



THE  
**BLUES**

POLICE MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2020 • VOL. 36 NO. 9

**50**  
**YEARS**

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**AIR SUPPORT**



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a story of friendship, tragedy,  
determination, honor & respect,  
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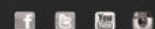


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REX EVANS  
editor-in-chief

MISTY ROBERTS  
editor

RUSTY BARRON  
outdoor editor

TINA JAECKLE  
blue mental health

REBECCA CESARI  
sales manager  
houston/south texas

PHIL PIERCE  
sales manager  
north texas

T. EDISON  
light bulb award

JOE GAMALDI  
contributing writer

BROOKE CORMIER  
contributing writer

RANDALL UPTON  
contributing writer

TOM KENNEDY  
contributing writer

MIKE & KEIRA KNOX  
contributing writers

JESSICA SCHLADEBECK  
contributing writer

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CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO TEXAS LAW ENFORCEMENT



# THE POLICE MAGAZINE BLUES

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## On the Cover / Feature Story

We look back at 50 years of service of the Houston Police Air Support Division. And heartbreaking stories by two First Responder's families on what happened on that dreadful day in May.

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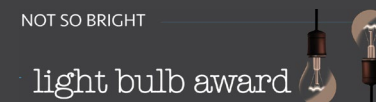
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## Two American Heroes & a bunch of spoiled athletes.

*Let's start with the heroes...at least they are heroes to me and a lot of others as well.*

**Chase Cormier** – A U.S. ARMY veteran who served his country with two tours, one in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. In 2006, Chase joined the Houston Police Department and his love of flying guided him to the Helicopter division.

In 2017, when Hurricane Harvey flooded Houston, Chase helped coordinate logistics for the U.S. Coast Guard as they rescued hundreds of victims along the Texas Gulf Coast. He also coordinated Operation Barbecue Relief with chefs all over the country who fed first responders and victims. They were delivering 35,000 meals a day, according to Houston Police Union. For his tireless efforts, Cormier was among the first responders treated by Mattress Mack to an all-expense paid trip to Los Angeles for Game 6 of the 2017 World Series. "We were treated like royalty," Cormier told HPOU's Jim Kennedy. "The experience – being able to experience that with fellow first responders and veterans – was really the best part of it."

On May 2, 2020, while on a



patrol flight on the north side of Houston, Chase and his TFO (Tactical Flight Officer) Jason Knox experienced a catastrophic failure of their helicopter that caused the ship to enter an uncontrollable spin. With only a few seconds and a couple of hundred feet of altitude, Chase guided the helicopter away from the dozens of occupied apartments below and crashed alongside the unoccupied clubhouse. The violent crash destroyed the helicopter, trapping both Chase and Jason inside. Only by the grace of GOD was there no fire or explosion, but it took rescuers nearly an hour to extricate the

two men. A Life flight helicopter transported them both to Hermann Hospital, where unfortunately we lost Jason and Chase was left in extremely critical condition. In the following days and weeks, he underwent numerous surgeries and painful hours of rehab.

Now four months later, Chase and his incredible wife Brooke spent the day with hundreds of supporters at a benefit in Montgomery County. During that event, I witnessed what many others say was the true meaning of an American hero. Since the crash, Chase has been pretty much tied to a wheelchair. The



accident left him partially paralyzed and unable to walk. But did that stop him from standing while a singer sang the national anthem? NO, it did not. With his wife's support and the help of a folding chair, Chase stood proudly with his hand firmly over his heart. No kneeling, No crying, No excuses. Just American pride and respect.

When his helicopter was headed to ground with only fractions of second to act, Chase guided it away from occupied apartments that would have taken the lives of God knows how many people. During Harvey, Chase's actions saved thousands of people and fed hundreds if not thousands of first responders. And if you have the chance to talk to Chase, he doesn't consider himself a hero. He's just guy that loves his country, his fellow citizens, his wife and thanks God he has another day on this earth to do what he does. But to all of us, you are a HERO.

**Zechariah Cartledge** – At Chase's benefit, another unassuming hero was among the crowd. Eleven-year-old Zechariah is just like any other 11-year-old kid. Except that this kid likes to run. And not just for the fun of it or for track in school. No, Zechariah does it to honor the lives of First Responders that have lost their lives in the line of duty. He runs one mile in their honor, and sadly Zechariah has just completed his 600th mile.

His dad Chad will tell you that Running 4 Heroes started with a kid, an appreciation for our First Responders, and a mission to raise awareness and funds for those fallen in the line of duty. Zechariah Cartledge was born



with the gift of running. He was raised with an appreciation for First Responders and all they do for the community. As he grew older, Zechariah decided to help the families of our fallen First Responders in a meaningful way. Encouraged by the mission and vision of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, Zechariah began his journey raising funds for those families by running.

In 2019, Running 4 Heroes officially became a non-profit 501(c)(3). Zechariah runs one mile for every First Responder who makes the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. He wants to honor those who gave up their life so we may live in a better world.

That's the official side of the story. Having met Zechariah, I can tell you he is one incredible young man. He truly cares about the people he is running for as well as those that haven't lost their lives. Last month he presented Chase with a \$5,000

donation, and this month he presented Houston Police Officer John Daily with a \$7,500 check. Daily was injured back last Christmas when his patrol car was struck by a drunk driver and caught fire. Daily's partner Alonzo Reid and a citizen worked to free Daily from the wreckage, but not before he was burned over 50% of his body.

Dedicating your life to honoring fallen First Responders as well as raising money for First Responders that have been injured, is credible on its own. But when you're a 11-year boy named Zechariah Cartledge from Orlando, you're a true American Hero.

These are my heroes. The people I look up to and respect. Let me tell you who aren't heroes.

**Professional athletics.** They are a bunch of winey ass cry-babies. Ever since this 'take-a-knee' crap started, I pretty much wrote off NFL games. I was surprised this week when the entire sports

*Continued on Page 14*



his thoughts !



## From Daybreak to Dusk

... we saddle up and ride for the brand we work for. As we watch the sun chase away the night, we sit high above it all.

Then, as the night slowly creeps back across the tall pines, gently swaying in the evening breeze, we turn for home and sometimes, riding low and slow as we go. We find ourselves to be just grateful we've made it to the end of the day. And let's face it, it doesn't really take much to be grateful anymore.

Just a hot cup of coffee and a kind word can go a mighty long way nowadays. Why something as simple as seeing the sun come up in the morning and watching it set in the evening, coming to the

realization, we're still here!

I think perhaps, we take for granted or expect too much of ourselves and other people. Perhaps, we ought to stop and just simply be grateful we are still alive.

Things may be rough right now. Rougher than "Normal". And I get that. I really do. Some days it's like the whole world is against you and nothing, I mean absolutely nothing, goes your way.

I would just remind you (myself included) not every day is a bad day. Not every person we meet, is a bad person. Not everything is wrong with the world. There remains some good here



among us. In fact, I do still believe with all my heart, angles do still dwell among us.

Perhaps, one will cross your path today, with something as simple as a smile or handing you a hot cup of coffee....

Stay in the saddle my friends. Always keep in your mind and in your heart; "The ride, is the ride."

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PROUD SUPPORTER OF TEXAS LAW ENFORCEMENT



# your thoughts !!!



## GROW UP & ACT LIKE AMERICANS!

I have to get this off my chest. I'm sitting here, watching in real time, the riots in Portland and DC. I am so disgusted, so ashamed and so heartbroken. Disgusted by these "Americans" who really don't give two shits about our country because if they did, they wouldn't destroy it. Ashamed because this is not how patriots act. We are so much better than this as a country.

When 9/11 happened, these same people who are rioting, acting like they own the world, were not doing this then. They were our brothers and sisters... regardless of skin color, religious affiliations, or sexual preference. We were AMERICANS! And heartbroken because I literally now have seen several people killed, in real time, for absolutely NO reason! We are watching people who are simply trying to serve and protect being assassinated. We are watching fellow Americans having to defend homes, businesses and others lives. People are being murdered on our streets in democratic run cities just because they aren't chanting black lives matter. No... blacks didn't ask to be born that color. But I didn't ask to be born white either. And police officers are not a skin color...but they are our protectors. The ones people run to...even these evil ones... when they need help. The second something happens to them they scream for help....and as LEOs, sworn to an oath to protect and serve, run to help...every time.



This election is THE ONLY reason this crap is happening, and no one will change my mind on this. Several high-profile deaths have taken place and the democrats are capitalizing on it to further their agenda. Biden says this is our President's fault! REALLY????? If he had his way, feds would be in each of these cities, shutting this crap down....with-in a day!!! Peace, law and order would be restored. Virginia (I'm ashamed to admit that it's my birthplace now) has just passed legislation making assault on a police officer a misdemeanor instead of a felony. As a widow of a police officer, murdered, execution style, by a BLACK thug, I take offense to this unlike anyone could understand. This defunding

bs needs to stop too. Add your social workers to the mix...go ahead. But take away officers to use social workers will jeopardize the safety of our communities!!! You want to protest...go right ahead. But stop destroying lives, businesses and basically entire cities. Almost 100 days of riots in Portland...and still our men and women in blue stand up, take the abuse, and defend those who cannot defend themselves. If this does not stop... you ARE going to see militias form to combat these poor excuses for human beings. People are tired of this. We can't take it anymore and the demands made on cities, citizens, and police are going to be counter met with demands from the citizens affected by all

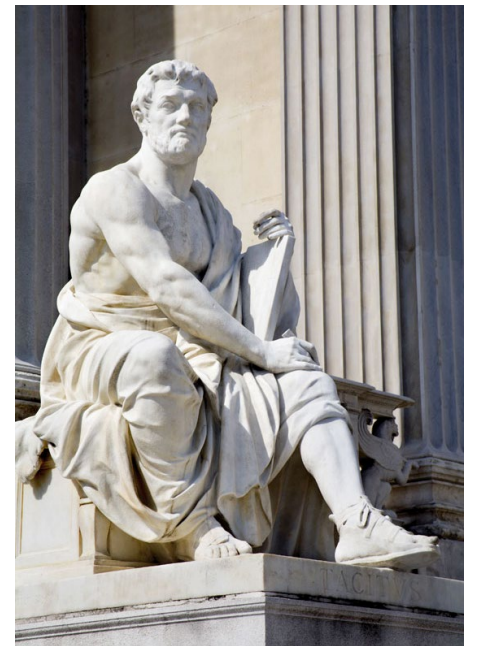
of this! You want equality and justice....act like an American! Stop using deaths of thugs and lowlife people who deserve to be in prison at the very least, as a way to rob, steal, burn, loot and kill even more. Yes, people have died. Black people have died. But so have white, Mexican, Asian, Latino....and very few of these deaths that have occurred at the hands of law enforcement were not justified. Let the courts do their jobs and deal with those who have done wrong. But stop persecuting the ones who have not. Millions of dollars were raised for the Floyd's and the Blake's....yet so many others in need and survivors of black on white crime see nothing. Should I have a GoFundMe because my white police officer husband was murdered by a young black criminal??? Oh that's right..I can't because they'll take my fund raiser down...as will Fundly. DISGUSTING!!!! Who is playing the racial game now? Corporations, millionaire athletes and tv/movie stars. And who stands for the rest of us???? Our president, our police officers, our American citizens who believe in our constitution! Think about it people. Agree or disagree with me. But when push comes to shove...and you look at the core of what I have said...you know I'm right. Every person has the right to be treated fairly no matter what color your skin is! Get it through your heads. We are all human beings, born the same way, leave the world the same way (dead that is) and we ALL bleed red. So, stop with all this segregation bs! Grow up and act like Americans!!!

**Mew Waldman,  
Facebook Post**

## LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORTERS

During the time of Paul the Apostle, there was a Roman named Tacitus. Tacitus was educated as a child in the art of rhetoric, which in those days meant what we would call the liberal arts or humanities. Expressing himself verbally and in writing was his gift. As he grew older, he took interest in the law and pursued it in the form of political office. He served the Roman Empire all over the Mediterranean world. At one time he was the governor of Britannia and commanded a Roman Legion while serving his emperor. Ultimately, the field of history burned its way into his heart. He put his incredible writing skills to work recording histories of the various emperors of the Empire. He wrote one book entitled "Annals." This book contains the best known non-Christian account of the trial and execution of Jesus of Nazareth.

As Tacitus was gifted in the art of telling stories and recording them for posterity, his name is considered a perfect example of irony. "Tacitus" is Latin, of course, and it means "silent" in English. Tacitus was anything but silent, hence, the irony. Sometimes languages "borrow" words from other languages. Because this Roman historian was so well known, the English language borrowed the Latin word which was his name. The word "tacit" means silent, but it is not an unqualified silence that is being referred to in our language. In other words, you would not say, "The child is being tacit" if the child is quietly playing with his or her toys. Tacit is usually coupled with another word to



make its use proper. That word is "approval." If someone asks your permission to do something and you don't say anything, you have given your "tacit approval" for their venture. If you are meeting in a group and someone puts forth their opinion on a matter and you don't say anything, you are tacitly agreeing with their opinion.

This is my dilemma. I know that academically I can't change opinions on Facebook by being argumentative regardless of how right I think I am. I know that I am wrong at times and I make mistakes. I would much prefer to use Facebook as a means to socialize with my many friends and family members I can't see – especially in the time of COVID. I know that everyone is entitled to an opinion about any issue. However, I also know that some opinions are worthless. For example, if I have a heart condition and I visit the local auto mechanic for his opinion, I would be a fool to think that the mechanic's opinion would be the equal

*Continued on Next Page*



## your thoughts !!!



of my cardiologist's opinion. The obverse would also be true. I wouldn't go to my cardiologist to have a brake job done on my car even though I respect my cardiologist's intelligence and expertise in his field. So, when I see organizations like the NBA, MLB, and the NFL giving their unsubstantiated opinions about issues on which they have no clue, I feel I have to say something, or I risk giving my tacit approval to their worthless opinions.

I have said, and will continue to say, that the general public has no idea how difficult it is to arrest someone who resists. The general public does not realize that in two seconds if someone had a knife in their hand, I can shoot my semi-automatic pistol seven times due to my adrenaline rush. In fact, I have been trained to continue firing until the threat is over. When a person places a police officer in fear of his or her life, they are making a grievous error that sets into motion survival instincts that our species has honed for tens of thousands of years. All the police training in the world cannot overcome instinctive behavior.

The only time I ever discharged my weapon on duty, I never heard the pistol fire. I didn't think it was working because I couldn't see the slide coming back and forth from my vantage point. But I did fire. I fired multiple times. Although I never heard the shots, the incident caused hearing loss and I have a ringing in my ears to this day.



It is not "blaming the victim" to believe that personal responsibility for one's actions should be taken into consideration. The good people that I know have no idea what it's like to fight someone for ten minutes. Those minutes feel like hours and if, by chance, you get the guy on the ground, you aren't letting him up to continue. Your judgement is clouded by adrenaline and the fight or flight instinct that all human beings have. You can hold someone down and choke them to death without realizing it. If you've never fought for your life, you have no clue about the stressors involved. There is one thing that NEVER goes through a police officer's mind when he or she is fighting for their life and that is, "Oh boy, I get to kill a black person!"

When levelheaded people like Drew Brees give in to the mob mentality that says all these cases are racially motivated, I have

to say something or risk giving my tacit approval to that absurd notion. I feel like when a group like BLM expects people to take their opinion without question and form judgements with no objective investigation to prove or disprove an allegation, I am giving tacit approval to a modern day lynch mob if I don't say something.

I cannot give my tacit or explicit approval to the most disgraceful un-American actions I have witnessed in my lifetime. Educated people now go into our streets consenting to the mob mentality and throwing the rule of law to the rubbish heap. The last time I watched an NBA game on television the announcer said, "The Black Lives Matter signs are so meaningful because we all know what is happening." I told my TV, "You pompous ass, you don't know anything! You have not seen any objective investigation to back up anything you

just said. There has been not one iota of evidence that offers any proof whatsoever that any incident was caused because the offender that was resisting arrest was black." Accepting that premise just because BLM tells us to is making an incredible leap of logic that ignores the undisputed fact that white offenders that resist arrest die as well. They die because they set the same tragic process into motion as black offenders do.

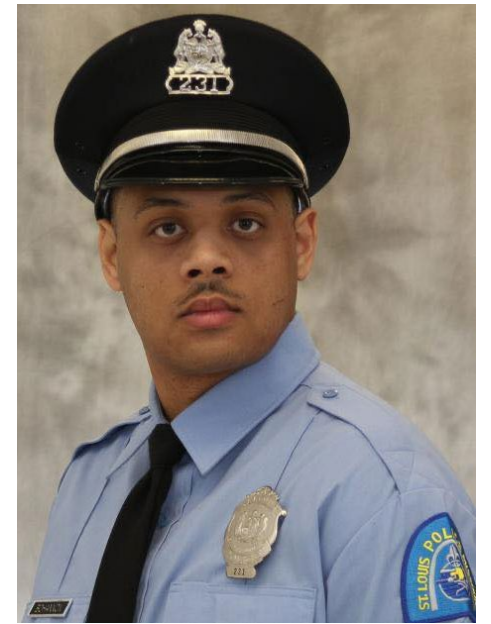
Police officers, like anyone in our democratic society, are not above the law. No police officer wants to be above the law and such a notion is abhorred in the police community. Police officers want to be held accountable for their actions. Indeed, when your chief pins that badge on your chest, you are admonished that you have undertaken the greatest responsibility that you can imagine. Although it's been forty-five years since I took my oath of office, I still remember the mayor of the City of Houston speaking for the citizens of Houston. He told us the citizens entrusted us with the authority and responsibility of walking around the city with a badge and a gun. I thought it strange that he said the citizens were trusting us with their very lives, but I soon realized he was absolutely right. The citizens were trusting us to act professionally and enforce the law without regard to race, creed, or gender.

Police officers accept that responsibility with the utmost seriousness. It pains us to see colleagues make mistakes or abuse trust. It is a very difficult job and mistakes happen. Tragic mistakes. Our laws account for this

and will process cases against police officers who break the trust. That trust, however, is a two-way street. The police officers have to trust that their lives are not needlessly endangered by ignorant inflammatory rhetoric. They have to trust that their actions will be reviewed by reasonable and prudent persons who have no ax to grind. They have to have the support of the public to administer an orderly society. I need to say this, or I give my tacit support to those who would want anarchy to reign in our country.

I do not want to tacitly deny the dangers of police work. BLM and other left-wing groups have so inflamed and outraged their "clientele" that 2020 has become the most dangerous year to be a police officer in the United States. As I write this, I received the news that a young St. Louis police officer who was shot yesterday has succumbed to his wounds and has died. He was a young black man. His name was Officer Tamarris Bohannon – say his name! He was making a difference in his community. His life matters to me, but you won't see BLM saying that his life matters to them. That is giving tacit approval for the violence that resulted in this young man's death.

So, like the great historian Tacitus, I have to say something. I say something not simply to support my colleagues who are that thin blue line that keeps anarchy and violence at bay, but to point out how shameful it is to give moral support to people who burn down businesses, attack innocent people, murder police officers, intimidate the elderly



and the infirm, block streets and commerce, resist lawful arrest, and generally act in a hateful manner. I have to support my colleagues whose actions aren't merely second guessed, but they are subjected to prejudicial and vicious falsehoods that are promoted as truth even when those lies have been refuted by objective investigations such as was done by state authorities and the FBI in Ferguson, Missouri. BLM knew "Hands Up, Don't Shoot" was a lie from the moment they launched their propaganda campaign. I cannot give my tacit approval to BLM's lies about Ferguson and their campaign to try and discredit and silence those who would rather not jump to conclusions.

Someone has to speak out in support of the rule of law and those who enforce it, not to do so would give tacit approval for its demise.

**Retired HPD Officer, Daryl Lott**  
**Facebook Post,**

Send your letters to:  
[bluespdmag@gmail.com](mailto:bluespdmag@gmail.com)



# your thoughts !!!



## HISTORY FOR SALE

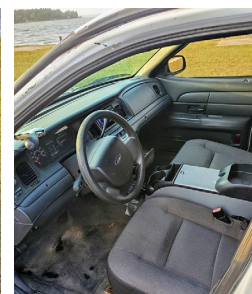
My 16-year-old daughter's loss is your degenerate kid's gain! Or maybe your gain! Either way. \$2,800 bucks and it's yours to do whatever you please. Jake and Ellwood would be proud!

So, in all seriousness, I was going to sell this sweet, luxurious, piece of Americana history 2007 Ford Crown Victoria "Police Interceptor" (P71 VIN code) to my daughter for a brother-in-law deal, but for whatever stupid reason my kid decided to take a free Acura TL from my parents. I mean, seriously?!? WHO does something like that?! WTF?!

Anyhow, it's got a cop motor, cop tires, cop suspension, cop shocks, annnd....the cigarette lighter works, so your Honor Roll student kid can light their joints from the comfort of the front seat! Plus, the trunk will hold at least four bodies, easily! Or lots of beer in a giant Yeti cooler.

It's got 155,479 well-earned, crime fighting miles, mostly from the Broken Arrow or Broken Bow Police Department in Oklahoma....whatever....and about 20,000 from me. The tires are virtually brand new all the way around. The A/C blows cold enough for government work, and the heater will melt your prisoner's face off.

The back seat has been replaced with a semi-luxurious Mercury Grand Marquis pleather seat, so your friends can ride in style while you ride on the ultra-durable canvas-style front seats. There's no cruise control



and no power seats, so you don't have to worry about getting distracted by frivolous modern "conveniences." The floorboards are clad in durable rubber, which is really sweet when you need to clean up barf or diarrhea from your drunken compadres.

I just changed the oil and filter the other day, so you've got at least a few thousand miles worth of burnouts before you have to worry about that!

As a bonus, I'll include two keys (neither of which are those ridiculously expensive and stupid "smart" keys) and I'll also include the Forrest Gump soundtrack CD in the JVC head unit.

It can be yours! Or your kid's!

All you gotta do is shoot me a PM and bring the Ben Franklins, baby! Don't bring me your BS about wanting to trade your crappy old mattress for my car, either! Cash is king. Your mattress is not.

Peace and love,  
Todd

P.S. In this contentious political climate of ours, can't we all just agree that this car brings black and white together in perfect harmony?

**LAST MINUTE UPDATE:: Car HAS NOT BEEN sold to a social worker hoping to find work in Portland as previously reported by the news. To purchase this piece of history contact Todd at: [toddlehn@yahoo.com](mailto:toddlehn@yahoo.com)**

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MICHAEL BARRON, PUBLISHER

my thoughts !!

Michael  
Barron



Continued from Page 5

world postponed their games. But, I was shocked and in total disbelief when my Astros walked off the field. Baseball is as American as you can get. They say they did it to honor the memory of Jackie Robinson. I'm pretty sure Mr. Robinson would not have approved of two teams refusing to play when they are PAID to play. COVID has already destroyed professional sports but this just put the final nail in the coffin.

Please don't write and say I'm racist or don't support Black Lives Matter. I have said it time and time again. Everyone has a right to be treated equal. Everyone has a right to a fair trial. No one, regardless of race deserves to be killed unjustly. Everyone has a right to protest if they feel any of the above have been violated. You DO NOT HAVE A RIGHT to destroy property, riot, loot stores, beat up young or old citizens, threaten people with guns or violence, block roadways, pull people out of cars and destroy the businesses and lively hoods of people that have nothing to do with your cause. This makes you the opposite of a hero – this makes you a THUG. Simple as that. And exactly what are all these athletes protesting? The fact that people of color are being shot and or killed? It's tragic when anyone gets shot or killed, whether it's by police

or another individual. All of the killing in this country should be stopped. Innocent kids are being shot every day in Chicago and yes, most if not all, are black. Who is protesting their death? How many baseball games were cancelled in 2020 because



315 black people were killed in Chicago? How many basketball games were cancelled because 38 black kids were killed? You're not American heroes, you're just spoiled brats who get paid too much. You don't have respect for anyone. You don't even have respect for the very game you play. You think Jackie Robinson would respect what you're doing? Hell no. Jackie Robinson would be gathering these protestors in the streets and talking some sense into them. If you idiots want to stand for something, try using your high-profile status to make a difference in people's lives. Show them who they can be if they put their hearts and minds into something useful. Burning down America is not useful or productive. And it surely doesn't not make you a hero, even if you are a basketball, football, or baseball star.

# ALWAYS WEAR YOUR BODY ARMOR



\* Officer Luke Brown, Save Date 12.10.16

Photo: Amanda Trebley Photography



# Others Depend on You





# NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

## Beaumont Police officer killed, another officer injured in head-on collision on Highway 69 on Sunday August 9th

BEAUMONT, Texas — A 23-year-old Beaumont police officer was killed, and another officer was seriously hurt in a head-on crash early Sunday morning when a driver going the wrong way hit their cruiser.

Officer Sheena Yar-brough-Powell died in the crash, and Officer Gabriel Fells was seriously hurt. The two officers were driving on Cardinal Drive (Highway 69) around 2:30 a.m. August 9 when their cruiser was hit head-on by a Ford Mustang, Beaumont Police spokesperson Officer Haley Morrow said in a news release. The accident happened near the Highway 347 overpass in south Beaumont.

Powell was pronounced dead at the scene, Beaumont Police said. Officer Fells was rushed to a nearby hospital in serious condition, but is now stable after undergoing surgery after the accident, Beaumont Police Chief Jimmy Singletary said in a news conference Sunday afternoon.

Texas DPS identified the driver of the Ford Mustang as Luis Torres, 18, of Port Arthur.

Powell's death marks the 18th officer killed in the line of duty in the history of the Beaumont Police Department.

Texas Department of Public Safety State Troopers are investigating the crash. Investigators initially determined that Torres was driving south in the north-



bound lane without headlights. He was also taken to a nearby hospital, and a blood specimen was collected to determine if alcohol was a factor in the acci-

dent, according to Texas DPS.

Chief Singletary said Powell was a Lumberton native and had been with the force since 2018. She had been married for only 10 months.

## Governor Abbott threatens tax freeze for cities that defund police

The proposed legislation would freeze property tax revenue, a main source of funding for local government services

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas Gov. Greg Abbott on Tuesday proposed punishing cities that cut police funding by freezing property tax revenue, the main funding source for local government services including schools, roads and law enforcement.

Other top Texas Republicans joined Abbott in announcing what they promised would be a priority during the 2021 legislative session. The announcement came days after the Austin City Council voted to slash its police budget over the next fiscal year as the U.S. continues reckoning with racial injustice in law enforcement.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott announces a legislative proposal that would discourage cities from defunding the police on Tuesday, August 18, 2020, in Fort Worth. (Amanda McCoy/Fort Worth Star-Telegram)

Details of the proposal were thin, including what would constitute a city "defunding" its police department, and the legislation is far from a done deal.

The proposal by the state's top Republicans also comes less than three months before an Election Day that is expected to be the closest in decades in America's biggest red state. President Donald Trump has zeroed in on a law and order message to boost his own reelection prospects, and on Monday called former Vice President Joe Biden a "puppet of left-wing extremists"

who are out to "eliminate our police."

Democrats need to win only nine seats in November to take control of the Texas House for the first time since 2002, a scenario that would all but extinguish Abbott's proposal even before the Legislature returns in January. Abbott, Patrick and Bonnen blasted the

announcement as an attempt shift attention away from the governor's handling of the coronavirus pandemic that on Monday surpassed 10,000 deaths in Texas.

"When crime is on the rise, the last thing we should do is defund law enforcement," Abbott said during a press conference in Fort Worth, adding that he hopes Austin leaders will reverse their decision if his proposal becomes law. "We will ensure that these communities continue to be protected."

In his own press conference, Austin Mayor Steve Adler countered that Abbot should focus on protecting Texans from COVID-19, and he held a moment of silence for the dead.

Even with a recent increase in homicides, Adler said, Austin is a safe city. Budget changes, he said, were reflective of community conversations.

In a unanimous vote Thursday, the City Council shifted about \$150 million, or one-third, of next year's \$434 million police budget in favor



of spending more money on social services, following moves of other cities in the wake of the police killing of George Floyd.

Adler reiterated that the changes would affect unfilled police positions. Some duties will be shifted to mental health, first responder and social worker jobs.

The mayor himself responded to some community pushback and referred only to \$21 million as a cut, saying the other \$129 million would be used to "move certain functions to civilian control."

Sherri Greenberg, a former Texas representative and public policy professor at the University of Texas, said the state Constitution requires bills addressing taxes originate in the House, where it will be sent to a committee for review.

This kind of proposal is not unusual, Greenberg said, pointing to a bill from the 2019 legislative session that was approved and lowered the amount cities are allowed to collect from property tax.





# NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

## Governor blasts school assignment comparing cops to KKK

By Jessica Schladebeck,  
New York Daily News

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has demanded a teacher at a school in Fort Worth be fired over a lesson that featured a cartoon comparing police officers to slave owners and members of the Ku Klux Klan.

The Republican leader in a tweet on Monday blasted the assignment as “beyond unacceptable” while calling for an investigation into the 8th grade instructor, who works for the Wylie Independent School District.

“It’s the opposite of what must be taught,” Abbott continued. “The teacher should be fired.”

The five-panel cartoon in question, shared online by the National Fraternal Order of police, quickly sparked backlash on social media. It features an image of a slave ship officer with his knee on a Black man’s neck, which evolves over the course of the cartoon, and ends with a police officer kneeling on the neck of a Black man, who is saying “I can’t breathe.”

This picture shared to Twitter on August 20, 2020 shows the cartoon a schoolteacher near Dallas, Texas allegedly gave to students as part of a homework



assignment. The goal of the assignment was for students to determine if the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights — including the First Amendment rights of protest and free speech — are still as important in the current climate.

Wylie Independent School District spokesperson Ian Halperin told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram the assignment was handed out at Cooper Junior High to eighth-grade social studies students as part of Celebrate Freedom Week, which covers the Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence.

No specific teacher has been

identified and in an email home to parents, Cooper Junior High Principal Shawn Miller indicated more than one had been involved in distributing the assignment. He added that while the lesson aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills standards, he understood Abbott’s concerns.

“The teachers wanted to provide the students with current events to analyze the Bill of Rights,” Miller wrote.

The school district, which has since apologized, in a statement added it would “comply with the Governor and the Texas Education Agency to investigate this matter as we work together to rebuild trust in the community.”

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## NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

# Miami Officer's wife dies after she's accidentally locked in his patrol SUV for hours in 90° heat

Investigators say Clara Paulino became trapped on a sweltering afternoon when the doors closed and a self-locking mechanism kicked in.

**By Charles Rabin and David Ovalle, Miami Herald**

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, Fla. — The wife of a veteran Miami police officer died after she was trapped for much of a sweltering afternoon in the back seat of his patrol SUV at the family's Miami Shores home, according to Miami PD.

Investigators are treating the death of Clara Paulino, 56, on Friday as a horrific accident. Detectives suspect that Paulino — as her husband slept inside the home after finishing a midnight shift — climbed into the back-seat of his marked Ford Explorer SUV in search of something, then could not escape when the self-locking doors somehow closed behind her.

As the temperature outside soared well over 90 degrees on Friday, Paulino spent several hours stuck inside the SUV until her family discovered her body after 5 p.m., according to one law-enforcement source. Miami-Dade detectives found her fingerprints all over the inside of the SUV.

"Clearly, she was panicked and trying to get out," the source told the Miami Herald.

The Miami-Dade Medical Examiner's Office is still investigating and has not ruled on a cause or manner of death. Paulino, according to a law enforcement source, had a history of medical problems that may have contributed to her death inside the SUV.

Her husband, Aristides Paulino, 58, is a 25-year veteran who has worked the midnight shift in the Wynwood neighborhood for most of the past two decades. The couple married 38 years ago.

Sources told the Herald that it appeared officer Paulino had finished his overnight shift and returned home in the late morning, going straight to sleep. He apparently left the SUV unlocked in the driveway of the family home, sources said.

Clara Paulino, it appeared, climbed inside her husband's patrol vehicle sometime after 1 p.m., sources said. Paulino's unit had a partition that prevented



her from getting to the horn and she apparently did not have her cellphone with her to call for help, sources said.

Her husband and one of their sons found her body inside the police SUV around 5:30 p.m. What prompted her to go into the back seat — and what she may have been looking for — remained a mystery on.

The SUV also had window guards in the rear that prevented anyone from kicking out the back-seat windows.

The case is being handled by Miami-Dade's homicide bureau, which investigates all unnatural deaths in Miami Shores.

"It's very preliminary," said Miami-Dade Police Lt. Carlos Rosario, a spokesman. "There's still a lot of work to be done. But right now, it's an unclassified death."

# St. Louis officer dies after being shot by gunman

Officer Tamarris L. Bohannon had been with St. Louis for three and a half years.

**By Associated Press**

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — A St. Louis police officer who was a "hero" to his family died last month after being shot in the head by a barricaded gunman on the city's south side, authorities said.

Officer Tamarris L. Bohannon, 29, who had been with the department 3 1/2 years, died Sunday, Aug. 30, 2020 after being critically wounded in a shooting the previous day.

A second officer who was shot in the leg was treated and released after the shooting around 6 p.m. Saturday in the South Grand neighborhood near Tower Grove Park, St. Louis Police Department spokeswoman Officer Michelle Woodling said.

Woodling said the second officer is 30 and has been on the force about six months. The 43-year-old suspect was taken into custody Sunday morning, Woodling said.

Mayor Lyda Krewson said in a statement Sunday night that she was "heartbroken" at Bohannon's death. "I've had the privilege of spending some time with his family under these extraordinarily challenging circumstances. They're wonderful people and immensely proud of the way he selflessly served and protected

our community with distinction and honor for more than three years."

"This is a horrific reminder of the dangers our brave men and women willingly face every day to keep us safe ... This is a terrible, senseless tragedy."

A photo of a note police said came from Bohannon's family was posted on the department's Twitter page after the announcement of his death. "He is a hero to many, but most importantly to his loving wife and three incredible children," read the note that referred to Bohannon as "Bo" and asked for "prayers and support in the days ahead."

St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department Chief John Hayden said the gunman ordered a family out of their home at gunpoint and barricaded himself inside for almost 12 hours.

Officers were searching for another reported shooting victim when the gunman shot Bohannon in the head and the other officer in the leg, Hayden said.

The officers were "trying to do their job, that's all they're trying to do and they're suffering under gunfire," Hayden said, adding



that the incidents are part of "a surge in violence" this summer. He asked residents to pray for the officers.

St. Louis police officers line up and salute as the body of fallen Officer Tamarris L. Bohannon is brought to the morgue in St. Louis, Sunday, Aug. 30, 2020. (David Carson/St. Louis Post-Dispatch via AP)

Hayden said eight of his officers have been shot in the line of duty since June 1.

"We're trying to cope through a very trying summer, and it's very difficult. It's very difficult," he said.

While the man was barricaded inside, officers armed with rifles and a SWAT team assembled outside. Police closed surrounding streets and warned residents to stay inside. Police used a

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# NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

Continued from Previous Page

bullhorn to order the suspect out and fired tear gas into the house, but fired no gunshots, the department said.

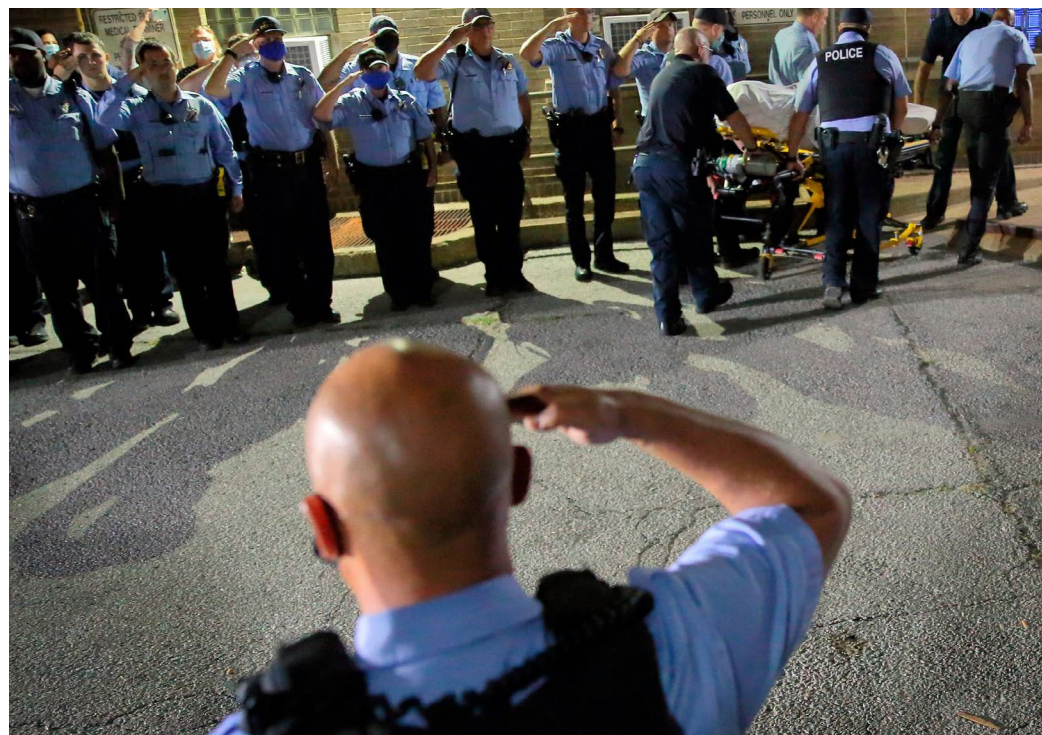
The man was taken into custody around 5:30 a.m. Police have released no details about how the standoff came to an end.

Homeowners Mimi and Steve Haag said they were trying to call 911 to help another man who had been shot when the gunman just walked into their home.

"I saw then he had a gun," Steve Haag told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. "He was very calm standing there with it in his hand and he just says to Mimi: 'Ma'am you need to get off the phone.'"

The Haags escaped through the back door and were unhurt in their encounter with the gunman. Police were unable to locate the other man who was apparently shot and wounded.

Krewson tweeted her condo-



lences following the incident.

"Please keep our injured officers and all the men and women of @SLMPD in your thoughts and prayers as this situation continues to develop. Their friends, family and loved ones, too," Krewson said.

Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner,

who has a fractious relationship with the city's police, also issued a statement of support.

"We extend our deepest concern and sadness surrounding today's unfortunate events," Gardner told KDSK-TV. "I want to extend my prayers for the injured SLMPD officers and their families."

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## Sheriffs slam governor's plan to curb Portland violence

By Gillian Flaccus  
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — A plan by the governor of Oregon to use sheriff's deputies from surrounding counties to help patrol Portland following the deadly shooting of a right-wing Trump supporter was sharply criticized by law enforcement officials who said it wouldn't end the "cycle of violence" in the city that's approaching 100 consecutive nights of often-violent Black Lives Matter protests.

Gov. Kate Brown, a Democrat, announced the plan Sunday to temporarily use deputies from two counties, as well as Oregon State Police troopers, to help Portland police as the liberal city struggles to regain its footing in the glare of the national spotlight.

Portland police make arrests on the scene of the nightly protests at a Portland police precinct on Sunday, Aug. 30, 2020 in Portland, Ore. (AP Photo/Paula Bronstein)

But the sheriffs in both counties said Monday they would not send deputies to Portland, where only hours later, police declared another riot after people broke windows, burglarized a business and lit a fire in an occupied apartment building. Officers reported seeing rocks and paint balloons thrown at them, and eventually made 19 arrests as they worked for hours early Tuesday to disperse the crowd, according to a Portland police statement.

Clackamas County Sheriff Craig Roberts said flooding the city with more law enforcement would never work because Portland's newly elected district attorney has dismissed charges against hundreds of

protesters arrested for non-violent, low-level crimes. Roberts and Washington County Sheriff Pat Garrett also said the liability for their deputies would be too great.

"The same offenders are arrested night after night, only to be released by the court and not charged with a crime by the DA's Office. The next night they are back at it, endangering the lives of law enforcement and the community all over again," Roberts said. "The criminal justice system will need do its part and hold offenders accountable."

Charles Boyle, the governor's chief-of-staff, said: "It is up to each county to determine the personnel and resources they have available to volunteer for this effort."

Boyle said the governor appreciated Clackamas County's willingness to backfill calls normally taken by state police while troopers are in Portland.

The rejection of Brown's plan leaves state and city police to work the protests in the wake of the fatal shooting of right-wing Trump supporter Aaron J. Danielson. It also leaves uncertainty about the future in Portland as President Donald Trump puts the chaos in his campaign crosshairs.

Danielson, 39, of Portland was shot in the chest late Saturday as protesters clashed with supporters



of Trump who drove in a caravan through the city. No one has been arrested in the shooting.

Trump has made Portland and its Democratic leadership a frequent target and the centerpiece of his "law and order" re-election campaign theme. He demanded that local and state leaders call in the National Guard after Saturday's fatal shooting.

Brown has so far declined to send the Guard to Portland but instead announced the planned coalition of law enforcement agencies. In a statement, she said right-wing groups like Patriot Prayer had come to Portland "looking for a fight" and she vowed to stop more bloodshed.

Portland police also drew criticism Monday for not doing more to keep the dueling groups apart and for letting the situation get out of control. Police Chief Chuck Lovell defended his officers, saying the clashes between protesters and Trump supporters were spread over many city blocks and the shooting

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# NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

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took just seconds.

"While it's easy to cast blame on paramilitary and alt-right groups on the one side, or anti-fascist and Black Lives Matter groups on the other, the responsibility to safeguard communities rests with government," said Eric Ward, executive director of the nonprofit Western States Center, which helps marginalized communities organize social justice campaigns around the West.

"In Portland, law enforcement has regularly failed to keep our city's streets safe," Ward said.

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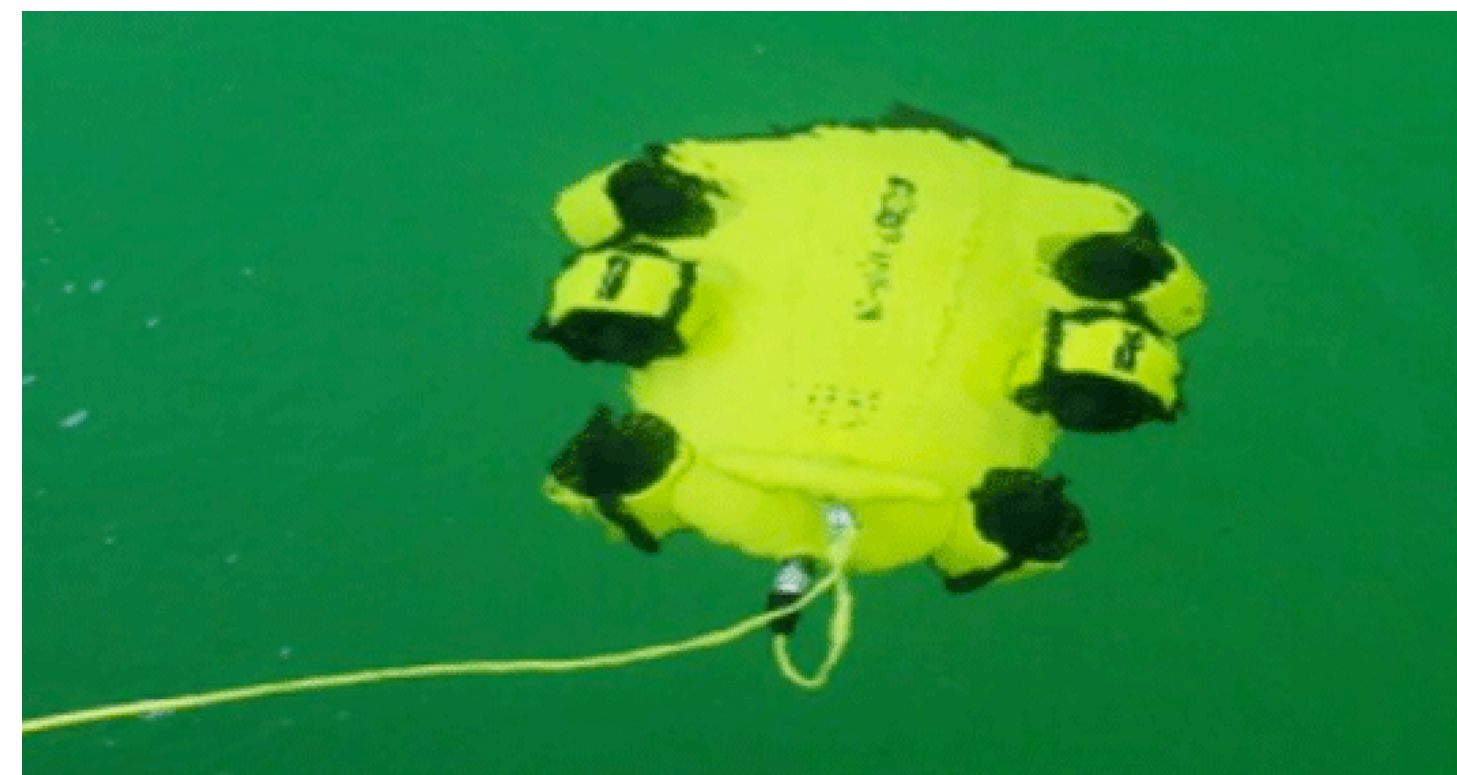
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The Butler County Sheriff's Office Emergency Response Services (ERS) Team is the first in southwest Ohio with an Underwater Drone/ROV to assist in search, rescue and recovery efforts, the sheriff's office announced Wednesday. (Source: Butler County Sheriff's Office)

## Butler County Sheriff's Office first in SW Ohio with underwater drone for search & rescue

HAMILTON, Ohio (FOX19) - The Butler County Sheriff's Office announced Wednesday its Emergency Response Services (ERS) Team is the first in southwest Ohio with an underwater drone for water search, rescue and recovery.

The FIFISH V6 can dive up to 330 feet and is equipped with 2,000 lumen lights that provide 3-to-10-foot visibility in most conditions, sheriff's officials said in a news release.

The device has an arm to retrieve or rescue subjects from water that will save lives and shorten recovery time, providing families closure faster, Sheriff Richard Jones said.

It also has a battery life that runs three to four hours in pools, lakes and rivers.

"This incomparable apparatus can measure temperatures, depths, and is equipped with a compass that can provide coordinates for rescue divers," Jones said.

Watson Gravel Inc. in the city of Hamilton donated the drone, which cost nearly \$5,000, according to the sheriff's spokeswoman, Sgt. Kim Peters.

"Watson Gravel's donation is the definition of the community coming together," Jones said.

"The Butler County Sheriff's Office Emergency Response Services (ERS) Team will use this equipment, not only during our emergency call outs, but whenever requested by outside agencies."





# WAR STORIES

FACTS LEFT OUT OF THE REPORT

## Officers Remember Their Encounters with Hurricanes

### Hurricane Rita, Category 3, September 2005

Everyone remembers Rita. Worst evacuation in the history of Houston, or Texas for that matter. I had retired from the Galveston County Sheriff's Office in 2002 and was working for Shell Aviation at the time. On Wednesday, September 21, 2005 I left Houston at 6am on a flight to Charlotte, NC with a connecting flight into New Bern, NC., the headquarters for Shell's Aviation dept. Our annual sales meeting was scheduled to start that Friday, but I was going in early to fulfill a dream I'd had ever since I became a pilot – to fly into Kitty Hawk where the Wright Brothers had their first flight and have someone there sign my logbook. From New Bern, the First Flight Airport was a hop, skip and a jump in the company Bonanza, a single engine, six-passenger airplane. I landed in New Bern at 12:45pm, took a quick bathroom break and jumped in the Bonanza

with another Shell salesman and off we went. Sixty minutes later, I was on final approach to the First Flight Airport at Kitty Hawk. I was on cloud nine, no pun intended.

I went inside the aviation office, got my logbook signed, went to the restroom and turned my phone on for the first time that day. I had 21 missed calls from my wife and kids.... where are you dad? I called and was eager to share my aviation accomplishment when my wife says...where the hell are you and do you have any idea what's going on. My first thoughts were, OMG it's 9/11 all over again. Nope I have no idea. What's going on? "there's a CAT



5 hurricane headed directly to us. You have to come home NOW."

My aviation dreams suddenly became a nightmare. We jumped in the plane

and hauled butt back to New Bern. I had called ahead and asked the ramp agent to hold the next Charlotte flight – it was an emergency and I had to get on that plane. If I missed it, my only choice was fly the Bonanza all the way to Charlotte. The agent called US Air in Charlotte and booked me on their next flight into Houston, leaving in 3 hours. The US Air DASH-8 turbo-prop was waiting for us when we arrived. I jumped out of one plane and into another and off we went. I had less than 20 minutes on the ground in Charlotte before my flight left for Houston. And there were less than 30 people on that 737. I asked the flight attendant. What's the deal? Why is this plane empty? She looked at me like I was stupid and said, "are you aware you are flying into the worst hurricane to hit the US in like a dozen years." Yes ma'am, it would appear we all headed into that storm."

We landed just before midnight and it took me nearly an hour to get home. When I arrived, my family had moved all our furniture upstairs and loaded everything of value into our motorcycle trailer and had it hooked to the SUV. At 2am, we left League City headed north on I45. There was hardly a soul on the road. We arrived at my wife's grandfather's house at 5am in Normangee Texas. Everyone was sound asleep, and I was exhausted. At 6am, the Governor and Mayor of Houston called for an immediate evacuation of Houston! Some 4 million people took to the highways. By noon, it was total gridlock. I watched it all live on my grandfather's TV some



200 miles away. One Hundred Thirteen people died trying to escape a storm that never arrived. It went East. We stayed for nearly a week. Houston was a total nightmare. From that day forward, people swore they would NEVER evacuate again. For me, I just want to go back to Kitty Hawk and enjoy my aviation dream. It's been 15 years and I haven't been back yet.

Michael Barron, RET GCSO.

### Hurricane Ike Category 3, September 2008

I was working as Police Officer on Galveston Island. My brother worked for the Coast Guard at Air Station Ellington. Hurricane Ike came ashore on Saturday Sept. 13, 2008 but the nightmare for me started the day before. Word from the Weather center was storm surge was expected to be 15-20'. Galveston's mayor called for an evacuation as did the county judge. I remember the County Judge telling people if they didn't leave Bolivar be-

fore the storm arrived, to please write their name and social on a piece of paper, place it in a zip lock baggie and place it in their pockets so we could identify their bodies after the storm. On Friday around 3 or 4 in the afternoon, my partner and I were driving west on the Seawall and the waves were already toping the 17' sidewalk and filling the road with water. We were getting reports of people trapped on both the west end as well as Bolivar, but there was nothing we could do. As nightfall came that Friday, you couldn't drive down the seawall. The water was well over the wall and the road was flooded. The eye of the storm passed over the Island around 2am and it was a night in pure hell. Some of the islanders that had relatives that lived through the famous 1900 storm said this was exactly how they described that horrible night 120 years ago. By Saturday afternoon, the entire Island was under water. The Balinese Room on the Seawall was gone as was the gift shop next door. The airport

Continued on Next Page



was under water. The courthouse and UTMB were both 6' underwater. Bolivar and High Island were basically wiped clean. Only a few houses remained. My brother said the majority of the bodies ended up in Chambers County in Lake Anahuac. And yes, their names were inside their pockets. My advice is to never try and ride out a hurricane. You're a fool if you think you can beat mother nature.

### Officer John T. GPD RET Hurricanes Alicia & Ike

I started my TX DPS career in late 1982. In August 1983 I was working Hurricane Alicia. Sent to Galveston and we were put up in the Flagship Hotel. Our room was on the good side. We walked out our room on an upper floor, the rooms across the hall had no doors and we could look down into the Gulf. The other side of the building was gone! I ended my DPS career working at Jamaica Beach after Hurricane Ike. In with a bang...many in between...and out with a bang. The BEST job I ever had.

### DPS Trooper Millhouse, RET Hurricanes Harvey August 8, 2017

It's never easy standing before people who are tired, displaced, disheveled and hurting only to tell them, we're moving them to another Shelter. It's something I've had to do before, and I had to do it again today. Just as soft



spoken and heartfelt as I could, I explained to my neighbors what we had to and why. They were all so understanding and kind, in return. As I spoke, I noticed a lot of tears. Man, let me tell ya, that will hit your heart. Some asked about their homes, relatives, and friends. To which, all one can reply is "we'll try to find answers for you as soon as possible." But one lady stood with tears in her eyes only to say, "Thank you...." She got me. My eyes leaked. What do you say to that? She and her family lost everything, and they're tell me thank you.

For what? I'll never understand. It wasn't just me. So many people did and gave so much. Nothing I accomplished could have been done without their help and

help from above.

So, with all of that, comes this; Southside Elementary School's Shelter is now closed. Also, the Sanctuary Church's Shelter is now closed as well. Those persons and their pets have all been safely relocated to the Cornerstone Church on Highway 105 just outside of Cleveland by CISD School Buses. This was done in order to consolidate resources, medicine and other assets for hurricane victims displaced by Harvey. Thank you so much, with all my heart, thank you, to all of those who have so selflessly given of themselves to help me, help others. And we're not done yet. Much more to do. Many more to help.

Rex Evans



MICHAEL  
**LANDRUM**  
JUDGE,  
164TH DIST. COURT

ERIN  
**LUNCEFORD**  
FOR JUDGE,  
61ST DIST. COURT

FRED  
**SHUCHART**  
FOR JUDGE,  
215TH DIST. COURT

BRUCE  
**BAIN**  
FOR JUDGE,  
165TH DIST. COURT

LINDA  
**GARCIA**  
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HARRIS CO. CRIMINAL COURT #12

## This Fall, It's Time for the Courthouse

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JUDGE, 164TH DIST. COURT

✓ BRUCE BAIN  
FOR JUDGE, 165TH DIST. COURT

✓ FRED SHUCHART  
FOR JUDGE, 215TH DIST. COURT

✓ LINDA GARCIA  
FOR JUDGE,  
HARRIS CO. CRIMINAL COURT #12

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# AFTERMATH

## My First Date with Alicia

WORDS BY SGT. MICHAEL BARRON, RET.

*The following events took place on Thursday, August 18, 1983, between 0100hrs. and 2000hrs in Humble Texas. I was assigned to the dayshift at the Harris County Sheriff's Dept. as Unit 4209. The following is my recollection of my first on-duty date with a hurricane. Her name was Alicia.*

**Wednesday, August 17, 1983 21:00 hrs.** – Today was a long ass day. I had worked from 6am to 7pm at my bank extra job to cover for an officer that was called to court on a murder case. I remember seeing something on the news about a storm in the Gulf, but I was way too tired to pay attention or care and by 10:30pm I was sound asleep.

**Thursday, August 18, 1983 0100 hrs.** – I vaguely remember hearing someone pounding on my door and thinking who the hell is beating on my door in the middle of the night. I grabbed my gun, opened the door and was face to face with Deputy William Hilden whom we all called Bumper.

*Bumper: Dude what the hell?*



*Please put that gun away and go get dressed. We have to go to work.*

*Barron: What work? What damn time is it and why are you beating down my door?*

*Bumper: We have to go to the station. A hurricane is headed our way and the captain has called everyone in. They tried calling you and you didn't answer, so they sent me to get you.*

*Barron: Well come in and take a nap. I'm taking a shower. I got the feeling this will be a long ass day.*

*Having grown up in Houston, I remember riding out numer-*

*ous Hurricanes as a kid. My dad always boarded-up the house and cleared out the hall closet in case the roof was to come off. I remember the howling wind and thinking, "when do we get in the closet?" I also remember the lights going out and my parents making us food on a gas stove. When I moved out on my own, every apartment I ever rented had an electric stove and I remember thinking, when I buy a house it has to have gas. And here I was, in my first house, about to leave just before a hurricane. No boards on the windows, no prep, no closet. But*

*at least I have gas. Thirty minutes later, I found Bumper sound asleep on my couch.*

*Barron: Dude, wake up and help me pack some stuff.*

*Bumper: What stuff?*

*Barron: Food, water, batteries, rain suits, boots. Everything you can find that we might need. I promise you; they aren't prepared for this shit at the station.*

*We packed the patrol car with everything we could find and headed to Humble. I was living*

*in Atascocita at the time, so it was a 10-15 minute drive at the most. But I had Bumper make a couple of stops along the way. First at the Circle-K to buy all the bottled water they had. Next we stopped at the Shipley's just outside of town and bought eight dozen kolaches. I remember the dude saying, "I thought cops only liked donuts?" Uh huh. Well Mr. Donut Dude, you might want to pack-up and get the hell out of here, there's a hurricane headed this way. He had no idea. He wrapped up another 5 or 6 dozen donuts and helped us load it all in the car. Our back seat*

*was packed to the roof. When we pulled into the station parking lot, patrol cars were parked everywhere. For anyone familiar with the old District 2 substation, BEFORE the new addition in 1986, the entire sheriff's office was a jail, and two offices. Maybe 500 square feet at most. Now there were like 100 people packed in that building. As I walked in, the first thing I hear is the sergeant screaming "Barron where the hell have you been? We've been calling your ass since midnight and here you come strolling in at 2am ..... hey sarge, can you help us unload all the food and water and ....DONUTS from car. Wait, you brought donuts? You're alright Barron. I grabbed the keys to the courtroom and we setup a makeshift evac center. Food, water, snacks, batteries. I walked out into the hallway where some fifty deputies were all sitting on the floor and announced the Hurricane Alicia center for the distressed was now open. Suddenly I wasn't the worthless rookie anymore. Turns out, the long church pews of Judge Lee's courthouse made for excellent places to sleep. By 4am three quarters of the deputies of District 2 were sound asleep. But I couldn't sleep with all that snoring going on and parked myself in front of a tv and watched the hurricane make its way across Galveston and pretty much straight up the Gulf Freeway. It didn't seem to be moving very fast and was a Category 3 when it made landfall in Galveston. By the time it reached us, it couldn't possibly more than a Cat 1? Hell, I'd been through worse in my parents' old closet back in grade*

*school. So, for the next few hours, we just waited, watched and hoped it would go anywhere but Humble. But around 8am, the wind outside was howling and the rain was blowing sideways. I remember standing at the front door watching the Shell sign across the street being ripped to shreds. The metal from the roof of the parking lot of the bank next door started to come off in sheets and went flying towards the freeway. It was about this time, the captain and lieutenant walked up to those of us watching all this mayhem outside and said, "What the hell are you guys doing?" "Dispatch is holding over 100 calls, ya'll need to get out there and start clearing these calls!"*

*Barron: Excuse me Captain and I know I'm just a rookie but are you aware of the 100 mile an hour winds and sideways rain currently present in our parking lot and .....*

*Captain: Barron, if I needed a meteorologist, I would call Channel 13. Find your partner and get out there.*

*Barron: Yes sir. Bumper?Bumper?*

*The courtroom was so dark and peaceful. Seemed a shame to wake ....suddenly the lights came on and Sgt. Stadler yells "everyone up. The captain wants us on the streets." Needless to say, lots of grumbling was followed by a mad rush to grab what remained of the donuts and water. Bumper and I put on all the rain gear we could find and made out way out to our*

*Continued on Next Page*



unit. This was going to be fun. Just getting out of the parking lot was difficult what with remains of metal signs, carports, and flying pieces of metal and plastic.

*Barron: Houston, Units 4209 and 4222 are in-service from Humble, what are you holding in District 2B?*

*Dispatch: uhhhh, say again. Unit calling repeat.*

*Barron: Yes Houston, Units 4209 and 4222 are IN SERVICE in the middle of a hurricane asking for any open calls? Start with the oldest please. What ya got?*

*Dispatch: Ok. 4209 I have an abandoned car in the 14000 block of the Eastex freeway.*

*Barron: Is she shitting me? "Houston, how many abandoned cars are you holding?"*

*Dispatch: Maybe 35-40...*

*Barron: "Ok, fax that list to Humble and we'll give those to wrecker drivers AFTER the storm. What else you got?"*

*Dispatch: I have a prowler, at 14359 Lake Houston Parkway.*

*Bumper: Well that dude has obviously blown the hell away by now. "Houston when did that call come in?"*

*Dispatch: 0350am sir.*

*Bumper: Barron, wtf are we doing. We're gonna get killed running calls that are hours old and total BS.*

*Barron: Let's just start clearing them and find a safe place to hide out.*

We headed east on FM1960 and started clearing calls. One by one, until we were caught up. I spotted a self-service car wash at 1960 and West Lake Houston Parkway and decided it was as

good as any for cover. For the first 30 minutes or so, we were in pretty good shape. Then I heard this loud popping that sounded like someone firing rounds at us.

*Barron: Bumper, what the hell was that? Is someone shooting at us? Damn there it goes again*

*Bumper: Beats the shit out of me.*

Suddenly another loud bang and we both see something skipping across the parking lot like a rock across water. What the hell. I pulled out from under the metal roof just as another piece hit the back of the car. I made a U-turn in the parking lot and just as we were facing the car wash, another piece hit the hood and landed next to my door. I looked down, opened the door and picked up what appeared to be a 2" bolt. WTF. Oh shit. I backed the car up another 30' and we watched the support poles buckle and suddenly the entire structure folded like a pancake and collapsed.

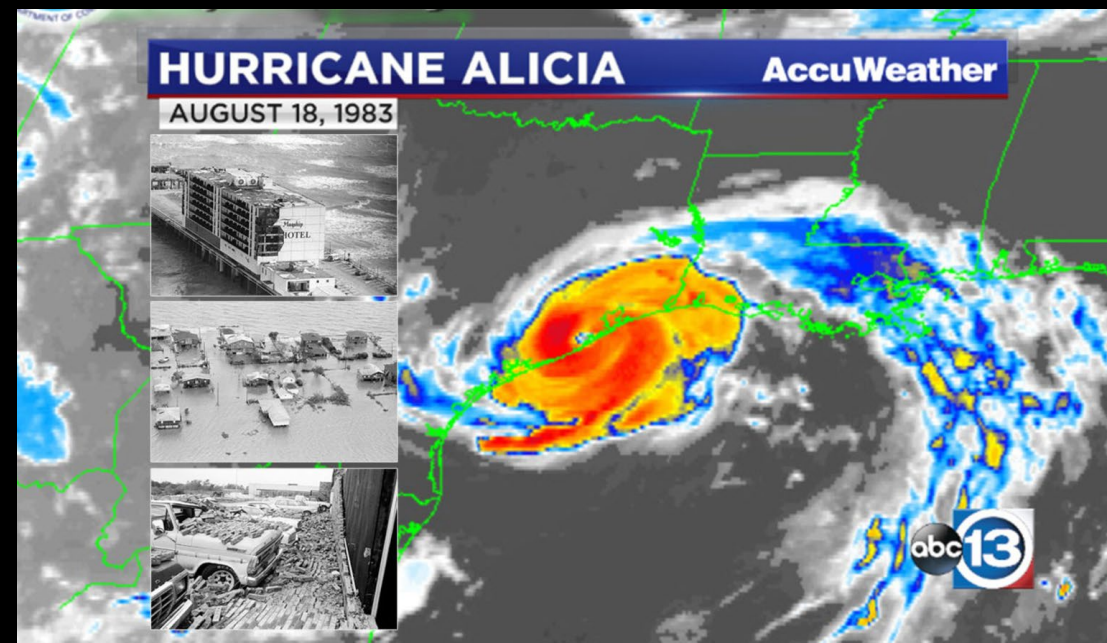
*Bumper: Dude, what the hell.*

*Barron: Yeah, I think we need to find a better place.*

*Bumper: Ya think.?*

Just across the street was a new bank building and we decided the concrete drive-in looked A LOT safer. As we sat and watched crap fly by, constantly remarking how stupid this entire affair was, I noticed a new house under construction just across the street.

*Barron: Bumper, look at that house. The whole thing is starting to lean. Then it just collapsed.*



*Bumper: Damn dude, that place just folded up like the car wash. That was cool. Let's go find another one.*

So, we left our somewhat safe shelter, in search of more "new" houses. Like two kids in a candy store, we watched house after house, lean, lean some more, and then fold like a house of cards. Prior to our new-found discovery, we were praying for less wind. Now we were amused at the force of mother nature and

said ...come on bitch, show us what you got. About the time we watched the 20th or so house meet its demise, the dispatcher interrupted our game of seek and destroy.

*Dispatch: Units 4209 and 4222, I have a silent alarm at the Huffman Bank. Code 2.*

*Bumper: "Units 4209 and 4222 in route."*

*Bumper: Now all we have to do is figure out how to get there.*

The only way to Huffman from Atascocita was across the Lake Houston bridge. The wind was still blowing at least 80 mph with gusts at times over 100mph. Driving across that bridge didn't seem smart at all, but the only other way was to drive back to Humble, head north on US59 and come in from New Caney. And that was way more driving than we wanted to do in this crap. So, we drove up to the bridge and waited. Waited for the wind to at least slack off a bit. Neither of us considered that the alarm was good. In fact, silent alarms were going off everywhere as power lines fell one after another. Power was out pretty much everywhere. After about 30 minutes we decided now was as good as any. You could hardly see the road as water was being sucked up and blown across the bridge in a blinding sideways rain. The wind was blowing the car so hard, we started to drift across the road and into the oncoming lane. Wasn't like there was any oncoming traffic but the shoulder of the road dropped off like 20 feet into Lake Houston.

*Bumper: Barron what the hell are you doing. We're sliding off the fucking road. Turn into the wind.*

*Barron: Turn into the wind? What the hell, we aren't in a plane. But OK.*

I turn the wheel to the left and even though the car was sideways in the road, we stayed on the concrete and away from the shoulder. That was the longest trip across Lake Houston in my life. In fact, after we landed on the other side, I pulled over and

let Bumper drive. I'd had enough for the day. Getting to the bank took another 45 minutes. There were trees, downed power lines and just crap all over the road.

*Bumper: You know this is just a bunch of BS driving through all this for a bullshit alarm call.*

*Barron: Uh Bumper. Hate to interrupt your rant but look at the side of the bank dude. It's fricking gone.*

*Bumper: "Houston, show us out on the bank and be advised we have entry...or should we say multiple entry. The side of the building is missing and part of the roof. See if you can get an owner in route."*

*Dispatch: "show you out and I'll call the alarm company back."*

As we got closer to the bank we couldn't tell if it was the hurricane, a tornado or what. But one thing was for sure. The bank was going to need a lot of repairs. LOL. As we walked inside through the now wide-open side of the lobby, we both noticed something wasn't right.

*Bumper: Barron, I don't think this was wind. Look I think someone drug something through here.*

*Barron: You mean like a safe? I pointed to the tell line and the huge gaps along the wall. Or safes. Bumper, this was a burglary and they made off with every teller vault in the building.*

*Bumper: Who the fuck breaks into a bank in the middle of damn hurricane?*

*Barron: I don't know but I know someone who will know. "Houston, get unit 4204 Deputy Jones in route to this location. And notify*

*Continued on Next Page*



detectives and a crime scene unit to start our way. We have a burglary at the Huffman Bank.”

We were so wrapped up in checking the bank, neither one of us realized that the winds had died down considerably and the rain has almost stopped. Hurricane Alicia was moving on and left a ton of crap in her path. Less than 15 minutes after we called him, Deputy Jones rolled in the parking lot.

*Barron: What the hell dude? How did you get here so quick?*

*Jones: Experience Barron, experience!*

Now, Jimmy Jones had worked the Huffman area for years and was known by some as the Mayor of Huffman. Some of the long time Huffman crooks called him the High Sheriff. But regardless of what you called him, Jimmy knew every crook and badass that lived in those woods. It wasn't long before a crime scene unit and detectives showed up. Once a bank representative arrived and Bumper finished the initial report, I gave the case number to the detectives and we handed the scene over to High Sheriff Jones.

*Barron: Jimmy we are out of here. I'm sure you'll have this wrapped up by sundown and crooks in custody.*

*Jones: Stick around rookie and I'll show you how we do things here in the backwoods of Huffman.*

*Barron: Uh Thanks but no thanks. It's been a long 14 hours and I'm ready to call it a day. By*

*the way, where have you been all day. We missed you at the District 2 slumber party.*

*Jones: On patrol, where else.*

*Barron: Well Mr. Mayor, you missed a little action here in your city. (But by damn if Jimmy Jones didn't solve that case within a few days and walked those Huffman crooks into the Humble jail.)*

Bumper and I headed back across the Lake Houston bridge and let's just say except for dodging all the debris, it was a hell of a lot better than the trip over. We spent the next couple of hours assisting rescue crews locate missing people and pets and clearing trees and power lines from damn near every roadway in Humble and Atascocita. Back at the station, the covered parking lot next door was gone. The large Shell sign, or what was left of it, was sitting in the Kroger parking lot 3 blocks away. The roof of the Humble police station was torn off and so was the roof of the nearby Denny's. It was pure carnage everywhere you looked. And this was just a Cat. 1? I can't imagine what a Cat 3 or 4 looks like. Bumper and I parked next to his car and unloaded all his gear. Inside, the remains of my make-shift bunker in the courthouse was being cleaned up by the jail trustees. I ran into the Judge Lee who thanked me for turning his courtroom into a hotel...(I'm not sure that was a compliment) and handed me a box of donuts. The captain thanked us for working under "questionable conditions" and told us to go home. I wanted to ask who was going to

work the remaining hours of the evening shift, but I decided that I better just keep my mouth shut. Bumper and I walked outside, and it dawned on me my car was at home. Well I guess this is going to be my take home car today. Whoever has my car will just have to come swap it out. It was almost 8pm when I started the drive home. And as I drove east on FM1960, the sun had come out just in time for a beautiful sunset. Turning onto my street in Atascocita, I was met by a large tree laying across the road. Well isn't this just perfect. No problem I'll just drive around and come in from the east. NOPE. Another tree. (It would take weeks before all the trees were cleared and all the roads re-opened.) No worries. I remembered the house directly behind me was still under construction and I'd just park there and go through my backyard. Surprisingly the house didn't collapse like the ones down the road. I kicked off my muddy boots and walked inside and was thankful to finally be home. Until I flipped the light switch and realized I had no power. Hey but I have GAS! What a first date indeed!

weeks before all the trees were cleared and all the roads re-opened.) No worries. I remembered the house directly behind me was still under construction and I'd just park there and go through my backyard. Surprisingly the house didn't collapse like the ones down the road. I kicked off my muddy boots and walked inside and was thankful to finally be home. Until I flipped the light switch and realized I had no power, but I have GAS!

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50  
YEARS

HOUSTON POLICE  
**AIR SUPPORT**





# 50 YEARS



AIRBORNE PUBLIC SAFETY ASSOCIATION



*"To Serve, Save and Protect from the Air"*

Article reprinted with permission from:  
Airborne Public Safety Association's Air Beat Magazine  
Daniel B. Schwarzbach, Air Beat Editor –in-Chief  
Written by Lt. Randall Upton, HPD Marine Division  
Pictures courtesy of HPD Air Support

**The Houston Police Department (HPD) Air Support Division and Airborne Public Safety Association have enjoyed a long, mutually beneficial relationship. Having been founded around the same time, their history has been intertwined.**

APSA's first elected president, John Biggs, was one of the original pilots and a founding lieutenant in the Houston Police Department's (HPD) aviation unit. Since then, at least three other members of the aviation unit have served on the APSA Board of Directors, including current Executive Director/CEO Dan Schwarzbach. Additionally, Houston was the site of the inaugural then-ALEA Conference & Exposition in 1970. The Bayou City was again selected by the association as the host for its 26th annual event held in 1996, 38th annual conference in 2008, and 50th meeting in 2020, which was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

#### UNIT HISTORY

In the late 1960s, Houston Chief of Police Hermann Short directed an initiative to establish an aviation unit primarily responsible for patrol support and traffic control in Houston. In January 1970, the department established the HPD Helicopter Patrol Unit as part of the traffic enforcement division. Shortly thereafter, the unit gained division status. In August of 1970, wings were pinned on the first eight of many officers to be recognized as pilots for the division.

The original HPD Air Support Division fleet consisted of three Hughes 269B helicopters, which were acquired through a lease/purchase contract. As the reg-

istration number of each of these aircraft ended with an "F," the helicopters quickly became known as "Foxes," a moniker still in use today. It has become a tradition with each new aircraft purchased to designate an N-number ending in F. During its first year of operation, the HPD Air Support Division flew 3,500 hours, with the majority being dedicated to flight training for the original eight pilots. Nevertheless, during the 1,500 hours flown on patrol, the unit responded to 2,600 calls for service, assisting in 228 arrests. The effectiveness of the innovative program was proven, and airborne law enforcement has been an integral part of policing in



Houston ever since. "We need a Fox" and "Thanks Fox" are heard multiple times on a daily basis over the patrol radio channels.

The 1970s and 1980s in Houston were a time of expansion through annexation and explosive population growth. More aircraft were acquired to keep

up with the demand for airborne police services. The HPD Helicopter Patrol Division received its first turbine helicopters in 1976, with the purchase of five Hughes 369Cs. The faster turbine-powered aircraft were just what the rapidly expanding city needed to maintain the level of

service the officers and citizens had come to expect. The 269Bs were phased out for 269Cs, and within a decade of the unit's founding, 13 aircraft were online with a 24-hour flight schedule.

As demand for service and the growth of the city increased, unit manpower peaked with a



# 50 YEARS



*"To Serve, Save and Protect from the Air"*

personnel roster of more than 80, including pilots, observers, mechanics, ground crew, and administrative and support personnel. In the mid-1980s, HPD acquired two more 500C helicopters and a 500D model, bringing its turbine fleet to eight.

The 1990s brought leaner times, and while the department traded the original 500Cs for 500Es, the fleet was reduced to six turbine and three piston helicopters. The unit did, however, purchase its first fixed-wing aircraft, a Christian Husky. In 2000, the trade of the last of the 500Cs and D for two Schweizer 333s further reduced the turbine helicopter fleet to five. The same year, the Husky was traded for a Cessna 182, which is still in use today. During the time, the unit went from flying more than 10,000 hours per year to less than 6,000 hours annually, with a corresponding drop in the average number of responses to calls from a peak of over 17,000 to 7,500. The number of sworn personnel assigned to the unit also dropped to 34.

## OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY

HPD in 2006 purchased another 500E, which was delivered 40 The BLUES POLICE MAGAZINE

during APSA's annual conference in New Orleans, marking an initial step in restoring the unit to its former operational capability. HPD undertook the largest expansion of its aviation division with the purchase and delivery of six more 500s in 2008 and 2009, resulting in a patrol fleet of 10 MD 500Es.

Additionally, the 30-plus-year-old training fleet of three 300Cs was replaced with three factory-new Schweizer 300Cs. The 333s were also sold. Additional classified and civilian positions, as well as funding for operations, also came to the division. At its peak in 2009, the staff assigned to the division consisted of 44 sworn officers (captain, lieutenant, seven sergeants, and 35 officers) and 24 civilians (14 mechanics, seven ground crewmen, and three administrators). Flight hours increased to over 7,000 annually, and the name of the aviation division was changed from HPD Helicopter Patrol to Air Support.

The expansion was short-lived, however. Budget cuts in 2010 and 2011 resulted in a 70 percent decrease in operational funding. Most of the gains in personnel were negated with the

loss of approximately 15 sworn officers, eight mechanics, and all ground crewmembers. The patrol fleet was reduced with the sale of two of the 500s in 2012. Flight hours were reduced, with the majority of flights operating on a stand-by basis.

A bright spot was the purchase and delivery of the division's first twin-engine aircraft, a Bell 412EP, in August 2011. The purchase was the result of several years of hard work and was made possible by a DHS Port Security Grant. The aircraft, manufactured in 1996, began its public safety aviation life with the New York Police Department as an air-sea rescue helicopter. After being traded in, Eagle Copters in Calgary, Alberta, eventually purchased it. Upon winning the Houston bid process, Eagle Copters meticulously refurbished the aircraft to the HPD Air Support Division's specs. Equipment delivered with the aircraft included a FLIR Ultra 9 HD thermal imager, Nucomm microwave downlink system, MetaMap, Goodrich Hoist, Wysong custom-built TFO workstation, rappel/fast rope system and firefighting bucket. The purchase also included maintenance training at Bell for

1980's



1990's



2007





# 50 YEARS



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several mechanics, pilot transition training at FlightSafety, and onsite mission training with Priority 1 Air Rescue, all of which was completed by early 2013.

## TRAINING & ACCREDITATION

Another bright spot was the HPD Air Support Division becoming the second public safety aviation unit in the nation to be accredited by the Public Safety Aviation Accreditation Commission. Much hard work went into preparing for the onsite assessment, culminating in full accreditation in 2012.

Since the unit's founding and original flight crew training, HPD has always trained its pilots and tactical flight officers in-house. Two police officer/instructor pilots are assigned full-time to the training section to handle the duties. There is no flight experience requirement to become a TFO, and pilot trainees are taken from the TFO corps.

HPD TFOs normally spend between 24 and 36 months flying "the right seat" before they are chosen for pilot training. Once chosen, their full-time assignment is to obtain their commercial rotorcraft rating. The curric-

ulum consists of a minimum of 40 hours of ground school with approximately 250 hours of flight time. All flight training during this phase of training is done in one of the unit's three Schweizer 300Cs.

Once they have achieved their commercial rating, they transition to turbine operations and then are assimilated back into the patrol section and placed on the flight schedule. Bi-weekly check rides are given for the first three months—longer if deemed necessary. All unit pilots, regardless of experience, receive quarterly check rides. To date, HPD flight instructors have trained approximately 143 officers to be law enforcement patrol pilots.

HPD's Cessna 182, on the other hand, is operated by unit personnel that have obtained their fixed-wing rating on their own. To be considered PIC of the aircraft, the individual must have a commercial/instrument fixed-wing rating. The fixed-wing program will soon be upgraded to a larger, more capable aircraft, with the Mahindra Air Van 8. This is a VFR/IFR airplane with a mission suite in the rear cabin and a retractable FLIR 380 in a

cargo pod configuration.

When not on scheduled patrol flights, HPD aircrews are on standby and ready to respond at a moment's notice. In addition to patrol flights, aircrews regularly fly maintenance flights and special assignments, such as photo flights, dignitary protection flights, static displays, and surveillances. In 2019, the division flew a total of 3,039.1 hours while responding to 4,451 calls resulting in 348 arrests, 262 being felonies. Additionally, the division performed more than 1,127 critical infrastructure inspections.

## MAINTENANCE & TECHNOLOGY

The HPD Air Support Division employs eight civilian A&P mechanics, five of which are also IAs, for in-house maintenance. They are divided between two shifts and supervised by a sergeant. With the exception of engine, transmission, engine accessory, avionics, instrument, and rotatable repairs/overhauls, the technicians perform all maintenance. The dedication and attention to detail of the award-winning maintenance staff (a member of the mainte-





# 50 YEARS



"To Serve, Save and Protect from the Air"

nance section was awarded the ALEA Technical Specialist of the Year Award in 2005), combined with that of the training section, is the primary reason the division has operated for 50 years.

All HPD patrol aircraft are outfitted with FLIR 380s and Nightsun SX-16s, as well as Churchill moving map and digital video downlink capability. The majority of the patrol aircraft have night vision google compatible lighting, and NVGs are standard nighttime operating equipment. As a testament to the division's proficient use of the technology, HPD aircrews were awarded first place in the 2010 and 2019 national FLIR Vision Awards.

## PROTECTING PORTS & INFRASTRUCTURE

Houston is the second largest city in the U.S. in terms of area (634 square miles) and the fourth largest city in terms of population (over 2.2 million). The Houston Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), also known as Greater Houston, consists of 10 counties, covers 10,062 square miles, and has a population of over 5.95 million, making it the sixth largest metropolitan area

in the U.S. The MSA is home to the Port of Houston, ranked first in the U.S. in foreign waterborne

tonnage, second in the U.S. in total tonnage, and 10th in the world in total tonnage. The port

is home to the largest petrochemical complex in the nation and second largest in the world.

Within the Greater Houston Area, Baytown, Texas City, Clute and Galveston have major ports and chemical plants. Galveston also has the fifth largest cruise ship terminal in the U.S. (12th largest in the world) and is home to one of only two national biocontainment laboratories in the country. Houston is also home to the Texas Medical Center, the largest medical center in the world, and headquarters to more Fortune 500 companies than any

other city in the country other than New York. All of these factors have led to the Greater Houston Area consistently being designated as a Tier I Urban Area Support Initiative Jurisdiction.

The HPD Air Support Division's Bell 412EP has been designated through an extensive flight assessment to be qualified as a Texas Task Force One Tier 1 asset and is available throughout the State of Texas for aerial assistance if called upon. The Bell 412's SAR crew consists of a pilot, copilot, crew chief or systems operator and Houston Fire

Department trained paramedic or rescue specialist to handle victims.

Houston has been identified as a prime target for a terrorist attack. While the division's primary jurisdiction is the City of Houston, they regularly provide airborne law enforcement services to public safety agencies throughout the area.

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The HPD Air Support Division has a bright future. Modest gains in personnel have occurred, the parts room underwent a major renovation with all new shelving and cabinets, and a Churchill Navigation Mapping System was purchased and installed. Additional funding for flight hours has been added to the budget, and all pilots attend MD factory training at least biennially, and the 412 pilots have attended recurrent training at FlightSafety.

Despite cutbacks, pandemics and other obstacles, HPD Airport Support is poised for another fifty years of service to the citizens of Houston.

*Dedicated to the Memory of  
TFO Jason Knox  
E.O.W. 5/02/2020*





# CHASE CORMIER

a Story of Friendship, Tragedy,  
Determination, Honor & Respect,  
and an American Hero.

**Words by Brooke Cormier, wife of Chase Cormier**  
**Photos Courtesy of Cormier & Knox Families**

I am a survivor of a First Responder  
Wife's worst nightmare...the CALL.

I've loved my husband since the first day I saw him in person... and I mean that in the most literal sense one can make that statement. Chase and I went on a blind date because of how persistent he is, (I said no for months thinking he was too cute for me and would be a player! HA!), but he wasn't having it. He wanted to take me on a date and made sure that it happened. I finally said yes. We've been in love ever since. Ever since day one... goodness, looking back and thinking how simple life was on day one. We were kids. Flirting, playing, getting to know one another... who would have known that he would be my happily ever after? Who would have known he would be the best friend I ever had? I've never known love like the unwavering love I have for my husband. As a First Responder Wife, you truly don't think it'll ever happen to you. You never truly think you'll get "the call." My life changed, our lives changed, everyone that has ever known Chase's lives changed May 2nd, 2020.



Since the devastatingly bone chilling 3:30am call, I haven't been able to be myself. I am not who I once was... I am a survivor of a First Responder Wife's worst nightmare. How do you explain what we went through in an article? You don't... The pain comes back, the trauma comes back, and the terror comes back. Everything and anything you would think would happen when getting 'the call' for a First Responder Wife absolutely happens. I just still can't believe it happened to us...

3:30am... I got a call to the tune of Brooke- this is Chase's Commander, I'm on my way to pick you up. My short answer (and all that I can remember saying) was, while hysterically crying, 'Is he alive?' Why else would anyone be reaching out to me at that hour and on their way to come get me? I truly don't remember exactly the answer that came from his graceful Commander, but the end result was that she knew he was hurt, in a helicopter crash, being life flighted, and needed to get me to the hospital with him. I can't sleep at night so that's likely never going to be a thing... I am haunted by the helicopter falling to the ground and Chase and his friend Jason Knox fighting vigorously to figure out how to land it in that emergency. My heart is just broken and forever will be... this couldn't have happened to two more amazing humans. Jason and Chase were just so in love with aviation and both loved flying both airplanes and helicopters. Aviation was their

passion. Aviation and family... My husband has worn many hats in the police department since I've met him. Gang Unit, TAC unit, Helicopter unit (his passion), and he's excelled at all of them. Though I've always had this consistent fear in the back of my mind that I've done well at pushing to the side, I'm also not stupid. My husband has been one to run toward justice rather than hide like

sheep. He is one that wants to stand up for what he believes in and, in turn, has been in extremely dangerous situations ever since I've known him. The laundry list of credentials I could share mean nothing to what people that actually know him think about him and feel about him. Chase Cormier is an American Hero in every sense of the word. I'm just so lucky to be his wife.





# JASON KNOX

a Pilot, Police Officer, Husband & Father,  
Family Man and an American Hero.

**Words by Keira Knox & Mike Knox**  
**Photos Courtesy of the Knox Family**

## JASON THE PILOT

Jason became interested in flying at an early age. When he was a “pre-teen,” while riding in a car, Jason saw a sign on the side of the road that read, “30 minutes – 30 dollars – Introductory Flight Lesson.” Jason turned and said, “You know, I want to be a pilot someday. We should take a flight to see if I like it!” Jason was delighted to learn there was no age limit to learn to fly.

Jason researched flight schools and found one that used Citabria aircraft. He wanted to learn in a “tail dragger” because that’s what early aviators learned to fly. Later, his interest in history became more evident but, looking back, this was probably the first indication of that interest.

Citabria aircraft are often used to teach aerobatic flying, which turned out to be a good thing on Jason’s first lesson. The instructor pilot reported Jason had done so well on his first lesson. The instructor Pilot said she had covered all the areas needed for that lesson and Jason seemed comfortable and competent. Noting they had time left on the flight she told Jason he could fly the plane however he wanted for a few minutes. (The instructor Pilot was unaware that Jason had spent several years flying computer simulation games.) Jason decided it would be fun to fly inverted. So, he did. Jason’s Instructor pilot said he performed the maneuver flawlessly, and she learned not to tell Jason to do whatever he wanted on future flights.





As the years went by it was common for Jason to be found hanging out at various hangers around the airport. He could be found visiting with aircraft owners, mechanics, and anyone else he could talk with about aviation. Jason's favorite hanger was the helicopter hanger.

Jason took his solo test flight on his 16th birthday. He wanted to be able to brag that he could fly before he could drive – for the rest of his life. He insisted he take his solo test flight on the way to and before he took his drivers test.

After graduating High School, Jason managed to get a part time job at an FBO at Hobby Airport. His job there required him to clean aircraft, to fuel aircraft, to prepare aircraft for client departure and to tow the aircraft into and out of the hanger. He loved every minute.

## JASON THE POLICE OFFICER

After graduation, while working part time at the FBO at Hobby, he was hired full time as a dispatcher for the Harris County Precinct 5 Constable's office. He had originally applied for a clerk position, but someone there recognized his talent and hired him as the youngest dispatcher in HC Pct. 5 history. He remained with Pct. 5 while he attended the Houston Community College Police Academy. Often, he would complete a night shift and then attend class at HCC Police Academy. He was hired as a Deputy by the Harris County Pct. 5 Constable

upon graduation.

Jason worked as a deputy for the next three years and then moved to the Spring Valley PD where he spent two more years before he decided to join HPD. Jason never gave up on flying helicopters and knew that HPD had a helicopter division. He planned to get on HPD and work his way to the Helicopter Division and at some point get his rotor craft certification.

Jason applied and interviewed to be a reserve Tactical Flight Officer (TFO). He was invited to participate as a 'Most Ready' candidate. Which means he could learn the job of TFO and operate as a TFO on a volunteer basis. He spent that year volunteering, on his own time, learning the role of TFO. He gained the respect of supervisors, command staff, pilots and other TFO's. Within two years, Jason secured his position as a member of the HPD Helicopter Division.

Among his talents was his ability to remain oriented while airborne and his excellent skills using the FLIR. Jason could spot the smallest heat signature and lead ground officers to suspects that would otherwise have escaped capture. On one occasion Jason directed officers to a very small heat source in a body of water, which Jason thought shouldn't have been there. The heat source turned out to be the suspect's nose sticking out of the water along the edge of a bayou.

His voice, directing officers in vehicle and foot pursuits, was reported to be calm, measured,



and accurate. Patrol Officers and K-9 units learned to trust his direction from the air. Some have commented they learned not to question the instructions Jason gave because invariably he led them to the suspect.

Within seven years after joining HPD Jason accomplished his goal of being assigned to HPD Helicopter Division and was scheduled to begin flight training in September of 2020.

Jason was living his dream



when 75Fox went down with He and his pilot, Chase Cormier. Chase Cormier credits Jason with turning the fuel supply off to the aircraft, as they were spinning out of control toward the ground. Chase says this

action likely prevented jet fuel from igniting and saved his life. Evidently, Jason remained focused, calm, and professional to the end.



## JASON THE HUSBAND & FATHER

Where do I begin?? How do you try and put into words all the amazing and wonderful things about a person?!

Jason was the most amazing husband and father and we were the real deal. Some of our friends and neighbors even referred to us as a “power couple”.

Jason and I started in dating March of 2005, got engaged December of 2008, got married October 2009 and built a wonderful life in the 15 years we had each other. In September of 2013 we welcomed our son Cooper. Seeing Jason become a father made me fall in love with him all over again. In November of 2016 our baby girl Eliza came along. Our family was complete. Like every couple, we had our trials and tribulations and our ups and downs but always came out stronger on the other side. With both of us being first responders, it was always a challenge. We worked opposite shifts for most of our careers and were like ships passing in the night. But our family motto was “we always make it work” and we absolutely did.

We were always trying to travel more, try new things and go on “adventures” ..... cause to him everything and everywhere was an adventure. That was something we instilled in our kids.

Jason was the most social butterfly I had ever met. He was constantly getting me out of

my comfort zone, encouraging me, introducing me to new things and always meeting new people. He could talk to anyone about anything and make such an impact on them, by the end of it you’d have a new friend that you’d never forget.

Jason always put his family first. No matter the shift, the hours, the division or the department, he always made time for us. He would always tell me “If I could give you the world, you know I would”. In my eyes he did, EVERY SINGLE DAY!

He is going to be missed so much! I’m eternally grateful for the years I got to have with him, even if it was for such a short time. We talk about him every day and my kids will have many memories, stories and pictures to show what an incredible man he was! Til I see you again!

### Jason the Man

Jason was a true renaissance man. His interests were varied and diverse.

First and foremost, Jason was a Family Man. He was a wonderful Father and Husband, a committed aviator and police officer, a firearms enthusiast and collector. He was very interested in history, particularly in preserving the history of the Houston Police Department. He was interested in politics and was happy to share his thoughts with you. Jason was a masterful story teller and kept friends and family laughing for hours recounting some of his adventures as a police



officer. He loved to travel and experience different places and cultures. He loved “creating memories” with his family. He enjoyed a good joke or a well-planned prank. Jason viewed life as an adventure. He was

always looking for that next adventure and he wanted you to go along with him.

Jason was a true friend to many. His compassion for people, his desire to serve others, and his humor drew people to

him like a magnet.

Jason never desired greatness, but he did aspire to be a “good man.” Like most of Jason’s goals, he overachieved. Jason was the kind of person we all hope to be someday. We

miss him terribly.

Our Family, the City of Houston, Texas, the United States, and the World lost a “good man” on May 2, 2020.





# AIRBORNE LAW ENFORCEMENT

## FLYING THE SKIES OVER HOUSTON



Words & Photos by Michael Barron



When you put on badge and a uniform, you know the risk. Most of the time you're running towards danger while others are running away. It's the job and you accept it. When you put on a flight suit and a badge and gun, that risk factor goes up a thousand percent. People used to say to me, well at least you don't have people shooting at you like on the street. Well that's surely not the case, as any police pilot will tell you. They may not always hit you, but they are damn sure trying. So why do it, you ask. Why does anybody do the job they do. Flying obviously isn't for everyone, but if you have the spirit of flight in your blood, you live for your time in the air. I guess it's like auto racing. "Life is the race. Everything before and after are just waiting."

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People ask pilots all the time, "What's it like flying for a living? Do you ever get tired of it?" I remember the first time I ever flew in a police helicopter. It was at night and as soon as that bird reached the treetops it was a whole other world. I'm sure everyone at one time or other has landed at Hobby or IAH at night and witnessed what I'm talking about. But unless you're a pilot with all those twinkling lights filling your windscreen, you can't imagine the adrenaline rush. In fact, when I started training as an observer, the first 30 minutes was actually hard to concentrate on the job at hand. You're so fascinated at the sights and sounds; you forget what you're there for in the first place. But after the newness wears off you suddenly realize how much

you can really see from 500'.

As most old heads like myself will say, "you youngsters don't how good you have it, what with your GPS maps, and infrared. Back in the day, you just had to look out the window and tell your pilot where to go. Once you got there, you lit up the ground with the Nightsun and you could hear the relief from the ground units when they heard, "fox is on the scene Houston, have those units go to channel 8."

With all the technology available to air units these days, the crooks really don't have a chance. The old saying, "you may be able to outrun the cops, but you can't outrun their radios." Well now you can add "or their helicopter." Of course, Houston is one big place to patrol. Ask any HPD pilot who's

been flying over Clear Lake and you hear "we need a fox on West-side." It's at least a 20-minute flight across the city. And while 20 minutes may not seem like all that long, if you're the cop on the ground that's just had his partner shot and the suspects are hiding God knows where, 20 minutes can seem like hours. That very reason is why at times, HPD has had two helicopters in the air with overlapping 2-hr. flights. That way at least the two ships can stay on opposite sides of the city. Or when one air unit is on a scene and about to 'bingo' on fuel, the other one can slide right in and continue the search.

I suppose there are dozens if not hundreds of police pilots all over the world with far more hours than me, that could articulate

what's it like to be an airborne pilot. But nevertheless, ask for it or not, I'll tell you what it was like for me. First off believe it or not, I have a serious fear of heights. I won't even get on my roof to put up Christmas lights. But. It never really bothered me as a pilot. I guess it was being surrounded by metal and glass made me somehow forget there was NOTHING between me and the ground. So, when summer rolled around and I walked out to a MD500 on the line at HPD and there were NO DOORS on the helicopter, I'm like "Are they putting the doors on before we go?" I hear, "Doors? Are you crazy, do you know how hot that would be? No Barron, the doors come off in the summer. Is that a problem for you?"

No, no problem at all. I climbed

in and I'm pretty sure I cut the circulation off to both my legs with cinching the seat-belt harness so tight. And I lost all feeling in my right hand, what with the death grip I had on the grab bar. But not 15 minutes into the flight we got a suspect on the ground call near Lake Houston and for the next hour I was pretty much parallel to the ground and hyper focused on the finding the crooks. Which we did by the way. I guess the adrenaline was so high, I didn't realize I wasn't hanging on anymore. Until my pilot says, "See having the doors off isn't so bad after all." I turned to look at him and then realized I had to look straight up and then turned back and was looking straight at the ground. But in time, you get used to it, and you just do your job.

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And in police aviation, each of you have very distinctive roles in the air. Your job as Observer or Tactical Flight Officer (TFO) is be the policeman on the team. It's your job to communicate with dispatch and the units on the ground. Tell the pilot where you need to be and when. You're their eyes for what's happening on the ground and you have to communicate that clearly. After you've flown with someone enough, it just comes naturally.

When you're not on a call, your job becomes one of survival. If this bird quits, when are we going to land. It consumes you at first. Like, "How often does that happen?" And then the whole autorotation thing comes up and you're like, "Sorry I asked." And most people would think that you're first thoughts are, "Where can we land so we can go home tonight?" In some regards yes, but ANY pilot will tell you they are more concerned about killing someone on the ground than themselves. It's always in the back of your mind and you know when the time comes, you'll do the best you can, and the rest is in God's hands.

What I can tell you for sure, is that the Air Support Division of the Houston Police Department is one of the best in the world. For the past fifty years, Air Support has flown over 200,000 flight hours and trained seasoned cops to be pilots. Not the other way around. The division has had its ups and downs (no pun intended) and gone from glory days, to barely a division and back. Budgets come and go. Pilots and TFOs come and go. The command staff i.e. Captains, Lieutenants and Sergeants all come and go. But one thing has always remained the same. And probably will for another 50 years. Everyone that has ever had anything to do with HPD Air Support is family. And like all families,



new generations come, and the elders pass away. In closing, let us always remember those family members that have passed and pray for those taken away from us way too soon. And pray as hard as you can for the families of Jason Knox and Chase Cormier. God Bless everyone in Aviation wherever in the world you might be today.

#### *A Special Thanks*

*I'd like to thank Dan Schwarzbach and the entire staff of The Airborne Public Safety Association and the Air Beat Magazine for allowing us to reprint their article on the 50th Anniversary of the Air Support division of the Houston Police Department. I also like to thank Houston Police Dept. Lt. Randall Upton for his excellent article on the history of Helicopters at HPD and Sgt. Kurt Overby for providing the recent photo of the entire Air Support division. And I would be amiss if I didn't thank my former bosses at the Galveston County Sheriff's Dept., Sheriff Joe Max Taylor and Major Vic Maceo for allowing me the opportunity to*

*fly Air One on so many SAR missions on Galveston Island. (along with a few special recon missions for Maceo that may or may not have included schools of fish in the bay) And finally to a life-long friend that gave me the opportunity to take my first flight in a helicopter that set-in motion a future in aviation. He taught me everything there is to know about flying helicopters while I reciprocated with my skills at flying airplanes. Truth is, he was way better at flying both than I was. (He soloed on like his third flight.) And none of my experiences at HPD would be possible without him. So, Lt. John King, former commander of HPD's Air Support division, I thank you for a lifetime of memories. I also want to thank John for his assistance in preparing this special edition of The BLUES.*

*And finally I'd like to thank Brooke Cormier, Keira and Mike Knox for sharing with us one of the most horrifying days of their lives. And for sharing loving memories of Jason and Chase. May God bless all of you and your families.*

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# running 4 heroes



Zechariah's 2020 Run Tracker, Website & Donation Link,

Total Miles Run in 2020: (as of 9/3/20): 237

Total Miles Run in 2019: 376

Overall Miles Run: 613

2020 Run Stats:

Total Miles Run for 2020 fallen LEO's: 175

Total Miles Run for 2020 fallen Firefighters: 55

Total Miles Run for 2019 Fallen LEO's: 4

Total Miles Run for 2019 Fallen Firefighters: 0

Total Miles Run for 2019/2020 Fallen K9's: 0

Total Miles Run for Other Heroes: 0

Total Tribute Runs by State for 2020: 3

States Run: Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Texas (2), Kentucky, Arkansas

How to Donate to the Running 4 Heroes Inc. 501(c)(3):

<https://secure.anedot.com/running-4-heroes/donate>

Running 4 Heroes Website:

[www.running4heroes.org](http://www.running4heroes.org)



Zechariah ended up taking a wrong turn and found his way back to the start! He ended up running a 7k according to his watch instead of a 5k, haha! The good news though is that he was found and was able to still make it to the finish line.

We were honored to be here with the LakelandPD to help raise funds for the Police Memorial. We definitely plan to come back next year, and kiddo is pretty set on not getting lost the second time!



Play

The finish of Zechariah's run for the Lakeland PD Police Memorial fund!



## Trip to Texas



Zechariah always gets a warm welcome at both Houston airports.



Zechariah with pilots from the Harris County Sheriff's Dept. Airbone Division, at the Cormier Strong Benefit.

Zechariah met with the family of fallen Beaumont Police Department Officer Sheena Rae Yarbrough-Powell at the Beaumont Police Headquarters.



*Running 4 Heroes is a Non-Profit organization founded by a then 10-year old (now 11) Zechariah. His mission seeks to raise funds for injured First Responders while also paying tribute to all Fallen Heroes through running. Follow Zechariah on his Facebook Page @Running4Heroes.*



Zechariah was able to enjoy a lovely BBQ dinner with the August Injured First Responder Grant recipient, Houston Police Department Officer John Daily.



# running 4 heroes



Zechariah never seeks recognition for what he does. He truly enjoys being able to show support to our heroes without any type of acknowledgement. Knowing that, we were beyond honored and thankful for those who decided to present Zechariah with a Cormier Strong Guitar that was signed by Neal McCoy, Josh Ward, Jody Booth and was also signed by Officer Chase Cormier!



Zechariah is here at Chase Cormier's fundraiser in Texas



Today, Zechariah Honored TWO heroes as part of his Non-Profit... Zechariah presented Injured Houston Police Department Officer John Daily with his August \$7,500 Injured First Responder Grant. Also today, Zechariah presents this first ever "Zechariah Cartledge Hero's Hero Award" to Houston Police Department Officer Alonzo Reid, who was instrumental in saving the life of Mr. Daily. Both Officers received burns as part of the incident in which their patrol car was struck by a drunk driver. We are so proud not only of Zechariah and what he does as part of this mission, but to all of YOU who make this possible.



## light bulb award

# “Determine offender’s needs before charging them with looting” WTF? Are you serious?

The following editorial is brought to you by a retired Chief of Police and current staff writer for Law Enforcement Today

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, CA– The latest liberal lunacy among DA’s is brought to you courtesy of Contra Costa County (CA) District Attorney Diana Becton. She puts the “loon” in lunatic. When a couple recently painted over graffiti in a roadway otherwise known as a Black Lives Matter “mural,” she had the couple responsible charged with a hate crime. We are not kidding. Now, she wants police officers, while investigating looting cases, to determine if the looters “needed” the stolen merchandise prior to charging them. Seriously.

Where to even start with this one. We have reported numerous times on the crazy, left-wing, Soros-funded district attorneys who are polluting prosecutor’s offices across the country, from Rachael Rollins in Suffolk County (Boston), Massachusetts to Kim Foxx in Chicago and Chesa Boudin in San Francisco.

All were elected through no small part by the fact that billionaire anti-American socialist George Soros dumped copious amounts of cash into their campaigns. What has that brought? Chaos, anarchy, and criminals who are emboldened, no longer concerned about the consequences of their actions.

Last week, a Deputy District Attorney in Becton’s office, in addressing the “vandalism” of the BLM “mural,” posted on social media that “we want more than a citation

for vandalism” for the couple. Well, she got it after both were charged with a hate crime.

Becton is a home girl with St. Louis DA Kim Gardner and Chicago’s Kim Foxx. Remember Gardner? She’s the one who charged the McCloskey’s for protecting their lives and property from an angry mob who had broken into their property in St. Louis. Foxx? She’s the one presiding over the Chicago edition of Tombstone, where the city has turned into the wild west and where dozens of citizens are shot to death every weekend.

RedState obtained a document which identifies so-called “Looting Guidelines,” which were provided to the outlet by a confidential source, however, have been verified as authentic by someone who is familiar with the office’s policies.

The document asks:

Was this theft offense substantially motivated by the state of emergency, or simply a theft offense which occurred contemporaneous to the declared state of emergency?

Factors to consider in making this determination:

Was the target business open or closed to the public during the state of emergency?

What was the manner and means by which the suspect gained entry to the target business? What was the nature/quantity/value of the goods targeted?

Was the theft committed for financial gain or personal need?

Is there an articulable reason why another statute wouldn’t adequately address the particular incident?


According to California law, a looting charge serves to increase the severity of the underlying charge, such as burglary or theft if it occurs during a State of Emergency.

The Shouse California Law Group says:

“Under Penal Code 463 PD, California law defines “looting” as taking advantage of a state of emergency to commit burglary, grand theft or petty theft. Looting charges can be filed as a misdemeanor or a felony and is punishable by up to 3 years in jail.”

Despite the fact that no specific state of emergency was declared in individual counties after the Black Lives Matter riots started in May, the whole state has been in a de facto state of emergency since March 4, when California Gov. Gavin Newsom instituted a state of emergency relative to the COVID-19 pandemic.

So, looking at Becton’s “guidelines” for charging looting, police officers are now apparently expected to obtain financial records from looters in order to determine whether or not they had a financial need to steal the 10 pairs of Air Jordan’s from the Foot Locker they



Help me, Lord Jesus,  
please show me the way !

## *Contra Costa County (CA) District Attorney Diana Becton.*

broke into. Maybe they couldn’t pay Verizon for their cell bill for the \$1,000 iPhone they were using to record their hijinks with, and they need to flip the kicks for some cold hard cash.

Maybe, as New York’s favorite brain-dead politician Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez said, they needed to flip their stolen merchandise so they could go down to 7-11 and buy a loaf of bread. It’s all about “need” after all.

AOC on increased NYC crime: “Maybe this has to do with the fact that people aren’t paying their rent and are scared to pay their rent and so they go out and they need to feed their child and they don’t have money so... they feel like they either need to shoplift some bread or go hungry.”

In case you missed it, Becton, along with some of her other left-wing contemporaries polluting DA’s offices nationwide had an op-ed in Politico this past week, and it’s a

beauty.

Among their claims is that the “criminal legal system was constructed to control Black people and people of color. Its injustices are not new but are deeply rooted in our country’s shameful history of slavery and legacy of racial violence. The system is acting exactly as it was intended to, and that is the problem.”

“We should know: We’re Black, we’re female and we’re prosecutors. We work as the gatekeepers in this flawed system. And we have some ideas for how to fix it.”

Awesome. They’re going to fix it. So, how are they going to fix it, exactly? From their op-ed:

“We are implementing policies that include declining to prosecute minor offenses, overturning wrongful convictions, refusing to take cases from officers with a history of racial bias, and expunging marijuana convictions.”

In other words, they are taking

the law into their own hands, and using their own personal beliefs and convictions to determine right from wrong. The justice system is no longer blind. They want the justice system to decide winners and losers, irrespective of the facts.

So, what else to these people have in mind to “fix” the criminal justice system?

Do not prosecute peaceful protesters, saying that citizens have the right to protest and prosecutions can “antagonize marginalized communities.” Remember, Democrats and their mouthpieces on CNN and MSNBC have called all protests “peaceful,” even as buildings were burning behind their reporters.

Do not accept any funding from police unions—honestly, they have NOTHING to worry about in that regard.

Require the review of all available evidence—including body-worn camera and other video footage—in

*Continued on Next Page*  
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## light bulb award

cases that rest solely on the testimony of an officer. In other words, it's a criminal's word against that of a sworn officer.

Ban "No Knock" warrants and reexamine our policies for issuing warrants. They address the shooting of Breonna Taylor, a tragedy but one that was caused in no small part by her boyfriend firing at police officers as they made entry into the home after announcing themselves.

Hold police accountable by pursuing criminal charges against officers unlawfully using excessive force and other forms of state sanctioned violence. Yes, just like Paul Howard did in Atlanta where an

officer used deadly physical force in a completely justified shooting.

Expand our office policies on declining low-level offenses to cover decisions regarding charging and issuing warrants. This is the "let them walk" policy which led to a spate of shoplifting incidents in Boston earlier this year.

Financially support and advocate for increases in funding to community led and community defined responses, restorative justice, and violence prevention programs.

Commit to using our office's power and platform to advance discussions of divestment from the criminal legal system and toward

community led and community defined responses to harm. Basically, want to dismantle the current legal system.

Develop grant-based community reinvestment programs to be administered in partnership with community-based partners.

Solicit feedback from Black and brown community groups we were elected to serve through public, virtual forms in the next two weeks. If you haven't noticed it yet, these district attorneys only seek to serve the needs of minority communities, not the entire community they represent.

Many of these people are up for reelection this year. One Soros-funded stooge, Paul Howard has already been sent packing by voters in Georgia. Understand that there are some issues with the criminal justice system that can be fixed. There is clearly always room for improvement.

But letting the inmates run the asylum and letting far-left socialist lunatics undermine the criminal justice system and eviscerate the rule of law is not the approach to take.

"See if looters 'needed' the stuff they stole?"

It would be laughable if it weren't so damned scary. This is where liberals are in 2020.



Alan Helfman

Proud Supporter of THE BLUES for 35 years

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## Critical Incident Stress: A gentle reminder

According to Danielle Wallace with Fox News the nation anxiously watched a 19-hour hostage negotiation unfold in August 2020 in Cedar Park, Texas. This critical incident included an exchange of gunfire that left three police officers injured. Ultimately the crisis ended calmly when a man and his mother walked out of a home located in a community near Austin, Texas. The Cedar Park Police Department said the suspect, 26-year-old Joseph Taylor, would be charged with three counts of aggravated assault on a public officer and three charges of kidnapping. The crisis began when Taylor's mother called police Sunday afternoon after he kicked in the door of the home. When police arrived, he exchanged more than 50 rounds of gunfire with officers, Cedar Park Police Chief Mike Harmon said. Taylor then barricaded himself inside with his two siblings, his mother and a pet. Taylor first released his brother, sister and a family pet, and then he and his mother left the house peacefully. Police also said three officers were hurt in the exchange of gunfire, two were treated and released from a hospital and the third was stable after undergoing surgery. Chief Harmon added that the

negotiations were "delicate" but that they had been hopeful the man would surrender peacefully. He said officers have been to the same residence before to follow up on reports of assault and mental health-related calls. "You have to remember the humanity of people," said Cedar Park Police Lt. Chanse Thomas, who worked with the negotiation team. "Life is our number one home value." Numerous other law enforcement agencies were also on scene to assist.

Law enforcement officers are specifically trained to manage the unexpected and to de-escalate crisis situations, so frequently in fact that they often minimize the need for self-care following a critical incident. I have been told by countless officers that "it is just part of the job" and it is truly "no big deal". While I understand and respect the perspective, the truth of the matter is that these type(s) of events can create a form of critical incident stress. Critical incident stress is a condition which can overwhelm an officer's ability to effectively cope and adjust in the days following and if not recognized and treated at onset, can lead to more serious effects of posttraumatic stress disorder. Although the



**DR. TINA JAECKLE**

responding agencies successfully resolved this specific event, the high level of stress experienced by these officers over a protracted period could have psychological and physiological consequences. Additionally, any call involving the shooting or injuring of a colleague pushes the fight or flight response to its greatest level and the brain responds by collecting an incredible amount of information under highly stressful circumstances. The results are powerful and can compound over a lifetime leading to both physical and mental health challenges.

Some common signs and symptoms of the stress reactions triggered by a critical incident include (but are not limited to): Physical (Stomach upset, dizziness, sleep disturbance); Thinking (Disorientated, memory problems, confusion, distressing dreams); and Emotional (Anxi-

*Continued on Next Page*

ety, fear, guilt, grief). This article serves as a gentle reminder to recognize and practice self-care, not only following critical incidents but also to regularly "empty the trash" to reduce the long-term consequences of cumulative stress and to build resiliency. Some approaches to accomplish this goal may include: Maintaining a supportive network; talking things over with caring friends and loved ones; seeking out humor or laughter; living a healthy lifestyle, a healthy diet, physical exercise, maintain a regular sleep routine; thinking positively about yourself; reminding yourself that you can get through the next situation; Using stress management and coping skills, such as exercise, yoga, or meditation regularly; Making time for activities you enjoy, trying new

activities or find new hobbies; maintaining family and social commitments and outings; finding additional support as needed such as a group, spiritual guidance, or therapist; and cleaning up lingering daily stressors that will exacerbate the next major stressor.

I had the wonderful opportunity to speak directly with both Chief Mike Harmon and Lt. Chanse Thomas of the Cedar Park Police Department regarding this incident. Both reiterated the importance of overall officer wellness and have provided appropriate and ongoing mental health resources as needed to their impacted officers. Although Cedar Park Police Department is an agency with only approximately 100 sworn, it is reassuring to me as a law enforcement crisis and trauma counselor to

see these leaders make mental health a priority.

Keep up the great work and be safe always.

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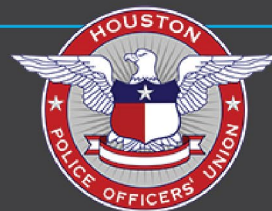


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## an editorial by Joe Gamaldi

Here's news you will hear from me and not through the rumor mill

Before the HPD/HPOU rumor mill gets going too quickly, I want to share with you all that my current term ending in December 2021 will be my last as the president of the HPOU.

It has been the honor of a lifetime to be your elected voice in Houston. For the last 10 years I have poured my heart and soul into the Houston Police Officers Union, working tirelessly to take care of every single one of you and your families.

Many have already asked, and I am sure more will, why now? This is purely a family decision, as I would like to spend more time with my daughters as they grow up. This 24/7/365 job as president is not always conducive to spending quality family time.

Do not fret, if you haven't noticed the HPOU has become an eclectic mix of youth/experience, patrol/investigations, who are smart, motivated people that have been groomed, trained and guided to take over this organization and achieve even greater success. In the meantime, I will do everything in my power to make sure the transition is a smooth one for all of us.

But this does not mean I plan on stepping out of the fray. I am going to continue my role as national vice president of the Fraternal Order of Police. I assure you all that I will provide a strong voice for the hard-work-

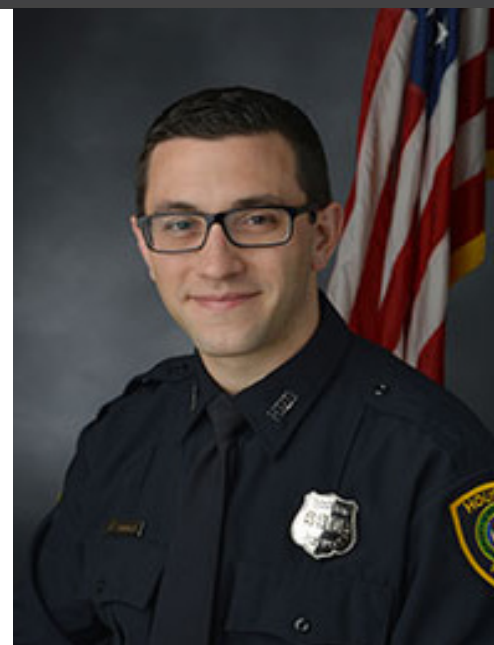
ing men and women of law enforcement across this country. I will work for as long as it takes to turn the tide and remind Americans who we are and what we stand for.

### Protective Helmets

You may have seen in the news recently a grant came up for City Council approval that would allow for the purchase of protective helmets for all officers in the Houston Police Department. Almost immediately we began to hear grumbling that certain council members would be voting no, simply because it involved funding for the police department. Never mind that this was for protective equipment and we literally just had an officer hit in the head with a brick, people were actually thinking twice about this.

We engaged with council members and explained the importance of this equipment and that even if you didn't care about the safety of police officers, this is purely a financial decision. One officer hit with a brick resulting in a traumatic brain injury would easily cost more than price of all of the helmets combined.

Thankfully, after some conversation it was put on the next council agenda and passed with only one "no" vote from Council Member Leticia Plummer. Her explanation for voting "no" was because another council member



**JOE GAMALDI, PRESIDENT HPOU**

offended her during the discussion portion of this important agenda item. Can't make this stuff up, folks.

Thanks to the quick action of the HPOU and being willing to sit down and discuss issues, this significant item was passed, and HPD officers will be present at the next riot with the necessary safety equipment in place.

### Contract Negotiations

As you know, we began contract negotiations literally a week before the Covid19 lockdowns began in March. As a result, we have been on hold since then and have not had any meetings with the City. We anticipate continuing negotiations in the next few months. Moving forward we will notify you when contract negotiations ramp back up and of course when we have a final product it will be rolled out to you promptly for you to vote on it. **As always, be safe out there.**

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## remembering a truly great man



Throughout history no HPD Officer has cast a larger shadow than Tiny Romund, gentle giant to kids, intimidator to thugs

By Tom Kennedy,  
Houston Police Officers Union

Most of the kids who grew up in the Garden Oaks area on the Northside of Houston never wanted to get into serious trouble beyond the typical innocent mischief of the 1950s.

Well, let's take that back. Because of the seemingly constant presence of one giant of a Houston cop they avoided any action that might provoke a confrontation with the giant in the blue uniform.

#### A GENTLE GIANT

Officially he was known as Officer Walter C. Romund, but unofficially he went by the everlasting and extremely appropriate nickname of "Tiny."

Tiny Romund stood 6-foot-8 and weighed in excess of 300 pounds. He was then – and now – the biggest Houston police officer in history. Granted, if alive today he would feel at home amongst the interior linemen on the Houston Texans roster. There would be just one problem – under his gigantic image, Tiny was a teddy bear.

Now then, the real criminals on his watch didn't mess with him. The kids on his watch in his extra job were sufficiently intimidated and were encouraged in a positive way to stay on a straight and narrow path. They didn't want to have to answer to the giant in the police uniform.

Roger Synott, a Houston area antique dealer, grew up in Garden Oaks attending the Saturday double features shown at the theater of the

74 The BLUES POLICE MAGAZINE



HPD officer W.C. "Tiny" Romund, right, with escaped convict Billy Gene Burden

same name. This was back when individual theaters were usually identified with the neighborhoods which fed a steady stream of kiddie viewers, especially on Saturdays.

Synott's memories are vivid. He recalled:

"The first time I ever saw Tiny was at the Garden Oaks Theater. I didn't know it at the time that it was an extra job for him. He was in the lobby when I walked in and learned his

name was Tiny. We called him Mr. Tiny and we all gravitated toward him every Saturday and said, 'Hi, Mr. Tiny.'

"He was just somebody that was bigger than life. He was so nice. He never raised his voice. At the time we thought his daughter was the cashier. But I read somewhere that he never had kids.

"If you grew up on the north side of Houston you knew who Tiny was.

We never knew his last name. We knew him as Mr. Tiny – a policeman the kids idolized."

Synott's idolizing extends through to this day. In fact, your Badge & Gun editor purchased the enclosed photo of Officer Romund from Synott at his antique booth at the Spring Antique Mall.

The dealer in Houston nostalgia doesn't rank as the only grown-up admirer of Tiny.

Another, Wayne Sikes, once said, "If you grew up in Garden Oaks or Oak Forest in the '50s you knew Tiny. He is to this day still somewhat legendary with older members of law enforcement who started their careers in Houston PD. Looking back, us kids were afraid of him in the sense that we did not want to raise his ire by doing something wrong that he would catch us at, but from what I have heard over the years he was a pussycat when it came to a love of kids and helping keep them out of trouble."

#### BIGGEST HPD OFFICER EVER

Another man from the same era – an Internet blogger – once told an interviewer, "Tiny was kind of an ambassador all around Houston. He went to the schools to represent the police department, showed up at many functions and was always at the rodeo, circus and other stuff at the Coliseum. He was a big, big guy and was a hero to many."

Tiny's size, disposition and effectiveness lent themselves to regular newspaper articles, many of which served as deterrents. One case in point in the early 1950s was the account of a 48-inch thief, all of



nine years old, who happened to be caught and detained by Tiny, described in this particular Post article as "the beloved Officer Walter C. 'Tiny' Romund."

Records in the Houston Police Museum also stress the fact that Tiny was anything but a hero to the real lawbreakers. Tiny's patrol car was specially equipped to handle his extraordinary size. It included a special front seat with heavy duty shocks and springs.

HPD historian Denny Hair, the founding director of the HPD Museum, quoted from an article that once appeared in The Houston Post:

"He was the largest man to ever wear a Houston police officer's badge and uniform. His exploits would become legendary and he was one of the jolliest and beloved officers.

"His size did not slow him down and he was said to have immense strength. He was provided a special car so the seat could be pushed back almost to the back seat. It was equipped with special shocks.

"His hands were said to be the size of ham hocks and he was capable of lifting a grown man off his feet with one hand. He was also very quick both on his feet and in a



fight, though few crooks wanted to fight with him.

"He collapsed of a heart attack while attending another officer's funeral many years after this newspaper's article. He was one of Houston's most popular officers and all of Houston citizens and officers alike mourned his death."

Tiny was a Harris County native who regarded his service as a Houston police officer as his life's calling. Overall, he served HPD for more 30 years. He stood tall and stayed that way. Even at the time of his death he was 6-foot-8 and at least 300 pounds.

Hair said "That imposing figure put fear in the heart of one criminal who happened to cross his path in 1951. In May of that year, three men escaped from the Wynne State Prison Farm in Huntsville. One was captured not too far away from the prison farm, but two others – including Billy Gene Burden, serving time for burglary – made their way to north Houston before being captured."

Burden got his picture in the paper, too – under the shadow of the HPD officer who captured him, Tiny Romund.

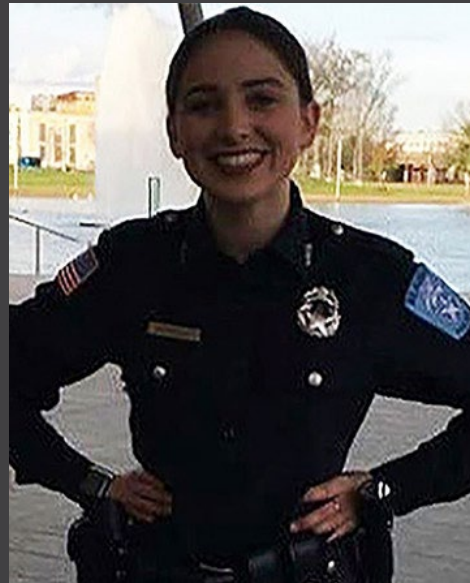
Reprinted from the HPOU Badge & Gun

The BLUES POLICE MAGAZINE 75





# honoring our fallen heroes



## Police Officer

Sheena Dae Yarbrough-Powell  
Beaumont Police Dept., Texas

End of Watch Sunday, August 9, 2020

Age 23 Tour 2 Years Badge #114

Police Officer Sheena Yarbrough-Powell was killed when her patrol car was struck head-on by a wrong-way driver on Cardinal Drive near the Highway 347 overpass.

The crash occurred on the divided highway at approximately 2:30 am. Her partner was seriously injured in the crash. The 18-year-old driver of the other vehicle was also injured and was later charged with manslaughter and intoxication assault.

Officer Yarbrough-Powell had served with the Beaumont Police Department for two years. She is survived by her husband..



## Ranger

Brendan Unitt  
Larimer County Dept. of Natural Resources, Colorado

End of Watch Thursday, August 20, 2020

Age 27 Tour 6 Months Badge #P246  
Military Veteran

Ranger Brendan Unitt drowned while responding to a distressed boater on Horsetooth Reservoir near Soldier Canyon Dam at about 9:30 pm. Ranger Unitt had been conducting a foot patrol at the campgrounds on the west shore of the reservoir when a strong-wind event occurred. He was dispatched to assist a distressed boater, but when he returned to his boat he discovered it had been blown off of the shoreline. It is believed that he removed his flotation device in an attempt to swim to the boat to retrieve it. A massive search was undertaken when he failed to arrive at the distressed boater call or respond to dispatchers. His body was located at approximately 3:30 am the following morning. Ranger Unitt was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and had served with the Larimer County Department of Natural Resources for only six months.



## Sergeant

Ricardo Perez-Ortiz  
Puerto Rico Police Dept., Puerto Rico

End of Watch Monday, August 24, 2020

Age 52 Tour 26 years Badge #8-19718

Sergeant Ricardo Perez-Ortiz succumbed to gunshot wounds sustained on April 30th, 2020, when he was confronted by armed subjects while en route to work at 11:50 pm. He was in uniform and driving his personal vehicle on Avenue Jesús T. Piñero at the interchange with Highway 18 when he was surrounded by a group of people driving motorcycles and off-road vehicles who were violating COVID-19 curfew restrictions. The other drivers surrounded his vehicle, forcing him to come to a stop. At least one of the subjects in the group opened fire on him, striking him three times before fleeing. He was able to assist homicide investigators with information before succumbing to his wounds on August 24th, 2020. Sergeant Perez-Ortiz had served with the Puerto Rico Police Department for 26 years and was posthumously promoted to the rank of Sergeant. He is survived by his brother.



## Police Officer

Jonathan Shoop  
Bothell Police Dept., Washington

End of Watch Monday, July 13, 2020

Age 32 Tour 1 year Badge # N/A  
Military Veteran

Police Officer Jonathan Shoop was shot and killed in the 10300 block of Woodinville Drive following a vehicle pursuit. At approximately 9:40 pm Officer Shoop and his field training officer attempted to stop a vehicle for failing to display a license plate. The vehicle fled the stop, struck a man on a scooter, and then crashed on Woodinville Drive. The occupant of the vehicle emerged, made anti-police statements, and immediately opened fire on officers, who were still in the patrol car. Officer Shoop's field training officer returned fire, during which Officer Shoop was inadvertently struck in the head and killed.

Officer Shoop was a U.S. Coast Guard veteran and had served with the Bothell Police Department for one year. He is survived by his fiancée, mother, and two brothers.



# honoring our fallen heroes



Police Officer  
Bryan Brown  
Tohono O'odham Nation Police Dept., Tribal Police

End of Watch Thursday, August 27, 2020

Age N/A Tour 19 years Badge 129

Police Officer Bryan Brown was killed as he and other officers responded to reports of an armed man driving erratically near the Desert Diamond Why Casino near Why, Arizona, at about 9:00 a.m. When Officer Brown arrived at the scene the man immediately approached him while holding a broken bottle, prompting Officer Brown to back up as he sought cover and issued commands. The man got into Officer Brown's vehicle, stealing it, and drove down Arizona 86 before making a U-turn and intentionally ramming a United States Border Patrol vehicle. He then accelerated as he drove directly toward Officer Brown, who was able to shoot the subject before being struck by the vehicle.

Officer Brown was a U.S Army veteran of the Gulf War. He had served with the Tohono O'odham Nation Police Department for 19 years, including 10 years as a school resource officer. He is survived by his wife, seven children, four stepchildren, eight grandchildren, seven siblings, and his father.



Corporal  
Bryant Searcy  
Wayne County Sheriff's Office, Michigan

End of Watch Wednesday, September 2, 2020

Age 50 Tour 18 years Badge N/A

Corporal Bryant Searcy was killed when he was assaulted by an inmate at about 10:00 pm at Jail Division 2 at 525 Clinton Street in Detroit. He suffered severe injuries during the struggle with the inmate after he was attacked. He was transported to Detroit Receiving Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. The inmate who attacked him remains in custody.

Corporal Bryant had served with the Wayne County Sheriff's Office for 18 years and was assigned to Jail Division 2. He is survived by his wife and daughter.



Police Officer  
Tamarris Bohannon  
St. Louis Metro Police Dept., Missouri

End of Watch Sunday, August 30, 2020

Age 29 Tour 3 years, 6 Months Badge # 231

Police Officer Tamarris Bohannon succumbed to a gunshot sustained the previous night when he and other officers were ambushed in the 3700 block of Hartford Street at about 6:00 pm.

He and other officers were dispatched to reports of a shooting in the area. They were searching for a victim when a man opened fire on them, striking Officer Bohannon in the head and a second officer in the leg. The man then forced two residents out of their home and barricaded himself inside. Officer Bohannon was taken to a local hospital where he succumbed to his wound.

Officer Bohannon had served with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department for 3-1/2 years. He is survived by his wife and three children.



Trooper  
Thomas William Devlin  
Massachusetts State Police, MA.

End of Watch Thursday, September 3, 2020

Age 56 Tour 33 years Badge # N/A

Trooper Thomas Devlin succumbed to injuries sustained on July 26th, 2020, when he was struck by a vehicle on Route 3, south of exit 29 in Billerica, while conducting a traffic stop. He was speaking to the driver of the vehicle he stopped when another vehicle entered the shoulder of the roadway and struck him, pinning him between the two cars. He suffered serious head and back injuries. He passed away from complications of the injuries on September 3rd, 2020.

Trooper Devlin had served with the Massachusetts State Police for 33 years.





# honoring our fallen heroes



## Detective

James Skernivitz

Cleveland Division of Police, Ohio

End of Watch Thursday, September 3, 2020

Age 53 Tour 25 years Badge # 2249

Detective James Skernivitz was shot and killed at about 10:00 pm in the area of West 65th Street and Storer Avenue while working in an undercover capacity as part of a federal task force.

An informant who was with Detective Skernivitz was also killed when a subject opened fire on them while they were both inside of Detective Skernivitz's vehicle. The suspect(s) remain at large.

Detective Skernivitz had served with the Cleveland Division of Police for 25 years. He was assigned to the Gang Impact Unit and the FBI's Violent Crimes Task Force. He is survived by his wife and two children.



## Investigator

Luis "Mario" Herrera

Lincoln Police Dept., Nebraska

End of Watch Monday, September 7, 2020

Age 50 Tour 23 years Badge # 1205

Investigator Mario Herrera succumbed to a gunshot wound sustained on August 26th, 2020, when he and other members of the Metro Area Task Force served an arrest warrant at a home in the area of N 33rd Street and Vine Street. As officers approached the home two subjects inside, including the juvenile homicide suspect, fled from the house. The juvenile opened fire, striking Investigator Herrera in the chest. He was transported to a local hospital before being transferred to the Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. He succumbed to his wound on September 7th, 2020.

Investigator Herrera had served with the Lincoln Police Department for 23 years. He is survived by his wife and four children.

## Fallen K9 Officers



K9 ROSCOE

Anderson County Sheriff's Office, South Carolina

End of Watch:

Wednesday August 12, 2020

Breed German Shepherd

Gender Male

Age 3 Tour 2 yrs.

K9 Roscoe was shot and killed from ambush while tracking two suspects who had bailed out of a vehicle following a pursuit.

The pursuit had started after deputies attempted to make a traffic stop but was terminated as it entered a more populated area. Several minutes later the vehicle was involved in a crash in the 3500 block of Clemson Boulevard and two subjects, a male and a female, fled on foot. As deputies responded to the scene, K9 Roscoe began a track from the crash site. As the deputies went up a hill, they were ambushed by the two suspects who opened fire on them, striking K9 Roscoe. Deputies returned fire, killing the male subject, and wounding the female subject.

K9 Roscoe was taken to a local veterinary hospital where he died the following morning. K9 Roscoe had served with the Anderson County Sheriff's Office for two years.



K9 RONJA

Tacoma Police Dept., Washington

End of Watch:

Thursday, August 13, 2020

Breed German Shepherd

Gender Female

Age 2 Tour 8 months.

K9 Ronja was shot and killed while tracking a murder suspect in the 3600 block of South M Street at about 1:30 am.

Another officer had spotted the man in a vehicle and recognized him as being wanted in connection to a murder that had occurred the previous night. The subject led officers on a vehicle pursuit until crashing and bailing out on foot. K9 Ronja and her handler arrived at the scene and began a track for the subject. The man opened fire on officers when he was located in the 3600 block of M Street and struck K9 Ronja.

K9 Ronja was taken to a veterinary hospital where she died later in the morning. K9 Ronja had served with the Tacoma Police Department for only eight months.





# Big Game Season 2020... Are you Ready?

When it is 100 degrees outside it is hard to think about putting on hunting boots, full camouflage and heading into the woods. However, this Labor Day came with talk of cool fronts for Texas and record snows in Colorado. That is all it took for me to get mentally in the game for hunting season. If you are a Texas deer hunter, then you have until Nov 7th for the general season to start but only until Oct 3rd for archery season to open. For those of us that also look forward to a trip to the mountains, Colorado Elk season starts Oct 10th for the first rifle draw season, but archery seasons opens Sept 2nd.... I board my flight in a couple of days for an elk bow hunting trip in Rocky Mountains and I can't wait.

Over the last thirty days I have reflected on the important preparation that goes into any big game hunt to make it successful. Top two tips: Check your Gear and Scout the Area.

#1 Check your Gear: I know if you are like me, you clean your gun and other equipment after every hunt and carefully store it away after the season, so what could possibly be wrong with it? Well for one, technology changes causing you to realize that you might need to upgrade some of your equipment even though it

may seem like it is still functioning just fine. The best example of this is my recent purchase of a safety harness for my climbing tree stand. I have been using the same safety belt for almost 35 years, which essentially was a woven belt that goes around your waist with a safety line that you attach around the tree. I can only imagine the look on the rescuers face if I were to ever fall out of the tree and be dangling horizontally by a cord around my waist 20 feet above the ground.



*Latest improvement in safety equipment is one reason to check out your old hunting gear.*



**RUSTY BARRON**

This year I will be wearing a legitimate safety harness made by Muddy ([gomuddy.com](http://gomuddy.com)) and hopefully would not need a rescuer if I were to fall out of the tree now. I also went to my local archery shop to purchase some additional arrows only to be surprised how much technology has improved in arrows as well...so I am now shooting lighter arrows better matched to my bow that should improve my accuracy. However, checking your gear doesn't always mean replacing it. It also includes shooting your gun to make sure your scope is still sighted in, especially if you need to purchase new ammo. Your GPS units and flashlights need fresh batteries. Bug repellent gets old. Rubber O-rings on game calls get brittle and break. Overall you just need to get all our equipment out and check it over well advance of a hunt.



*Elk Season opens Sept 2nd in Colorado*

The night before or the morning of the hunt is usually too late, and you certainly don't want to discover the problem on the hunt when you go to use it.

#2 Scout your Area: I am a believer that if you have enough time on any hunt, you can figure out where the game is and when/where they are moving. However, most of us don't have the luxury take a couple of weeks off for a hunt but rather most of us go with family and friends on hunts over long weekends. Therefore, scouting an area before the hunt is critical to try and understand animal movements and get a game plan for your best chance at success.

I personally really enjoy spending time walking the woods outside of the season and thus I am constantly scouting the area to learn about the animals and how their patterns change with weather and pressure from people. This has led me to the conclusion that to effectively plan for a hunt, you need to be in the woods scouting the week before the hunt to understand the deer or elk's latest movements. As we said this is not normally possible, but in today's technology rich world we live in, game cameras make this possible. For about \$60 per camera you can get some great quality cameras that will last you for years. I was in Colorado

about a month ago, scouting my elk hunting area and setting up 5 cameras so I will be able to lay out a good game plan as I head into the woods next week with bow in hand.

The next time now you hear the weatherman talking about "cool" fronts moving into Texas, think about hunting season and go pull out of your gear for a quick check. At the very least, it will take your mind off the craziness of 2020 and get yourself thinking about spending time in the woods, and in the best case, it will make the difference for a successful hunt.

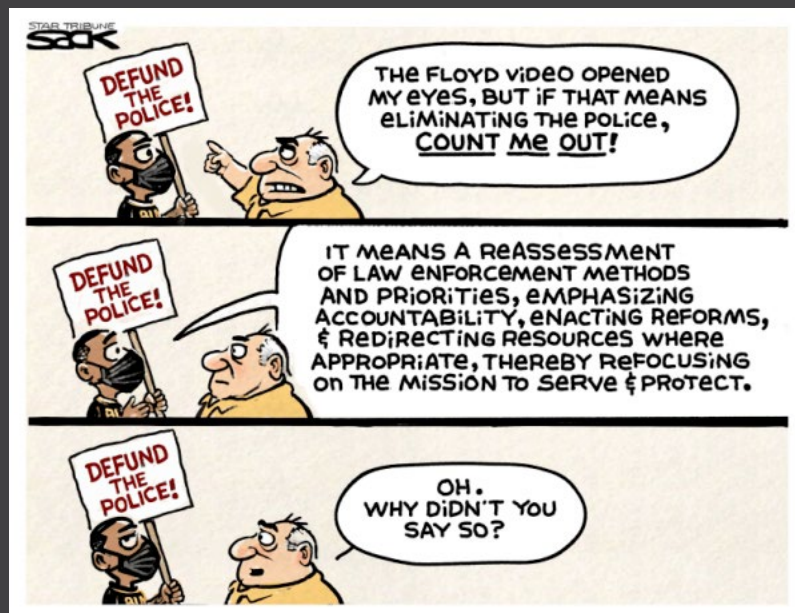
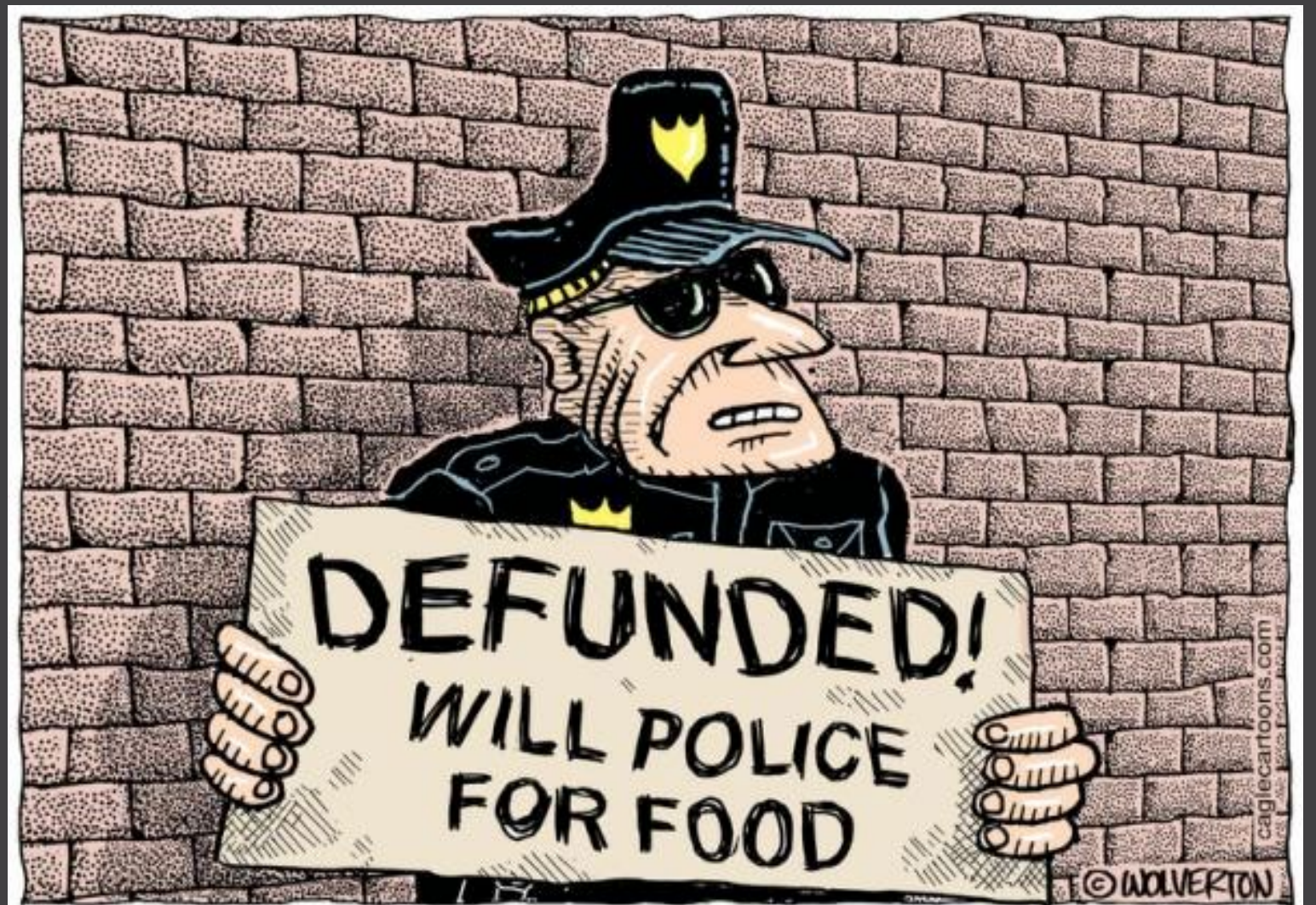
Good luck this hunting season.



...parting shots.



...parting shots.





# ~~light bulb award~~ genius award

Tonawanda residents want a new policy that allows police to accept 'sexual gratuities'

**EDITOR: I swear you can't make this crap up. Only in 2020 !**

Following tawdry rumors over a sexual misconduct allegation against a popular career police officer, Brett Rider, 46, several Town of Tonawanda residents are pushing the Town Board to change its policies to allow officers to receive 'sexual gratuities' while on duty.

The policy would not allow officers to request sexual gratuities under any circumstance, but in the event that such a non-monetary gratuity is offered, the officer would not be punished for accepting it, so long as the encounter is less than 15 minutes and the officer declines to take his next scheduled 15 minute break.

The Town of Tonawanda is planning to discuss the possible termination of Rider, a veteran public safety dispatcher, after an internal investigation found he committed misconduct on the job. A resolution that has been prepared to terminate him will be on the agenda for Monday's Town Board meeting.

"In this political environment, with all the horrible things being said about our police officers in the national media, this policy would be a real morale booster," says Karen, a Tonawanda resident and supporter of the policy change who asked that her last name not be published. She is leading a woman's group that is lobbying for the new policy, and she is encouraging other supporters of the new policy to join her at Monday's Town Board Meeting.



"Our police officers are total gentlemen. More times than not, they would politely decline any physical gratuities," she explains. "People should feel comfortable expressing how much they appreciate the police and the work that they do."

The Town Board resolution doesn't offer specifics about the misconduct, but it's widely rumored that Rider is accused of having sexual intercourse with a married woman, age 56, while on duty. The Chronicle is unable to confirm the veracity of rumors that Rider was propositioned by the woman and that several days later her husband learned of the encounter and was displeased.

"The Town Board took this violation of town policy very seriously," said Tonawanda Supervisor Joseph Emminger, adding he couldn't say anything more about a personnel matter.

Rider, 46, initially was suspended

ed with pay before his status was changed to suspended without pay, according to officials familiar with the situation. The town began looking into Rider about a month ago after receiving a misconduct complaint, presumably from the displeased husband.

Town Attorney Mario A. Giacobbe led the investigation and reported his findings to Police Chief James Stauffiger, who concluded following a disciplinary hearing that Rider's conduct warranted termination, according to the Town Board resolution.

*Currently they are 37,678 applications from police officers all over the country that have indicated they wish to participate in Tonawanda's Lateral Transfer Policy. According to the departments recruiting officer, "I doubt you'll find better benefits at any department in the U.S." I should say not.*  
EDITOR.

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...last minute additions.



# Trump backs LE on trip to Kenosha

## Vowes to pump millions to rebuild Kenosha and fund law enforcement efforts statewide

By Bill Ruthhart and  
Rick Pearson, Chicago Tribune

KENOSHA, Wis. — President Donald Trump took his reelection message of law and order to riot-torn Kenosha and the key electoral state of Wisconsin on Tuesday, saying he doesn't believe law enforcement is systemically racist and contending that those protesting for structural change in American society are ignoring those who want safety.

Making the trip over the objections of the Democratic governor and mayor, the Republican president lavished praise on a state essential to his 2016 election and a crucial one for his reelection prospects against Democrat Joe Biden. Trump vowed to pump millions of dollars to help rebuild Kenosha and fund law enforcement efforts statewide.

"Kenosha's been ravaged by anti-police and anti-American riots," said Trump, who criticized "violent mobs" for destroying businesses and throwing bricks at police in an act he likened to "domestic terrorism."

But Trump did not visit Jacob Blake, the 29-year-old Black man left paralyzed after being shot in the back by a Kenosha police officer on Aug. 23, leading to days of protest, unrest and buildings destroyed by fire. The president also did not mention Kyle Rittenhouse, a 17-year-old from Antioch charged with subsequently killing two protesters and wounding a third, a day after he refused to denounce the accused vigilante.

The Blake family did not welcome Trump's visit and held their own event nearby. Justin Blake, an uncle, said the family refuses to let Trump use Jacob Blake's shooting as a "political prop."

In many ways, Trump's message in Kenosha after touring some damaged businesses was a continuation of last



week's Republican National Convention, where he was nominated to seek a second term. Republicans view the issues of violence and social unrest as key to win back voters in the suburbs while accusing Democrats of pushing actions that make society less safe.

Trump described his rhetoric to reporters as "helping" to heal divisions because it was about "law and order."

For their part, Democrats have contended Trump's sharp rhetoric has been divisive and has encouraged acts of violence.

"This president long ago forfeited any moral leadership in this country. He can't stop the violence — because for years he has fomented it," Biden said during a Monday speech in Pittsburgh. "He may believe mouthing the words 'law and order' makes him strong, but his failure to call on his own supporters to stop acting as an armed militia in this country shows you how weak he is. Does anyone believe there will be less violence in America if Donald Trump is reelected?"

On Tuesday, after speaking at a roundtable with local political, business and law enforcement leaders at Mary D. Bradford High School, the site of the

city's emergency operations center, Trump was asked by a reporter whether he believed systemic racism existed in the nation's law enforcement system.

"I don't believe that at all. I've met so many police. I have the endorsement of like so many, maybe everybody. And frankly I think they're incredible people. They want to do the right thing," Trump said.

As for protesters' calls for structural change regarding racism in society, Trump said he believed the issue should be considered from the viewpoints of those who aren't in the streets.

"I think people are calling for structural change, and then you can take the people of Kenosha that aren't here and that you won't see and that aren't protesting. But they want change also. They want law and order. That's the change they want," he said.

Trump again sought to claim credit for calling in the Wisconsin National Guard to deal with Kenosha protests that turned violent, though Democratic Gov. Tony Evers made that decision. The president said he came to Kenosha to deliver a thank-you to law enforcement.

"What you've done has been incred-

ible. It's been really inspiring because you see it happening all over and it just never seems to end and it never seems to end because it's almost as though they don't want it to end," he said.

Despite the significant political overtones of Trump's visit, he did not mention Biden. But he did attack Democratic governors and mayors who do not heed his call for use of the National Guard or intervention by federal law enforcement to quell violence in their cities.

Trump said federal intervention of agents in Chicago, one of his frequent targets, has shown results, though his comments appeared to inflate the actual numbers.

Trump claimed 1,000 arrests by federal agents in the first month of the surge of federal law enforcement under Operation Legend, though it was unclear whether he was speaking about only Chicago. On Aug. 18, the U.S. attorney's office noted that more than 60 people were hit with federal charges under Operation Legend since it began in Chicago on July 22.

Democratic U.S. Rep. Mark Pocan, a Kenosha native who represents the neighboring congressional district that includes Madison, said Trump only "promotes racial division" and criticized the president for not "taking a stand against the attitude of militia of vigilantes" coming into Kenosha.

"You should not be able to be a vigilante walking down the street with a long arm (rifle) and not be stopped. He shot someone and did not get stopped," Pocan said of 17-year-old Trump supporter Kyle Rittenhouse, who has been charged with killing two protesters and wounding a third during unrest in Kenosha last week.

Attorney General William Barr, who made the visit with Trump, also contended that "instigators coming from Chicago" helped fuel the violence in Kenosha.

On Monday, Kenosha County Sheriff David Beth said of 205 people arrested, 114 had addresses outside of Kenosha, including 44 other cities. Authorities did not release specifics on where outside protesters were from, however.

Barr said the violence that erupted in Kenosha was "not a legitimate response to a police shooting" but instead "violence for violence sake."

As for the investigation of the shooting of Blake by Kenosha officer Rusten Sheskey, in which the U.S. Department of Justice is involved, Barr said it will involve "due process" in an effort to reach a "dispassionate, reasoned decision."

"We do not allow judgments to be reached by mob violence," Barr said.

While Trump extolled the law enforcement community, he acknowledged that there were some "bad apples" but also said people should consider the pressure and stress police face and that sometimes they "choke" and make a bad decision.

"They're under tremendous pressure, and they may be there for 15 years and have a spotless record and all of a sudden they're faced with a decision. They have a quarter of a second, quarter of a second to make a decision. And if they make a wrong decision, one way or the other, they're either dead or in big trouble," he said.

The president said police aren't given enough credit for the jobs they do when the focus is on incidents of shooting or other questionable tactics used by law enforcement.

Trump motorcaded to Kenosha after Air Force One landed at Waukegan National Airport. As the motorcade passed where Rittenhouse is accused of shooting three protesters, he was greeted by hundreds of demonstrators representing Black Lives Matter as well as supporters of the president.

Protesters on each side chanted at each other and waved signs. Some said Black Lives Matter and BLM. Other signs said, "Thank you Trump," held by people wearing red Make America Great hats.

Trump characterized the ride this way: "There was love in the streets and so many African Americans, Hispanics I can see waving. It was so beautiful to see. They want to have safety."

Black Lives Matter protesters squared off with Trump supporters for most of the morning and afternoon, much of it centered at Civic Center Park, the site of violent clashes last week between law enforcement and demonstrators.

"No justice, no peace! No racist police!" the protesters shouted, while holding "Black Lives Matter" banners and anti-Trump signs. Trump support-

ers responded by waving American flags and Trump reelection flags while chanting "All Lives Matter!" and "Four more years!"

As Trump spoke at the local high school, a little more than a mile away Blake's family threw a block party to help the community come together.

"The president just seems to have an agenda, but we have one, too — justice for Jacob Blake ... and helping Kenosha with the injustice and racism they deal with on a regular basis," said uncle Justin Bluke as 2Pac's "Changes" blared from a set of speakers hooked up to a turntable. "Do you see Trump here? This is where you heal the community. He's not present, is he?"

The party took place on a block dotted with small two-story apartment buildings and modest ranch homes. Barbecue smoke hung in the air, as volunteers served food, set up a bouncy house for children, offered free haircuts and registered voters. At a crafts station, children colored signs to be put up in Jacob Blake's hospital room, because as his uncle told the crowd, "that's better than any medicine they've got in that hospital for little Jake."

Blake said the family held the event because "building and making our community better has always been in our DNA." Jacob Blake's grandfather, also named Jacob Blake, served as pastor of Ebenezer AME Church in Evanston and was a local leader in the civil rights movement, according to Chicago Tribune archives.

A number of activists with the newly formed Black Lives Activists of Kenosha, or BLAK, attended the block party, and said they would spend no time addressing Trump's trip to the city.

Parl Green, 32, said he was more focused on having a good time with his community and helping people unwind from the stress of the last 10 days.

"It's a great way to bring the community together, which has been stressed this last week from everything Jake has been through, the rioting, the burning of Uptown," said Green, who is originally from Chicago's Roseland neighborhood but moved to Kenosha. "It's just great to have everyone come out and enjoy themselves just a little bit."

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Police Officer 09/09/2020 - 5pm  
 Police Officer 10/16/2020 - 5pm  
 Police Officer 09/30/2020 - 5pm  
 Police Officer 09/10/2020 - 5pm  
 Police Officer 09/25/2020 - 5pm  
 Chief of Police 09/25/2020 - 5pm  
 Police Officer 09/29/2020 - 5pm  
 Police Officer 10/03/2020 - 5pm  
 Police Officer 09/03/2020 - 5pm  
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 Police Sergeant 09/30/2020 - 5pm  
 Lieutenant 09/06/2020 - 5pm  
 Chief of Police 09/06/2020 - 5pm  
 Police Officer 09/06/2020 - 5pm  
 Police Officer 10/10/2020 - 5pm  
 Police Officer 09/30/2020 - 5pm  
 Police Officer 09/07/2020 - 5pm  
 Police Officer 09/07/2020 - 5pm  
 Police Officer 09/07/2020 - 5pm  
 Deputy Fire Marshal 09/30/2020 - 5pm  
 Chief 09/25/2020 - 5pm  
 Peace Officer 09/12/2020 - 5pm  
 Police Officer 09/14/2020 - 5pm  
 Police Officer 09/12/2020 - 5pm  
 Chief of Police 09/12/2020 - 5pm  
 Police Officer 09/13/2020 - 5pm  
 Police Officer 09/13/2020 - 5pm  
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 Police Officer 09/25/2020 - 5pm  
 Police Officer 09/25/2020 - 5pm  
 Police Officer 10/25/2020 - 5pm  
 City Marshal 10/25/2020 - 5pm  
 Police Officer 09/28/2020 - 5pm  
 Police 11/01/2020 - 5pm  
 Police Officer 10/02/2020 - 5pm  
 Police Officer 11/30/2020 - 5pm  
 Chief of Police 09/08/2020 - 5pm  
 Police Officer 10/15/2020 - 5pm  
 City Marshal 10/01/2020 - 5pm

# BAYTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Starting Pay \$62,844

\$1,500 Signing Incentive

# Now Hiring!

## Patrol Officers



### SALARY (YEARLY)

- Probationary Patrol Officer \$62,844
- 5 Year Patrol Officer \$75,682
- 9 Year Patrol Officer \$87,464
- Annual salary increases up to a max of \$87,464 with longevity pay
- Modified Lateral Pay Scale for Peace Officers

### CERTIFICATION PAY (MONTHLY)

- Intermediate PO Certification \$92.08
- Advanced PO Certification \$157.08
- Master's PO Certification \$212.33

### EDUCATION PAY (MONTHLY)

- Associates \$50
- Bachelors \$100
- Master \$125

### EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

- Health Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Vision Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Employee Wellness Center
- Training and Fitness Facility
- Retirement Plan (7% Mandatory with a 2:1 City match; 20 year retirement)
- 457 Deferred Compensation Plan
- Tuition Reimbursement and Academy Tuition Reimbursement
- City Vehicles Program
- Uniforms/Equipment Provided with Annual Allowances

### PAID LEAVE \*Civil Service Status

- 15 Vacation days accrued per year\*
- 10 City Holidays per year
- 1 Personal day per year
- 15 Sick days accrued per year
- 15 days of Military Leave per year

### SPECIALTY / SKILL PAY (MONTHLY)

- Bilingual in Spanish \$50

### RELOCATION

- Relocation Expenses Reimbursement

### Application Period

Aug 07, 2020 -August 28, 2020

The application acceptance deadline is at 5:00 P.M. (central time)

**Written Examination**  
September 11, 2020

**Physical Agility Test**  
September 11, 2020

**BECOME A  
BAYTOWN  
PATROL OFFICER**



For additional information please use the QR code to go to our recruiting website

For more information:

**281-420-5354**

**281-420-6660**

**www.bpdcareers.org**





# BASTROP POLICE DEPARTMENT



**Serve  
with  
Honor**  
**JOIN THE FORCE**

**Experienced / Lateral Officers with 5 or more years experience start at \$56,128.**  
**Basic peace officers start at \$50,952.**  
**\$10,000 retention bonus over 6 years.**  
**Intermediate, Advanced, and Masters TCOLE certification Pay.**  
**12 hour shifts with every second Friday, Saturday, and Sunday off.**  
**Full Uniform and all equipment provided.**

**INTEGRITY**  
**COMMUNITY HONOR**



## BASIC REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be a U.S. Citizen and 18 years of age or older
- High School Diploma / GED
- Current and valid Texas Driver's License or ID (*depending on position applying for*)
- Eyesight must be correctable to 20/20
- Hearing must be in normal range
- Complete all interviews and required testing
- Weight **MUST** be in proportion to height (*as determined by County Medical Staff*)
- No convictions for any Felony, Class A Misdemeanor or Family Violence Offense
- No Class B Misdemeanor convictions within the last 10 years
- Must be willing to work nights, weekends and holidays and any post or shift
- Pre and Post-employment drug screens
- Extensive background investigation
- Must pass polygraph, physical and psychological examinations

***You must meet at least one of the following requirements to apply for any Deputy Sheriff position:***

- 30 College Hours / 2.0 GPA
- Current Valid TCOLE Peace Officer License
- 2 Years satisfactory as a Detention Service Officer (DSO) with the Dallas County Sheriff Department
- 2 Years Active Military with an Honorable Discharge

## SALARY RANGES:

**Deputy Sheriff (FT)**  
**\$28.24**

**Deputy Sheriff (PT Bailiff)**  
**\$28.24**

**Detention Service Officer**  
**\$21.65**

**Communication Tech  
(Dispatcher)**  
**\$21.65**

*The salary listed above is the starting salary pay range; amount offered depends upon qualifications.*

**Clerk III**  
**\$15.81 - \$19.43**

**Clerk II Communication**  
**\$14.93 - \$18.35**

**Clerk I**  
**\$13.86 - \$17.00**

**Courtesy Patrol Tech**  
**\$15.81 - \$19.43**

*The salary listed above is the starting salary pay range; amount offered depends upon qualifications.*

## BENEFITS:

- Texas County District & Retirement System
- Health & Wellness Program
- Tuition Incentive Pay
- Vacation and Sick Time Accruals
- Deferred Compensation Plan
- Employee Assistance Program
- Medical / Dental / Vision
- Life Insurance
- Paid Uniforms
- Paid Training
- Long Term Disability
- Medical Opt-Out
- 10-11 Paid Holidays per Year

## SHERIFF DEPARTMENT CONTACTS:

**Recruiter:** Deputy B. Richmond #1158  
**Direct:** 214.413.4240  
**Email:** Bernard.Richmond@dallascounty.org

**Recruiter:** DSO K. Gabriel #7545  
**Direct:** 214.413.4221  
**Email:** Katrina.Gabriel@dallascounty.org

**Recruiter:** DSO J. Harris #9240  
**Direct:** 214.413.4216  
**Email:** Janet.Harris@dallascounty.org

**Sheriff Recruiting Division / Personnel**  
900 Jackson Street | Suite 300 | Dallas, TX 75202

**P:** 214.741.1094 | **F:** 214.413.4229  
**[www.dallascounty.org/sheriff](http://www.dallascounty.org/sheriff)**



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# Fair Oaks Ranch Police is now hiring

# Police

# Officers



**Currently recruiting TCOLE Certified Peace Officers**

## **Benefits**

- **Salary**
  - \$21.29/hour - \$27.00/hour
  - Years of Experience Adjustments
- **Certificate & Education Pay**
- **Annual Uniform Allowance**
- **12 Paid Holidays**
- **Paid Vacation/Sick Leave**
- **20 Year Retirement**
- **Long/Short term disability**
- **Insurance**
  - Medical
  - Dental
  - Vision
  - Life
- **Officers allowed 1 hour on-duty to exercise**
- **Training Provided by Department**
- **All Uniforms and Equipment provided upon employment**
- **12-hour work shifts with every other weekend off**
- **Promotes Higher Education**

**GO TO:**

**[www.fairoaksranchtx.org/jobs](http://www.fairoaksranchtx.org/jobs)**



**Fair Oaks Ranch Police Department**  
**7286 Dietz Elkhorn**  
**Fair Oaks Ranch, Texas 78015**  
**PH: 210-698-0990 Fax: 210-698-1647**



## **CITY OF LA PORTE**

**La Porte Police Department**

3001 N. 23<sup>rd</sup> St.  
 La Porte, Texas 77571  
 Phone 281-471-2141

**POSITION OPEN UNTIL FILLED**

## **LATERAL POLICE OFFICER JOB OPENING**

The La Porte Police Department is a Civil Service Police Department and is a professional organization that prides itself on delivering the highest level of service possible. Our employees care about our city and strive to serve with compassion, honesty and sincerity.

The La Porte Police Department is currently looking for dedicated men and women interested in an outstanding career in law enforcement. We are currently recruiting Lateral Police Officers with immediate openings. Interested applicants please complete the application, TCOLE Personal History Statement and Authorization to Release located on our website [www.laportepdcareers.com](http://www.laportepdcareers.com).

## **LATERAL REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants must be TCOLE certified peace officers or enrolled in or must have graduated from an accredited Police Academy and possess a Basic Peace Officer license issued by TCOLE by the time of appointment. The applicant must:

- Pass a physical fitness test (15 push-ups in one minute, 20 sit-ups in one minute, 1.5 mile run in 17:15, 300 meter run in 80 seconds)
- Pass a psychological examination, polygraph examination, physical examination, and a drug screen
- Pass an oral interview examination and a background check
- Demonstrate weapons proficiency

Officers pay ranges from \$59,322-\$84,032, Sergeants range from \$83,346-\$96,325 and Lieutenants range from \$99,216-\$110,698 (not including available incentive pay and bonuses).

Shift differential pay of \$.75 more an hour for Evening Shift and \$1.00 more an hour for Night Shift.

Lateral officers can start employment here up to the 7 year step on the pay scale based upon experiences in a similar size agency or larger.

## **INCENTIVE PAY**

- Master's Certificate granted by TCOLE the sum of \$150.00 per month
- Advanced Certificate granted by TCOLE the sum of \$125.00 per month
- Intermediate Certificate granted by TCOLE the sum of \$100.00 per month
- Master's Degree obtained from an accredited university the sum of \$150.00
- Bachelor's Degree obtained from an accredited university the sum of \$125.00
- Associate Degree obtained from an accredited university the sum of \$100.00





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