The police subculture is another factor and pervasive microcosm in which a closed mini-society perpetuates a sense of strong cohesion, a code of silence and secrecy, and dependence upon one another for survival. Most research suggests that one of the major regrets of separated officers is that

they no longer feel a part of the department. Separation and loss of support from the police group may serve to increase the already heightened physiological and psychological state associated with elements of post-traumatic stress disorder up to, and including, guilt.

Upon separation from active law enforcement, officers exposed to

might do with his hands – love a woman, build a house, change his son’s diaper – his hands remember the rifle.”

Another factor upon separation is adapting to new work. With such consistent exposure to trauma, cops devote psychic energy to deal with those traumas, often leaving them void of energy to direct towards

other things. As a result, a lack of adequate and satisfying work for the trauma-exposed person has its emotional costs in family and friends.

Law enforcement officers will tell you that it is not a job or a career but a way of life – how they look at people, where they sit in restaurants, scanning locations and people, questioning their children and spouse, being suspicious and distrustful of others and hyper vigilant in the safety and security of loved ones. The pendulum will often swing “back” the other way and there are times of great depression, isolation and a sense of being lost that they had

never felt before. In essence, many officers define themselves by their job.

The transition to civilianhood is not an easy one, even under the best of circumstances. Transitions are difficult in general. A new baby, divorce or a new relationship and marriage, a new home, a new boss, going back to school or even a new car. The old program is, in a strange sense “safe.” Change is uncomfortable, and no one likes to feel uncomfortable.

Finding relationships that substitute for the police subculture is necessary for officers when they leave (or are forced to leave). When a primary role is no longer there to

occupy, they must spend time seeking out activities which structure their lives. Suggestions to buffer the anxiety and toxicity of unchecked post-separation fallout include:

- Use family and friends as support structures;

- Use department-offered or local mental health services (you’re only as sick as your secrets);

- Maintain ties with your agency (auxiliary or special duty work);

- Maintain ties with your police colleagues (coffee, get-togethers);

- Enjoy a hobby or activity that gives you personal satisfaction and meaning;

- Be a guest speaker at a police academy (become a point of reference);

- Write articles or blogs for the law enforcement community;

- Teach criminal justice at a local college;

- Enjoy a second career completely outside of law enforcement.

When a law enforcement officer leaves the “job” for another life, some are pleased and yet others will wonder. They know that after a career of camaraderie that few experience, it will remain as a longing and nostalgic outlet for those past times. We know in the law enforcement life there is a fellowship that lasts long after the badge, gun and uniforms have been turned in. Even so, they will be with them every step and breath that remains in their frame.

Vocatio is Latin for “to call.” The burdens of the job are ones claimed by cops who have accepted such a call. Although you will still look at people suspiciously, will see what others do not see (or choose to ignore), you will always look at the rest of the law enforcement world with respect for what they do – accomplished only by a lifetime of knowing.

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# AFTERMATH

WORDS & PHOTOS by REX EVANS

Well, for me and many others, June 23, 2009 started out just like so many other days.

Coffee. Check emails, news, etc. Gear up and head out. Today was in service training, so at the very least I wouldn't be writing report after report.

But fate and my health would have a different plan for me. Around lunchtime, folks there at the class said I didn't look right, act right, or even talk right. (Stop! More than usual, ok) These same folks said I left because I wasn't feeling well.

That's when, that day, my life and a lot of other lives would seriously change. A lot...

3 minutes and 28 seconds...

That's how long I was gone. It was, for me, a last chance and a second chance. You see, that day I stepped away from this life. It was my last chance to be the person I once was and the sec-

ond chance to be a better person than I was before.

The first photograph is me. (I'm the dummy on the stretcher)

Just before being loaded onto a Life Flight helicopter. When I stop to look at this photograph,



believe me, a lot comes to mind. Right from the heart.

I could not help but sit here this morning over a cup of coffee and a lot of self-reflection, pondering why in the world did I get "thrown back" and so many better men and women, I mean far, far better people than I, go away?

Let me share with you; The man in the next photograph, Roger Anderson, was my friend,

my partner, my Brother. He was one of many over the years. Roger and I worked the most and closest together. Day after day. Night after night. We sweated, froze, fought, bled, laughed and once, we even cried together. A simple moment we shared in the midst of all the evil this old world had to reveal.

He was ten times the man I could ever hope to be.

Now, having said that, I'll say this; last week, the seventh anniversary of my first and second chances, was also the week not one, but two

of my Brothers were tragically taken from us. One in Pearland and one just down the road from where I stand in Patton Village. Both, from all accounts, were far better men than I.

And, as fate would have it, it was Roger's birthday.

Two children were called Home as well. One, a little seven-year-old boy, whom I per-



sonally recall, sat upon Santa's lap just last December and hugged his neck saying, "Thank you, Santa". The other, also tragically left this life far too soon. He was taken as a direct result of a fool who fled from answering for what he had done wrong.

My point is this, then I'll shut up, I promise. I wonder, day

could ever be.

All I can say is this; My Faith gives me Hope...

I fall short of such expectations. I do. I try to do

**POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS**

and night. I absolutely do. "Why me? Why in the world would I have been spared, when these amazing people I am speaking of could do so much more than me?" They proved time and time again they certainly were and are more deserving of life, more needed in this life, than I am or

right. I try to be right. But, as fate would have it, I fall mighty short. Those who left us, left because for whatever the reason, God called them Home. That's that. Nothing more. Nothing less. We are here at His will and His Command.

I shall forever believe this one final point - Every single moment of every single day is a gift. Not a right. We should all strive to live as great of a life as those who once walked among

us tried to show us. Their laughter, their life, their light, shined among us all like a beacon, illuminating a path thru all the darkness. It is, but up to us, to follow that light and live better today than we did yesterday.

For me, it is the only way I know to show just how much these amazing and beautiful people meant to me. It is the only way I know of to show others just how much they lived...not how they died.

I love ya, Roger...till we meet again, Brother.





# WAR STORIES

FACTS LEFT OUT OF THE REPORT

WORDS by MICHAEL BARRON

## We're not Firemen Sarge

Even though the story is dozens of years old, I never get tired of telling it. I was working the day shift out of District 2 north of Houston. It was a lazy Sunday morning and NOTHING, I repeat NOTHING was coming across the radio. Quiet and peaceful. After an eventful weekend, I was looking forward to kicking back and enjoying the Sunday paper, coffee, and some breakfast.

I had no more than ordered when I heard "421 my house is ^\*%& Fire.!" What the hell was that I thought. "2A09 what did he say?"

"2A09 sounded like someone reporting a house fire"

Well, OK then, lets carry on with breakfast cause I'm not a fireman. Just I was about to dive into the best-looking western omelet you've ever laid your eyes on, I hear what can only be described as a loud shrieking sound come across the radio " 421 send me the Fire Department, MY HOUSE IS ON FIRE !!!!"

Well that sucks Sarge. Hate to hear that. But again, I'm NOT a fireman and ohhh this omelet is soooo good.... "2A09 can you check by with 421 at his residence for a house fire?"

I wanted to say, "but Houston, I'm NOT A FIREMAN!"

2A09 show me in route. I took

a few more bites of that delicious omelet, paid my bill and headed out the door.

First, let me just give you a little background on this particular sergeant. First off, he had just come to the day shift straight out of one of the jails, and I discovered his nickname was "drugs." Now, I thought it was because he had made some BIG drug bust, but as it turned out it was more for his behavior rather than historical drug arrests.

Sgt. Drugs was, let's just say, not the sharpest tool in the shed. One day at role call one of the guys was telling a joke and ole 'drugs' just looked at him all stupid like and seemed pissed. We assumed he didn't like the off-color joke and decided we'd just get the hell out of there before he wrote us all up. As I was about to walk out the door, I hear ole 'drugs' laughing up a storm and there wasn't a soul left in roll call. Being the inquisitive one that I am, I turned around walked back in there and said, "uhhh what's so funny Sarge?" He said, "I just got Johnson's joke. Now that's some funny shit!"

What the hell? You're laughing at a joke from 20 minutes ago? I said, "Sarge, I think your porch light is on and there's no body home." He stared straight at me, slammed his big ole hands on the desk and said,

"Damn her!!! Thanks Barron." Uhhh OK Sarge.

I heard later that he called his wife who worked the 4am shift at the hospital and bitched her out for leaving all the porch lights on!!! WTH dude. DRUGS was in fact on DRUGS.

Anyway, as I started the long ass drive up to Spring where the good ole Sarge lived, he again jumped on the radio asking dispatch to call every Fire Department within 50 miles of his house and get them all in route. MY HOUSE IS ON FIRE. MY HOUSE IS ON FIRE!!!

Well hell, I guess I'd better step it up, I thought. This guy is freaking the hell out.

As I arrived at the entrance to his subdivision off FM1960, I had to park at the gas station on the corner as a long line of fire trucks were backed up all the from his cul-de-sac to the highway. What the hell. I have to WALK to the fire? Frickin' hoses were lined up down the street, water leaking all over the damn place (why do all the firehouses leak anyways?)

As I turned the corner on his street, OMG there were people running everywhere. It seems like all his neighbors were carrying furniture, paintings, pictures and tons of clothes out the door and throwing

Continued on Next Page



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*Continued from Previous Page*

them all over the lawn. In fact, there in the middle of the lawn, was old DRUGS' couch and loveseat.

About this time, I started to feel sorry for the ole boy. I mean, shit, no one wants their damn house to burn down. As I was about to enter the house and start helping, the Fire Chief comes running out of the house, nearly knocks me on my butt and starts screaming on the radio "DON'T VENT THE ROOF!! DON'T VENT THE ROOF!! DON'T VENT THE ROOF!!

Now the last time I heard those words, the building in front of me blew up. SOOOO I rotated 180° and stated running towards the street. As I started past the fire chief, he grabs me by the gun belt and says, "Where the hell are you going bud?"

Uhhh to save myself Sir.

Don't bother he says. "To all units, stand down, stand down, we have no fire, I REPEAT WE HAVE NO FIRE!"

What do you mean, NO FIRE? You

have enough equipment here to put out half of Houston. He takes off his hat and sits down right on old Sarge's couch, wipes his forehead and says " Well son, it seems your Sgt. left the ladder to his attic open and the heat from the house worked its way into the attic and caused the frost to burn off the roof, whereby steam is formed...that's what he thought was smoke.

Are you telling me he called all these fire departments out here for STEAM?

"YES, SIR HE DID."

At that point I fell down on the couch and started laughing so hard I'm quite sure my pants got at least a little wet from peeing in them. About that time, DRUGS walks out of the house, thanks the Chief for a job well done (what job is that? Steam control? LOL) and then plops down next to me on the couch.

"Well Barron, ain't this something"

Uh, yeah, Sarge this is something

all right...trying as hard as I could not to start laughing again.

"Well I don't know where to start," he says.

Well I know what I'd do. "What?" he asks. Since all your damn furniture is already on the lawn and your clothes and underwear are here too ( I picked up a sample with my flashlight) I'd go ahead and call U-Haul and rent a truck, 'cause ain't no way I'd stay in this neighborhood after you through all your underwear on the lawn for ROOF STEAM!!!

OMG, I laughed all the way back to my car and it took 20 minutes before I could even pick up the mic..... 2A09 clear the call 'unfounded' it was a case of mistaken SMOKE!!! Nothing to get all STEAMED about. HAHA

*If you have a SMOKING HOT WAR STORY to tell, please send it to: bluespdmag@gmail.com.*

his thoughts !

REX EVANS, EDITOR n CHIEF



*Continued from PAGE 8*

won't ever miss a chance to get myself down to Galveston and board a Carnival Cruise Ship just to take a few days and clear my head.

I reckon it's fair to say, the warm gulf breeze, crystal clear waters of the Caribbean, swimming with dolphins or sitting at some bar in Cozumel, like "The 22 The BLUES POLICE MAGAZINE

Three Amigos" or "Wet Wendy's" (this particular place is full of Police/Fire/EMS patches from around the world) is just what a Doctor would order.

Whether its Carnival or some other line, whether its deer season, rabbit season, duck season, good golf or whatever makes you happy, as the late Marvin Zindler used to say, do it. For God's sake, don't do what I did,

work so much you forgot how to take a break. Because I can tell you without reservation, that was a huge mistake, on my part.

Anyways my friends; Here's to sand between our toes, really cool Pirate stories, zip lines, cave tours, scuba diving, sub riding, umbrella decorated drinks and all the good food, good people, and great times we can stand!!!! (or crawl...)



# Former Harris County Precinct 3 Captain Accused of Sexual Assault of a Minor

HOUSTON – A former Harris County Precinct 3 Constable's Office captain faces two charges in connection with the sexual assault of a girl under the age of 14 from incidents that allegedly began in 1989, according to court records.

Jack Hagee, 74, faces felony indecency with a child and aggravated sexual assault of a child under the age of 14 in connection with the allegations, court records show.

His accuser, a 38-year-old woman, reported to police that in 1989, when she was about 4 or 5 years old, Hagee began touching her inappropriately and exposing himself to her, according to court documents.

The woman told police that by the time she was in kindergarten, Hagee began having regular sexual intercourse with her, which she claimed continued until she started menstruating at age 13, court documents show.

Police interviewed two other witnesses who the woman spoke to, court records show. Officials say Hagee was between the ages of 43 and 51 at the time of the alleged offenses.

Hagee was employed at the Harris County Precinct 3 Constable's Office from February 1981 through June 2011 and between March 2012 to December 2015, according to the



Harris County Precinct 3 Constable's Office.

# Arlington PD Creates Blue Chip Program for Officer Wellness

The Arlington Police Department continues to bolster and strengthen the department's officer and employee wellness program. The department has created a "Blue Chip" program to generate awareness and serve as a symbol for employees to take care of themselves. This initiative complements the department's internal peer support program

The chip represents access to fully anonymous mental health services at no cost to employees. Essentially, an employee can obtain confidential counseling and mental health services for free. Service providers are selected based on their understanding of the unique challenges police officers face serving the community. The department participates in anonymous billing with each provider, so employee records are never

shared with the department.

On each chip, there is a resource website that can be utilized by employees. This program expands services beyond the supportive services the city of Arlington provides to all employees to promote overall wellness.

The unit, previously known as CISM or Critical Incident Stress Management, is now rebranded under the Peer Support Team. Team members on Peer Support focus on responding to critical incidents and providing overall wellness initiatives to the department as a whole. The unit is made up of 35 team members, four of which are mental health professionals. Each team member serves in an ancillary role and has other primary duties within the department. The idea of creating "blue



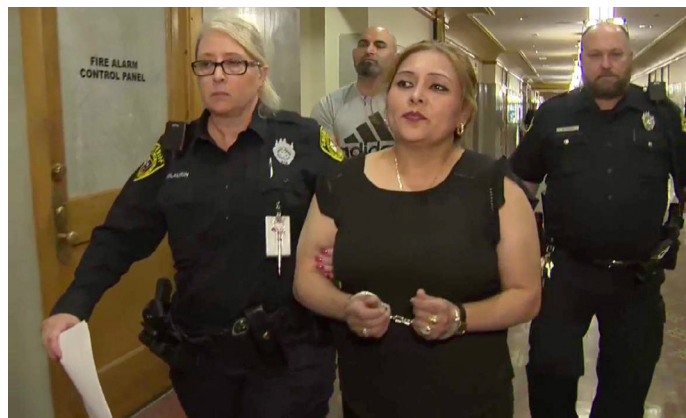
chips" came from employees who wanted a symbolic token to serve as a reminder on how employees can access help when they need it most.

"The profession has suffered great losses with officer suicides. I am proud of the ongoing efforts to elevate our position and the importance of this topic with all of our employees," said Police Chief Will Johnson. "My goal is to be intentional about conversations surrounding wellness and mental health and ensure that all employees have confidential and free access to support systems in times of need."

The BLUES POLICE MAGAZINE 23



# NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE



## Former Pct. 2 Constable and captain indicted on multiple felony charges

SAN ANTONIO — The Bexar County Precinct 2 Constable Office has placed Deputy Marc Garcia on a 10-day administrative leave, pending termination, on Monday, January 27.

A Bexar County grand jury on Thursday indicted former Precinct 2 constable Michelle Barrientes-Vela and her former captain, Marc Garcia, on multiple criminal charges.

According to court documents obtained by KENS 5, Barrientes Vela was indicted on three felony charges, two charges of tampering with evidence and one charge of aggravated perjury. She was also indicted on three misdemeanor charges of official oppression.

Garcia was also indicted on criminal charges, one charge of aggravated perjury, and three charges of official oppression.

Vela's total bond amount is \$25,000 and Garcia's total is \$15,000.

Vela has since bonded out.



Alan Helfman and River Oaks Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram generously donated a brand new 2020 Dodge Grand Caravan for the HPD Activities and Explorers program! Over the years, Alan has donated several vehicles to HPD as well as other law enforcement agencies. The BLUES wishes to thank River Oaks Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram for their continued support of local Law Enforcement.

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## Border Patrol Agents find longest U.S.-Mexico border smuggling tunnel

SAN DIEGO — U.S. authorities on Wednesday announced the discovery of the longest smuggling tunnel ever found on the southwest border, stretching more than three-quarters of a mile from an industrial site in Tijuana, Mexico, to the San Diego area.

The tunnel featured an extensive rail cart system, forced air ventilation, high voltage electrical cables and panels, an elevator at the tunnel entrance and a drainage system.

While there were no arrests, no drugs found at the site, and no confirmed exit point in the U.S., the length — more than 14 football fields — stunned authorities.

"This one blows past (the second-longest)," said Lance LeNoir, a Border Patrol operations supervisor. "We never really thought they had the moxie to go that far. They continue to surprise me."

The tunnel exposes limitations of President Donald Trump's border wall, which stretches several feet underground in the area and is considered effective against small, crudely built tunnels often called "gopher holes." The one announced Wednesday was

found about 70 feet (21 meters) underground, well below the wall.

Following the discovery in August, Mexican law enforcement identified the entrance and U.S. investigators mapped the tunnel that extends a total of 4,309 feet (1,313 meters). The next longest tunnel in the U.S. was discovered in San Diego in 2014. It was 2,966 feet (904 meters) long.

The newly discovered tunnel is about 5.5 feet (1.68 meters) tall and 2 feet (0.61 meters) wide and runs at an average depth of 70 feet (21.3 meters) below the surface, officials said.

Agents discovered several hundred sandbags blocking a suspected former exit of the tunnel in San Diego's Otay Mesa industrial warehouse area. It went under several warehouses in Otay Mesa, where sophisticated tunnels have typically ended, and extended into open fields.

U.S. authorities say they are



This undated photo provided by the Drug Enforcement Administration shows what is believed to be the longest smuggling tunnel between Mexico and the U.S. (Photo/AP)

confident that the tunnel exited in San Diego at one time, based on its trajectory.

LeNoir, a veteran on the multi-agency task force of tunnel investigators known as "tunnel rats," said he made his way through about 50 feet (15 meters) of sugar sacks blocking the tunnel but couldn't go any farther.

An incomplete offshoot of the tunnel that extended 3,529 feet (1,090 meters) suggested to authorities that smugglers had plugged an initial exit point and were building another.

The suspected previous exit "became unsustainable for whatever reason, so they built a spur," Border Patrol spokesman Jeff Stephenson said.

By federal law, U.S. authorities

must fill the U.S. side of tunnels with concrete after they are discovered.

"The sophistication and length of this particular tunnel demonstrates the time-consuming efforts transnational criminal organizations will undertake to facilitate cross-border smuggling," said Cardell T. Morant, acting special agent in charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations unit in San Diego.

Authorities have found 15 sophisticated tunnels on Califor-

nia's border with Mexico since 2006, with hallmarks including lighting, ventilation, railway tracks, and hydraulic lifts.

The tunnels are concentrated in Otay Mesa, an area where clay-like soil is conducive to digging and warehouses provide cover.

The latest tunnel was discovered by Mexican authorities in a Tijuana parking lot for cargo trucks, next to the city's airport.

U.S. authorities mapped its course, drilled a hole on the U.S. side and lowered a camera to determine where to start making

their way through.

"It was endless," LeNoir said.

Authorities didn't say who they believe was behind the tunnel, but the area has been a stronghold of Mexico's Sinaloa cartel. The cartel's longtime leader, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, was sentenced to life in U.S. prison in July. The tunnel stretches more than three quarters of a mile from Tijuana, Mexico to San Diego, California.

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PRISON  
BREAK  
TATTOOS

*Last month was an extremely difficult time for me, both as a cop and a publisher. It was an emotional roller coaster. Exciting to re-launch The BLUES and devastating to not only write about so many Line-of-Duty deaths, but to attend their funerals as well. To all of us, each one was a hero, each in their own unique way, but heroes none the less. What hit me the hardest was, why do we have to wait until they are gone to honor them and recognize all the great things they did for us. We need to pay tribute to these great men and women while they are here. Right Now! Walk up to them and say, "Brother, thank you for EV-*

*ERYTHING you do. We love you and what you do for all of us." So, this month, we are going to do just that. I am so proud of this month's hero, HPD Sgt. B.K. Klevens, owner of Prison Break Tattoos. Not only is B.K. a dedicated 27-year veteran of HPD who just happened to create a one of a kind business, he also gives back to the community and fellow first responders in variety of ways. B.K. is one hell of a businessman and here is his story.*

**M.BARRON, PUBLISHER**

...

To enter Prison Break Tattoos, a seven-year-old tattoo parlor on Houston's Washington Avenue, you must pass through an

# B.K. KLEV

*" a dedicated police officer  
and one hell of a businessman"*

eight-foot-high barred metal gate topped with barbed wire, and past a replica wooden electric chair ("Danger: High Voltage.") Signs read "No Physical Contact At Any Time" and "By Entering You Agree To Be Audio & Video Recorded." Inside are steel bunk beds, a prison payphone, and yards of crime-scene tape; hanging on the wall are a boxing glove signed by Mike Tyson and a black t-shirt that says "Keep Calm and Show Us Your Hands."

All may seem intimidating at first, but once you're buzzed in, B.K. welcomes you like you're part of the family. This nonpareil establishment is the brainchild of Sergeant B.K. Klevens, a

27-year veteran of the Houston Police Department. He took an abandoned dirt-floor tire shop and turned into a place he and his fellow officers and first responders could get inked without worrying about watching their backs.

"The way the country is now, for me to walk into any unknown place and say, hey, I'd like a police-related tattoo—God knows what's going to happen," B.K. explained. "It could be perfect, but on the other hand it might not. Maybe the artist likes the police, but the artist next to him doesn't like them at all. Or the guy next to you could be

*Continued on Next Page*



Continued from Previous Page

getting a gang tattoo.”

B.K. grew up in Houston and graduated from the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts—Beyoncé’s alma mater—before moving to San Marcos to study acting at what was then Southwest Texas State University. When it became apparent that an acting career was likely out of reach, he cast around for an alternative, eventually settling on law enforcement. “I think it might have been the first thing that I came up on as I was looking at majors,” B.K. remembered. “I said, hey, criminal justice—that might be fun. Let me try that.”

After a few years with the Hays County Sheriff’s Office, B.K. moved back to his hometown and took a job with HPD, where he moved up the ranks and was eventually assigned to undercover operations. About 8 years ago, he began visiting tattoo parlors around the city to get inked up. He loved the tattoos but was less enthusiastic about the places he had to go to get them.

“As I’m sitting there and getting tattooed, I have this feeling that I can’t relax,” B.K. said. “Number one, I don’t know who the artists are. There’s a guy in the back room high on something, talking to himself. The people in the booth next to me are yelling and screaming and arguing. And here I am, an officer, thinking, this is not comfortable for me. I want to be able to get a tattoo and not have to worry about putting my gun in my lap, or having to turn a certain way to see the front door, to see who might come in.”

As it happens, B.K. discovered the perfect location for his new business while staking out bars

on Washington Avenue a few years ago as part of the HPD’s vice squad. He was waiting to conduct a raid one Saturday night when he noticed a “For Lease” sign next to what seemed like an abandoned building. “I thought, Washington Avenue’s heating up, look at all these cars, look at all this traffic. I mean, you couldn’t drive down Washington on a Saturday night because it was just packed.”

B.K. leased the building and set about transforming it into a miniature jail, complete with decommissioned prison equipment he got from a San Antonio junkyard.

“This entire place is like a movie set; it’s all tongue-in-cheek theater,” B.K. said. “I even built a fake electric chair that gives you a harmless zap. I’ve created a destination that people will remember and still talk about months later. You would be surprised. City employ-

ees will come in here with their families just to look around. Everyone is welcome. We totally cater to the kids with stickers, thin blue line cookies and temporary tattoos.”

Not everyone understood the joke, as he learned by standing outside the shop and eavesdropping on passersby. “Some people were like, ‘Prison Break? We’re

cruited enough tattoo artists to open up shop, some of whom even saw working at a police-run tattoo shop as a plus.

“As a police officer, I have to operate everything to the letter of the law. You know this place is going to be safe and your artist is going to be vetted personally by an officer of the law. We give people the peace of mind know-

soon realized the late hours were cutting into his sleep, as well as his sanity. “After six months, when we’re drawing a happy face on a guy’s ass and his buddy is throwing up in the bathroom, I’m thinking, this is not what I want to do.” He added, “I lost my patience with drunks a long time ago.” These days, the shop closes around 10 p.m. on weeknights

and mid-night on the weekends.

“The customers that I deal with typically don’t want to get tattooed at two or three in the morning,” B.K. pointed out. “There’s nothing good that can come out of that.”

2019 was a really big year for B.K. and Prison Break as their new show “Hero Ink” premiered on

the A&E Network, home of the popular TV show “LIVE PD.” The first season featured 12 episodes and was a huge hit with not only with the local crowd, but A&E audiences everywhere and is currently airing overseas.

Each half-hour episode features stories from several first responders and guest tattoo artists. In the premiere episode, Sgt. Sean “Sticks” Larkin, from A&E’s “Live PD” stops by to get a special tattoo to commemorate his decades of service.

“Other stories featured include tributes to service animals, first responders who risked everything to help others on Sept. 11, heroes who came together to protect people and property from natural disasters, and teams who have made difficult decisions amid harrowing ordeals. In each case, the clients honor these stories of bravery through a unique tattoo that serves as a lifelong reminder to the moments and people who have impacted their lives and the lives of others.” “Filming the show has been an amazing experience,” B.K. said. “I got to meet a lot of interesting people, a lot of heroic first responders, and amazing artists who assisted us.

From the production company to the production assistants and show runners, everyone was 100 percent supportive of my dream, and we were more than thrilled to have these folks here to film last year. Right now, I’m just waiting to see how the show does and where it takes us.”

...

B.K., we are proud of you and honored to feature you on the cover of The BLUES. We’re excited to have you here in Houston, and we can’t say Thank You enough for all that you do.



going to be tattooed by convicts? I would yell back, ‘it’s a theme!’”

Finding tattoo artists willing to work for a cop, in a prison themed shop was also difficult as first. But B.K. eventually re-

ing they have an immaculately clean environment, and there are no backroom shady dealings.”

When Prison Break first opened, he kept it open until 4 a.m. on the weekends to take advantage of the party crowd, but



## light bulb award

It's a GROUP THING!

## 33 Georgia State Troopers Caught Cheating

*This month's LBA goes to not just one, but 33 Georgia State Troopers. Seems the morons decided to cheat on a "speed detection test." The only one who actually passed was one of the Trooper's girlfriend who took the online test and PASSED. GSP should give that chick a job!!*

WJBF) – Thirty-three new troopers with the Georgia State Patrol without a job after it was discovered they allegedly cheated on exams. Thirty-two were fired, one resigned.

At a press conference Tuesday held by the Department of Public Safety, it was released that students with the 106th trooper school cheated on an online test for speed detection in October of 2019. The investigation into the matter began just days after testing and included interviews with each of the students.

Top brass with the Department of Public Safety learned about the scandal from the girlfriend of one of the cadets, Demon Clark, who says she took the online test for Clark. When Cadet Clark was asked about the cheating allegations, he informed superiors "he was not the



only one who cheated, the whole class cheated," and that is when the decision was made to investigate the testing of the entire class.

According to the Department of Public Safety, during the investigation each cadet described the way they cheated and helped each other with the online exam. Also, during the investigation, it was determined the cadets communicated through a group chat message to gain assistance from other cadets.

The actions violated the depart-

ment's code of conduct policy and the decision to fire those involved was made after the investigation concluded Wednesday morning.

Three of the troopers involved in the scandal were set to be stationed at the local Georgia State Patrol office in Grovetown, GA. The list of graduates from the 106th trooper school are listed below, 32 were fired except for Erguens Accilien from Columbia County, who chose to resign after the allegations of cheating came to light.

Erguens Accilien  
David Allan  
Jalin Anderson  
Erik Austell  
Evan Bauza  
Logan Beck  
Christopher Cates  
Seferino Chavez  
Demon Clark

Christopher Cordell  
Clint Donaldson  
Eric Guerrero  
Jonathan Hayes  
Nicholas Hawkins  
Bradley Hunt  
Clarence Johnson  
Evan Joyner

Richard Justice  
Malcolm Martinez  
Rebecca Moran  
Paul Osuegbu  
Jose Perez  
Patrick Pollett  
Troy Pudder  
Caleb Pyle

Daysi Ramirez  
Gabriel Rampy  
Adam Salter  
Jerry Slade  
Kyle Thompson  
James Vaughan  
Brian Whelehan  
Kelley Whitaker

# PRISON BREAK TATTOOS

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**5.11**  
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**BATES**

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## BOOTS

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## early days of law enforcement



## TEXAS RANGERS

The history of the Texas Rangers is as complicated as Texas history itself

The history of the Texas Rangers spans nearly 200 years. Thousands of Rangers patrolled the frontier, fought in military battles, and arrested cattle rustlers. Their story contains heroic acts of bravery, but also moments that challenge our idea of the Rangers as noble lawmen. They protected settlers and enforced laws, but also sometimes executed thieves without a trial, drove Native American tribes from their homelands, and some Rangers even lynched Mexicans and Mexican Americans along the Texas-Mexico border.

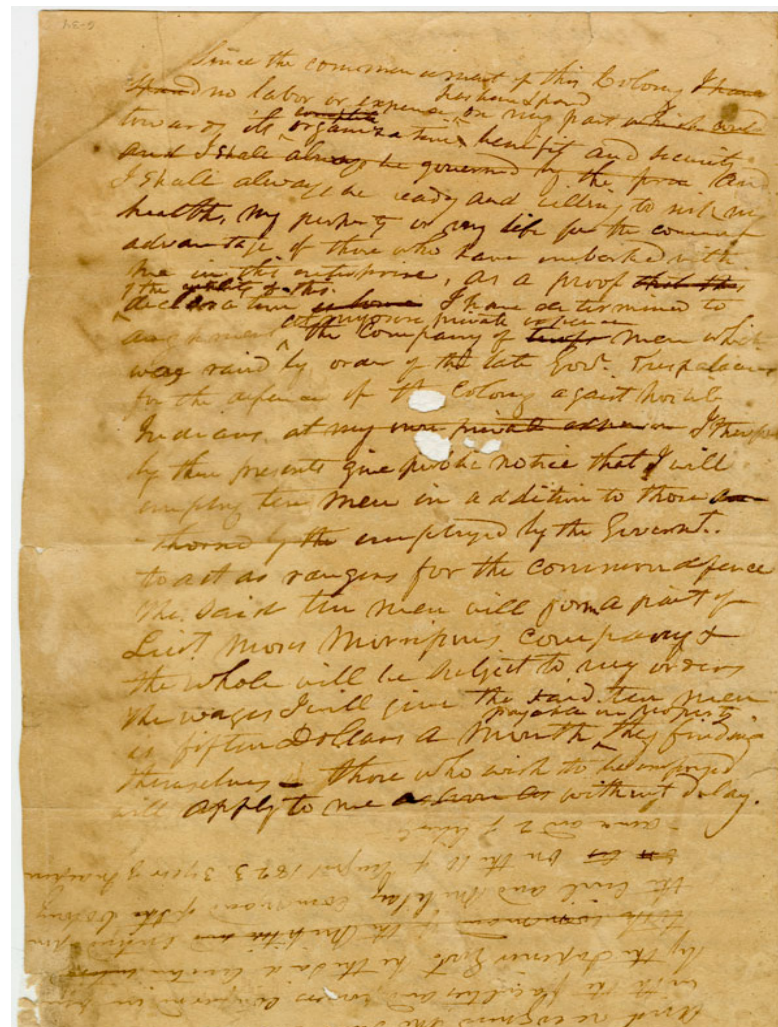
## “Rangers for the common defense”

In 1823, empresario Stephen F. Austin announced he would supplement the Mexican government's militia patrols with his own force of ten men, whom he paid out of his own pocket. Thus, the Texas Rangers were born.

Unsatisfied with the protection the Mexican government provided, Stephen F. Austin created his own force of “rangers” to protect the men and women living in his colony. Austin tasked the Rangers with patrolling the roads and wilderness around the colony for “errant thieves united with Indians.” Many of the men who volunteered as Rangers lived in Austin's colony and hoped their service would help protect their own families from attacks by American Indians. Some were also motivated by the desire to take revenge on American Indians for past raids.

During the Texas Revolution in 1836, the provisional government authorized the first official, government-sanctioned Ranger force to patrol the Texas frontier and protect settlers from raids by American Indians. Though this force was reorganized after Texas won its independence from Mexico, it continued to function in much the same way: groups of volunteers were organized as they were needed to patrol and protect the frontier, then disbanded when their specific missions were done.

34 The BLUES POLICE MAGAZINE



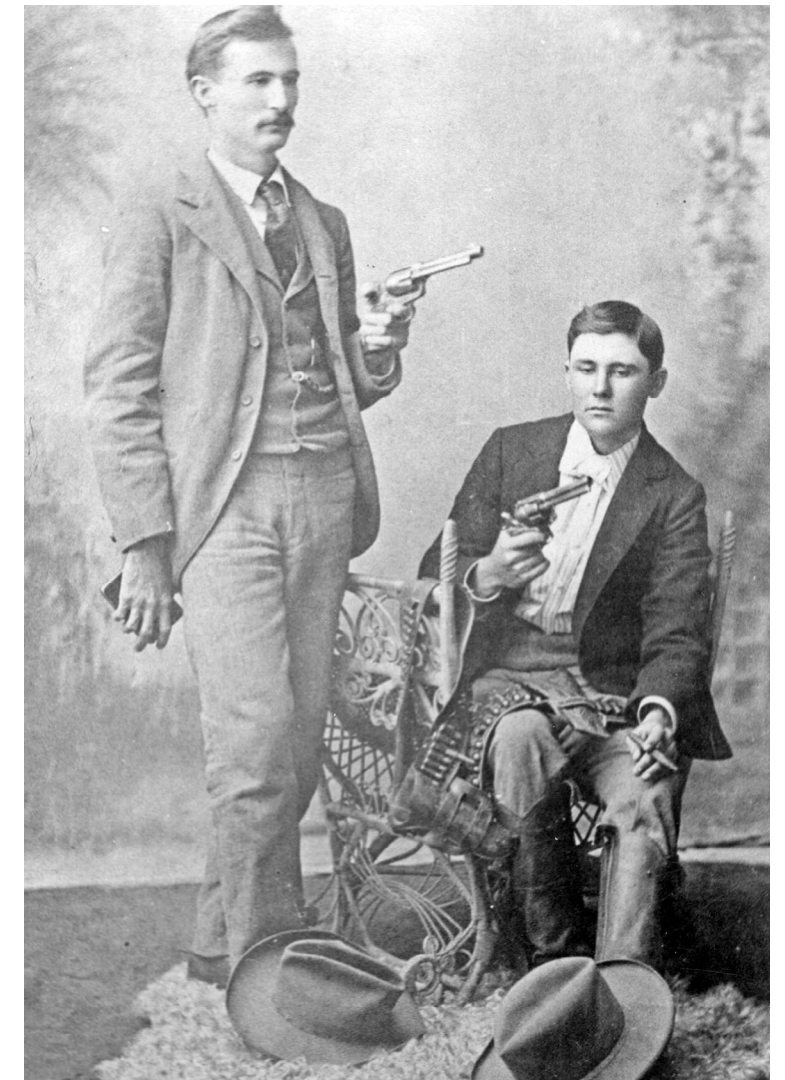
Stephen F. Austin wrote his order creating the first Ranger force on the back of a land document dated August 4, 1823. The company was led by Lieutenant Moses Morrison. Stephen F. Austin Papers, di\_08980, The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin

## Patrolling the Frontier

After the 1836 Texas Revolution, a wave of new settlers headed to Texas enticed by acres of land offered for little money. This increased settlement led to conflicts with American Indians who already occupied the territory and a renewed desire to send the Texas Rangers out on patrol.

To protect the new Texans, Ranger companies patrolled the frontier as well as the border with Mexico. It was during this time that John “Jack” Coffee Hays became the most famous Texas Ranger of the era. Fighting in some of the period's most significant battles between Texans and American Indians, Hays quickly proved himself to be a strong leader, smart decision-maker, and fearless and brutal fighter. He rose up the ranks quickly and was soon leading Ranger companies on frontier patrols and in battles against American Indians.

Hays and the Texas Rangers also played a crucial role in securing the Texas-Mexico border during the 1840s. Agaton Quinones and Manuel Leal led groups of thieves, who crossed the Rio Grande into Texas to rob travelers and rustle cattle, then fled back to Mexico to sell their stolen goods. These bandits operated under the protection of Mexican Captain Ignacio Garcia, who received a percentage of the profits. In response to the increasing number of attacks by Quinones's and Leal's men, Hays was given broad legal powers to track down the thieves and execute them without trial, which he did.

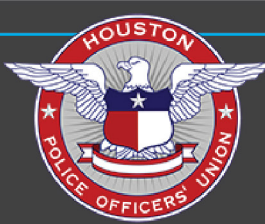


A. R. Olds and Thomas C. Taylor, both 19 years old, on the day they both took their oaths as Texas Rangers in 1899. Photographer unknown.



Each [Ranger] was armed with a rifle, a pistol, and a knife. With a Mexican blanket tied behind his saddle and small wallet in which he carried salt and ammunition and perhaps a little panola or parched corn, spiced and sweetened – a great allayer of thirst – and tobacco, he was equipped for a month. The little body of men, unencumbered by baggage wagons or pack trains, moved as lightly over the prairie as the Indians.





# blue mental health



# an editorial by Joe Gamaldi

I heard the phone vibrate at about 2 a.m. and I slowly turned over to answer it. On the other end was a young female police officer who had recently started her solo journey following the completion of her field training. She had been assigned to one of the most violent areas of the city and the pressure of the situation did create some anxiety, and she questioned her ability to "do the job". Some may say this was weakness, and that she was not cut out for this work. I say, she is simply human and just needed some support. After a long and productive conversation, she was able to move forward, and today I consider her one of the finest officers I have ever met. I was fortunate to have met her during academy training, and she trusted me enough to call. During that vulnerable moment it could have gone either way. She could have decided to walk away from a career she loves, or she would become stronger and realize it is perfectly acceptable to ask for help. Fortunately, she chose the latter and will now have this experience to reflect upon and can hopefully encourage others to also reach out in times of crisis. I am simply blessed to be this lifeline.

We watched the number of law enforcement suicides consistently rise in 2019 and it certainly ignited a call to do more. Public safety agencies and non-profit organizations stepped forward out of the shadows to offer more mental health services, peer support, education, and awareness on the stressors, challenges and potential toxicity of the career. Police leaders have begun to speak openly about law enforcement suicide although it is still not enough. Please do not misunderstand. I am fully supportive of all these approaches and have observed over the last twenty years the significant shift in the willingness to discuss

these issues with transparency and honesty, but we can do more and we must. It is imperative that we start at the beginning when law enforcement officers are just beginning their journey.

I was approached in 2017 by the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 5-30 in Jacksonville, Florida regarding the need for a professional specifically trained in addressing the mental health needs of law enforcement officers. The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office previously had an employee assistance program which offered support by trained mental health professionals who were culturally competent in providing services to law enforcement officers, but it was eliminated due to budget cuts. I was given the ability to create a program which included an eight-hour day of academy instruction to police and corrections on stress, PTSD, and resiliency in the career. This not only provides stress management tools, but also allows for the opportunity to build rapport with me as their EAP counselor moving forward. The recruits are given my contact information and encouraged to reach out whenever needed. I have an off-site office in a non-law enforcement related location to provide a sense of privacy for those who seek counseling. This program has no connection to any fitness for duty evaluative processes and is not mandatory. Police, corrections, and their families can utilize these services at no cost to them and includes unlimited visits.

But education and support should not stop at academy instruction and counseling. With the assistance of the FOP and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office we have built a best practices model to also include family nights throughout the year. These events encourage officers and their families to enjoy a meal and discuss a wide



DR. TINA JAECKLE

range of topics, including financial planning, managing stress at the holidays, effective communication, and relationship skills, just to name a few. An eight-hour course for officers who are transitioning into retirement has recently been added to this model. The goal is to provide a continuum of support and education throughout the entire law enforcement career.

I would be highly interested in how Texas training academies view this important component. I have approached several law enforcement leaders who are charged with the creation and approval of state academy standards and curriculum, and I am often met with the response that there is simply no time to add this block of instruction. I recognize that a significant amount of money and time goes into the creation of a strong, well rounded officer. While I will never question that tactical training is essential for survival in this field, I will always counter that we will ultimately save more lives with an equally important focus on the importance of mental health from beginning to end.

## Harris County's Dirty Little Secret

Much has been made recently, here in Houston and across other big cities, about the horrific results of bail reform, but to be honest this isn't even the worst of what is going on in the criminal justice system. I am sure you are thinking what could be worse than letting violent repeat offenders out on bond over and over again? It is cutting them sweetheart deals when they agree to their guilt, and it is much more insidious and damaging to our community. This is happening every day in Harris County courtrooms with the full knowledge and approval of the elected District Attorney Kim Ogg. They can accomplish this egregious affront by bastardizing the practice of "Deferred Adjudication".

For some readers, this may be the first time you have ever heard the words deferred adjudication, so let's take a moment to explain what that is. Deferred adjudication can be given to a defendant in a criminal case (in an agreed plea deal) and in most cases allows them to skirt any jail/prison time. They walk free from the court room. As long as they stay out of trouble for the length of time they are placed on deferred, their criminal history will reflect no conviction or wrong-doing. This tool in the DA's toolbox is actually a good one if used properly. The design when this was put into law, was to be used for a first-time offender, who maybe got caught in a bad situation who didn't deserve to be put away for years. The little brother who just happens to be in the car when the older brother robs the store, doesn't deserve to have his life ruined. I think we can all agree it is advantageous to have

the ability to give that young man a break. Let me assure you, that is not what is happening in our court rooms. We are seeing a disturbing trend of deferred adjudication being given to violent, habitual offenders, career criminals. There is no thought of justice for the victims in these crimes. The DA's office is giving them numerous chances, and it is clear they have no intention of holding the true criminal element in our community accountable on a consistent basis.

A few quick examples to highlight just how bad it is:

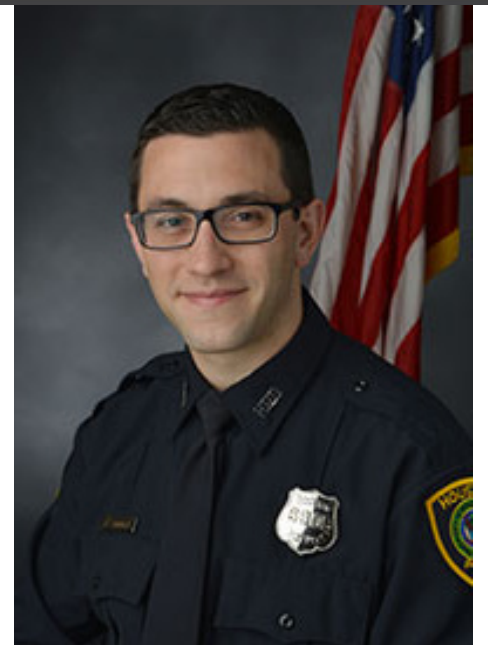
- Clayton Brown has a lengthy, violent, criminal history. He shot three people in two separate incidents, one was 15-year-old girl. In a plea deal with the DA's office he had two of his cases dismissed, and on the third they gave him deferred adjudication. He shot three people and was given no prison time. Where is the justice for the victims?

- Adrian Lizcano pointed a gun at several people and threatened to kill them. He was given deferred for that incident. While on deferred, he crushed his 15-day old infant daughter's skull and killed her.

- Antonio Washington was given deferred for 3 aggravated robberies. While on deferred he robbed a Walmart at gun point, putting dozens of citizens in mortal danger. Thankfully one of our officers happen to be off duty and in line and was able to stop him.

- Mark Baldridge, a prolific collector and distributor of images of child sex abuse, was given deferred adjudication for 8 felony counts of Child Pornography.

I could go on and on with egregious examples, but the other side



JOE GAMALDI, PRESIDENT HPOU

will claim we "cherry picked" them. Rest assured there are thousands. Let's peek behind the curtain to see the scope of this disturbing trend.

Kim Ogg and her office have taken deferred adjudication and placed it on steroids, the likes of which we have never seen. The long-term harm to our community and victims is immeasurable. Here is just a taste, as December 2019:

- We have nearly 1600 people on deferred adjudication for aggravated assault
- Over 1100 people on deferred for aggravated robbery and robbery,
- Over 600 people on deferred for possession of child pornography/indecency with a child/online Solicitation of a minor
- Over 300 people for sexual assault
- Over 1750 people for felony DWI offenses
- And what I believe is a true marker of just how far we have

Continued on Page 46





## honoring our fallen heroes



Investigator  
Ryan D. Fortini  
New York State Police, New York

End of Watch Wednesday, January 1, 2020

Age 42 Tour 16 years Badge 4544

Investigator Ryan Fortini died as the result of cancer that he developed following his assignment to the search and recovery efforts at the World Trade Center site following the 9/11 Terrorist Attacks.

Investigator Fortini was a U.S. Army veteran and had served with the New York State Police for 16 years and medically retired in 2015. He is survived by his fiancée, parents, brother, and sister.



Police Officer  
Paul Dunn  
Lakeland Police Department, Florida

End of Watch Thursday, January 9, 2020

Age 50 Tour 18 years Badge # n/a

Police Officer Paul Dunn was killed in a motorcycle crash on Lakeland Highlands Road, south of Lake Miriam Drive, at approximately 5:45 am.

He was en route to the police station on his department motorcycle when he struck the raised median of the roadway. He was thrown from the motorcycle and sustained fatal injuries.

Officer Dunn was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran. He had served with the Lakeland Police Department for six years and had previously served with the Polk County Sheriff's Office for 12 years. He is survived by his wife, three children, and two stepdaughters.



Public Safety Officer  
Jackson Ryan Winkeler  
Florence Regional Airport

End of Watch Sunday, January 5, 2020

Age 26 Tour n/a Badge # Airport 6

Public Safety Officer Jackson Winkeler was shot and killed while conducting a traffic stop on Gilbert Avenue near the airport's terminal shortly before 6:00 am.

The man opened fire on Officer Winkeler during the stop. Over 30 shots were exchanged during the ensuing shootout. The man then stole Officer Winkeler's service weapon and fled the scene. He was arrested a short time later by members of the Florence County Sheriff's Office.

Officer Winkeler also served as a volunteer firefighter with the Latta Fire Department. He is survived predeceased by one brother and is by his parents and sisters.



Police Officer  
Nicholas Reyna  
Lubbock Police Dept., Lubbock Texas

End of Watch Saturday, January 11, 2020

Age 27 Tour 1 year Badge # n/a

Police Officer Nicholas Reyna and Lieutenant Eric Hill, of the Lubbock Fire Department, were struck and killed by a vehicle while at the scene of a previous crash on I-27 near Drew Street.

Officers and rescue personnel were at the scene of an earlier single-vehicle rollover crash on the interstate when a second vehicle also crossed the median. As officers then dealt with the second crash a third vehicle left the travel lanes and struck Officer Reyna, Lieutenant Hill, and a second firefighter. Officer Reyna and Lieutenant Hill both suffered fatal injuries and the second firefighter was critically injured.





## honoring our fallen heroes

**Detective****Amber Joy Leist****Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept., Ca.****End of Watch Sunday, January 12, 2020****Age 41 Tour 12 years Badge n/a**

Detective Amber Leist was struck and killed by a vehicle at the intersection of Riverside Drive and Whitsett Avenue in Los Angeles at 11:05 am.

She was off duty when she observed an elderly woman fall in the roadway while attempting to cross at the intersection. Detective Leist immediately stopped her vehicle and assisted the woman off of the roadway in order to prevent the citizen from being struck. As Detective Leist returned to her car she was struck by an oncoming vehicle.

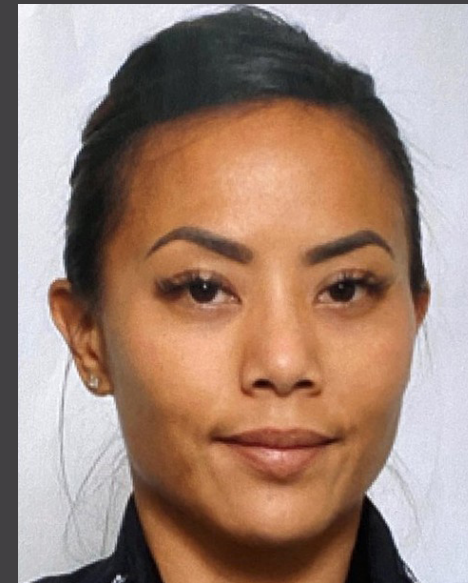
Detective Leist had served with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for 12 years. She is survived by her two sons.

**Deputy Sheriff****Jarid Taylor****Bryan County Sheriff's Office, Oklahoma****End of Watch Tuesday, January 14, 2020****Age 31 Tour 1 yr. 11 months Badge 23**

Deputy Sheriff Jarid Taylor was killed in an automobile crash while responding to an emergency call at about 6:00 am.

His patrol car left the roadway and struck a tree on Old Highway 70 near Lone Oak Road, east of Durant.

Deputy Taylor had served with the Bryan County Sheriff's Office for just under two years. He is survived by his two children and fiancée.

**Police Officer****Tiffany-Victoria Bilon Enriquez****Honolulu Police Dept., Hawaii****End of Watch Sunday, January 19, 2020****Age 38 Tour 7 years Badge # n/a**

Officer Tiffany-Victoria Enriquez and Officer Kaulike Kalama were shot and killed while responding to a stabbing call at a home at 3015 Hibiscus Drive shortly after 9:00 am.

Officer Enriquez was a U.S. Air Force Reserves veteran. She had served with the Honolulu Police Department for seven years and had previously served with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office in Tennessee. She is survived by three daughters and one grandson.

**Police Officer****Kaulike Kalama****Honolulu Police Dept., Hawaii****End of Watch Sunday, January 19, 2020****Age 34 Tour 9 years Badge # n/a**

Officer Kaulike Kalama and Officer Tiffany-Victoria Enriquez were shot and killed while responding to a stabbing call at a home at 3015 Hibiscus Drive shortly after 9:00 am.

Officer Kalama had served with the Honolulu Police Department for nine years. He is survived by his wife and teenage son.





## honoring our fallen heroes



Deputy Sheriff  
Sheldon Gordon Whiteman  
Long County Sheriff's Office, Georgia

End of Watch Thursday, January 23, 2020

Age 44 Tour 4 years, 4 months Badge 727

Deputy Sheriff Sheldon Whiteman was killed in a crash while involved in a vehicle pursuit at approximately 3:00 am.

Officers with the Ludowici Police Department had initiated the pursuit when they attempted to stop a vehicle for a traffic violation. The vehicle fled onto Highway 57 toward McIntosh County with officers in pursuit. Deputy Whiteman had just joined the pursuit when his vehicle left the roadway and struck several trees near Tibet Road SE. He was transported to Liberty Regional Medical Center in Hinesville where he succumbed to his injuries.

He is survived by his wife, three children, and father.



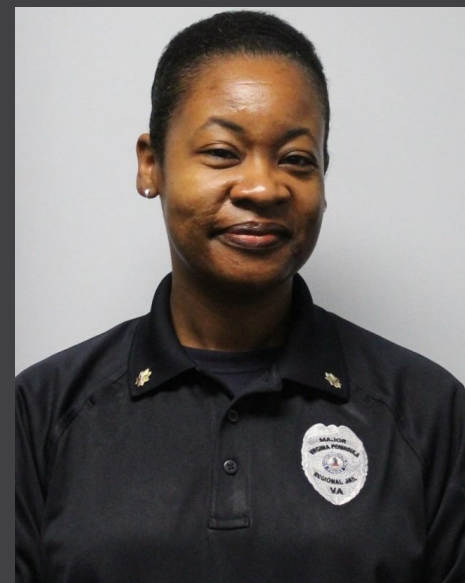
Police Officer  
Katherine Mary Thyne  
Newport News Police Dept., Virginia

End of Watch Thursday, January 23, 2020

Age 24 Tour 1 yr. Badge 2237

Police Officer Katie Thyne died after being dragged by a vehicle while conducting an investigation. She and her partner were investigating reports of drug activity when they approached a car along the 1400 block of 16th Street in Newport News. During the investigation, the driver sped off, dragging Police Officer Thyne for a block. The vehicle struck a tree, and Officer Thyne was pinned between the tree and the vehicle door. Police Officer Thyne was taken to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, where she died from her injuries.

Police Officer Thyne served with the Newport News Police Department for approximately one year and had previously served with the United States Navy. Police Officer Thyne is survived by her 2-year-old daughter, fiancée, mother, three brothers, and grandparents.



Major  
Angelanette Moore  
Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail, Virginia

End of Watch Thursday, January 23, 2020

Age 40 Tour 20 years Badge # n/a

Major Angelanette Moore suffered a fatal heart attack following a shake-down in one of the housing units at the Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail.

Several hours after the shakedown she returned to the housing unit to provide disciplinary guidance to inmates. As she completed her discussion with the inmates, she collapsed. Other officers and medical staff immediately began CPR but were unable to resuscitate her.

Major Moore had served with the Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail for 20 years and served as the agency's Director of Security. She is survived by her husband and son.



K9  
Thorr  
Henry County Police Dept., Georgia

End of Watch Thursday, January 9, 2020

Age 5 Tour 96 months Breed: Belgian Malinois

K9 Thorr was killed when the patrol car he was riding in collided with a tractor-trailer on I-75 near mile marker 206 in Spalding County.

His and another officer were on patrol and were making a U-turn in a median turnaround. As they entered back into traffic the patrol car was struck by a tractor-trailer. K9 Thorr was killed as a result of the collision. Both officers and the driver of the semi were injured.

K9 Thorr had served with the Henry County Police Department for six months.



# LE job positions



Katy Police Department	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Killeen Police Department	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Texas State Technical College (Marshall)	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Texas State Technical College (Fort Bend)	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Dallas Fort Worth International Airport	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Saginaw Police Department	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Addison Police Department	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Texas Woman's University Police	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
City of Balch Springs	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Tarrant County Police Department	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Texas A&M University	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Texas State Board of Pharmacy	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
University of North Texas Health Science Center	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Guadalupe County Sheriff's Office	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Tarrant Regional Water District	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Grapeland Police Department	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Cisco Police Department	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Lake Worth Police Department	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Anderson County Sheriff's Office	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Anderson County Sheriff's Office	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Taylor County Sheriff's Office	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Gonzales ISD Police Dept	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Nassau Bay PD	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
San Jacinto College Police Department	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
City of Belton	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Mason County Sheriff's Office	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Flower Mound Police Department	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
City of Mont Belvieu Police Department	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Horseshoe Bay Police Department	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Shenandoah Police Department	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Austin County Sheriff's Office	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
McLennan Community College Police	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Sandy Oaks Marshal's Office	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Alamo Colleges Police Department	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Lufkin Police Department	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Rollingwood Police Department	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Tyler Junior College	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Galveston County	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Floydada Police Department	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Webster Police Department	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
College Station Police Department	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Brewster County Sheriff's Office	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Selma Police Department	<a href="#">Get Info</a>
Lockhart, City of	<a href="#">Get Info</a>

Police Officer	02/20/2020 - 5pm
Police Officer	02/14/2020 - 12pm
Police Officer	02/27/2020 - 5pm
Police Officer	02/27/2020 - 5pm
Police Officer - Experienced (Lateral)	03/12/2020 - 5pm
Police Officer	04/12/2020 - 5pm
Police Officer	02/13/2020 - 9pm
Police Officer	02/13/2020 - 5pm
Police Officer	02/13/2020 - 5pm
Police Officer	02/11/2020 - 5pm
Peace Officer	02/18/2020 - 5pm
Sergeant Field Inv.	02/16/2020 - 5pm
Police Officer	02/20/2020 - 5pm
Patrol Deputy	01/31/2020 - 5pm
Patrol Officer	02/20/2020 - 5pm
Police Chief	02/29/2020 - 5pm
Patrol Officer	02/22/2020 - 5pm
Commander	01/30/2020 - 5pm
Full-Time Deputy	02/02/2020 - 5pm
Dispatcher	02/02/2020 - 5pm
Patrol Deputy	03/30/2020 - 5pm
Police Officer	02/28/2020 - 5pm
Patrol Officer I	04/07/2020 - 5pm
Police Officer	02/29/2020 - 5pm
Police Officer	02/03/2020 - 8am
Deputy Sheriff	02/10/2020 - 5pm
Police Officer	02/10/2020 - 5pm
Police Officer	02/21/2020 - 5pm
Police Officer	02/13/2020 - 5pm
Patrol Officer	02/14/2020 - 5pm
Peace Officer	03/15/2020 - 5pm
Police Officer	03/10/2020 - 5pm
Deputy Marshal	02/14/2020 - 5pm
Peace Officer	03/16/2020 - 5pm
Police Officer E	03/06/2020 - 5pm
Patrol Officer	03/15/2020 - 5pm
Police Officer	03/16/2020 - 5pm
Compliance Officer	02/28/2020 - 5pm
Police Officer	02/29/2020 - 6pm
Police Officer	02/29/2020 - 5pm
Peace Officer	02/29/2020 - 5pm
Deputy	02/29/2020 - 5pm
Police Officer	03/15/2020 - 6pm
Police Officer	02/25/2020 - 5pm



POLICE DEPARTMENT

# NOW HIRING

## STARTING PAY

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Continued from Page 37


fallen, over 300 people on deferred for felon in possession of a firearm. Let that sink in for a moment. We are having a national debate on guns and gun laws, and yet we are handing out no jail time to convicted felons, who are found in possession of a firearm. Kim Ogg is literally giving gun toting felons a "Get Out of Jail Free Card". That is not even mentioning a large group of the aggravated robberies and aggravated assaults committed with guns, and the assailants were given a sweetheart deal with no jail time. We aren't even using the tools we have in our toolbox now to hold criminals accountable for crimes with guns, and all anyone can talk about is new gun laws.

Even more disturbing, the above numbers is what we can track. These deferred numbers are actually much higher. When someone violates their deferred, is revoked and convicted, we are unable to track that case effectively. The above numbers do not include those criminals who have been placed on deferred, re-offended, and therefore violating the conditions of their deferred adjudication. (Conceivably at that point they should go to the jail for the original charge, however we are finding the DA's office and Judges aren't even following through in those cases. But that is an article for another day). It doesn't take an active imagination to understand, it means the numbers above are infinitely worse. Kim Ogg apologists will say they have to cut these deals in order to keep their dockets manageable, and Judges play a role in accepting the terms of the agreement. I will concede those points. They absolutely must negotiate deals with defense

attorneys in order to allow the system to run somewhat efficiently. However, they are giving away the farm in these negotiations with full approval from District Attorney Kim Ogg and her administration.

When you have violent, true habitual offenders, you should only be discussing how long they will go to prison, not negotiating to let them off the hook completely. Is anyone asking the victim how they feel about these deals? Does anyone care of about justice for victims? Our current elected DA is so worried about going light on criminals, she has completely forgotten that it is her duty to protect and represent victims!

People will attempt to make this a partisan issue or a political issue, but throwing the book at violent criminals, who prey on the hard-working people of our community, is something we should all agree on. With a loud voice, everyone should demand these criminals be held responsible for their actions and stand up for victims. Please share these statistics with your friends, family members, neighbors, and co-workers. I am confident the average Houstonian believes that if someone sticks a gun in their face and robs them, that miscreant will be thrown in jail for 10+ years. The reality is the opposite. They are much more likely to receive a sweetheart deal and be let free to victimize the next hard-working person and maybe even kill someone. I venture to say this is not what any of us want, and it is certainly not the Houston I know and love so dearly. This epidemic is within our power to change. We all need to come together and vote out the very person who swore an oath to uphold the law and protect victims in our community... Ogg Must Go. Harris County Deserves Better!



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## one last dove hunt of the season



A tradition that I have enjoyed for the better part of the last decade is that, a couple days after Christmas, I load up my truck with my hunting gear and head to South Texas to enjoy one last dove hunting trip of the year with my two sons and many of my friends from Shell. There are a lot of reasons why this trip has become one of my most anticipated hunts of the year and such a great way to end the hunting season, not least of which is that Texas dove seasons open back up again in late December and runs into late January.

First, most hunters will agree that dove hunting is one of the few hunts where it is ok to make it a

grief when they miss the ones that seem to float right over their head. Dove hunting is also a great way to introduce beginners to hunting, because it is easy to provide one-on-one coaching on gun safety and the art of wing shooting, while still being able to get some shots off yourself.

Secondly, late season dove hunts can be very fun and very challenging, even for the most experienced shotgunner. See, if you are hunting the early season opener you have a mix of immature and mature birds making their way casually in and out of the fields, unaware of the hundreds of small lead pellets about to be heading their way.



White-winged doves would fly just out of shotgun range over our hay bale hideouts only to see them get over their feeding grounds and dive down like Teal ducks dive-bombing to their favorite watering holes. If you have ever hunted Teal, you know what I am talking about. Then after an hour of feeding, these late season doves come out of the fields equally as fast and full of quick turns and dives to avoid our awaiting guns. And for these memories alone of so many challenging flights, I love these late season dove hunts.

However, the top reason that this trip has become a one of our family hunting traditions is that the place we go has the best dove hunting in the state of Texas, and their lodge has

indoor/outdoor spaces that are perfect for spending downtime with your friends and family. I am talking dove hunting like I hear about in Argentina, with plenty of



social affair. I love the fact that you can hunt in groups, and you can talk to your buddies in-between shots, either congratulating them on those amazing shots or giving them

While during the second season opener, these late season survivors have seemingly learned many evasive maneuvers to stay alive. On several morning hunts this year, the





birds to provide daily limits. Our host Sammy Nooner, called the "Duke of Dove" by Texas Sporting Journal, operates the [Valdina Ranch](#) and the [Nooner Ranch](#). I have known Sammy for most of my 30+ years at Shell and our mutual love for the outdoors and hunting connected us from the start. Sammy was a successful Fuel Wholesaler

for Shell in South Texas for several decades before he turned his attention full time to his passion for the outdoors. Today, Sammy's ranches have earned recognition as being two of the top deer and dove hunting operations in Texas.

So, if you have never experienced hunting late season White-winged doves in South Texas, consider

grabbing some family and friends and try it in 2020. You might be just starting a new tradition that will last for decades.

WORDS & PHOTOS BY  
RUSTY BARRON

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...last minute additions.



OFFICERS DOWN in CORPUS CHRISTI

## Traffic Stop Kills One Officer, Injures Another



**Officer Alan McCollum,  
End of Watch 1/31/2020**

On January 31, 2020, the Corpus Christi Police Department suffered the untimely passing of Officer Alan McCollum who was killed in the line of duty at age 46. We mourn the loss of a great co-worker, friend, husband and father. There are few words to express the pain in our loss not only to the Corpus Christi Police Department but to our community.

Officer McCollum served with the Corpus Christi Police Department for seven-years and was a twenty-one-year highly decorated Veteran of the United States Army. Officer McCollum was awarded numerous decorations, medals, badges, citations, campaign ribbons; to include being a recipient of the Bronze Star.

Officer McCollum was a valued member of our Honor Guard, our SWAT Team and earned a life saving award.

Officer McCollum is survived by his wife and three children. Our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Officer McCollum.



**Officer Michael Love,  
In Stable Condition**

On January 31, 2020 officers were conducting a traffic stop on HWY 358 when they were struck by a vehicle. This incident has left us mourning the death of Officer Alan McCollum and praying for the full recovery of Officer Michael Love.

Officer Love sustained major injuries but is in stable condition and is recovering at a local hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with Officer Love as he recovers from his injuries.

Officer Michael Love has been a police officer with the Corpus Christi Police Department since July 2017.



...last minute additions.



## A Hero Comes Home: Deputy Whitten's body returned to Cleveland; funeral set for Saturday February 8th

It is with deep sorrow that Liberty County Sheriff Bobby Rader announced that Deputy Richard Whitten passed away with what, at this time, appears to be a heart attack while he was in physical therapy at a Houston Medical Center facility. Last year Deputy Whitten was shot in the neck while attempting to apprehend an armed murder suspect who had just shot and killed a woman and then shot two males at a business location in mid-Liberty County.



### What would you call a "Hero"?

I mean, one of those kinds of people we all wish we could be. Maybe the kind of people we all wish this old world had a few more of, because God knows, we're running short of them.

How would you describe a "Hero"? I mean, what would, or could you say to your family, friends, even strangers as to just how this person was so extraordinary, they unequivocally earned the qualifier of "Hero".

Fortunate am I, really. For I have met a few "Heroes" in my time. I served with them, worked with them, fought, bled, froze, burned up, broke bread, laughed and even cried with them a time or two. Each and every one of them were some of the most amazing, compassionate, courageous men and women anyone could have ever had the privilege of meeting.

When looking back, I see many a Law Enforcement Officer whom I knew, who no longer remain or, are critically injured and impaired in some manner, from injuries sustained as a direct result of an in the Line of Duty Critical Incident. How I remain and they do not, keeps me filled with disbelief and guilt. For they were all far, far better people

than I.

Also, I see their spouses, significant others, mothers, fathers, siblings, kids and grandkids even. I see the struggles those families faced and fought so hard to endure. All the incoming bills. Fighting with insurance companies, workers compensation providers, elected officials and the like, all to just provide some sense of normalcy and peace for their broken and hurting loved one. They too, definitively qualify for the "Hero" description. Though they would simply tell you, "I did it because, I love them".

On May 29th, 2019, such a person, without hesitation or reservation acted with immediacy and urgency. He heard the call of an Active Shooter Incident with multiple victims and, when I saw the suspect, he did not think twice. He acted.

As the suspect pulled into the parking lot of a local business, this man exited his patrol car and stood between the shooter and many more potential innocent victims. Tragically, he was shot.

Many other Law Enforcement Officers responded and assisted this man and all the other victims. They relentlessly sought the suspect.

Eventually, locating the shooter who, ultimately took his own life.

That one particular shot the shooter had fired into this man I am speaking of, had caused what was later to be determined, catastrophic injuries causing severe paralysis. His wife and family sped to his side and they too, never faltered. They never failed to do whatever they could, however they could for him. This great man who, so selflessly placed himself in Harm's Way, so that others might live, free from injury or death.

This man, who had fulfilled and was living his lifelong dream, to be a Cop, was doing just that, and he was doing so in exemplary fashion. He was known for his deep compassion for others and for animals. He provided food and help for the homeless and the hopeless. He always strived to do his part, to make this world a better place. One step, one call at a time.

What would I call a "Hero" like this? Well, I'd call him; Richard Whitten, Deputy Sheriff. Liberty Co. Sheriff's Office.

Written with love, admiration, respect and humble sincerity.

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...parting shots.





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