



# THE SHIELD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BALTIMORE RETIRED  
POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

SERVED WITH HONOR

EARLY 2026

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BALTIMORE RETIRED  
POLICE BENEVOLENT  
ASSOCIATION  
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P.O. Box 935  
Bel Air, MD 21214

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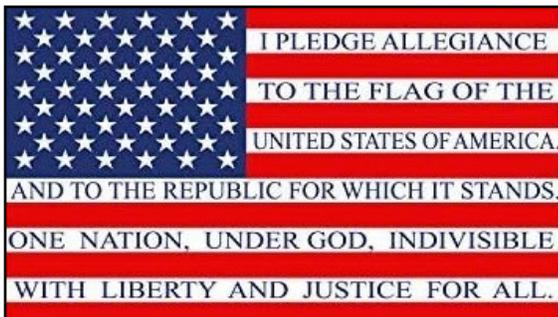
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Daryl Buhrman*

Hello all,

Not much to tell. I'm not doing as well as I had hoped. I'm not asking for sympathy; merely letting you know that all is not well. I am on home hospice with aides that come a few times a week to help me. Take care everyone.

**NOTE: The BRPBA is closing our Baltimore City P.O. box as it was just too difficult to maintain given their operating hours. All mail will now go to our Bel Air post office box, which is P.O. Box 935, Bel Air, MD 21014**

## MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings to Everyone,

I hope this newsletter finds you doing well. I know we are all glad this past Winter is almost over. I hope you got through the bad weather and extreme cold safely and healthy. Hopefully, by the time you get this newsletter, Spring is here along with much needed warmer temperatures.

Our Christmas Party meeting this past December was a big success. It was great to see so many of our members at this event. As you all know, we allowed members to bring their spouse or significant other to our party. It was good to see quite a few people bring their spouse. Remember, we are allowing members to bring their spouses/significant other to our June Shrimp feast party as well. This will be on June 17, 2026, at 6PM. I hope to see you all at this nice event.

As many of you know, our President Daryl Buhrman had some health setbacks over this past Winter. At our December Christmas Party, we passed a hat around to get donations to assist Daryl. I am so happy to report that we raised over \$2300 to give to Daryl to help with his many issues. I really want to thank each one of you that donated to help him. As of this article, Daryl is comfortably resting at home. Please keep Daryl and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

I have been attending the Maryland FOP Legislative Committee meetings for this year's Legislative session. A few bills to make you aware of are as follows:

- HB 2/SB 185. Subtraction Modification-Public Safety Retirement Income. This bill if passed would increase our current State Income Subtraction from \$15,000 to \$20,000.
- HB 126. Regulated Firearms-Seven Day Waiting Period-Exceptions. This bill if passed would eliminate the current 7 day waiting period to purchase a firearm if you are a retired Police Officer in good standing.
- SB 331. Concealed Carry License. This bill if passed would make Concealed Carry Licenses good for 5 years for retired Police Officers, who retired in Good standing.

As the current Legislative Session continues to move forward, I will keep you all posted if any significant bills are introduced.

I hope everyone has a great spring, and Summer is right around the corner. I hope to see you at our next general membership meeting. As always, if you have any ideas concerning things our organization could do for our members, please reach out to someone on the board and let us know.

Take Care,

Mike Wilhelm  
1<sup>ST</sup> Vice President



**Nicholas Caprinola**

**Past President, BRPBA**

**July 16, 1936 – January 3, 2026**

Nicholas “Nick” Caprinola retired from the Baltimore Police Department in 1992. After ten years as a member of the Baltimore Retired Police Benevolent Association (BRPBA), Nick was elected President, a position he served with dedication and distinction for a total of eight years.

I met Nick through the BRPBA and knew him for only a few years. I never worked under him during my police career—my relationship with Nick was solely through the Association. However, it was through that connection that I came to truly understand his deep compassion and unwavering commitment to his fellow retirees.

That understanding became profoundly clear on March 6, 2014. The widow of one of our members suffered a devastating house fire that tragically claimed the life of her daughter. As soon as I reached the hospital and learned that the widow and her granddaughter were safe, I called Nick—completely distraught. I had never spoken with him personally before that moment.

Ms. Jane answered the phone. After I identified myself, she immediately put Nick on the line. Through tears, I told him about the tragedy. Within hours, Nick took action and arranged immediate assistance for my friend.

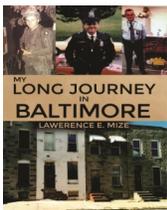
The following day, March 7, 2014, my friend’s daughter was taken off life support. Without hesitation, Nick and the BRPBA Board mobilized. They secured a free funeral through Evans Chapel Funeral Home and a free gravesite at Dulaney Valley Cemetery. I was overwhelmed with gratitude. Witnessing what the BRPBA—under Nick’s leadership—was able to do was truly beyond belief.

Our Trustee, Barry Powell had this to say in a Facebook post:

*“Nick was one of my sergeants in the Eastern District. He also got me involved in our organization and encouraged me to run for trustee. Nick championed and secured a pension benefit increase for a certain class of widows. He served the department well and our organization as president. Life well done, my friend. Rest in peace.”*

To the family and friends of Nick Caprinola, we at the BRPBA extend our deepest condolences. Please know that Nick’s legacy of service, compassion, and leadership will never be forgotten. He will always remain in our thoughts and prayers.

**Kathy Irwin-Conrad**  
**Secretary, BRPBA**



**My Long Journey in Baltimore, by  
our member, Lawrence Mize**



**“Even the darkest night will end and the sun will  
rise.” by Victor Hugo**

## Federal and State Tax Withholding Forms

Bob Haukdal  
F&P Pension Trustee

The new year brought pension increases for many retirees and beneficiaries. As a result, some of you may need to review and possibly adjust your federal (W-4P) and/or Maryland state (MW-507P) tax withholding elections. Both forms are available on the pension system's website.

To access the forms, visit: <https://www.bcfpers.org>

- At the top menu, select Members
- From the dropdown, choose Retirees/Beneficiary Forms
- You will then see links to:
- W-4P – Federal tax withholding form
- MW-507P – Maryland state tax withholding form

You may also make federal and state withholding changes through the BNY Benefits Disbursement Participant website.

For retirees living outside Maryland, any state income tax withholding—new or modified—must be done through the BNY Benefits Disbursement Participant website. The F&P cannot initiate or change out-of-state tax withholdings.

If you choose to update your withholding on the BNY Mellon website:

1. Sign in
2. Select the Accounts tab (upper left)
3. Choose Benefits Disbursements
4. Select Accounts Management
5. Open the Tax Withholding tab

The forms will appear there. BNY Mellon has advised that changes typically take effect within 1–2 days. The website has a telephone icon in the top right corner that will provide a phone number for assistance.

**Are you aware that when a member's spouse dies, the member is due a benefit from the BRPBA? Please let us know when your family has experienced such a loss. Every little bit helps when paying for final expenses.**

"I'd rather regret the things I've done than the things I haven't done." by Lucille Ball

Prepare For the Inevitable  
Bob Haukdal - F&P Trustee

Updated February 2026

The Boy Scout motto is "Be Prepared." Being prepared for application for pension survivor benefits can prevent an unnecessary delay in processing of the benefits. So, below is a list of steps and documents needed to process the claim.

When the retiree passes away, the Baltimore City Fire and Police Employees' Retirement System (F&P) must be notified. The F&P will then send a letter to the surviving spouse to request the following documents:

- Death certificate
- Birth certificate of spouse
- Marriage certificate
- Social Security Card of the surviving spouse
- Copy of a photo ID, such as a driver's license or state ID
- Federal and State tax withholding forms (provided by F&P)
- Direct Deposit form (provided by F&P)
- Voided check for direct deposit to checking account. If is to be deposited into a savings account, then provide a document from the bank verifying your account ownership.
- An email address.

Of course, the sooner the F&P receives the paperwork the better the likelihood there is not a break of payment. Once received, the paperwork must be processed to enter the survivor into the payroll system which is sent to BNY Mellon to initiate payment. Normally, the paperwork must be received by F&P by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for the survivor to receive payment on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the following month.

So, to aid the survivor in completing the process, it would be helpful that you have and know where a copy of your marriage certificate is as well knowing precisely where the survivor's birth certificate and Social Security card are located. To really be prepared, you could email your marriage certificate, your spouse's birth certificate as well as a copy of his/her SS card to the pension system at [ContactBCFP@bcfpers.org](mailto:ContactBCFP@bcfpers.org). Make sure you ask for verification of receipt. Over the years, your beneficiary may have changed. To ensure the F&P has the name of your current beneficiary, you may call them at 410-497-7929, select option 1 for employee benefits. Then ask for someone to verify your beneficiary. They will ask for your name and SS number to verify your identity.

For members whose spouses predeceased them or never had a spouse, notification to the F&P of your passing by whomever is handling affairs is all that is necessary.

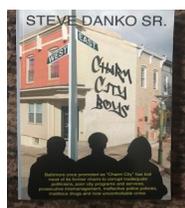
Thanks to Howard Mossovitz, Deputy Executive Director, F&P for his help with this article.



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**MOVING????? PLEASE LET  
THE BRPBA KNOW AT  
[BRPBAOFFICE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BRPBAOFFICE@GMAIL.COM).**

Charm City Boys, by  
our member, Steve  
Danko



They were hired to patrol the TP section!!



**BRPBA License Tag Program  
Pre-Qualification, Eligibility & Application Guide**

Displaying a BRPBA license tag is a visible symbol of pride, service, and continued support for the BRPBA family. Please review the requirements below carefully.

**PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

1. Active Membership  
You must be a member in good standing with the BRPBA.
2. Vehicle Ownership  
Your name must appear on the vehicle title and registration as owner or co-owner. Tags may be issued for a current spouse or child only if your name appears on the registration and the vehicle is registered to your home address. No exceptions.
3. Widows & Widowers  
Widows or widowers of Baltimore Police Officers are automatically BRPBA members and may obtain BRP tags provided they retain their spouse's name and do not remarry.
4. Children of Deceased Members  
Children may continue using existing BRP tags. Transfers are permitted only if allowed by MVA regulations. New applications are not permitted.
5. Resignation  
Members who resign must immediately surrender BRP tags to the MVA. Failure will result in registration revocation and seizure.

**VEHICLE ELIGIBILITY**

- Maryland registered vehicles
- Passenger vehicles, SUVs, motor homes
- Pickup trucks up to one (1) ton
- Motorcycles (minimum 25 member list required)

**NON-ELIGIBLE VEHICLES**

- Out-of-state vehicles
- Campers, commercial vehicles, trailers
- Handicap tagged vehicles

**COSTS & FEES**

- \$30.00 MVA Fee per set
- \$20.00 BRPBA Administrative Fee (tax deductible)
- No administrative fee for widows/widowers

**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Applications must be requested through the BRPBA Tag Committee.

Contact:

Kathy Irwin-Conrad  
Chairperson, BRPBA Tag Committee  
Phone: 410-303-0184  
Email: brpbasecretary@gmail.com

**"Choose to be optimistic, it feels better." by Dali Lama**

Celebrating a Legacy of Service  
The Daryl Buhrman Scholarship Fund

The Daryl Buhrman Scholarship Fund was established to recognize and celebrate the outstanding career, character, and continued impact of Daryl Buhrman, a respected law enforcement professional, mentor, and lifelong advocate for service.

Throughout his career, Daryl Buhrman has exemplified dedication, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to others. Known for his leadership, professionalism, and willingness to support those around him, he has consistently encouraged young people to pursue education, service, and personal growth.

Created in his honor, the scholarship awards \$5,000 to a deserving student who demonstrates strong character, academic commitment, and community involvement—values Daryl has lived by throughout his career and continues to promote today.

The scholarship is open to children and grandchildren of members of the Baltimore Retired Police Benevolent Association (BRPBA).

More than a financial award, the scholarship represents mentorship, encouragement, and belief in potential. It serves as a meaningful way to recognize Daryl's positive influence while investing in future leaders who share his dedication to service.

The success of the Daryl Buhrman Scholarship Fund is made possible through the support of the Buhrman family, scholarship committee members, donors, and community partners who have come together to honor a man whose influence extends well beyond his badge.

Donations may be made to:

The Daryl Buhrman Scholarship Fund  
P.O. Box 935  
Bel Air, MD 21014

A dedicated website for the Daryl Buhrman Scholarship Fund is forthcoming and will be announced at a later date.

Working in the Eastern District one evening about 1989, I, Charles "Chic" Horney and partner, Charles "Mac" McCready (RIP), on a plain clothes detail focusing on a stolen vehicles problem in Sector 3. We get out of rollcall and head for the 7-11 on Edison Highway. Mac must have his Big Gulp Coke before any action. Mac got his Big Gulp, and we started to head to the area where stolen cars are being dumped. Upon leaving 7-11, dispatch puts out that Northeastern officers are chasing a stolen car and lost it at Belair Road and East North Avenue.

I'm driving and Mac is sipping on his Big Gulp when we spot the vehicle at North and Milton. Mac perks up like a meerkat and suddenly, we are chasing this stolen vehicle occupied by three suspects. Mac is trying to save his Big Gulp and he's yelling at me. I say, "get rid of it". He winds down the window and throws the Big Gulp contents out the window. You can hear ice cubes hitting the parked cars. It sounded like severe hail outside.

We get to Montford and Mura and the suspects bail out. Mac and I chase the driver. Up the alley we go and our suspect disappears. Knocking over metal trashcans in our pursuit had caused dogs to bark. Suddenly, the dogs stop barking and it's dead quiet; when the suspect passes gas and we hear what sounded like a duck quack.

Mac looks at me and says "ooohhh noooo he didn't", followed by hysterical laughing. The sound led us directly to the suspect, who was hiding behind a barbecue grill in someone's backyard.

He was arrested alone; the duck got away.

## When the Badge Comes Off: The Hidden Struggle of Law Enforcement Retirement

For three decades, my days began with the weight of responsibility settling on my shoulders along with my uniform. Radio chatter was my constant companion. Adrenaline coursed through my veins as I responded to calls that could change in an instant from routine to life-threatening. I made split-second decisions that affected lives, investigated cases that consumed my thoughts long after my shift ended, and carried the burden of seeing humanity at its worst—and occasionally, its very best. Then one day, it all stopped. The chase, as I call it, was over.

What civilians don't understand is that law enforcement isn't just a job—it's an identity forged in shared danger, mutual dependence, and a mission that extends far beyond a paycheck. When we retire, we don't just leave work; we leave a brotherhood, a purpose, and a version of ourselves that has defined us for decades. But when that retirement is forced and abrupt, when we're denied the closure that comes with proper goodbyes and recognition, the transition becomes even more jarring.

### The Identity Crisis

The transition hits hardest because police work becomes who you are, not just what you do. For thirty years, I introduced myself with rank and department. My badge wasn't just metal pinned to fabric—it was a symbol of authority, responsibility, and belonging to something larger than myself. When that badge came off for the last time, I felt stripped of more than just my authority; I felt stripped of my very sense of self.

The structure that governed every aspect of your working life—shift schedules, chain of command, standard operating procedures—vanishes overnight. Suddenly, there are no calls to answer, no cases to solve, and no clear mission to accomplish. The hypervigilance that kept you alive on the streets doesn't have an off switch, leaving you alert to dangers that no longer exist in your new reality.

### The Invisible Wounds

Thirty years in law enforcement means thirty years of accumulated stress, trauma, and emotional toll. You've seen car accidents that haunt your sleep, domestic violence that breaks your heart, and crimes that challenge your faith in humanity. You've made notifications to families whose worlds just shattered, held dying strangers in your arms, and carried secrets that civilians could never understand.

During your career, survival meant compartmentalizing these experiences, pushing them down to stay focused and functional. But retirement often brings a reckoning with all those suppressed memories and emotions. Without the daily mission to distract from the psychological weight, many officers find themselves confronting decades of trauma all at once.

### The Loss of Brotherhood

Perhaps most difficult is leaving behind the unique camaraderie that exists in law enforcement. Your fellow officers understood the weight you carried because they carried it too. They shared the dark humor that helped you cope, the unspoken understanding of danger, and the absolute trust that comes from depending on each other for survival.

In retirement, you're surrounded by people who've never had to make life-or-death decisions, who've never seen what you've seen, who can't understand why a backfiring car makes you tense or why crowds make you automatically scan for exits. The isolation deepens when you realize that even your former colleagues have moved on, swallowed by their own demanding worlds of active duty. The calls and texts that once kept you connected to the brotherhood slow to a trickle, and then stop altogether. You are no longer one of the team, no longer part of the daily rhythm that once defined your existence. The isolation can be profound, even when surrounded by loving family and friends.

### The Search for New Purpose

After spending three decades protecting and serving, many retired officers struggle to find meaning in pursuits that once seemed fulfilling. The problems of retirement—what to do with free time, how to stay busy—seem trivial compared to the life-and-death responsibilities you once shouldered.

Some find purpose in mentoring young officers and sharing hard-won wisdom with the next generation. Others channel

Applications to join are now available on our website. Feel free to tell other retirees who are thinking of joining. (BRPBA.com)

their investigative skills into new pursuits or volunteer work. But the search for a purpose comparable to law enforcement can be long and difficult.

### **From Hero to Invisible**

Perhaps the most devastating aspect of retirement is the shift from being someone everyone looked to for strength and protection to feeling insignificant and used up. For thirty years, you were the person others called when their world fell apart. You were the authority figure, the problem solver, the one who walked into danger when others ran away. Your presence brought comfort to victims and fear to criminals. You mattered in ways that were immediate and tangible.

Now, in retirement, the phone doesn't ring with urgent calls for your expertise. No one needs your protection. The respect and deference that came with the badge has evaporated, leaving you feeling invisible in a world that has moved on without you. Even when this perception isn't entirely accurate, the emotional weight of no longer being essential, no longer being the strong one everyone depends on, can be crushing.

### **When the Hero's Story Ends**

The impact extends beyond personal identity to family relationships. For decades, your spouse and children carried a special pride in what you did. You were their hero, their protector, someone who stood for justice and made the world safer. Your kids bragged to their friends about their parent being a cop. Your spouse understood that they were married to someone who risked their life for others every single day.

In retirement, that pride doesn't disappear entirely, but it changes. You're no longer the active hero of the story—you're the former hero, and that shift can feel like a diminishment not just of your role, but of who you are to the people who matter most. The honor and respect your family felt has been replaced by concern for your adjustment, worry about your happiness, and sometimes a sense that they're living with someone trying to figure out who they are now.

### **The Sanitized Memory**

Perhaps most heartbreaking is how your family's memory of your career transforms over time. During your active years, they understood the daily dangers you faced and respected the skills you developed through decades of experience. They knew the sacrifices required to be a police officer and lived with the constant knowledge that your job was dangerous but that you were exceptionally good at it.

But now, in retirement, they seem to remember a different version of those years. They didn't live the danger, the split-second decisions, the weight of responsibility that kept you awake at night. Their recall has become more subdued, perhaps because all those years of horrible and dangerous events were never fully shared at the kitchen table—you protected them from the worst of what you saw and experienced.

Your wife and children now hold a sterile memory of the job. They think it wasn't really that bad. You went to work, sat in a car all day, and drank coffee. The complexity of what you did, the lives you affected, the evil you confronted—it all gets reduced to something manageable in their minds.

When you recall an investigation that consumed months of your life and ended with putting a child molester behind bars, your family now looks at the story as an exaggeration. It couldn't possibly have been that intense, that important, that much of your life. The weight of what you experienced, what you overcame, the lives you saved or lost—it all seems to disappear into their more peaceful version of your career.

This sanitized memory doesn't come from malice, but it cuts deep nonetheless. The very people who should understand the magnitude of your service now view it through a lens that diminishes everything you gave. Your reality becomes questioned by those closest to you, leaving you alone with memories that feel too big, too important, too real to be dismissed so easily.

### **The Abrupt End**

My own experience was made even more difficult because my retirement didn't come the way I had imagined it would during those long nights on patrol, dreaming of the day I could finally rest. There was no carefully planned transition, no gradual winding down of cases, and no time to mentally prepare for life after the badge. Instead, it arrived abruptly—forced by medical concerns and my growing intolerance of the corruption I witnessed within the ranks. The story is long and complex, filled with moral compromises I refused to make and a system that punished integrity more than it rewarded it. My beautiful wife Laura sums it up best when she calls me "the last honest cop."



Because my departure was sudden and contentious, I was denied the traditions that helped officers transition from active duty to retirement. There was no big retirement party surrounded by colleagues and friends, no celebration of three decades of dedicated service. I never experienced the last call tradition—that moment when dispatch and fellow officers say goodbye in their own ways over the radio, acknowledging a career well served. I never got to say "1104 signing off" one last time, and never heard the dispatcher's final "copy that, 1104, end of watch." There was no fanfare for a dedicated servant setting off for a hard-earned rest. It all just ended.

### The Path Forward

Acknowledging these challenges isn't about self-pity—it's about understanding that the difficulty of law enforcement retirement is real, valid, and shared by thousands of officers who've walked this path. The transition requires the same courage you showed on the streets, just applied differently

Professional counseling, particularly with therapists who understand law enforcement culture, can help process both the immediate challenges of retirement and the accumulated trauma of a career spent serving others. Staying connected with fellow officers provides the understanding and camaraderie that civilian friendships, however well-meaning, often cannot.

Finding new ways to serve—whether through volunteer work or mentoring—can help fill the mission-shaped hole in your daily life. As the body ages and physical fitness becomes less central to the daily routine, maintaining some form of discipline and structure becomes even more important for managing the emotional challenges of this transition.

Most importantly, remember that the values that made you a good officer—integrity, service, courage—don't retire when you do. They're part of who you are, badge or no badge.

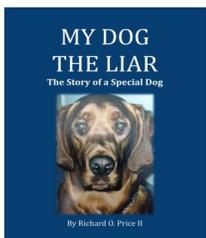
### Fading Into the Night

So here I am, fading solemnly into the quiet night of retirement, blessed with my loving wife Laura by my side. The chase is over, the radio silent, and we search together now for little adventures where they can be found—though they feel small against the weight of what once was.

The badge is gone, and with it, much of who I thought I was. In the growing darkness of these retirement years, Laura and I move through days that stretch long and quiet, looking for meaning in moments that once would have seemed insignificant. The man who wore the badge for thirty years is still here, but he's learning to exist in a world that no longer needs what he had to offer.

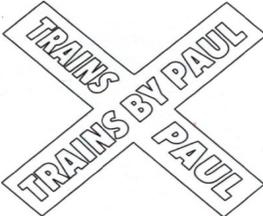
Perhaps that's enough. Perhaps it has to be.

***Written by Sgt. Scott Davis, a retired police Sergeant and Detective who spent his career fighting systemic corruption and serving with integrity. His column explores often overlooked or difficult topics in law enforcement and society—issues that demand to be brought into the light.***



**My Dog, The Liar, by our member, Richard Price**





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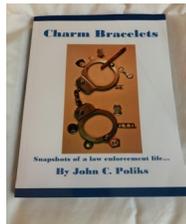
PAUL M. BLAIR, JR  
PBLAIR8513@VERIZON.NET  
443-904-7917

**MEMBERS WE LOST IN 2025**

- Gordon Amey, Jr. (01/11/2025)**
- Charles Ausby (03/14/2025)**
- Jess Baker (07/02/2025)**
- Rhonda Benavides (09/19/2025)**
- Lawrence Bennett (04/17/2025)**
- George Benton (11/15/2025)**
- Thomas Birchett, Jr. (01/11/2025)**
- Robert Bittinger (02/19/2025)**
- Melvin Block (04/18/2025)**
- William Bowen (05/06/2025)**
- Dennis Boyer (08/26/2025)**
- Richard D. Carter, Sr. (06/11/2025)**
- Ronald Colligan (04/24/2025)**
- William Cromer (03/23/2025)**
- Raymond Eibner (08/31/2025)**
- Larry Endrich (11/10/2025)**
- Patrick Ewing (4/26/2025)**
- Thomas Frazier (05/16/2025)**
- Ronnie Grace (10/04/2025)**
- Albert Heinbaugh (07/13/2025)**
- Joe Johnson (07/25/2025)**
- Ed Koluch (03/13/2025)**
- John Kowalczyk (03/23/2025)**
- Jeffrey Marshall (08/03/2025)**
- Wendell Marshall (07/13/2025)**
- Calvin McRae (03/14/2025)**
- John Miller (12/28/2024)**
- Richard (Dick) Nevin (09/23/2025)**
- Donald Nieberlein (08/09/2025)**
- John B. Sanders (08/13/2025)**
- Dale L. Snyder (1/4/2025)**
- Herbert Swinson (04/25/2025)**
- Charles Thrush (03/27/2025)**
- Ellwood (Woody) Uhl (07/14/2025)**
- Melvin Utz, Sr. (06/29/2025)**
- Robert Vinci (12/26/2025)**
- William Whitehead, Jr. (11/02/2025)**
- William Willis (03/18/2025)**
- Steve Zabetakis (09/08/2025)**
- Michael D. Zittle (12/15/2025)**

The below charts show the number of hires, withdrawals and retirements for the fire and police departments for the dates shown.

Additions and Subtractions to F&P Retirement System			
Partial FY 2026 - 7/1/25 - 12/31/25			
	FD	PD	Total
Additions	38	135	173
Withdrawals	-19	-53	-72
Retirements	-29	-34	-63
Net Balance	-10	48	38
Fiscal Year 2025			
	FD	PD	Total
Additions	150	233	383
Withdrawals	-37	-126	-163
Retirements	-36	-64	-100
Net Balance	77	43	120
Fiscal Year 2024			
	FD	PD	Total
Additions	90	103	193
Withdrawals	-27	-90	-117
Retirements	-62	-95	-157
Net Balance	1	-82	-81



**Charm Bracelets, by our member, John Poliks**



**"You can, you should, and if you're brave enough to start, you will." by Stephen King**

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**

*As of 02/17/2026*

- Matthew Gerber**
- Raymond Hodgins**
- Shannon McSpadden**
- Lewis Nanna**
- Paul J. White**
- Lawanda Willis**

**INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Please remember, monthly meetings may be canceled due to inclement weather when:

- Baltimore County Schools are closed because of snow or inclement weather; or,
- There is a snowfall after schools are dismissed and the Baltimore County snow emergency plan is placed in operation.

**Distress Fund Interim**

**Chairperson:**

Contact Kathy Conrad  
410-303-0184

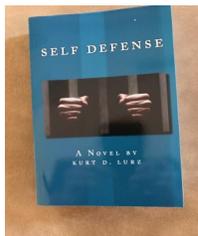
**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

President: Daryl Buhrman ..... XXXXXXXXX  
1st VP: Michael Wilhelm ..... 443-865-6584  
Website ..... www.brpbacom  
Email Address: brpbaooffice@gmail.com

*F&P Retirement System 410-497-7929*  
*FOP 410-243-9141*  
*Balto. City Life Insurance 410-396-5830*  
*Health Care Benefits 410-396-5830*  
*Department of Human Resources (DHR) (410) 396-3851*  
*Securian Financial 1-888-658-0193*  
*Municipal Employees Credit Union 410-752-8313*  
*Employee/Retiree Affairs Unit 410-396-2546*

**NEW PATCHES ARE IN!!** Patches \$2.00 each. Can pick up at a meeting or email a request to:

**BRPBAOffice@gmail.com**



Self Defense, by our member, Kurt Lurz

Lapel pins \$5.00 each (includes shipping and handling). Can pick up at a meeting or email a request to: **BRPBAOFFICE@gmail.com**



## DISTRESS FUND NEWS

We will begin printing and sorting the BRPBA 2026 raffle soon. If you do not want to be included in the raffle, please let us know. And of course, if you want to be included and have not in the past, please also let us know. Just drop a note to BRPBAoffice@gmail.com.

The history of the Distress Fund goes way back. At a general meeting of the BRPBA on June 18, 2003, we received information that one of our members, after being retired for several years, had suffered a stroke and needed a wheelchair ramp. However, due to financial difficulties, he was unable to have one built. This information came from another member because the disabled member that needed help was too proud to ask for it. After a Baltimore Police Officer retires, they can no longer get help from the Signal 13 Foundation.

Therefore, at the June 18, 2003 meeting, this member's financial situation was discussed, a hat was passed around, and \$524.00 was collected. One of our retired members generously offered to build the wheelchair ramp at no cost. In addition, Home Depot was approached and graciously helped with the cost of the material.

However, the BRPBA Distress Fund was not formally started and named until 2004, when it was realized that we had other members and widows who, for whatever reasons, were struggling to make ends meet. Whether they needed help with medical bills, medical equipment, or a personal financial crisis, they were hurting and needed a helping hand.

As of February 2026, we have had one hundred and sixty (160) requests for assistance. The Distress Fund is funded entirely through our yearly Raffle, and donations made by you, our members.

Many of our members, their family, and friends are fortunate enough to not be in this position. The BRPBA Distress Fund would be honored if those fortunate members would remember us and our members needs. A few have remembered us in their wills; some have remembered us in their passing by having donations made to the BRPBA Distress Fund in lieu of flowers, while others have graciously sent donations.

In whatever way you may find to honor us, we are appreciative and thank you for your generosity. Those you have helped over the years thank you also. As we are members, so are we family.

The 2026 prizes are as follows:

4 \$50.00 winners	19 \$100.00 winners	4 \$200.00 winners,
3 \$300.00 winners	1 \$400.00 winner	4 \$500.00 winners.

Best of luck to you.

Daryl

## BALTIMORE RETIRED POLICE BENEVOLENT

### ASSOCIATION TAG PROGRAM

As of February 2026, we have 747 sets of professional looking tags in Maryland. Many members continue to display their pride of being a police officer, even in this current climate. Our tags are a one time fee of \$25.00 to the MVA and a small donation of \$20.00 to the Distress Fund.

Contact Kathy Conrad at 410-303-0184 for more info.





**BRPBA FINAL ROLL CALL**  
**As of 02/17/2026**

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- Melvin E. Dickerson
- Melvin Howard
- Teresa Key. Wife of member,  
Charles Key
- William J. Perry
- Timothy R. Renehan

- John Ames, (02/08/2026)
- Nicholas Caprinolo (01/03/2026)
- Henry Mello (01/18/2026)
- Kevin Robinson (01/15/2026)
- William Rush (01/20/2026)
- James Smith (01/04/2026)
- Charles Sykes (01/01/2026)
- Samuel Tress (02/07/2026)
- Robert Vinci (12/26/2025)
- William Whitehead, Jr. (11/02/2025)
- Michael D. Zittle (12/15/2025)

Little by little, we let go of loss...but never of love.



**"We painfully grieve because we deeply love"**

What is a Policeman? By Paul Harvey

A Policeman is a composite of what all men are, the mingling of a saint and sinner, dust and deity.

Gulled statistics wave the fan over the stinkers, underscore instances of dishonesty and brutality because they are "new". What they really mean is that they are exceptional, unusual, not commonplace.

Buried under the frost is the fact: Less than one-half of one percent of policemen misfit the uniform. That's a better average than you'd find among clergy!

What is a policeman made of? He, of all men, is once the most needed and the most unwanted. He's a strangely nameless creature who is "sir" to his face and "fuzz" to his back.

He must be such a diplomat that he can settle differences between individuals so that each will think he won. But...If the policeman is neat, he's conceited; if he's careless, he's a bum. If he's pleasant, he's flirting; if not, he's a grouch. He must make an instant decision which would require months for a lawyer to make.

But...If he hurries, he's careless; if he's deliberate, he's lazy. He must be first to an accident and infallible with his diagnosis. He must be able to start breathing, stop bleeding, tie splints and, above all, be sure the victim goes home without a limp. Or expect to be sued.

The police officer must know every gun, draw on the run, and hit where it doesn't hurt. He must be able to whip two men twice his size and half his age without damaging his uniform and without being "brutal". If you hit him, he's a coward. If he hits you, he's a bully.

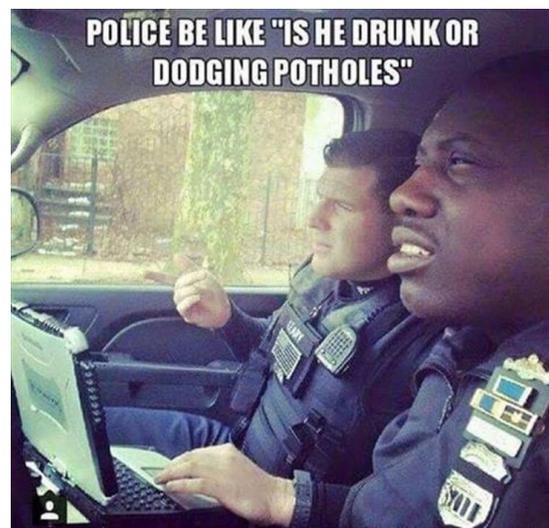
A policeman must know everything-and not tell. He must know where all the sin is and not partake. A policeman must, from a single strand of hair, be able to describe the crime, the weapon, and the criminal- and tell you where the criminal is hiding.

But...If he catches the criminal, he's lucky; if he doesn't, he's a dunce. If he gets promoted, he has political pull; if he doesn't, he's a dullard. The policeman must chase a bum lead to a dead-end, stake out ten nights to tag one witness who saw it happen but refused to remember.

The policeman must be a minister, a social worker, a diplomat, a tough guy, and a gentleman.

And, of course, he'd have to be genius....For he will have to feed a family on a policeman's salary.

**REMINDER: Don't forget the \$50.00 bounty to any member who signs up a new member.**





**Baltimore Retired  
Police Benevolent  
Association  
Box 6217  
Baltimore, MD 21206**

FIRST CLASS  
PRESORT  
U. S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
BALTIMORE MD  
PERMIT NO.  
1608

Return Service  
Requested

***Executive Board Meetings held the second Wednesday of the month and  
General Meetings on the third Wednesday (except no General Meeting in  
July and August) at Knights of Columbus Gardens, 4301 Klosterman  
Avenue, Perry Hall, MD. Please join us!***