



THE SHIELD



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BALTIMORE RETIRED POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

SERVED WITH HONOR

FALL 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- PAGE 2:** PRESIDENTS MESSAGE. Hello once again. I hope you all have survived this horrible scorcher of a summer...
- PAGE 3:** Pension; Honoring Ditty; ADS.
- PAGE 4:** Challenge Coins.
- PAGE 5:** A First Responder's Retirement: The Vital Role of Friendships. By: Kimberly Stratman
- PAGE 6:** Notes of interest to members. A list of people missing their beneficiary forms.
[PLEASE READ THIS PAGE!!!!](#)
- PAGE 7:** Moment of Silence. Plus, Social Security Fairness Act.
- PAGE 8:** New Members. BRPBA Info page.
- PAGE 9:** Distress Fund News. Tag information. Would you like a tag on your vehicle? It's easy! In Memoriam Donations.
- PAGE 10:** Final Roll Call. In Memoriam.
- PAGE 11:** Rescue Meds Advertisement.

A special Thank You goes out to Rosedale Federal Savings and Loan, 9616 Belair Road, 21236. Each year, Rosedale Federal's employees pick an organization to make a sizeable donation to and take up a collection. This year, it was our Distress Fund. What a great bank! We are grateful.

NOT GETTING EMAILS? DID YOU CHANGE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS? DID YOU MARK THE BRPBA AS SPAM (IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME)? EMAIL US AT BRPBAOFFICE@GMAIL.COM TO GET ON THE MAILING LIST.

TO THE 190 MEMBERS WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO RELINGUISH THEIR \$1500 DEATH BENEFIT, THE BRPBA THANKS YOU. THAT \$285,000 WILL BE USED TO BENEFIT OTHERS IN THE FUTURE.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Daryl Buhrman*

Hello once again. I hope all of you are surviving this horrible scorcher of a summer. I know my electric bill did not survive. I'm truly looking forward to Fall.... Leaves changing, cooler temps, sweaters. Yep, I can just imagine it. I won't prattle on cause there is a lot of information to impart.

1. As many of our members are also FOP members, I bring up the topic of the upcoming FOP election. We need everyone to vote.

The President and First Vice President should always be active BPD Officers, but any other offices should be a mix of retired and active officers. It's imperative that the retired officer be represented, because that representation gives us a vote on important decisions. We do not want to be left out.

We pay our dues, we have the right to vote and to have a voice in all matters, so please, vote in the upcoming election.

REELECT:

Paul Blair, 2nd VP

Edward Gorwell, 3rd VP

Lisa Riha, Secretary

Don Helms, Chaplain

Jerry Heid, Trustee

George Trainor, Trustee

Earl Kratsch, State Treasurer

John Nolan, Treasurer

ELECT:

Ellis (Ditty) Baldwin, Trustee

(Remember: It is very important that we make sure to vote for Paul Blair as 2nd VP. In the event that both Mike Mancuso and William MacDonald are out of town, the FOP needs someone with experience to run the lodge. Experience ensures that everything continues to run smoothly.)

2. If you are an FOP member and you suspect that the FOP does not have your email address, please contact them or you will NOT get the FOP3 newsletter. If you do not have an email address, contact them by phone at 410-243-9141, M-F, 9:00-4:00 to make sure your information is up to date. (If you want to receive emails from the BRPBA or have changed your email address, please also contact us at BRPBAOffice@gmail.com)

For our widows, they will not get any perks from FOP3; no tags, newsletters, etc. We can work together and help our widows receive this information.

3. The Baltimore Retired Police Benevolent Association (BRPBA) 2024 Election is November 20th, 2024. Officers up for reelection include the President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant at Arms, one Trustee, and one Board of Governors. As of this writing, all incumbents are interested in maintaining their position and would be honored if you would reelect them.
4. As stated in the past, we are always looking for new members. A lot of our original members are passing away and our membership has dropped quite a bit. We remind you that we have a \$50.00 Finders Fee gift that goes to any member who brings a new member on board. Our strength is in our numbers, so let's work together to increase our membership.
5. Unfortunately, in June, we had to turn away a BPD retiree who wanted to join. After retiring, they were convicted of a felony and our By-Laws, Article III, Section 1, states that "...are eligible for membership in this association provided they have not been convicted of a felony or have any criminal charges pending." We hated having to do that, but that's the rules.
6. Remember that our membership meetings will start up again on September 18th with a chance to catch up on summer news and events, time to eat some good food, and time to refresh relationships. Does anyone remember the song.... See You In September? (Great, now I'm singing it in my head.

Take care everyone.

Annual City Pension Contribution

Bob Haukdal
F&P Trustee

Just a quick note to say the City made its Fiscal Year 2025 contribution to our pension system on July 1, 2024. The obligation, set by our actuaries, was \$164,270,555 and was received in full. That is \$9,215,647 more than last year.

At our June 2024 General Meeting, we honored one of the kindest, funniest, and most honest people I have ever met. Most likely, most of you know Ellis "Ditty" Baldwin.

Ditty retired from the Baltimore City Police Department in 1990 after thirty years of serving Baltimore City. He began his police officer career after being discharged from the Army. He was originally assigned to the Western District, moved on to EVU, and once he was promoted to Sargent, was transferred to the Northeastern District, which is where he remained until his retirement.

Ditty met his wife, Hildegard, in Germany while he was in the Army and brought her here to the USA. I imagine, like most war brides, this was a difficult thing for a young bride to do, but love does concur all and, together, she and Ditty raised four children.

Ditty has been a member of the BRPBA since 1992 and became a Board Member the very year he joined. He has held the role of Sgt. In Arms for thirty-two years. He has served the BRPBA well, and despite losing his wife in January of 2023, and despite dealing with his own health issues and family matters, Ditty has always been there for others, and never missed a meeting (except when he was in the hospital).

Ditty is currently running for trustee of FOP3 to represent the BRPBA in that great organization and we wish him well. I am certainly voting for him.

Thank you Ditty, for all you have done and all, I am sure, you will continue to do.

Daryl Buhrman



Peggy Mullen

REALTOR, ABR
Licensed in DE and MD
Cell: 302-542-1941

pegmullen50@gmail.com



Keller Williams Realty of Delmarva
Bethany Beach, DE 19930
39682 Sunrise Court
Office: 302-360-0300



Lisa Fuller

CIC, CISR

410-914-5467
438 S Main St Bel Air MD 21014

Lisa.Fuller@InsureWithFuller.com

Representing
www.InsureWithFuller.com
www.AAGInsurance.com

*Two Great Agencies to
serve your needs*

**BALTIMORE RETIRED
POLICE BENEVOLENT
ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE BOARD
P.O. Box 6217
Baltimore, MD 21206**

**Daryl Buhrman, Sr.
President
Chairman, Distress Fund**

**Michael May, Esq.
1st Vice President**

**Patrick Youells
2nd Vice President**

**Kathy Conrad
Executive Secretary**

**Daniel Miller
Treasurer**

**Ellis S. Baldwin
Sergeant-at-Arms**

Trustees

**Charles F. Brawner
Barry Powell
Kenneth Dickstein**

Board of Governors

**Robert Haukdal
Daniel Fickus
Tom Tumminello**

**Pension Board Trustee
Robert Haukdal**

**Past President
Nick Caprinolo**

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

As talked about during our June meeting, I have received the Challenge Coins. They are nice looking. We have a limited number and we are limiting it to 2 coins for sale to members. This is on a first come first served basis. Once they are gone, they are gone.

The prices are:

Each coin is \$10.

Shipping: 1 coin shipping is \$1.87

2-coin shipping is \$2.35

PLEASE CONTACT ME AT brpbasecretary@gmail.com

Please do not contact Karen or Daryl or anyone else on the Board in reference to this.

All coins are in my possession.

NO PRIVATE MESSAGING ON FACEBOOK OR PRIVATE TEXT MESSAGING. ALL REQUESTS MUST BE DONE BY THIS EMAIL ADDRESS OR IN WRITING THROUGH USPS.

Checks should be made out to BRPBA Distress Fund and Mailed to:

BRPBA
P.O. BOX 6217
BALTIMORE, MD 21206

If you would rather request through the mail, you may also use the PO BOX above.

I would also like to thank Retired Lt. Donald Slimmer for his help with this project.

Kathy Conrad

Below is the picture:



2in



A First Responder's Retirement: The Vital Role of Friendships

By: Kimberly Stratman

Ask most police officers, and they will affirm they have a wealth of friends. They'll often add, "We would die for each other." This is truth and has been proven. The bonds formed between officers are unique, conceived in shared experiences, challenges, and victories. These relationships, often as intimate as family ties, are created in critical moments, where reliance on each other can mean life or death. However, as officers transition into retirement, these friendships often evolve, sometimes leading to their end.

During their careers, police officers develop profound connections with their peers. These relationships are established on mutual respect, understanding, and an unspoken bond that is rare in other professions. They share the physical risks and the emotional toll of their duties, fostering a camaraderie that becomes an integral part of their identity. In addition, they experience life's significant milestones together—from attending each other's weddings to celebrating the births of their children, and mourning the on-duty deaths of colleagues.

Retirement often ushers in a sense of isolation as the structured support system of the workplace disappears. Even with days off and changing shifts, the officers still "worked together." The loss of this close-knit community can be one of the most daunting aspects of retirement. After 20, 30 or even 40 years of working together, officers cannot imagine the connections ending. Thus, the unexpected realization that relationships have waned can be painful and confusing.

Relationships may end or diminish, not due to a lack of effort or desire to maintain them, but rather due to the shift from a shared daily mission to individual pursuits and lifestyles. New hobbies are explored. Family commitments can no longer be brushed aside due to "the job." Retirees might live inconvenient distances from each other.

The end of a career doesn't necessitate the end of these meaningful connections. Retired officers can take active steps to maintain and adapt their friendships to their new phase of life. Regular meet-ups in various parts of the town, county or metroplex encourage retirees to have coffee or a meal together. Shared hobbies can lead to fun and potential income generation. New or re-energized traditions can help recognize and preserve important bonds. Social media and technology also provide ways to stay in touch, share life updates, and continue offering mutual support. Retirees should never underestimate the value of a simple text or call saying, "hello."

It's equally important for retirees to broaden their social circles beyond their former colleagues. First responders often retire young and have several decades of energy and vitality to enjoy. Engaging in community services, volunteering, or joining groups can lead to new friendships with people who have similar interests and values, offering fresh perspectives and enhancing the retirement experience. While learning to be comfortable in non-law enforcement groups can take time and intention, the results can be life changing.

Retirement can and should be a rewarding life chapter for police officers, filled with the joy of old friendships and the excitement of new ones. Witnessing the ongoing life stories of friends and former coworkers can be fulfilling and comforting. With intention and action, the relationships that once defined their careers can evolve to define a vibrant retirement.

Kimberly Stratman retired as a Lieutenant from the Dallas Texas Police Department after an exciting and fulfilling 30-year career. She and her law enforcement husband have two grown sons and two dogs that get lots of attention. Kimberly is the owner of To the Point Coach, a Certified Retirement Life Coach and Certified Life Coach service that focuses on first responders. Her goal is to ensure our law enforcement community thrives. She can be reached @ tothepointcoach.org



This essay is reprinted with permission and was originally published by thebluemagazine.com

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched—they must be felt with the heart. (Helen Keller)

NOTES OF INTEREST

We've become aware recently that some members have lost their spouses and didn't let us know. 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 tragedy. Every little bit helps when paying for final expenses.

DO YOU KNOW WE STILL HAVE THE MINI-BADGES? IF YOU WANT ONE, EMAIL
BRPBAOFFICE@GMAIL.COM

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

DON'T FORGET THAT YOU CAN STILL ORDER YOUR PERSONALIZED MUGS IF YOU WANT. TO ORDER A PEWTER MUG WITH YOUR NAME AND BADGE NUMBER ON IT, CONTACT: *The Crafted Cup* AT <https://craftedcupcompany.com/hidden/baltimore-police-tankard/>.

TO ORDER A GLASS MUG (LESS EXPENSIVE), CONTACT *An Etch Above on Joppa Road* (410-682-4969). Our contact person is Kim Lyons (klyons@anetchabove.com.)

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS HAVE NO BRPBA BENEFICIARY FORM ON FILE. DUE TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF MISSING FORMS, WE WILL BREAK THIS LIST DOWN OVER THE NEXT FEW NEWSLETTERS. (Email BRPBAOffice@gmail.com for a form)

Eric Oswald
Delsie Parker
Mark Perzan
Joyce Pinnock
Donner Powell
Robert Probeyahn
Tawna Pruitt
Roderick Pullen
Ilir Qesati
Carl Rach
Irma Reed
Aquiles Reyes
Michael Richburg
Edward Rigby
Clifton Rineheart
Scott Roper
Kenneth Rowell
Stephen Saghy, Jr.
James Salyers
Anthony Schadt
Thomas Schmidt
Robert Sharp
James Sharpe

David Shirey
Linda Simpson
Gary Sisserman
Matthew T. Smith
Terrence Smith
Barbara Smith-Hamilton
Jeffrey Soule
Ronald Spencer
Karen Standfield
Ken Stanley
Jeffrey Stelmack
Michael Steyer
Andre Street
Alexander Swinson
John Szuba
Phillip Tabron
Penny Teal
David Turrini
Elwood Uhl
James Vaughan
William Wagner, III
Charles Walker, Jr.
Lorie Wallace

Michael Wallace
Isabella Washington
Jerry Weaver
James Weglein
Samuel Whisky
William Whitehead, Jr.
Andrew Williams
Gary Williams
L. M. Williams
Scott Williams
Sandra Willie-Kracke
Curtis Willis
Richard Wills
Deborah Wilson
Michael Wilson, Jr.
Alvin Winkler
Robert Wise
Edward Wolf
Natasha Worrell
Donna Worthy
Frank Zapushek

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Moment of Silence is a nonprofit organization founded to support, promote and develop programs for our law enforcement, military, and first responder communities. We take pride promoting our two main missions: Blue Suicide and Youth Community Outreach. Blue Suicide raises awareness about the epidemic of suicides amongst law enforcement, military personnel and first responders. Our Youth Community Outreach program reaches out to at-risk inner-city youths through a holistic approach of one-on-one mentoring, providing guidance, employment, and education assistance. We strongly believe that the relationship between law enforcement and the youth is a priceless and worthy endeavor. "Never give up, Stay in the fight"

If you or someone you know is contemplating suicide, please call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline 908-232-2880 Moment of Silence Inc is a US registered 501(c)(3) charity organization Federal EIN# 45-4734894

<https://mosdonate.org>

Social Security Fairness Act (HR-82)

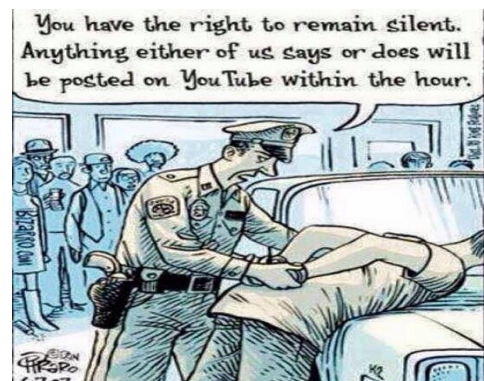
HR-82, Sponsored by Representatives Graves (R) and Spanberger (D) which repeals the Windfall Elimination Penalty (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO).

HR-82 currently has 323 co-sponsors. That number far exceeds the requisite co-sponsors to move the bill to the House floor for vote, by passing the Ways and Means Committee.

Unfortunately, the Republican majority offered modifications to the bill, which would not fully repeal both the WEP and GPO. This was rejected by the FOP and Firefighters, as well as, other affected groups.

Representative Spanberger has introduced a special rule that provides HR-82 for consideration on the House floor. Once the special rule has been on the legislative calendar for a specified number of days, she will file a discharge petition on the rule. A discharge petition is a legislative procedure to bring the bill directly to the House floor. This procedure requires a minimum of 218 members to sign on the petition, but that should not be a problem with 323 co-sponsors.

The National FOP Legislative Committee has diligently toiled for years to repeal this unfair and discriminatory legislation. HR-82 to date, with the 323 co-sponsors has a fair chance to succeed.
Dan Fickus



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS
As of 7/26/2024

Michael J. Boyd

Lavern Ellis

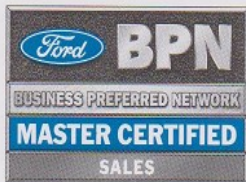
George Freeman

Kelvin Sewell

CONTACT INFORMATION:

President: Daryl Buhrman 410-803-2293
1st VP: Michael May, Esq. 443-992-2602
Website www.brpbba.com
Email Address: brpbbaoffice@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



Sheehy Ford Lincoln of Gaithersburg (410) 365-3904 phone
901 N Frederick Ave (301) 258-1015 main
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

NICHOLAS CONSTANTINE
Commercial Accounts Manager

nickconstantine@sheehy.com

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.

Newsletter Chairman:

Patrick Youells
(cody7762@hotmail.com).

Distress Fund Chairman:

Daryl J. Buhrman
410-803-2293



NICK CONSTANTINE
COMMERCIAL SALES MANAGER
901 N. Frederick Ave.
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

MAIN: (301) 258-1015
FAX: (301) 258-8244
CELL: (410) 365-3904
nickconstantine@sheehy.com



FREE ESTIMATES

Carpet Cops, Inc.

*We'll Serve Your Flooring Needs
And Protect Your Wallet*

TIM BRIETENBACK

CARPET•HARDWOOD•LAMINATE
VINYL•TILE•HARDWOOD REFINISHING
LUXURY VINYL PLANK
COMMERCIAL RESIDENTIAL
Showroom on Wheels

410-812-4804 ★ carpetcops@aol.com

DISTRESS FUND NEWS

The BRPBA is a small group, just a little over 2,000 strong. But our membership is a group of people with big hearts. Why? Because they've seen it all. They've seen the highest of the highs, and the lowest of the lows; the worst of humanity. They've seen what life can do to a person; physically, mentally, spiritually, and financially. It's because of people like you, the people with big hearts, that our raffle each year has always been so important, and usually quite successful. There have been good years, and there have been lean years, but the money we collected, no matter how large or how small, has always gone to help our members and widows in need. That's all we can hope for; to help others

The 2024 raffle will be mailed in just a couple weeks. Please remember to get your tickets mailed in to P.O. Box 935, Bel Air, MD 21014-7935 before the Holiday get together in December.

Tickets will be sold up until the time of the drawing. The money collected from the purchase of tickets and donations is solely dedicated to our members and widows in need.

The 2024 raffle has **35 chances to win**, and 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.

Good luck! And... as always, thank you to one and all who donate towards our Distress Fund.

Daryl Buhrman

IN MEMORIAM DONATIONS:

The Rehoboth Beach Police Department made a sizable donation to the BRPBA Distress Fund in respect for their member, William Sullivan, Jr., in memory of his dad, Sgt. William Sullivan, Sr. who passed on April 15, 2024.

The BRPBA sent a sincere thank you to both William Sullivan, Jr., and The Rehoboth Beach Police Department.



BALTIMORE RETIRED POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION TAG PROGRAM

As of July 2024, we have 731 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 Daryl Buhrman at 410-803-2293 for more info.





Joseph Costantini (4/17/2024)

William Gaskin (05/26/2024)

Richard Hewitt (06/13/2024)

Timothy Holt (07/03/2024)

Carroll Jubb (06/22/2024)

Edward Kennedy, FIL to 2nd VP Patrick
Youells, (4/14/2024)

Howard Joseph Peacock (06/02/2024)

Richard Smolinski (05/05/2024)



"If I Should Go Tomorrow" by Unknown

It would never be goodbye,
For I have left my heart with you,
So don't you ever cry.
The love that's deep within me,
Shall reach you from the stars,
You'll feel it from the heavens,
And it will heal the scars.

BRPBA FINAL ROLL CALL

As of 7/30/2024

Raymond Betag (06/30/2024)

Robert Bowman (06/09/2024)

Robert Douglas (05/10/2024)

Edward Dunlap (Unknown DOD)

James Horner (04/29/2024)

Richard Koel (5/30/2024)

Jacob Kuebel (07/03/2024)

Louis Kulaga (07/05/2024)

Daniel Marshall (05/11/2024)

Joseph Metz, Sr. (04/19/2024)

John P. Rorke (05/18/2024)

Henry Schmidt (05/11/2024)

Leonard Sullivan (04/30/2024)

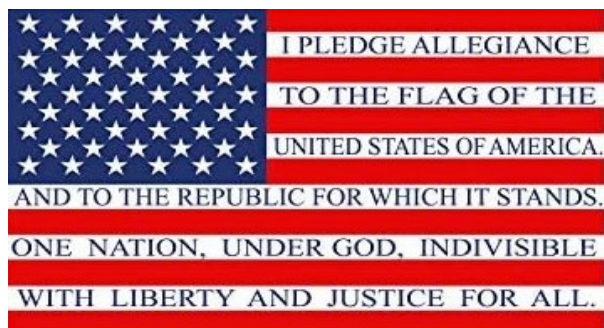
William Sullivan (04/15/2024)

Elmer Turner (06/04/2024)

Henry Voelker (10/25/2023)

John Worsham (05/22/2024)

Alan Yeater (06/21/2024)



Nothing can ever take away a love the heart holds dear.



RESCUEMEDS

Work Injury Pharmacy



SCAN QR CODE, VISIT OUR
WEBSITE OR GIVE US A CALL
TO ENROLL

Experience the RescueMeds Difference

- No out-of-pocket expense
- Delivered to your door...FREE
- Automatic refills
- We love our first responders
- We live and give local...right here in Maryland
- We always pick up the phone during business hours
- Questions for the pharmacist? Speak to them directly

*Did you know you have the right to choose your pharmacy?
RescueMeds saves you from the hassle of medication delays and denials
with immediate care. More than a full-service pharmacy,
RescueMeds is your work injury advocate.*



1994 Moreland Pkwy, Suite 3B, Annapolis, MD 21401

ph. 240-728-7049 www.rescuemed.com info@rescuemed.com



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

FIRST CLASS
PRESORT
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
BALTIMORE MD
PERMIT NO.
5415

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!***