

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO TEXAS LAW ENFORCEMENT



THE POLICE MAGAZINE
BLUES

MARCH 2020 • VOL. 36 NO. 3



Zechariah Cartledge
Running for Fallen Heroes



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CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO TEXAS LAW ENFORCEMENT



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On the Cover / Feature Story Page 32
While most 11-year old boys are playing video games or riding dirt bikes, Zechariah Cartledge from Winter Springs Florida is running to celebrate the lives of first responders who have made the ultimate sacrifice and died in the line of duty.

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my thoughts !!

Michael
Barron

WHY?

Do We Do What We Do ?

The Final Inspection

The policeman stood and faced his God. Which must always come to pass.

He hoped his shoes were shining just as brightly as his brass.

"Step forward now, policeman. How shall I deal with you? Have you always turned the other cheek? To My church have you been true?"

The policeman squared his shoulders and said, "No, Lord, I guess I ain't. Because those of us who carry badges can't always be a saint.

I've had to work most Sundays, and at times my talk was rough; and sometimes I've been violent, because the streets are awfully tough.

But I never took a penny that wasn't mine to keep...though I've worked a lot of overtime when the bills got just too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help, though at times I shook with fear; and sometimes, God forgive me, I've wept unmanly tears.

I know I don't deserve a place among the people here. They never wanted me around except to calm their fear.

If you've a place for me here, Lord, it needn't be so grand. I never expected or had too much, but if you don't...I'll understand."

There was silence all around the throne where the saints had often trod. As the policeman waited quietly for the judgment of his God.

"Step forward now, policeman, you've borne your burdens well. Come walk a beat on Heaven's streets, you've done your time in

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hell."

Now I'm sure many of you have heard this prayer. I know myself it's been read at a number of fallen officers funerals I've attended. And perhaps it's true, some don't want us around until they need us. Until they've been hurt, scared or robbed; or comfort them when they've been shot, stabbed or severely hurt in an accident. We're the ones they call. Not just Cops, but all first responders.

So why do we do the job we do. Why do we run towards gun fire, when everyone else is running away? Why do we stand in harm's way to protect people we don't even know? And why in God's name would we run into a burning building when everyone else is trying to get out?

Why indeed. Because it's in our DNA. It's what we were born to do. Ask most any cop or first responder why they do what they do, and most will say "because it was what I was meant to do." Maybe it was some event in their lives that brought them face to face with danger and a cop or fireman saved them. Or a bad accident as a kid and a paramedic held their hand while they were cut out of a car. Whatever the reason, it transformed them. It gave them a purpose in life that was larger than themselves.

For me it came when I was only five. My parents had gone to the grocery store and when they returned home, my dad had backed the car into the driveway. It was an old car with a manual transmission



with an old-style emergency brake. (you youngsters have no idea what I'm even talking about) Anyway, my younger brother and I decided we were going to drive that beast, and we did! My brother released the emergency brake, and I took the wheel and we drove that bad boy down the steep driveway, across the street, up the neighbor's driveway and straight into their garage door. BAM...we were driving...and having our first accident all at once. Needless to say, the popo showed up. Now I was 5. The only place I saw coppers was on TV. And they were shooting people and throwing bad guys in jail. And hauling them off in a paddy wagon. Oh crap! Me and my brother were going to jail!

Well I remember this HPD cop talking to my dad. Pointing to me and my brother. Here it comes, we're going to jail. He walked over to us and asked if we were OK. My brother was hiding his 4-year old self behind me and I said "Yes Sir. We are OK. Will you be taking us to jail now?" I remember him kneeling down and saying "No son, you won't be going to jail. This is what we call an accident. It's called that because that's what it is. An accident. No one meant for it to happen, it just does."

"This won't be the first time you'll be in an accident and probably

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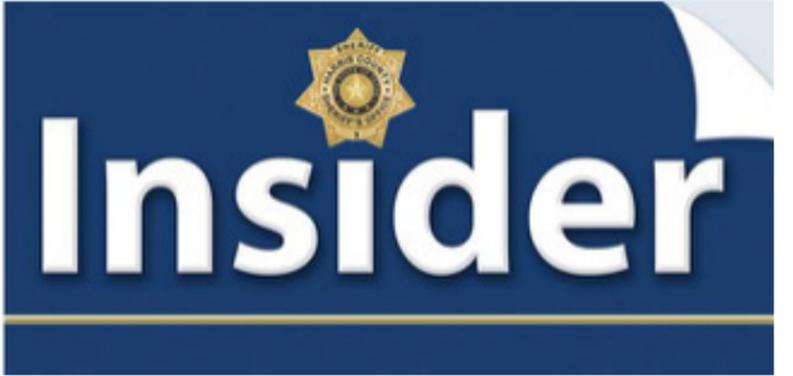


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his thoughts !



I can literally still feel, smell and taste every moment of that fateful morning.

The date and time are fast approaching me, yet again. March 9th...2010. How insane is it that so much time as past and yet, I can literally still feel, smell and taste every moment of that fateful morning.

Funny now, just sitting there at the Sheriff's Office eating some damn almond M&M's in the Sergeant's Office. It's my Friday and I am just trying to make 0600. But time and fate would have far different plans for me that day, and in a way...forevermore.

The call came in of a man with a gun, firing said gun in and outside of the home. So, off we went. From the Sheriff's Office all the way to the location, that old Crown Vic was giving me all she could.

Right about the time I passed by a local high school, I felt it. Deep inside me...I knew. This was going to be bad and I really wasn't sure if I was going to survive it. Now I know this all sounds kind of weird, but I truly believe sometimes we just know something is wrong or something bad is coming our way. (in this case, I was going towards the trouble)

I blacked out the lights and stopped just before the residence. Based upon the call and the updates, I exited with my carbine, slinging it over my shoulder into the "low ready" position. I walked over to the largest damn tree I could find and...I waited. I just listened and controlled my breathing.

Little to no light. Not a sound to be heard. Not even a slight breeze or a bird, owl, frogs...nothing. Just an ever-present sense of loneli-

ness, dread and death. I could hear the engine of another coming and I waited. I swear some nights I can still smell the remnants of burnt cordite, drifting in the night air.

Based upon the updates on the call, we knew there were family members in imminent danger, hiding inside a closet, inside the home. There was no choice. We couldn't wait on anyone else. We had to act.

So, up the long driveway we go. Stepping over the already spent shell casings and seeing the windows shot out on multiple vehicles and the travel trailer in the front yard. One step forward, then another and so on. Trying to reach the main home on the property and secure the remaining family members who were still in hiding.

Then...at 0532 hrs. I saw it. The barrel of a long gun coming up out of the night. Illuminated by ambient light from an old yard light. And, the barrel pointing right at us. I got on target with my pistol first. I fired and he fired at the same damn time. I clearly remember the muzzle flashed enveloped in what looked like illuminated sparklers.

The Deputy next to me falling to the ground. I stepped over to my left, placing myself between him and the shooter. Combat reload and re-engaged the suspect, hopefully giving the hit Deputy time to move. Then, the next series of exchanged shots came, and I'm hit.

My pistol falls to the ground in front of me. No time to lean over and get it. I brought the rifle up and continued the fight. The exchange continues. We start to fall back at this point. Every few feet, I fired



several rounds in order to keep the suspect from pursuing and re-engaging us.

We make it back out to the road and I reload my rifle from the extra mag I had stuck in the driver's door. We take up position behind my unit, and I grab for the mike. I let Dispatch know, two Deputies were hit, suspect is still at large, and we are pinned down behind my unit in the roadway.

Now I do not recall advising the incoming units to not come directly to us. I listened to the radio traffic later, and I distinctly told all the incoming units to not try and reach us. I had lost sight of the suspect and could not allow them to come down to where we were.

Those few units listened and stopped down the road from us. We devised a plan to reach the last car that came up behind my unit and we backed out of there. My rifle pointed out the passenger side window. We rolled back out of there and to the waiting units and EMS.

In the end, I look back and I realize just what a terrible incident this really was. A family lost a member, as the suspect did not survive the engagement. Two Deputies would forever more live with having been shot in the Line of Duty. And a third

Continued on Page 42

Harris County Sheriff Air Unit Video



This week's video features our air support unit and showcases their instrumental work here at the Sheriff's Office. Their team is critical to our operations during day-to-day patrol operations and in major events such as last year's ITC chemical plant fire. [Click HERE](#) to watch the video and learn more about the HCSO air support unit.

HCSO Pony Express Ride



In honor of 71 years of tradition, our Mounted Patrol Unit traveled on a pony express-style ride from Harris County to the Texas State Capitol. Our riders hand-delivered invitations to state officials to the 88th Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Thank you to our Mounted Patrol Unit for keeping this tradition alive. [CLICK HERE](#) to Check out the video below of our Mounted Patrol making their way to Austin. If you're visiting NRG park, be sure to say "Howdy" to the many HCSO deputies keeping the rodeo grounds safe for everyone.

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your thoughts !!!



Gutsy Not Arrogant

I remember the BLUES from back in the day. A lot of people thought Mike Barron was an arrogant little shit, but he was actually pretty damn gutsy. First off, he continued to publish his newspaper even when Harris County Sheriff Klevenhagen threatened to fire him if he didn't stop. He also published the truth about conditions that existed at the time throughout HCSO even though it put him at risk. Most people would have just closed the paper rather than face the wrath of Klevenhagen. But Barron didn't back down, nor did he quit. I heard they banned him from delivering newspapers to the old jail, and Barron landed on the roof and had someone sneak them in. I also know that a lot of people at the time think he won a 100 Club Award for publishing the BLUES. Not True. He won the award for pulling two toddlers out of a burning house in Atascocita. Not too smart to run into a fully involved house, but the mom was screaming her kids were inside and the fire department was nowhere in sight. He got quite the ass chewing from the fire chief as he was being loaded into an ambulance. That little stunt landed him on the front page of the Humble Newspaper. Two weeks later he was on the front page of another local newspaper when he rescued a 4-year baby girl that had been raped and thrown in a bayou by her dirtball uncle. Barron had located her under a bridge

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and loaded her into a life flight helicopter. Trust me, Klevenhagen was pissed that Barron kept showing up on the news. Barron also got his ass kicked a time or too as well. I remember he tried to tow off like a dozen cars from the flea market on Airline and a dozen illegals jumped his ass. He wasn't the best deputy at Harris County, but he had guts that's for sure. The one last thing I know he did, was go see Klevenhagen in the hospital before he died. Barron told someone that even though Klevenhagen had made his life a living hell, he went and made peace with him before he passed away. Now I'm pretty sure I wouldn't have done that, but that was just the kind of guy he was. So, when I say the BLUES stands for something, it does. It's more than just a newspaper or magazine. It's a tradition that has stood the test of time and I commend Mr. Barron and Rex Evans for bringing it back. And what a fine job they have done. Kudos to both of you.

J.D Smith, RET.

EDITOR: Well thanks JD. I appreciate your support and kind words. I actually forgot how stupid I was, so I appreciate you reminding me and letting the entire State of Texas know as well. Those were some crazy times both good and bad. And yes, Johnny and I had our moments but he wasn't that bad of a guy. Truth is I've seen worse. But despite our differences we made peace in the end.

BK is the BEST

I'd like to thank The BLUES for featuring BK on last month's cover. I've known BK for a long time, and he is one of the kindest police officers I know. There isn't anything he won't do for his fellow officers or anyone in the community for that matter. Most people just own businesses to make money, but BK does so much more. Of course, he's in business to make money, but it's what you do with the money you earn that makes a difference. He's truly one-of-a-kind businessman and cop. We love you BK!

S.D Owens

EDITOR: We think BK is pretty special too. HPD and the entire city of Houston is lucky to have him not only as a cop on the street, but as a top notch entrepreneur.

Love the BLUES

I've been a fan of The BLUES since the 80's. I remember when you guys brought Dennis Franz to the Wild Game Cookout and built a replica of the Hill Street Blues set. Hell, ya'll even had a Chicago PD Crown Vic there as well. Good time for sure. Keep up the good work and show these youngsters what a police newspaper is all about.

Retired Constable Pct. 5

EDITOR: And can you believe we didn't win !! But hanging out with Dennis was cool and we are still friends to this day.

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won't be the last. But with God's help we can pray that you'll always be as unharmed as you were today."

I remember my dad putting his hand on the cops shoulder saying "Yeah, I don't know about the unharmed part. They have some paddle time coming for this little stunt." But I was 5 and I just DROVE A CAR. I can take a little pop here and there.

The moral of the story, besides don't leave your kids unattended in a car backed up in a steep driveway 'dad', is that my first interaction with the police could have been the worst thing to happen to a five-year old. Instead, it was life changing for me. From that day on, I wanted to be a cop. I wanted to be that guy that told a five-year old little boy that with Gods help, we'll all be a little safer.

In the course of my career I've read and even written a lot about what it has been like to actually be a cop. These past few years, I admit

it hasn't been easy to do either. But I ran across some quotes I think you'll like and even relate to. The author is noted if they were known.

1. "Down these mean streets a man must go who is not himself mean, and who is neither tarnished nor afraid." Raymond Chandler

2. "Wisdom is knowing the right path to take. Integrity is taking it." M.H. McKee

3. "Good people sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf." George Orwell

4. "I sleep alone, so you can sleep safe." An unknown police spouse

5. "We face what you fear." Anonymous

6. "Evil is powerless if the good are unafraid." President Ronald Reagan

7. "The wicked flee when no man pursueth; but the righteous are bold as a lion." Proverbs 28:1

8. "Bravery is not the absence of fear, but action (the mastery of it)

in the face of fear." Attributed to 18th Century writer John Berridge

9. "Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear." Ambrose Redmoon, AKA James Neil Hollingworth

10. "I don't have to draw a line in the sand. I already have one. It's thin. It's blue. It's mine and if you cross it, I will protect it." Anonymous

11. "Be the type of person that when your feet touch the floor in the morning, the devil says, 'Oh crap ... they're up!'" Attributed to Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson

And of course, my favorite that rode with me on the hood of my corvette for many years:

12. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." Matthew 5:9

Continue to do what you do. Protect the people you were hired to protect. Run into fires only when the fire department hasn't shown up and a mom is screaming her kids are inside. And most importantly of all, take the time to tell that 5-year old little boy or girl, that with God's help, we will all be **a little safer**.



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Investigations, complaints surround Hays County Precinct 3 Constable Ray Helm

Hays County Pct. 3 Constable Ray Helm is currently under investigation by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and the Hays County Auditor's Office for complaints ranging from falsifying training records to utilizing taxpayer resources for private use.

Helm was elected to the Constable's Office in Hays County in 2016, which is based in the city of Wimberley. He's now seeking re-election and faces Jessica Deatherage in the Republican primary. The complaints come from two men: Ari Axelrod, a former Hays County resident and businessman; and former deputy constable Gary Griffin, who was Helm's second-in-command.

Believing the Precinct 3 Constable's Office wrongly ticketed Axelrod's wife in 2017, and after a jury acquittal, Axelrod began investigating the Constable's training records and use of taxpayer resources.

In January, TCOLE finalized one of the investigations into Helm. That investigation ended with a disciplinary finding that Helm fabricated records about training.

In November, Griffin filed a complaint with TCOLE accusing his former boss of faking training records for 11 deputy constables in a June 2019 body camera training.

Helm included his own name in the training and received the two credit hours his other 11 deputies received, despite being listed as the instructor in the course.

Gary Griffin sent the training roster (shown here) to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement with his formal complaint in November 2019. Griffin alleged Helm faked body camera training records in June 2019.



The training roster Helm submitted to TCOLE does not show any signatures, which Griffin pointed out in his complaint.

Griffin accused Helm of tampering with a government record—a felony in Texas—and detailed for TCOLE what he says the deputy constables told him before submitting his complaint. Griffin claimed, each said they never took the body camera training.

TCOLE spent the next two months investigating Griffin's claims, which included interviewing Helm and his deputies.

On Jan. 15, the commission made its findings public with a formal reprimand against Helm. The investigation found "that one deputy constable never took the body worn

camera course, but was still reported by you as if he had taken the training," TCOLE's Executive Director Kim Vickers wrote in the Helm disciplinary letter.

Vickers also said neither Helm, nor any of the other 11 deputy constables, actually spent the required two hours training on the cameras, which is required by the commission before receiving credit for the training hours. Helm only spent 20 minutes giving his deputies an "overview of the camera and instruction on how to operate the camera," Vickers wrote in the letter.

Vickers' letter also detailed several other compliance violations Helm committed related to the body camera training.

"I had a list of deputies that needed that class and made a clerical error on one," said Helm in an email responding to TV Station KXAN's

questions in December. "I was trying to keep deputies on the street and not held up for 2 hours and teach them this required course the best I can in a house class," Helm added.

TCOLE told Helm the disciplinary letter "is now part of your Commission file" and warned that his peace officer license would be "subject to suspension" if two more reprimands are issued against him in his career.

But Constable Ray Helm's troubles with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement are far from over. The commission has confirmed at least two additional ongoing investigations into Helm.

One complaint accuses Helm of "material misrepresentations" that allowed him to illegally obtain his peace officer license in 2003 by failing to disclose a 1995 criminal conviction in Brazoria County.

Constable Ray Helm would not answer questions during a Feb. 5, 2020 candidate forum. Helm told KXAN, "My license is fine, I've already told you that," when asked about the peace officer license complaint.

Helm was initially charged with a third-degree felony count of criminal mischief for damaging a vehicle. The charge was later reduced to a Class A Misdemeanor. Helm pleaded guilty and was sentenced to a year of deferred adjudication probation.

Just three months later — while Helm was on probation — a Hays County officer arrested him and he was charged with driving while impaired with a blood alcohol level "of 0.10 or more," according to charging documents from the Hays County clerk's office.

The prosecutor on the DWI case was Wes Mau, the current Hays County District Attorney. Mau was

TCOLE Roster Listing

Tcole Roster ID: 10772066 Tcole Course ID: 8158
 Course End Date: 06/27/2019 Instructor: RAYMOND E. HELM III Hours: 2
 Academy Course Name:
 Roster Note: Basic Body Camera Operation and Body Camera Department Policy
 Class Description: Body Worn Camera

	PID	Student	Department
1	[552.130]	AYRES, DARRELL W.	HAYS CO. CONST. PCT. 3
2	[552.130]	CHEATHAM, COOY L.	HAYS CO. CONST. PCT. 3
3	[552.130]	FARRIS, MATTHEW W.	HAYS CO. CONST. PCT. 3
4	[552.130]	GASSMANN, KALEY D.	HAYS CO. CONST. PCT. 3
5	[552.130]	GRAHAM EL, JENNINGS B.	HAYS CO. CONST. PCT. 3
6	[552.130]	HELM III, RAYMOND E.	HAYS CO. CONST. PCT. 3
7	[552.130]	SANCHEZ, ROGER L.	HAYS CO. CONST. PCT. 3
8	[552.130]	SHELLHORN, JOHN M.	HAYS CO. CONST. PCT. 3
9	[552.130]	TOMLIN, DONALD K.	HAYS CO. CONST. PCT. 3
10	[552.130]	TORRES, DONNY R.	HAYS CO. CONST. PCT. 3
11	[552.130]	VILLALOBOS, ALEXANDER	HAYS CO. CONST. PCT. 3

an assistant district attorney at the time.

Helm pleaded no contest to the charge, according to court records. The complaint alleges Helm didn't tell TCOLE the full story regarding his conviction when he applied for the peace officer license that he received in 2003.

Ray Helm was arrested and charged with driving while impaired in Hays County on May 24, 1995—just three months after Helm was convicted in Brazoria County on a criminal mischief charge. Helm was on probation out of Brazoria County at the time of his DWI arrest, according to court records. Hays County District Attorney Wes Mau—who was an assistant district attorney in Hays County at the time—signed Helm's charging affidavit. This record was sent to TCOLE in

a complaint filed by Ari Axelrod on Feb. 10, 2020.

State law, at the time, would have disqualified Helm from becoming certified because of the conviction, the Axelrod complaint alleges.

TCOLE confirmed to KXAN the certification allegation was accepted and the commission's enforcement investigators are actively investigating the complaint.

"I was enrolled in a license academy before the rules changed to the 10 year wait time in 2001," wrote Helm in an email to KXAN. "Back then it was a 5 year wait for any Class A or B misdemeanor. It was cleared by TCOLE and the executive director at that time."

There is more to come on this story when TCOLE completes its investigation. REPRINTED KXAN.com. The BLUES POLICE MAGAZINE 15



NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

Bexar County Precinct 4 Constable - Operating without TCOLE License

SAN ANTONIO – Bexar County Constable Stan Ramos has been heading up Precinct 4 since the beginning of 2017 and he's running for re-election.

Problem is he doesn't have a peace officer license.

The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) documents show Ramos' peace officer license is not active, because he's yet to take the state licensing exam.

State documents also show Ramos has been put on notice more than once.

He had 270 days to pass the exam after taking office back in 2017, and it's been more than 1000 days since he began his term as Bexar County Precinct 4 Constable.

Shortly after being elected, Ramos completed the Supplemental Peace Officer Course.

He also applied for and was granted an Elected Official license, but what he didn't realize is that he would have to complete the state licensing exam within 270 to reactivate his peace officer license.

In November of 2017, 10 months after taking office, Ramos was put on notice by TCOLE, but according to Ramos, he never got that letter.

In April of 2018, then District Attorney, Nico LaHood was sent notification that Ramos' license status was inactive and that he

was subject to removal by the D.A.

But LaHood didn't act on it and he told San Antonio TV station NEWS4 that he never saw the letter.

"If I had seen the letter, I would have reached out to Constable Ramos," LaHood said. "I would have asked him what the issue was."

LaHood added he eventually would've held Ramos accountable had he failed to take care of the required exam.

Over the next 18 months, there was some back and forth between Ramos and TCOLE but in the end, Ramos said it was a failure to communicate by both parties.

On June 11th, 2019, Ramos admits to being given the clear direction and endorsement needed to take the exam.



Eight months later, Ramos tells News4 he still hasn't taken the exam, but he explained he's been given another extension by TCOLE to take the exam by March 20, 2020.

Ramos assured the Trouble Shooters; he will take the exam whether he's re-elected or not.

News4s also questioned TCOLE about why they've given Ramos so much time to come into compliance to which they responded, "With him being an elected official, we want to respect the voters' choice."

Well the voters have apparently changed their minds as Ramos only received 17% of the primary vote. So, it remains to be seen whether Ramos will continue to pursue a career in Law enforcement and that depends on getting a license.



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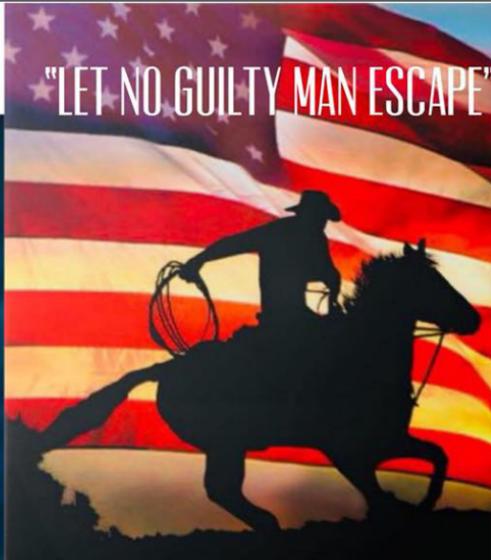
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T. Michael O'Conner Appointed US Marshal

On Monday morning, February 3, 2020, four term Victoria County Sheriff T. Michael O'Connor informed County Judge Ben Zeller that he was ending his tour as Sheriff at high noon. Later, at a private ceremony in the federal building, O'Connor was sworn in as the United States Marshal for the Southern District of Texas. There are 94 U.S. Marshals appointed by the President of the United States to serve across our nation. The United States Marshal is the oldest form of U.S. federal law enforcement and was established by the Judiciary Act of the First Congress and signed into law by President George Washington on September 24, 1789.



Galveston County Sheriff Office Promotions

Congratulations to the following members of the Galveston County Sheriff's Office for their recent promotions. Standing (left to right): Cpl. A. Espinosa, Sgt. C. Howell, Sheriff H. Trochesset and Cpl. Z. Holley. Seated (left to right): Sgt. J. Stephenson, Cpl. T. Powell, Sgt. J. Bertolino and Sgt. J. Pena



TX Deputy is Oldest LEO in World at 94

Still active at the Johnson County Sheriff's Office in Cleburne, TX, Reserve Deputy Bill Hardin has no desire to quit. By all accounts, he is the oldest police officer in the world at the age of 94.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO](#)



League City Patrol Officer of the Year for 2019

Officer Christopher Evans was selected as the 2019 "Patrol Officer of the Year" by the League City Police Department Patrol Division supervisors.

Evans was chosen out of the four "Officer of the Quarter" recipients for his work as a Field Training Officer in 2019 and the search and arrest of a murder suspect on the loose in the Historic League City area in September of 2019. Evans also received the "Life-Saving Award" for his actions surrounding a child drowning.

When presenting the award, Chief Ratliff stated "Officer Evans, your heroic life-saving efforts, tireless pursuit of crime, and dedication to this Department and the citizens we serve brings great credit to you and to the League City Police Department."



Arlington PD Annual Awards Ceremony



Overall Employee of the Year – Detective Hayden Perdue

The men and women of the Arlington Police Department work tirelessly every day to make our community as great and safe as it can be. Each year, the department recognizes employees along with business and community partners who go above and beyond in their efforts to help make Arlington better.

On Wednesday, February 26, 2020, those individuals were honored at the APD Annual Awards Ceremony, which was held at Esports Stadium Arlington & Expo Center. Awards were presented for 14 different categories, including Officer of the Year, Supervisor of the Year, and Overall Employee of the Year.

Scott Gordon, Reporter for KXAS NBC 5, served as emcee for the event. More than 700 people were in attendance, including city and department leaders, officers, and their family and friends.

“I look forward to this day every year where we can take a few moments and personally recognize the contributions that our employees and business community makes,” said Police Chief Will Johnson. “We are extremely proud of their commitment and dedication to Arlington.”

The ceremony is made possible through the generous donations of the John V. & Jeri McMillan Memorial and Arlington Police Foundation. The department also receives generous contributions from other corporate sponsors. Photos from the event can be found on the department’s Twitter and Facebook social media platforms.



Operations Officer of the Year – Officer Cody Adams



Community Support Officer of the Year – Officer Fred Kemp

2019 Annual Award Recipients

Overall Employee of the Year – Detective Hayden Perdue

Supervisor of the Year – Sergeant Robert Robertson

North District Officer of the Year – Officer Kort Munoz

South District Officer of the Year – Officer Clayton Merritt

West District Officer of the Year – Corporal Michael Dosser

East District Officer of the Year – Officer Tim Dillon

Detective of the Year – Detective Nathan Bishop

Operations Officer of the Year – Officer Cody Adams

Community Support Officer of the Year – Officer Fred Kemp

Rookie of the Year – Officer Hannah Michel

Professional Employee of the Year Technical – Debbie Langjahr

Professional Employee of the Year – Administrative – Darla Taylor

Citizen’s Community Award – Mrs. Tillie Burgin

Business Partnership Award – Safe Kids North Texas Fort Worth



Detective of the Year – Detective Nathan Bishop



Pulling the Pin:

7 Keys to Retiring Happy from Your Law Enforcement Career

Planning your retirement is like working a case, you should have a plan.

In the FBI, retirement is a big deal – even becoming eligible to retire is a big deal. Retiring agents usually could be broken down into one of three groups:

- Those who stayed until the last possible minute and had to be pushed out the door (agents are required to retire by their 57th birthday);
- Those who left angry and bitter;
- Those who left happy and on their own terms.

I always knew I wanted to be in the third category.

If your whole life is wrapped around your job, the job becomes all you are. Have another identity. Don't let go of your hobbies.

I think most in the first category (forced to retire based on age limitations), were usually great agents who devoted their lives to the Bureau, but had no plans about what they would do once they retired.

I was on the SWAT team with a super guy who was actively working a bank robbery investigation on his last day as an FBI agent. He was running down leads and conducting interviews well into the night. Suddenly, his partner realized it was eight o'clock at night and said to him, "What are you doing? Do you realize at five o'clock today you were no longer an agent? You can't

be doing this! You no longer have any authority!"

The second category (the bitter) has too many members, and it seemed as if the numbers of angry retirees grew each year.

Many of those in the third category (those who left happy) had been my mentors, and I continue to seek their wisdom. I knew I wanted to retire happy; to be grateful for the career I had, but to also look forward to the next adventure in life. Although it was touch-and-go at times, I succeeded in my goal to leave on a good note. Here's what I learned about how to retire happy from a law enforcement career:

1. HAVE A PLAN

Like working a case, good investigators always seem to have a plan. Know what you want to do before you retire.

Most happy retirees started planning two years out from their expected retirement date. Sitting around all day watching soap operas probably shouldn't be part of your plan.

I'm lucky. The thing I enjoyed most about my job with the FBI was providing training for other law enforcement agencies, meeting great officers, and learning how different agencies approach things. Once I started Survival Sciences, I was able to continue to do these things without the administrative hassles I disliked.

I still get to meet with officers throughout the country, I still get to train, and I still get to learn.

2. HAVE INTERESTS NOT RELATED TO YOUR LAW ENFORCEMENT JOB

If your whole life is wrapped around your job, the job becomes



all you are. Have another identity. Don't let go of your hobbies.

Fish, hunt, work out, play tennis, get a job you find interesting, volunteer. Continue to be useful.

Kevin Gilmartin talks about the "usetas" or activities you used to enjoy but don't anymore. He stresses the need to maintain these interests for your well-being as well as your friends and family.

Be a great warrior, but don't forget to be great at something else.

Be a great parent, a great spouse, and a great friend. Have friends outside of law enforcement. It's interesting to hear other perspectives.

3. DON'T TAKE ON A VICTIM MENTALITY.

This is a big one. Some people like to play the victim. Everyone I knew in the angry category had convinced themselves they had been victimized in some way, and some may have been right. But it does no good to be angry and bitter about issues you can't control. Once people adopt the victim mentality, they can justify all sorts of bad behavior. Everyone you ever arrested believes they are a victim.

When I was new to the job, I

loved to listen to the old-timers talk about the Hoover years. One of the stories was that on graduation day, all new agents were told two things. The first was the FBI doesn't owe you anything other than the two-weeks' pay you just earned. The second is it's not your FBI and it never will be your FBI. It belongs to the American people and that's who we serve.

It seems as if we sometimes start thinking our organization owes us.

It's natural to do so. You sacrifice so much that it only seems right to expect much in return. We can't forget we represent the citizens we serve. It's an awesome responsibility and an awesome privilege.

4. NEVER LOVE ANYTHING THAT CAN'T LOVE YOU BACK

A Special Agent-in-Charge told me that a few years back. I know the FBI can't love me, so I shouldn't expect it to. You shouldn't expect your agency to love you, but you can, and should, love your organization's mission – to protect and serve.

We decided to have a career in law enforcement because we believe in the necessity and righteousness of our mission. If you are angry at your department, it's not the department you're mad at. You're mad at an individual. If there is a problem, something that needs to be fixed, then fix it. Make your department better. If you can't, then decide whether to work within the system or leave, but don't be a victim. Don't allow yourself to be placed in the role of the weak. Remember you control you. You control your emotions. You control your attitude.

5. IT'S OKAY TO MISS THE PEOPLE, BUT DON'T MISS THE JOB

Almost every retired FBI employee I know has said, "I don't miss the job, but I do miss the people." That's how it should be. You are working with highly dedicated and professional people. You've shared some great times and some tragic times with them. Treasure those moments and those people.

6. RECOGNIZE THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING A WARRIOR

You could have had a career in which your focus was on making money, but you didn't. Instead, you

decided to be a protector of your community, to serve others, and to accomplish something much greater than yourself, and that's pretty cool. If you've worked in law enforcement long enough, I'd bet you've had days when you've thought, "If I should die right now, my time on earth has been well spent."

For me it included a SWAT operation in which we rescued several teenage girls who were being forced into prostitution, returning a kidnapped child to his parents, putting child molesters in prison, protecting firefighters during the LA riots, and being part of a team that put lots of evil people away for a long time.

How many times have you thought, "I can't believe they pay me to do this stuff!"

7. DON'T FORGET YOU'RE A SHEEPDOG AND A WARRIOR

You may retire, but you never stop being a protector. Always carry. Keep working out. Keep training. Continue to keep a watchful eye. Being a warrior is a life-long ambition...and a noble one.

This article, originally published 12/07/2011, has been updated several times over the years.

About the author: Chuck Joyner was employed by the CIA from 1983 to 1987, a Special Agent with the FBI from 1987 until his retirement in October 2011 and is currently a reserve police officer in Texas. During his career, Chuck worked Violent Crimes & Major Offenders Program, gang task force and training. He was a SWAT team operator, sniper and later served as the SWAT Commander. He has provided firearms, defensive tactics, chemical agent and tactical training to thousands of law enforcement officers and military personnel. Chuck has lectured internationally and throughout the U.S. on myriad law enforcement topics.



WORDS & PHOTOS by MICHAEL BARRON

AFTERMATH

Working day shift is sometimes downright boring. Reports, reports and more reports. Accidents? Yeah, more reports. Mail runs, prisoner transfers, court, you name it. Just boring same ole, same ole. So, when a chase pops up, you join in right – if you're close, sometimes even if you're not.

Today would be one of those days when you say enough is enough and you just go. It was about 2:45pm on a Thursday and I had just pulled into the Humble substation to turn in some reports. As I walked in the door, I heard the start of what would become one of the longest chases in the history of our department. Now this was long before unit numbers had changed to make any sense and I have no idea who was really involved so I'm just making these up, so please don't take offense (I mean to use that word by the way) if I use your number and your weren't a part of this history making event.

The chase started at Aldine Mail Route and Aldine Westfield at a small grocery store. A unit passing by observed an old piece of junk van parked outside with a white male inside with the mo-

tor running and expired plates. As the deputy pulled in, the subject he took off, and as they say, the chase was on. For the next hour, this deputy and half the law enforcement agencies on the North Side of Houston, joined in the pursuit of this broken down, piece of crap van.

An interesting note here was 30 minutes into the chase, dispatch received a call that the grocery store where the chase originated had been robbed by a white female – who was now standing in the parking lot – looking for her get-away driver who was running from the Police.

Approximately 70 minutes into this chase, a good friend of mine and a detective assigned to my district, had just walked out of JP court and wanted to know what was going on. Why was everyone standing around the radio? Because we are listening to what could become one of the longest chases in the county's history. Well hell, he said, let's go be a part of history. And just like we headed south on the Eastex Freeway to do just that.

By this time, the chase had centered itself around the George Bush Airport, Beltway

8 and all the side streets in the area. We exited the freeway onto the beltway and low and behold as we approached JFK Parkway, the damn van turn north on JFK right in front of us and we were the lead vehicle. What the hell? Holy Shit Batman. With dozens and dozens of cops behind us, we took over calling out locations. I remember the first turn the suspect made, was a U-turn on JFK and started back southbound. Within a few seconds, it sounded like we were driving through rocks or gravel. A metallic sound hitting the fenders of your car. My partner said, "what the hell is that?" "I don't see any rocks on the road". It was at that moment when we realized that the mile-long stream of cops on the opposite side of the median WERE SHOOTING AT THE VAN AND BULLETS WERE HITTING US.

WTF. I SCREAMED INTO THE RADIO, STOP!!! YOU'RE HITTING US. Now to the hundreds not involved in the chase this sounded stupid. But to those on the opposite side of the road they knew exactly what I meant. Although a unit behind me was more direct "Stop fucking shooting you

idiots, you're going to fucking hit one of us."

At this point the chase was into its second hour and supervisors were getting pissed. Units were getting trashed; wrecks were popping up everywhere and news helicopters were starting to arrive along with HPD's fox. (Not sure why it took so long for either to arrive, but if I remember correctly, some larger news story was breaking on the opposite side of town)

We had now traveled up and down Beltway 8 in both directions and DPS had tried several times to deploy spike strips with no success. This guy was all over the road, curbs, driveways, you name it. By this time, we were no longer lead vehicle. Our brakes had faded to the point they were useless. As we approached JFK for the like the 20th time, DPS had deployed spikes again and this time they were successful – in nailing our right rear tire. SOOOO we pulled into a parking lot to change a tire, get something to drink, go to the bathroom and listen to the insanity that this chase had become.

By the time the tire was changed, it was almost 5:30. The chase had lasted almost 3 hours at this point. As we pulled on to JFK one last time I heard "Unit 4205 we are now Eastbound on Aldine Bender from Aldine Westfield. WTF. They are headed our way AGAIN! At this time, I guess from

having watched way too may cop chases on TV, we decided to block the intersection with my car. STUPID MOVE!! We both got out and stood behind the car with guns drawn, just like in the movies. SECOND STUPID MOVE. Now here we are, two stupid cops, hiding behind a stupid car in the MIDDLE OF THE ROAD. As this caravan of cops appeared in the distance with what seemed like hundreds of flashing lights I remember saying "Uhhhh maybe this isn't such a good idea."

It was at about that moment, we both turned and started to run towards the ditch behind our car. As I looked towards the approaching van, he swerved and was headed right for us. The SOB was going to run right over us at 100 mph. I will never forget the terrified look on the drivers face as he drove right at us. They say I fired 4 times. I don't even remember that. I remember the glass on van being all fractured with bullet

holes. I remember it passing so close to me I could feel the force of the air push me backwards towards my patrol car. What I didn't see was my partner. One minute he was beside me and then he wasn't. I remember hearing gunshots, but I didn't know where they were coming from.

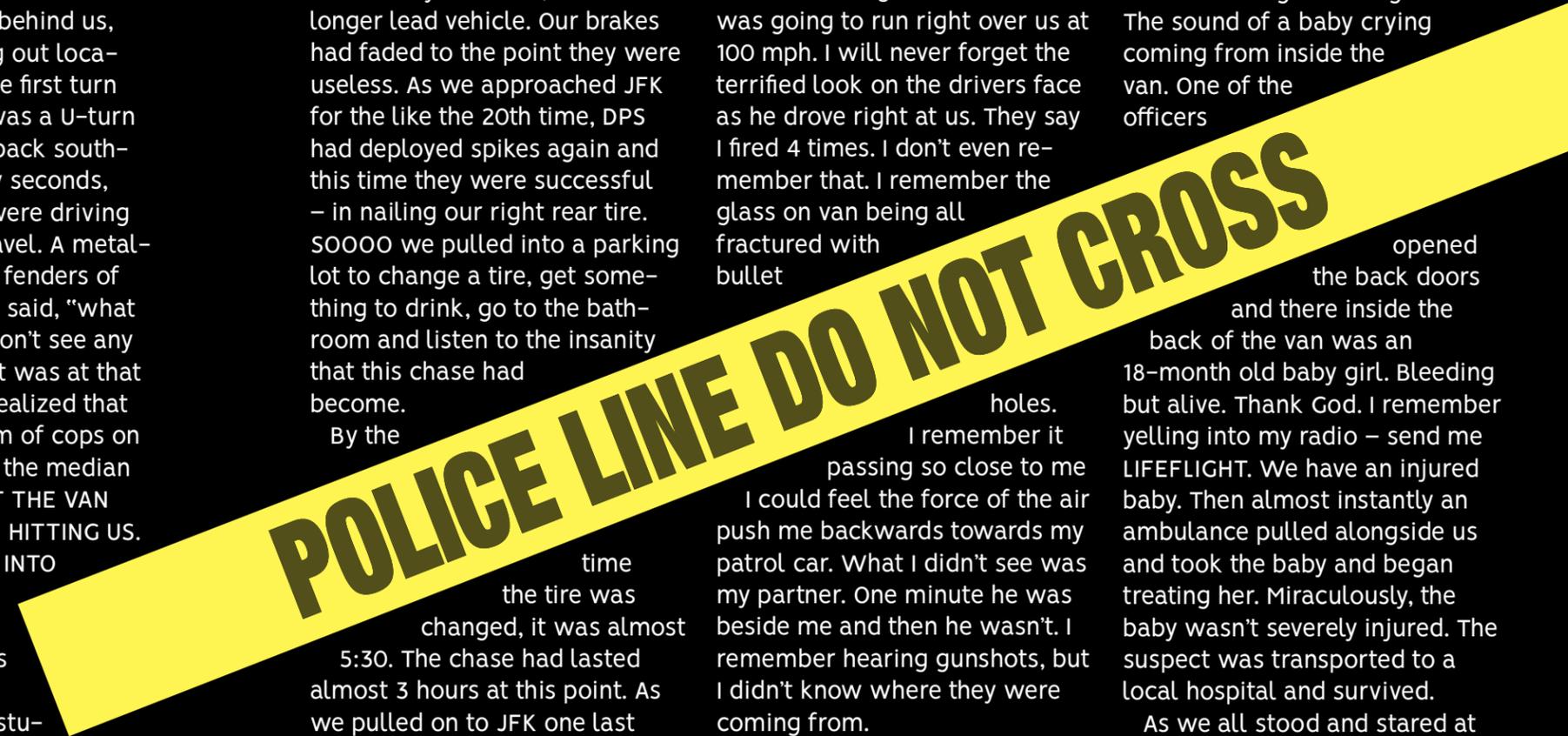
As the van passed by me, it continued into the ditch and rolled onto its side. Mud, water and trash were flying everywhere. As it slid to a stop, I

remember seeing dozens of cops running past me with guns drawn. All screaming something. I turned around to where I last saw my partner and there in the ditch, exactly where that van had just been was John standing up. OMG are you alright? "Yeah the asshole went right over the top of me."

We both ran towards the van, and by this time the suspect was being handcuffed. It was quite obvious that he had been struck by multiple rounds was bleeding profusely. As I walked up to the van, I swear there was no less than a hundred bullet holes in the side of that smoking piece of crap. What happened next, I will never forget as long as I live. The sound of a baby crying coming from inside the van. One of the officers

opened the back doors and there inside the back of the van was an 18-month old baby girl. Bleeding but alive. Thank God. I remember yelling into my radio – send me LIFEFLIGHT. We have an injured baby. Then almost instantly an ambulance pulled alongside us and took the baby and began treating her. Miraculously, the baby wasn't severely injured. The suspect was transported to a local hospital and survived.

As we all stood and stared at the smoking van, I remember a Sgt. walking up and asking, "OK, I need to see everyone who fired



AFTERMATH

Continued from Previous Page

their weapon during this chase.” Suddenly dozens of cops were GONE. Only John and I were left standing there.

I looked at the Sgt. and said, “Wait a minute !!! We didn’t fire all these rounds into that van. There’s like a hundred fuck-ing holes in it!” He said, “Son, I wouldn’t say another word until your union rep gets here.

Suddenly this became a nightmare. Union Rep?

Within a few minutes, the DA’s shooting team arrived, took our guns away, put us in separate cars and took us downtown. I took the Sgt’s advice; I didn’t say a word until my union attorney arrived. That was the only time in my entire life, that I’ve had my rights read to me. To say I was sacred shitless would be an understatement, but I knew we hadn’t done anything wrong. We were clearly in danger and were acting to protect ourselves. And thank God the asshole admitted he had every intention of mowing us down. He should have waited for his union rep.

At 10pm, John and I exited separate interview rooms at 26 The BLUES POLICE MAGAZINE

the DA’s office and were told we were free to go. We both looked at each other with a look of fear and relief. “WTF just happened I asked.” John says, “We just made history son, we just made history.”

Hey! Where is our car?

...

The suspect was charged with



ly the two would have escaped and the chase would have never started. Crime scene investigators found 67 rounds fired from various weapons inside the van. The fact the baby survived all those rounds was an absolute miracle. When I was handed my gun back, I had fired 4 rounds, John had fired 5. The identity

of those who fired the other 108 rounds remains a mystery. Oh yes, my patrol car had one round through the front left fender. It remained there until the car was sold at auction.

HISTORY!!

evading arrest; attempted capital murder of two peace officers; endangering the life of a minor; robbery and about ten thousand traffic fines. The female was charged with robbery and child endangerment for leaving the child with a wanted fugitive. The child fully recovered and was turned over to relatives. The deputy that started the chase was stopping by the store to purchase a loaf of bread and milk for his wife on his way home. He had no idea the store was being hijacked nor did he have any reason to question the suspect other than the expired plate. Had the subject not run, most like-

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WAR STORIES

FACTS LEFT OUT OF THE REPORT



WORDS by MICHAEL BARRON

Flying for Galveston County was no doubt some of the best years I had in Law Enforcement. And working at Scholes Field in Galveston created a lot of memories and even more war stories. Two of the most interesting stories occurred the first month I was based at the airport.

FOG AND MISPLACED RUNWAYS

I remember the drive to the airport early one weekday, and it was so damn foggy you could barely see the push bar on the front of the Tahoe. I knew it was going to be a slow day around the office as we were grounded due to IFR conditions. Consequently, there wouldn't be the usual gathering of flight school students in the lobby and or on the ramp.

So, I thought it odd, that one lonely Cessna 152 was parked on the ramp but assumed it had been there all weekend. I thought this will be a good chance to catch up on a bunch of paperwork. I had no more settled in my office when one of the airport folks walked in and said "Sarge there's a couple of old country people out here in the lobby looking for someone in charge." Of course, old meant anyone over 30 to the college students that manned the FBO counter.

I met the two "oldsters" and

they defiantly had a country look about them for sure. "Yes ma'am, how can I help you?"

"Well sir, Pa and I were adrivin' over that big ole bridge acomin onto the island and an airplane just dropped out of the sky and landed right on top of our camper, then bounced back into the air and we assumed he went off into the water. We just wanted to come see if ya'll fished 'em out of the drink yet?"

UHHH what? You say an airplane landed on your camper? That must be a pretty big camper. When did this happen?

"Well sir I suppose it's been a couple two or three hours ago; we stopped at the Waffle House and got some pancakes 'cause we drove all the way from Little Rock and were a starving"

"Is your camper out front? I'd like to see that if you don't mind." And sure enough, parked right out front was a big ole camper on the back of a very old Ford pickup. And right down the

top of that big ole camper were two black tire tread marks. Well it definitely looks like something hit the top of your camper for

sure. Did you get a look at this "airplane?"

Pa finally spoke up and said, "Yes sir we did. She was red and white. Kind of small thing don't ya know."

As soon as he said red and white, I kind of had an idea what was going on. "Are you

guys wanting to make a report for your insurance company or where you just here to check on the pilot?"

"Naw sir, we don't need no report, but we sure would like to know if they drowned or not."

"Tell you what, why don't you guys have a seat in the lobby and let me check on something for you." I went back to the FBO lobby and asked the customer service agent if she knew who was flying the Cessna parked out on the ramp. She said no, BUT there was a student pilot that had been hanging out in the pilot's lounge since daybreak. Uh



HUH.

I walked over to the lounge and as soon as I walked in the door a young man stood up and said, "Am I under arrest officer?"

"Son, what in God's name are you doing here? And by chance did you hit something on the way in? In the FOG?" I asked as

the poor guy was trembling and could barely stand, he was shaking so bad.

"Yes sir, well I think so, well I don't know. I thought it was the runway I was lined up on, then there was a thump, and I went back up into the air for a few seconds and then I saw the runway pop out of the clouds and I landed. I was so scared I came in here, and I've been here ever since sir."

"Well sir, that bounce you described was ma and pa's camper truck that you landed right down the middle of it. Where did you

say you were from?

"Little Rock sir"

"Get the hell out.

Come with me son."

I walked him into the lobby and introduced him to his fellow Arkansans. "Ma. Pa. This is the young man that landed on your camper. He's from Little Rock too."

I left them hugging in the lobby and thought that was one lucky young man.

Once the fog cleared, we looked at his airplane, decided it was air worthy and sent him back too Little Rock by way of Dallas. Hell of a first

solo war story for him to tell for sure.

The following day proved to be just as adventurous. I received a call from the Sheriff over in Chambers County around noon, and he asked the strangest question. "Hey Barron, is it possible to fall out of a Cessna while it's

turning at 8,000 feet in the air?

"It's not a Red Cessna 152 is it Sheriff?" I asked

"Why no, why do you ask?"

"Never mind, why do you ask if you can fall out? Did someone fall out?"

"Yes, yes someone supposedly fell out of a pilot's airplane and he's here at the Beaumont airport trying to make a report" said the somewhat bewildered Sheriff.

"No sir it's virtually impossible to fall out while turning"

"Barron, you mind flying over here and talking to this young man. Cause he's pretty adamite that a man fell out of his airplane and he's pretty upset to say the least."

"Sure Sheriff, I'll be there in within the hour." I grabbed one of our observers and headed towards the Beaumont Regional Airport. It's about a 55-minute flight but with a tailwind pushing us the entire way, we made great time. As soon as we taxied up the ramp, we had the Chief of Airport Security and the Sheriff waiting to meet us.

"Well Sheriff let's go meet this daredevil of a pilot. I can't wait to hear this story."

So, we headed upstairs to the airport office and inside a small conference room was a young man not more than 25 yrs. old wearing a polo shirt that said flight instructor. I introduced myself, sat down and said, "so you were out flying, made a steep turn and BAM the door popped open and your student just "fell out." Is that what you're telling the Sheriff?"

"Yes sir, that's what happened"

Uh Huh. Just like that. You

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WAR STORIES

FACTS LEFT OUT OF THE REPORT

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turned and he just fell out?

"Yes sir"

Well is that your airplane parked outside.

"Yes sir"

"Come with me." I walked the young man down the stairs. Grabbed the Sheriff and Chief and said come with us please. We all walked up to the instructors ironically 'red and white Cessna 152' and I said Ok get inside. And he opened the door and climbed inside. Now if you have NEVER been inside a Cessna 152 it's about the size of a YUGO. Or for you younger cops, a Smart fortwo car. In other words, its damn small and a pain in the ass just to get into.

One he got inside I said, "Ok, he was sitting exactly where you are correct?"

"Yes." Ok I said, now let me

hold the door open for you while you roll out.

"What" he asked. I said, "Just roll out. Don't worry, I'll have the Sheriff catch you."

What happened next was just embarrassing for the young man. He looked stupid trying to "roll out" of that tiny plane. First of all, you're practically sitting flat, and your legs are tucked wayyyy up under the cockpit instrument panel and there is no way in hell you can roll out or "fall out" of a 152.

The Sheriff looks at the kid and says, "Ok so he didn't fall out. What the hell happened?"

The kid starts crying and tells us how he got a call from a student that wanted to go flying and asked if they could go do some high-altitude maneuvers. Once they got to 8,000 feet the student said he was in trouble with the law and he didn't want

to jail and that he just wanted to end his life and he was going to jump out. The kid said he was scared the guy would try and crash the plane, so he took the controls and watched the guy climb out of the seat and make his way out of the door and jump.

"And how long did that take I asked?"

"About 20 minutes" he says. That's what I thought. "Come on, let's go get into the Sheriff's helicopter and go find this guy." About an hour later, we found a very large hole in the ground with a lot of cows standing around looking. And yes, it was pretty nasty.

Moral is. If a young flight dude says someone "fell out of an airplane" most likely they jumped.

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Zechariah Cartledge

11-Year-Old Runs to Honor First Responders Killed in the Line of Duty

While most 11-year old boys are playing video games or riding dirt bikes, Zechariah Cartledge from Winter Springs Florida is running to celebrate the lives of first responders who have made the ultimate sacrifice and died in the line of duty.

Last year Zechariah ran over 300 miles in his mission to honor every first responder who lost their life in the past two years.

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Last November, Runner's World Magazine interviewed Zechariah after he had completed a three-mile run to honor Mark Natale, Harry Valentin, and William Farley. All three were former New York City officers that had died from cancer after working Ground Zero after 911.

"I want to make sure these officers are never forgotten," Cartledge said.

Cartledge started running in first grade when he joined his elementary school's cross-country team. Since then, he has hopped into local 5Ks almost every weekend. While he runs for fun, over the past couple of years, his runs have taken on a deeper meaning.

In 2018, Cartledge competed in a race that changed his life. He ran the 2018 Tunnel to Towers 5K in Orlando, Florida, which honored the sacrifices made by first responders and members of the military. During the race, Cartledge was handed a name tag for Walwyn Stuart, an officer who was killed while attempting to save victims in the World Trade Center on 9/11. The experience of running for Stuart with other first responders by his side in the race inspired Cartledge to dedicate more of his runs to fallen officers.

"During the Tunnel to Towers run, all of these first responders, police officers, and firefighters were running in their full gear, and that just touched me," Cartledge said.

In 2019, Cartledge and his family started the Running 4 Heroes nonprofit, which raises awareness and funds for the families of first responders killed in the line of duty. On the organization's website, donations can be made toward the purchase of an American flag, which Cartledge carries while he runs and presents to the family of the first responder being honored.

"The thing that motivates me during the run when I'm getting cramps and feel like I have to slow down is the families that are watching," he said. "What I'm thinking in my mind is that the quicker I go, the faster they'll heal. And that inspires me to keep up the pace—to go as fast as I can."

His first run in 2019 took place in January, when he ran for Officer Natalie Corona of the Davis Police Department in California, who was tragically shot during a routine call at age 22. For the rest of the

year, Cartledge had consistently completed a dedication run every four to six days to honor deceased officers listed on the Officer Down Memorial Page.

The families of the first responders as well as police officers often give him patches, pins, and cards for his initiative. Some even join Cartledge on his runs while he carries a thin blue line flag, which honors law enforcement.

He hopes to start a Running 4 Heroes 5K in every state.

"I just want them [first responders] to know they are the reason why I started this mission," Cartledge said. "They are a big inspiration to me and they're true heroes."

This year, Cartledge expanded his mission to raise donations for first responders injured in the line of duty. On the top of his list was Aurora Police Offi-

cer John Cebulski, one of the first responders involved in the Henry Pratt Co. Mass shooting.

On Sunday January 26, 2020 Cartledge awarded Cebulski with his organization's First Responder grant as a gesture of gratitude.

"It's really a blessing that he's here," Cartledge said. "The fact that he went into the building to try to stop the shooter makes him a true hero."

Cebulski, a 31-year veteran of the Aurora Police Department, was among the first officers to arrive on the scene of the Henry Pratt Co. mass shooting

of the other officers who came to respond to the incident, many people were saved," Cartledge said, as he presented the officer with a \$5,000 grant to help pay his medical bills.

Aurora Police Cmdr. Keith Cross recognized the youngster's commitment, selflessness and dedication to "a cause bigger than himself," referring to him as a "shining example to other young people."

"It is the things like this that has helped us bounce back, and get back to a sense of normalcy, and go out and serve the citizens of Aurora," the police commander said.

"It's an incredible feeling to know that someone of his age is shining a small light on police officers. We don't do this work for thanks or accolades," added Aurora Police Officer Chris Weaver who was Cebulski's partner on the day of the shooting.

Cartledge said, "Most every kid these days is obsessed with video games. I like video games, but I enjoy doing this a lot more. I like being part of what is good in the world."

In total, Cartledge ran 376 miles in 2019 and about 34 so far in 2020.

To support Running4 Heroes just click on the logo below.



light bulb award

KIM OGG

Throws Criticizam to Gamaldi's Editorial

Last month, Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg publicly urged Houston Police Officers' Union President Joe Gamaldi "to get with the program" of keeping residents safe from serious crimes instead of using hate speech and self-defeating rhetoric to inflame the public and raise campaign cash.

Ogg claimed Gamaldi's latest misguided break from partner law enforcement agencies -- and taxpayers -- came in a recent blog post on the HPOU website. Gamaldi's post seeks contributions from police officers to the union's political action committee -- while trying to use the district attorney and her staff as scapegoats.

"As your DA, as the former chief of Crime Stoppers of Houston and the Mayor's Anti-Gang Office, as a former front-line prosecutor and as a Houstonian who has felt the sting of discrimination, I consider every first responder a partner in the fight for public safety," Ogg said. When DA Ogg dismissed dozens of prosecutors soon after taking office, it was because of prosecutorial misconduct, wrongful convictions, and the jailing of a rape victim. She knew there'd be resistance from those who were satisfied with the status quo.

"I ask Mr. Gamaldi to work along with us. Instead, he is trying to raise money and play election-year politics while being paid for working as a police officer," Ogg stated. "His efforts to undermine the District Attorney's Office, which is the people's law

firm in criminal court, does not make anyone safer. Evidence-based prosecution is the way to build community trust in law enforcement."

What Ogg is really upset about is Gamaldi calling the DA out in his "she has to go" editorial in the Badge and Gun and last month's editorial in The BLUES "Harris County's Dirty Little Secret."

Gamaldi points out in both articles, that "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".

Gamaldi says Ogg and her office have taken deferred adjudication and placed it on steroids, the likes of which we have never seen. The



Source: KTRK

Ogg explains to the media why she cut a sweetheart deal to Clayton Brown after he shot three people in separate attacks.

Uh well it was like this...

long-term harm to our community and victims is immeasurable. He pointed out examples that in December of 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 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

Continued on Page 43

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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. This month we go back to the early 1900's.

Bandit Raids

Panic spread in 1915 when authorities in McAllen, Texas, arrested Basilio Ramos, Jr. Ramos was carrying a copy of the Plan of San Diego, a revolutionary manifesto supposedly written and signed at the South Texas town of San Diego. It called for the formation of a "Liberating Army of Races and Peoples," of Mexican Americans, African Americans, and Japanese, to "free" the states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, and Colorado from the United States. Versions of the plan called for the murder of all white citizens over 16 years of age. The goal was an independent republic, which might later seek annexation to Mexico.

Raids from both sides of the border quickly escalated into guerilla warfare. Francisco (Pancho) Villa's raid on Columbus, New Mexico, in March 1916, caused more panic, and the United States responded by sending a large military force under Gen. John J. Pershing in pursuit of Villa.

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Texas also responded, as it had so many times in its history, by raising the number of Ranger companies. At the time the Texas Ranger Force was very small, and incapable of maintaining law and order along the border. The Texas Legislature by authorizing mass inductions and the "overnight" creation of new Ranger companies.

Hispanic, as well as Anglo, Texans served in these units. The Ranger force grew to its largest level, but the lack of training and controls were evident. Some of the new companies upheld

the law while others functioned as vigilante groups incensed by raids from Mexico.

These Rangers were given orders and wide powers to keep the hostilities in Mexico from washing across the river into Texas. Gov. O.B. Colquitt wrote Ranger Capt. John R. Hughes: "I instruct you and your men to keep them (Mexican raiders) off of Texas territory if possible, and



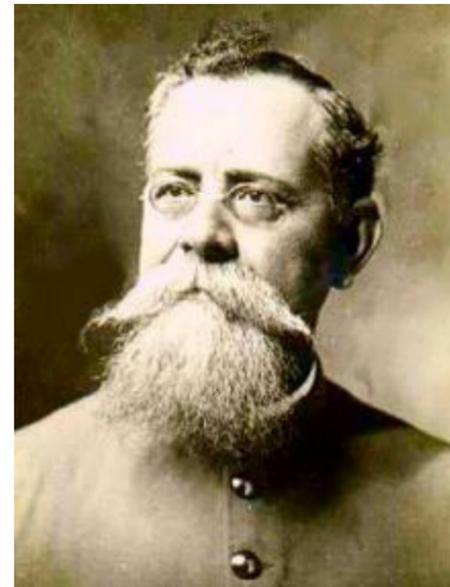
Ranger Capt. John R. Hughes

if they invade the State let them understand they do so at the risk of their lives."

The vigilante nature, and poor command structure on the new Ranger units led to incidents unacceptable to "regular" Rangers. Serious crimes were committed that led to the 1919 Canales Investigation. After one retaliatory Ranger raid into Mexico, an

entire company was dismissed. In one battle in 1917, as many as 20 Mexicans may have been killed by Rangers who crossed into Mexico.

The 35th legislature also created a "Loyalty Ranger Force" under the "Hobby Loyalty Act" to serve as a secret service for the State. Loyalty Rangers were to brief the Adjutant General on Mexican revolutionary activities outside



President Venustiano Carranza

of San Antonio and in the border counties in Mexico and Texas.

In response to Pershing's US troops on Mexican soil, President Carranza demanded the withdrawal of US forces, which was summarily rejected. As a result, Mexican raiding intensified and

an attack against Laredo was considered with a combined force of "San Diego raiders" and regular Mexican Army soldiers. A state of war was narrowly averted when US and Mexican officials agreed to a peaceful settlement.

The fragile peace was threatened again in 1917 when a World War I telegram sent to Mexico by the German Secretary of State Zimmerman became public ". . . we propose an alliance on the following basis with Mexico: That we shall make war together and together make peace. We shall give general financial support, and it is understood that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in New Mexico, Texas, and Arizona. The details are left to you for settlement...." Nothing materialized, but it served to further alarm the public.

Mexican raids into Texas in 1915-16 caused an estimated 21

American deaths; an estimated 300 Mexicans or Tejanos may have been killed in South Texas by the actions of Rangers, vigilantes and citizens. Some sources place the death toll as high as 300 and 3,000.

In January of 1919, Representative José T. Canales of Brownsville demanded a legislative investigation of the conduct of the various Ranger forces during the period 1915-1917 and the reorganization of the force. The Texas Legislature investigated nineteen charges made against the Texas Ranger forces in the aftermath of the Plan of San Diego and the War.

The investigation resulted in the reduction of the Ranger force to four companies of 17 men each. A tightening of qualifications for the Texas Ranger service led to its initial professionalization.



According to my colleague Dr. Olivia Johnson (Law Enforcement Today, May 2012), employee assistance programs, better known as EAP's have been around since the 1940s. These employer-provided programs focus on employee personal and workplace performance issues. However, a growing mistrust of these programs by law enforcement personnel suggests they are underutilized. This mistrust forces many officers to suffer silently. In turn, their issues go unaddressed and untreated, increasing the risk of departmental liability when job performance problems arise (Johnson, 2012).

There is no question that the lack of trust is a significant challenge, however, I also contend that some of these barriers can be addressed early with the selection of a qualified mental health professional and/or provider group. I want to offer a few important questions for consideration to the decision makers in law enforcement agencies and include human resource departments. How prepared are your employee assistance program mental health professionals in effectively providing services to your officers? Do you know and understand their training, licensure, education, views, and counseling approaches with law enforcement? Have you taken the time to meet in person with the provider(s) to discuss your officers' and agency's needs? Are you utilizing the same mental health professional to provide fit for duty evaluations and support and counseling? Are you selecting providers because they simply provided the lowest and most cost-effective bid for the provision of services? These questions should be essential steps in the selection process.

I have been told on numerous occasions that there are very few mental health professionals who truly "understand" the law enforcement culture and are trusted in the

field. I simply cannot argue against this fact. It is known in my social work profession as having "cultural competence" with those to which we provide psychological and counseling services. Cultural competence is defined as the ability to understand, communicate with and effectively interact with people across varying cultures. It also requires mental health professionals to be aware of our own world view (any biases and values) and to develop and maintain positive attitudes towards cultural differences and an appreciation of different cultural practices. Sounds easy, right? Not by a long shot.

In 2000 I stepped foot for the first time into a classroom to teach an in-service training on mental health to a small group of deputy sheriffs in a southern rural county sheriff's office. My presentation was only slated for an hour, but I clearly remember every sarcastic eye roll, groan, sigh, and distancing example of body language. I was admittedly stunned at the lack of interest because I naively thought that if this was interesting and important to me, it should be to them also. I learned a very powerful lesson that day. If I was going to continue to teach and interact with law enforcement officers I must seek to understand what drives them and yes, learn their "culture".

Despite the advancements in the law enforcement culture regarding the need to more openly embrace and practice mental health I continue to hear horror stories from officers. Perhaps the most common occurs when an officer shares a traumatic story with a therapist who is not trained in trauma-based approaches with first responders thus creating what is best described as a "deer in headlights" look for the professional. It can be shocking and a bit overwhelming for those without a strong



DR. TINA JAECKLE

foundation of understanding of police and what realistically falls into the realm of "normal" experiences for an officer.

On a positive note I do believe there are many mental health professionals who are very interested in becoming more culturally competent in law enforcement norms, values, policies, and the challenges of the field. But it does take time and training and lots of patience. Both the agency and the professional must work collaboratively to build this beneficial relationship. I encourage thinking outside of the box ideas including regularly riding with an officer to observe the conditions of the job, eating a meal with a group of LEOs, volunteering to teach mental health topics in the academy, and simply taking the time to get to know our wonderful men and women in uniform. With the assistance of David Edwards, President of Humanizing the Badge, we are currently developing a curriculum to offer to trauma trained mental health professionals who seek to become culturally competent with officers. I recognize it is a small step but an important one no less.

In His Own Words

Guns weren't part of the culture where I grew up, in New York. My father had a gun for protection, but it was never shown to me. Coming down to Houston, the gun culture was a lot different. Most officers here have grown up around guns. People don't have gun racks on their trucks or anything like that in New York City.

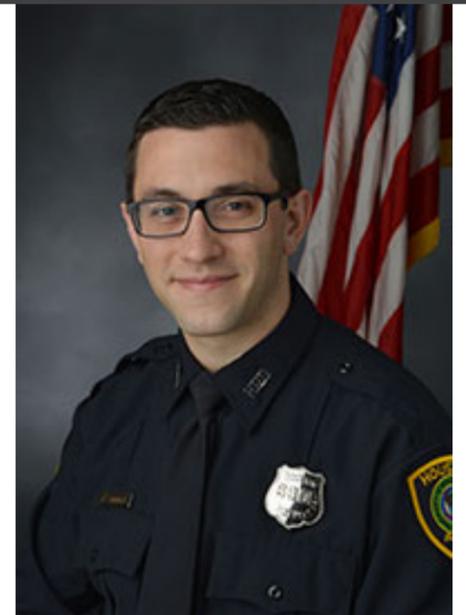
I was hired by the New York City Police Department in 2005, and the academy was the first time I fired or handled a gun. By the end of academy, the gun was no longer a scary unknown. I understood that my gun is my tool. For daily police work, a pistol is for the most part adequate. I chose to carry a Smith & Wesson 9 mm, silver with a black handle. It gave me fifteen rounds in the magazine, one in the chamber, sixteen shots total.

My foot post was in the worst neighborhood in Brooklyn and hearing gunshots was common. On one of my shifts, probably 1:30 or 2 in the morning, I heard five or six gunshots down the block from where I was standing. I saw a man on the opposite sidewalk with a gun in his hand. My first thought was I was going to run and tackle the guy, because I never thought he would lift his gun and shoot at a police officer. It all moved very fast until he pointed his gun at me. Then time slowed. I saw the flashes from his gun, but to this day I have no memory of the sound. I could only focus on his gun. We were about ten feet apart, and he fired two shots at me. I went for my gun. My first shot was from my hip. Then I extended my arm and aimed at him. I fired my second shot. He was running, but

I could tell I hit him in the shoulder, because I saw his body turn. He didn't fall, but the bullet turned him. I chased after him and saw the blood. By that time, I had called for backup, and we traced him to a housing project. He was hiding in his friend's apartment, and we took him into custody.

I had some time off after the shooting. Everybody deals with shootings in a different way, but I didn't have too much of an issue; I just kind of moved on. But on my first day back, my very first call was a dispute with a man with a gun. My heart was pounding out of my chest. I didn't want to have to shoot someone again. It ended up being nothing.

I moved to Houston after about three years. I wanted a better quality of life. New York is very expensive, especially on a policeman's salary. I definitely see more guns here, and most people are carrying legally. Having someone tell me they have a gun in the vehicle during a routine traffic stop is a big change. I haven't seen anyone open carrying, but I do get plenty of questions about it from citizens. I think it's always better to conceal. If you're in a situation that requires a gun, it's better to have the element of surprise. From the position of a policeman, open carry could make the officer's job more difficult. If I'm on a call and there's a disturbance, I'm going to be paying most attention to the guy with the gun strapped on his hip. But we haven't had any issues with it. I haven't seen anyone at the local Starbucks carrying yet. The main thing is that criminals are pretty consistent. New



JOE GAMALDI, PRESIDENT HPOU

York City had very strict gun laws, and the criminals still had guns.

A few years ago, we had a string of aggravated robberies in my area around Acres Homes, in north Houston. We didn't know the suspect's identity, but we knew his vehicle and license plate number. It was a Nissan Xterra, and on one of my shifts, right around three o'clock in the morning, I saw that Xterra. I had to decide whether to trail him and call for backup or pull him over immediately on my own. I was by myself, but I had my gun. If I had been a rookie, maybe I would have tried to follow him and wait for backup, but I didn't want to lose him. You have to weigh personal safety versus the public safety. This guy had done about a dozen robberies, and he'd shot and killed someone. There was no end in sight. I turned on my lights, and he pulled over. My gun was pulled as soon as I got out of my patrol car. I'm yelling for him to get out of the car. I could see

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an editorial by Joe Gamaldi



Continued from Page 41

his hands, but he wasn't stepping out. I approached his vehicle, and I'm yelling at him. My gun is on him the entire time, and he sees my gun pointed at him. Finally, he put his hands out of the window. He decided to give himself up instead of shooting it out with me. That incident sticks out in my mind because he had guns in the car, and I was able to get him in custody without pulling the trigger. I'm proud of that.

I recently spoke to some high school seniors here in Houston, and

a seventeen-year-old kid told me he's scared that if he's stopped by police, he's going to get dragged out and killed. I saw in his eyes he believed it. That broke my heart. No one likes to see officers use force. It's ugly. But the fact is, evil people are out here. Getting shot at in New York was a learning moment. I was a dumb rookie. It made me realize I can't be naive about evil people.

This article appeared in Texas Monthly and was Joe Gamaldi's words as spoken to Paul Knight.

his thoughts!



Continued from Page 8

would live with everything that happened and still managed to put together a viable plan to get us the hell out of there.

Now, here I am all these years later and I would be lying to you if I told you, that night does not cross my mind or torment me some nights, because it does. I reckon it always will.

That night, coupled with the four other Officer Involved Shootings I have been involved in over the course of my career, have absolutely taken their toll on me. I regret those decisions had to be made and yet, I do not regret the fact that I had it in me to pull the trigger. For here I remain, somehow and some way, given another day to live.

Of everything that I have survived and endured, the hard cases, chases, fights, child deaths, notifications I have had to give, fellow Officers and close friends whom I have lost and the shootings...just one thing

haunts me the most...How is it I get to still be here and so many of those men I just mentioned did not.

Because with all the seriousness and sincerity in my heart, I can tell you without a moment of hesitation, they were far, far better men than me. Far better than I could have ever hoped to have been, in fact. I'll never understand how He decides who stays and who goes, but I'll always be haunted, seriously and deeply hurt, haunted by the fact, I am here while they are not. I certainly don't deserve it, that's for sure.

I'll close with this...Stop taking time, people, friends, family, significant others, kids, grandkids or whatever makes you happy (as old Marvin Zindler used to say) for granted. Life is just that. Life. And life has a way of ending sometimes, rather abruptly. Leaving either you here and them gone or vice versa. Either way, one of us goes on, alone. And it's that "alone" which really hurts the heart. It always will....

light bulb award



Continued from Page 36

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.

With all these facts in hand, and rather than address them head on,

Ogg goes after Gamaldi for "planting" two opponents in the upcoming Democratic and Republican primaries. Here's an idea. If you were to get your house in order and stop releasing violent criminals back out to commit even more violent crimes, perhaps you would have the support of ALL law enforcement agencies and you wouldn't have to worry about "planted" candidates.

But congratulations you have won one at least one contest – The LIGHT BULB AWARD for March 2020 presented by The BLUES Police Magazine.

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Police Officer

Matthew S. von Seydewitz
New York City Police, New York

End of Watch Monday, January 27, 2020

Age 50 Tour N/A Badge N/A

Police Officer Matthew von Seydewitz 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.

The contamination in the air at the World Trade Center site caused many rescue personnel to become extremely ill and eventually led to the death of several rescue workers.



Police Officer

Alan Daniel McCollum
Corpus Christi Police Department, Texas

End of Watch Friday, January 31, 2020

Age 46 Tour 7 years Badge # 796

Police Officer Alan McCollum was struck and killed by a drunk driver while conducting a traffic stop on Highway 358 near Carroll Lane at 9:30 pm.

He and two other officers were on the scene of the stop when another vehicle struck one of the patrol cars, then struck him and a second officer. Officer McCollum suffered fatal injuries and the other officer suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

Officer McCollum was a U.S. Army veteran and recipient of the Bronze Star. He had served with the Corpus Christi Police Department for almost seven years. He is survived by his wife and three children.



Deputy Sheriff

Richard Edward Whitten
Liberty County Sheriff's Office, Texas

End of Watch Monday, February 3, 2020

Age 52 Tour 4 years Badge # N/A

Deputy Sheriff Richard Whitten succumbed to complications of a gunshot wound sustained on May 29th, 2019, while responding to a shots fired call in Cleveland.

He was en route to a training class and had just driven past the scene of the double-murder when the shooting was dispatched over the radio. As he responded back to the scene and encountered the suspect fleeing in a vehicle. Deputy Whitten and a member of the Cleveland Independent School District Police Department pursued the subject onto CR 2243, where the man immediately pulled into the parking lot of a veterinary office. Deputy Whitten had served with the Liberty County Sheriff's Office for four years.



Police Officer

Nick O'Rear
Kimberly Police Dept., Alabama

End of Watch Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Age 33 Tour 2 years Badge # 974

Police Officer Nick O'Rear was shot and killed during a vehicle pursuit on I-65 near Old U.S. Highway 31 at about 10:00 pm.

An officer with the Warrior Police Department had initiated the pursuit when he attempted to conduct a traffic stop. Officer O'Rear responded to assist in the pursuit when the man opened fire, striking him. Officer O'Rear's vehicle then crashed nearby. He was transported to UAB Hospital where he succumbed to his wounds at 1:15 am.

Officer O'Rear had served with the Kimberly Police Department for one year and had previously served with the Asheville Police Department. He is survived by his two children with a third child on the way.

honoring our fallen heroes



Trooper

Joseph Jon Bullock
Florida Highway Patrol, Florida

End of Watch Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Age 42 Tour 19 years Badge 595

Trooper Joseph Bullock was shot and killed while at approximately 10:15 while assisting a disabled vehicle on I-95 just north of the interstate rest area in Martin County.

Trooper Bullock was a U.S. Air Force veteran and had served with the Florida Highway Patrol for 19 years. He is survived by his parents and two sisters.



Police Officer

Kenneth Reid Lester
Richmond Police Dept., Indiana

End of Watch Monday, February 10, 2020

Age 62 Tour 16 years Badge # 149

Police Officer Kenneth Lester succumbed to injuries sustained in an automobile crash on February 17th, 1995, while responding to an alarm call.

He was responding to the call with his lights activated but no siren. As he approached the intersection of South 8th Street and South H Street a tractor-trailer that was driving in the left lane moved to the right lane. As Officer Lester overtook the tractor-trailer, it suddenly attempted to make a left turn in front of him. His patrol car became stuck underneath the trailer, causing him to suffer debilitating head and internal injuries.

Officer Lester required around-the-clock care for the next 25 years. He passed on away from complications of the original injuries on February 10th, 2020.



Deputy Sheriff

Donna Richardson-Below
DeSoto Parish Sheriff's Office, Louisiana

End of Watch Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Age 43 Tour N/A Badge N/A

Deputy Sheriff Donna Richardson-Below was killed in a vehicle crash on U.S. Highway 84, near Louisiana 3248, shortly before 8:00 am.

An oncoming vehicle crossed the center line and struck her patrol car head-on, causing her to suffer fatal injuries.

Deputy Richardson-Below had served with the DeSoto Parish Sheriff's Office for 13 months and had previously served as a probation officer with the Louisiana Department of Corrections.



Lieutenant

Shirley Lanning
Canadian County Sheriff's Office, Oklahoma

End of Watch Friday, February 14, 2020

Age 58 Tour 30 years Badge # N/A

Lieutenant Shirley Lanning was killed in an automobile crash on the Northwest Expressway just west of the John Kilpatrick Turnpike. Her patrol car crossed the center line and collided head-on with an oncoming vehicle. The occupants of the other vehicle suffered non-life threatening injuries.

Lieutenant Lanning had served in law enforcement for 30 years. She had previously served with the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office and the University of Central Oklahoma Police Department. She is survived by her husband, stepson, parents, and siblings.

honoring our fallen heroes



Police Officer
David Kellywood
 White Mountain Apache Tribal Police Dept.

End of Watch Monday, February 17, 2020
Age 26 Tour 9 months Badge P204

Officer David Kellywood was shot and killed after responding to reports of shots being fired near the Hon-Dah Casino in Pinetop, Arizona, shortly before 1:00 am.

Officer Kellywood was the first officer to arrive on the scene and encountered the subject, who immediately attacked him. During the ensuing struggle, the man fatally shot Officer Kellywood. Another officer who arrived on the scene shot and killed the subject.

Officer Kellywood had served with the White Mountain Apache Tribal Police Department for nine months and had previously served with the Navajo County Sheriff's Office. He is survived by his wife and two children.



Corporal
Andrew Gillette
 Sumter County Sheriff's Office, South Carolina

End of Watch Tuesday, February 25, 2020
Age 37 Tour 7 years Badge # n/a

Corporal Andrew Gillette was shot and killed while he and other deputies attempted to serve a detention order and eviction notice at a home at 3120 Thomas Sumter Highway at 11:30 am.

The subject named on the orders opened fire, striking Corporal Gillette in the chest. Other deputies who were on the scene returned fire and killed the subject.

Corporal Gillette was a U.S. Air Force veteran. He served with the Sumter County Sheriff's Office for seven years and was assigned to the Civil Process Division. He is survived by his wife and 11-year-old son.



K9
Hondo
 Herriman City Police Dept., UT

End of Watch Thursday, February 13, 2020
Age 7 Tour 4 Year 4 months Breed: Belgian Malinois

K9 Hondo was shot and killed while attempting an apprehension of a wanted subject in the area of 445 East and 300 South in downtown Salt Lake City shortly before midnight.

K9 Hondo and his handler were assisting the U.S. Marshals Violent Fugitive Apprehension Strike Team serve the warrant. The wanted parolee exited an apartment and pulled out a handgun as he fled on foot. As K9 Hondo attempted an apprehension he was shot as task officers fired at the subject.

K9 Hondo had served in law enforcement for over four years.

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Taylor County Sheriff's Office	Get Info
Nassau Bay PD	Get Info
Austin County Sheriff's Office	Get Info
McLennan Community College Police	Get Info
Alamo Colleges Police Department	Get Info
Lufkin Police Department	Get Info
Rollingwood Police Department	Get Info
Tyler Junior College	Get Info
Selma Police Department	Get Info
Keller Police Department	Get Info
Clute Police Department	Get Info
Stanton Police Department	Get Info
City of Princeton	Get Info
Guadalupe County Sheriff's Office	Get Info
Aransas County Sheriff's Office	Get Info
Rollingwood Police Department	Get Info
Briscoe County Sheriff's	Get Info
Montgomery Police Department	Get Info
Marble Falls Police Department	Get Info
Nolanville Police Department	Get Info
City of Richmond	Get Info
Burleson County Sheriff Office	Get Info
Burleson County Sheriff's Office	Get Info
City of Friendswood	Get Info
Brown County Water District #1	Get Info
San Marcos, City Of	Get Info

Police Officer – Recruits and Exp. (Lateral)	03/12/2020 – 5pm
Police Officer	04/12/2020 – 5pm
Patrol Deputy	03/30/2020 – 5pm
Patrol Officer I	04/07/2020 – 5pm
Peace Officer	03/15/2020 – 5pm
Police Officer	03/10/2020 – 5pm
Peace Officer	03/16/2020 – 5pm
Police Officer Entrance Exam	03/06/2020 – 5pm
Patrol Officer	03/15/2020 – 5pm
Police Officer	03/16/2020 – 5pm
Police Officer	03/15/2020 – 6pm
Dispatcher	03/04/2020 – 5pm
Warrant Officer	03/10/2020 – 5pm
Police Officer	03/27/2020 – 5pm
Police Officer	03/24/2020 – 5pm
Patrol Deputy	03/31/2020 – 5pm
Deputy Sheriff – Patrol	03/30/2020 – 5pm
Police Officer	03/11/2020 – 5pm
Patrol Deputy	03/15/2020 – 5pm
Police Officer	03/15/2020 – 5pm
Police Officer	03/13/2020 – 5pm
Police Officer	03/15/2020 – 5pm
Chief of Police	03/02/2020 – 5pm
Patrol Deputy	03/27/2020 – 5pm
CIT Deputy	03/27/2020 – 5pm
Peace Officer	05/21/2020 – 5pm
Lake Patrol Officer	04/17/2020 – 5pm
Deputy Marshal	04/25/2020 – 5pm

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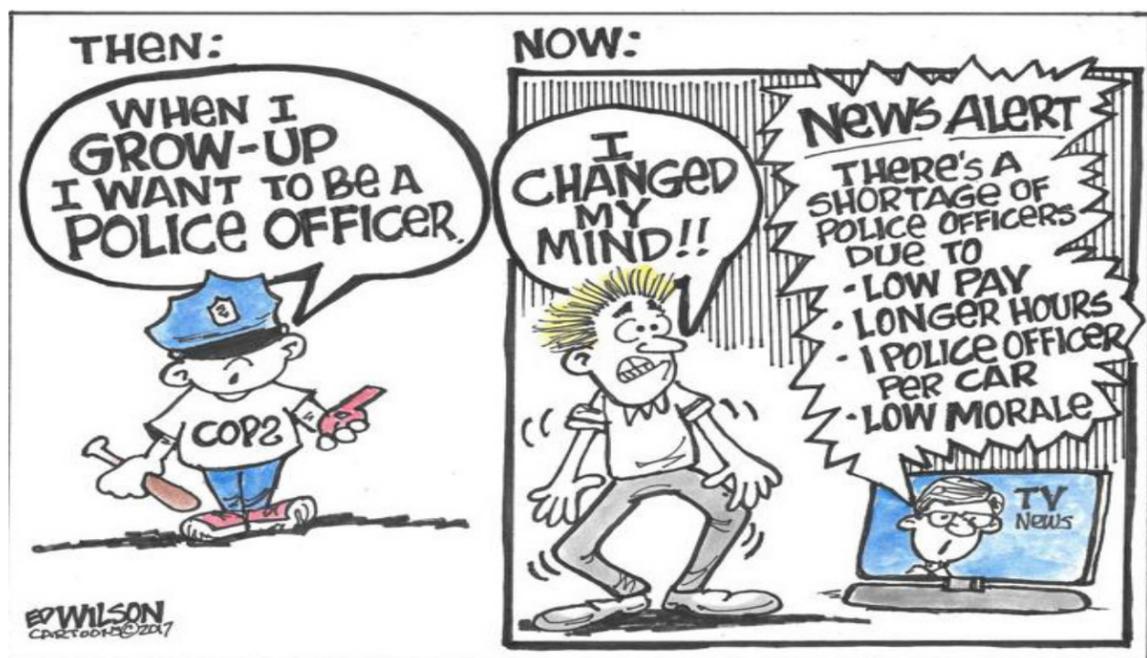
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Pack and Plan for those “Add-on Trips” when Traveling



I have to admit, I am a gear junkie. I guess with experience I have learned that the right gear can make or break a trip. For this reason, I always try to throw in some of my favorite packable gear whenever I travel to a place where I can add an afternoon of fishing, hiking, or just getting out on the water for a few hours. This came up recently when one of my buddies was giving me grief about all the time I get to spend outdoors and was questioning how I find time to travel to all of these exotic fishing and hunting places. My secret is, because of my love for the outdoors, I try to add on trips every chance I get when I must travel for work. Now as I have written about before, I am not going to deny that

with my position at Shell I get some great opportunities to spend time in the outdoors with our customers. However, for me, I am always thinking about the places I am traveling to and look for opportunities to break away for few hours and get outdoors. To be able to do this, you need to pack some gear that will make the most out of the few hours you might have. This is not meant to be one of those gear reviews where the companies provide me a lot of cool stuff to try and write about. These are simply just a few of some of my

favorite pieces that I own and carry with me:
Lightweight Waterproof Jacket: For cool mornings or overcast days, having a jacket to cut the wind or protect you from sudden showers is a must. I have owned a lot of jackets over the years, but by far my favorites are my Simms Fishing Jackets. Simms knows how to make a jacket waterproof and they have jackets for all budgets from \$80 to \$600 that are worth every penny. My first Simms jacket was purchased out of necessity on a fishing trip out of Key West. I had brought a water-resistant jacket but quickly discovered the difference between ‘proof and resistant’ when the cold rain started to make its way into the seams, and I



got chilled to the bone. The next morning, I was sporting a very nice completely waterproof Simms jacket and focused on catching fish, not on worrying about getting cold and wet. Now I own about 5 different Simms jackets at all levels and they are the go-to for my wife and I both for all of our trips.

Lightweight Packable Pants: While a pair of jeans is always in my bag, I used to also carry a pair of 511 pants because of their comfort, versatility, and function with all the cargo pockets. However, a couple of years ago, I discovered a brand of outdoor pants and shorts that I now always carry. The brand is called Kuhl and they truly live and innovate by their “Born in the Mountains” mentality. Not always easy to find in stores, but they have a great web-

site where you will find lots of different styles; my favorites being the “Revolver” and the “Radikl” styles of pants and for shorts, their “Rhinotek”. These are lightweight, super comfortable, and rollup to almost nothing in my suitcase or duffle.

Hiking Boots: When I am going on any trip besides a hunting trip, I prefer to take along hiking boots that can serve as a casual pair of shoes for a dinner or walk through town, but also can serve me well if I break away for a few hours to go hike a nearby trail in the woods or fish a local stream. For these reasons, I like having a good-looking pair of boots that are comfortable and waterproof. The best I have found are the “Renegade GTX” hiking boots by Lowa. They are lightweight for packing, waterproof, and so comfortable right out of the box. My last pair lasted almost 15 years and I just purchased my second pair.

Packable Fishing Rod and Reel: Since I can find a fish almost any-

where I go, I try to always carry a rod/reel/lures when I travel. While there are a lot of options for take-down rods that can travel nicely, I love my St Croix 6’6” Medium Power, Fast Action Graphite Spinning Rod. It breaks down into 4 pieces and comes with a great soft-sided case that I simply put in my backpack that I carry on the plane. I match it with the “Smoke Inshore” reel by Quantum and find this works for most of trips, both big lakes and inshore saltwater.

Outdoor men have a certain lifestyle that we all love to live and



sometimes that involves the gear we carry with us wherever we go. Therefore, regardless of the reason for your next travel, I would encourage to pack some gear and add on a side trip to get outdoors, even it is just for a few hours.

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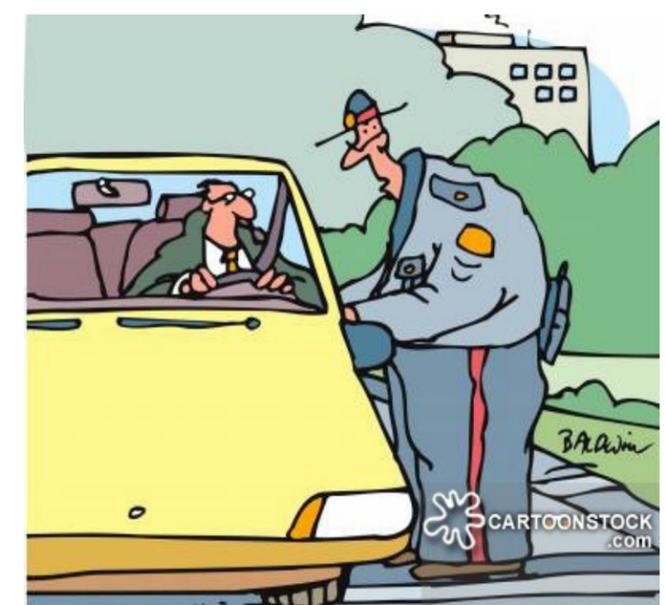
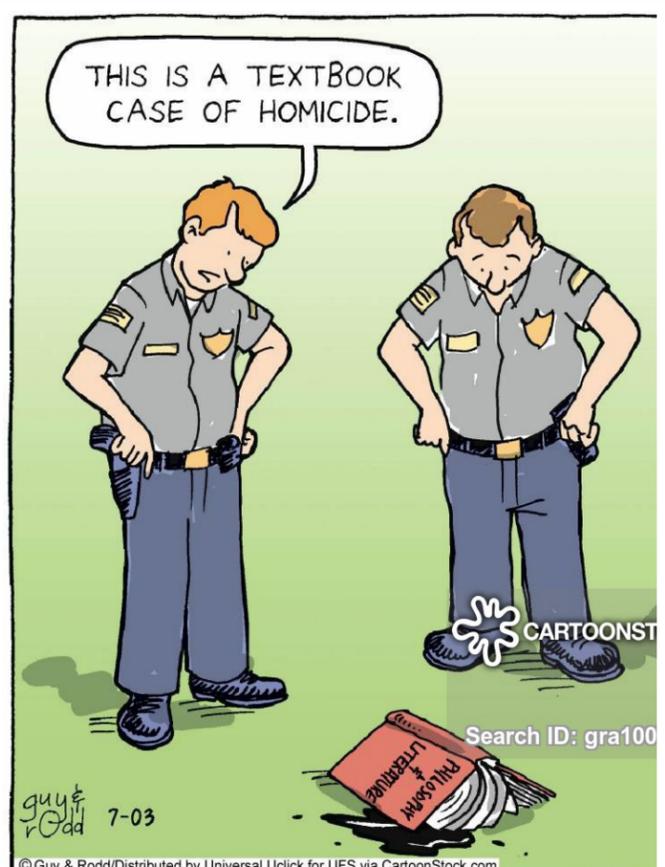
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