



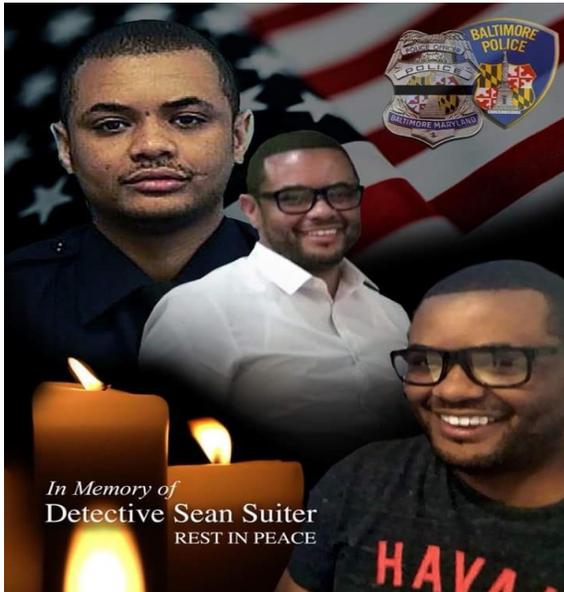
# THE SHIELD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BALTIMORE RETIRED  
POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

SERVED WITH HONOR

LATE WINTER 2017

## DETECTIVE SEAN SUITER



After a scant 2 years in Homicide, Detective Sean Suiter received another transfer, this one to Heaven.

On November 16, 2017, Detective Suiter's heart failed him. During his life, it never, ever, failed anyone else. He devoted his life to others, as a husband, as a father, as a member of the military and as a member, in a variety of assignments in which he always distinguished himself, of the Baltimore Police Department. His departure broke the hearts of his families – immediate, extended, military, doctors, nurses, so many citizens he helped and police, both active and retired. Everyone experienced an incalculable loss and profound sadness.

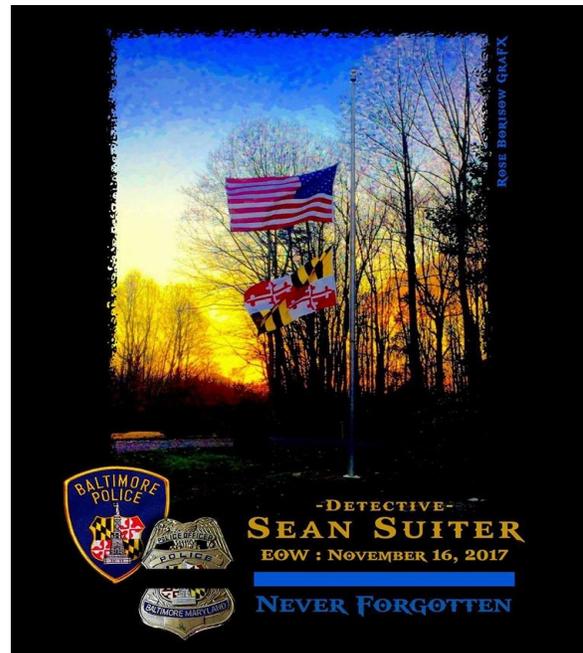
At the same time, we feel immense gratitude for his life. We so appreciate his sacrifices, the lost family time, the missed birthdays, holidays and other events. Those who had the privilege of working directly with him recall his smile, his personality, his contagious enthusiasm, his competence and his dedication. Everyone who wears, or wore, the badge can take pride in the knowledge that Detective Sean

Suiter wore a badge too, that he displayed it in West Baltimore on November 15, 2017 when a coward with a gun killed him.

Eighteen years ago, when he graduated from the Police Academy, Sean Suiter swore an oath of faithfulness and true allegiance. He embodied that most sacred pledge until his very last breath.

May he rest in peace, and may all law enforcement, both active and retired, honor his legacy in the way we conduct our lives.

Mike May  
Baltimore Retired Police Benevolent Association



Official website for anyone wishing to make a donation to the Suiter family:  
<https://www.gofundme.com/BPDdetective-sean-suiter>

WITH DEEPEST RESPECT

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

**BALTIMORE RETIRED  
POLICE BENEVOLENT  
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Are you ready for the Holidays? I'm not. They sort of snuck up on me this year.

One year ago, I was elected as your new President. Where did that time go? I'm beginning to feel as if I wake up and go to bed and the time in between is just a big blur of activity. I am excited though as I look forward to the upcoming year. Some interesting things are in the works.

- It's official. After looking at about twenty places to hold our meetings, we have met a few times now at the American Legion #130, 8666 Silver Lake Drive, 21128 and confirmed that this will be our new home. The building is easily accessible by our handicapped members, the staff courteous and accommodating and the food pretty darn good.
- On October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 1:00 p.m., we had a hearing at City Hall on our Prescription Benefit plan and I want to thank all who showed up or emailed in support. We made a strong showing. After hearing several testimonies, Mr. Henry Raymond, Finance Director for the City of Baltimore, stated that the City sponsored Prescription Plan will NOT be terminated. However, we have been informed that it is currently under review by the Mayor. So it's another waiting game.
- The Pension Lawsuit hearing was held on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. with Judge Rubin. The judge heard both sides (ours and the City's) fairly and promised to review everything and come to a decision shortly. Thank you to all who attended this hearing. Another strong showing of support by our members!
- We started something new on our Facebook page and via email whereby we are sending out a synopsis of our General Meetings. As we generally have about 100 members attend out of over 2,000 members, this is a big benefit all who are unable to attend and want to hear the current news.
- After a long and tedious series of meetings, we have finally concluded the changes to our By-Laws. They will be read before the membership at the General Meeting in January and if approved, they will be sent to the printer. Everyone should receive an updated copy by mail sometime in February. They will also be available on our website at that time. It was necessary to delay their printing due to the change of meeting place and not knowing if we would have to change the day of our meetings, which turned out to actually happen

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(Wednesday's to Tuesday's).

- I would like to acknowledge two very good people in the Baltimore City Police Department: Detective Derreck Sargent and Detective Freda Sheppard Arrington in Human Resources, Active and Retiree Affairs Unit. They keep us up to speed on our brothers and sisters and are always helpful, friendly and oftentimes hilarious when called upon. They are deeply appreciated.

I will let everyone know asap when we get actual confirmation by mail that our Prescription coverage will continue, and of course, I will keep everyone informed regarding the Pension Lawsuit decision as soon as I hear. This has been a long, long battle and we pray for a fair outcome for all. Happy Holidays!

Daryl Buhrman

## THE AFTER-EFFECTS OF LOD INJURIES

*By Kathy Conrad*

As I sit and think back on the events of Detective Suiter's passing, I can't imagine, first off, what Sean's family is going through. Then comes to mind, the survivors of previous line of duty deaths, especially when the news media shows pictures of the past officers that sacrificed their lives and families for us. What are they going through? Are all the survivors reliving their tragedy?

I think I can answer that...Yes. Every time an officer is killed, although I'm not a survivor, I still think a lot about the past LOD deaths and non-LOD deaths.

Then comes to mind the day that I got hurt. Had it not been for the pharmacist on duty at the Rite Aid helping me, what would have happened?

For this newsletter, I wanted to do the first in a series of stories about the surviving children and spouses of some of our Heroes. At first I thought it would be too stressful, but I remembered an idea that Kenny Driscoll gave me: How about the effects on a family of a serious line of duty injury? So naturally, I can attest on my thoughts of the affects, and I have inquired to Kenny Driscoll and his family

Below are their own stories.

### **Kenny Driscoll:**

*"On August 10, 2001, I was in the Central District DDU, assisting the Northern District chasing a 17-year-old carjacking suspect when the suspect ran into what appeared to be a tree line. I ran in after the suspect and fell forty (40) feet to the path below which, at the time, I figured I bounced and rolled about twenty (20) feet below where the suspects foot prints ended.*

*I saw the suspect as he popped up and ran, so I once again gave chase but as I ran, I figured I must have injured my hips because my run was sloppy causing me to fall two more times. I fell a total of three (3) times and fell on a stick about the size of a pencil that went in about two to three inches in my side. I pulled the stick out of my side and continued to run after the suspect.*

*Afterwards, I was taken to the hospital and it was found that I had broken my right wrist, sprained my left wrist, had a puncture wound that required no stitches, herniated discs in my back from L5-S1 and fractured vertebra from L3-S1. Which after surgery, and time, I am now a paraplegic and suffer chronic pain."*

Continued Page 4

**Coping:**

When posed with the question of- *"How did you cope with not being able to take care of yourself,"* I liked Kenny's answer, so here it is verbatim.

*"I have been with Patty since we were 15 and 16 years old so I trust her – I also refused to let her do things until I couldn't do them, when I knew there was no other choice, and if I had to have anyone help me, I would rather it be her than a stranger.*

*My main thing is when I am in the hospital, I don't treat nurses like hotel maids or servants, so they then start double checking to make sure I don't need them, or that I am getting everything I need. I had one nurse that was scheduled off for two days. She picked those days up to make sure I was treated right. I find by not being too needy, you get more help, or not more help but just the help you need. So, I don't treat Patty like she is a nurse, she will always be my girlfriend, my best friend and my wife. I don't want to request too much help and have her go from wife to nurse. Like with nurses in the hospital, I find by not being demanding, I will get what I need and not become a pain in the butt, or despised. I also didn't want a wheelchair until I couldn't use a walker and crutches any longer. I didn't want a ramp on my house until it was the last resort and even then, I wanted it out back, so people passing by wouldn't see it and know a cripple lives here. Everything is done as a last resort. But my family has always been helpful. When I was initially injured, my daughters would pass my chair and wipe the tears from my eyes. They changed my socks, or put socks on if I looked cold. It is something how people will help you when you need help and they do it willingly, but if you ask for help, you might become a pain and they could resent helping."*

**Patty:**

Patty Driscoll is Detective Driscoll's wife. She has been by his side and has taken great care of Detective Driscoll. Patty was notified within an hour of Detective Driscoll being hurt. In fact, Detective Driscoll called her and acted as if he was okay and even told her not to bother coming to the hospital.

But Patty knew her husband and could tell by his voice that things were not okay, and she got a ride to the hospital from her father. Every spouse's nightmare, when Patty pulled into the Mercy Hospital ER, she saw a bunch of police and Charles Ausbie and Jim Schuler approached her while still in the truck to comfort her. This was very overwhelming.

Jimmy Schuler knew that Patty was upset and told her that Kenny was a little beat up, but would be fine. At that time, everyone thought that Kenny injured his hips, later it was learned that Kenny would not be okay.

Police being Police, there was another Detective that Kenny worked with named Charles (Patty heard of him, but didn't know him) who told Kenny *"he was going to be teased"* and Kenny said he wouldn't expect anything less, even offering up a few one liners to kick start a joke. Patty said Kenny seemed to be fine to everyone else, but she had known him since they were very young, and she knew he was not doing as well as he pretended.

Kenny and Patty have four children. At that time, their ages were 8, 10, 12, and 15. "Lil" Ken is the oldest and at the time had his learners permit. Once "Lil" Ken turned 16, he got his license and helped tremendously. "Lil" Ken would step up and go grocery shopping, birthday shopping, Christmas shopping, whatever was needed in the first three years of "Big" Ken's recovery.

All the kids stepped up in a big way. While "Lil" Ken and Patty were out running the errands, the "Girls" would take care of their Dad. The girls knew when their Dad was in severe pain as his voice would change and tears would start rolling down his face. Patty said the girls dried those tears and did what needed to be done to make their Dad feel better.

Patty states, *"In some ways I think all of them (children) have some sort of insecurities because of having their dad always winning awards at work; he was on top of his game, and then one day it was taken away. The result of Kenny's injuries affected the girls deeply. They don't get too close to some things and other things they are super close, like relationships. Each of them at one time or another during those first relationship breakups would say all they want is what their father and I have. So, they are great with relationships, but they have some insecurities about making sure they do their best at work or their professions, while not getting too close in case they must find something new."*

Patty's words on coping: *"It was tough, but Ken and I have always been close. Like I said, we met at 15 and 16, but have always been older than our age. We knew within weeks of our first date that we would be together forever, and so far, everything we ever talked about, even as what we know today was just kid-talk*

*(15 and 16), has come true. So, this was just a matter of getting over a bump in the road and continuing our course. We adapted to the situation. Ken didn't want to use certain kinds of medical equipment until there was no other choice because he didn't want to give up on getting better. We only recently had a handicap ramp put out back that could be used to get in and out with a power chair."*

**CHILDREN:**

Tricia is Kenny and Patty's youngest, who was only 8 years old when Kenny was injured. Tricia said that her first reaction to her dad being injured was confusion, but she coped with it by finding new ways to do things. The effect on her Dad's injury to her was that it happened when she was so young that it didn't really affect her life style - it just became normal.

James was 13 years old when his Dad was injured and although he did not realize what had happened at first, he was shocked to find out that his Dad would most likely never be able to get around without crutches or a wheelchair.

In coping, *"It was hard to cope at first because a few days before it happened, my dad was out riding bikes with us at a skate park, but I think the fact that he is still here to help us out in life as best as he can, has helped us all cope with the situation. He is still the same person he always was, and he never lets us see the pain and struggles he goes through. He is always smiling and making jokes to make us all happy."*

James writes, *"The effects of my dad's injuries on me were mainly when I was younger because he couldn't come outside to play football or baseball like we all did prior to his injuries, so it was hard not being able to do that anymore. But I realized very fast that I would rather have my father in a wheelchair and still be able to hang out and talk and still have him be able to teach me life lessons, and have him with us at the holidays."*

As I sit here to finish this article, I can't help but be somewhat emotional about this story. Of all of us who were retired medically for whatever reason, here is a man that took pride in his job, as we all did, and one day in just a matter of minutes, it was all taken away.

Now Kenny can take pride in his new career as Curator of the Baltimore Police History website, as well as the museum down at headquarters. Kenny is one of a kind; not only to his family, but also to those that he has worked with in the Central District and the Baltimore Police Department.

This is just one story of thousands within the Baltimore Police Department.

Thank you all for doing what you did to make a once Great Police Department and please keep all of our Blue Family in your thoughts and prayers.

**PLEASE NOTE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**The raffle tickets state that the drawing for the raffle will be December 20, 2017; however, due to the change in our venue, the drawing will take place at our Holiday Gathering on December 19, 2017 at our new venue; 8666 Silverlake Drive, Perry Hall, MD 21128.**



# Newsletter

October 2017

## **WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU ARE INCAPACITATED?**

If you suffer a stroke or major illness, or even die, will your remaining spouse or family members know where to find all of your vital information? Or will they be totally lost, having no idea what to do, where to start, what they have or don't have, and most importantly, where to look for information? Conversely, think about who handles the financial information in your family. If that person were to suddenly die today of an accident, would you know where to start, what you have, answers to the daily challenges like what bills to pay and how to pay them, or even where the information is kept?

I strongly recommend that each adult in your family put together a "survivor's book" that contains the information that you/your family can use when that person is unable to handle their personal affairs.

Start by obtaining a large three-ring binder. (I know many of you keep all of your important information on your computer. But does your family know your password, and do they know where to find the relevant files on your computer?) Then buy some tabs to separate the topics in the binder. Label the tabs as follows:

1. Personal Information – Leave a personal letter to your family, saying whatever you think is important, and that they will remember after you are gone. Also, tell them some general ideas outside of your will of what you would like to see done with any remaining money or possessions. (This is not a legal document, but it is a practical document.)
2. General information—You should include the following information:
  - A. A copy of your Health Care Decision Documents (Living Will, Medical Advance Directive, etc.);
  - B. A copy of your will, and the location of the original will;
  - C. A copy of your Personal Financial Power of Attorney or Durable General Power of Attorney;
  - D. A list of all of your computer passwords and the file names of important files.
3. Funeral Arrangements – If you have pre-panned your funeral or own a cemetery plot, provide the pertinent information.
4. Banking – Provide a list of all banks and bank accounts (checking, savings, and money market accounts) with which you deal. Include the location and box number of your safe deposit box – as well as the location of the key to the safe deposit box.
5. Debt – Provide a list of all credit cards (and numbers) and any outstanding loans, such as car loans, mortgages, home equity loans, student loans, etc.



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6. Insurance - Provide a list of any insurance that you have (life, health, homeowners, auto, etc.)
7. Investments – Provide the name and contact information of your financial advisor and your tax preparer. If you have investments that are not being held by your investment company, provide a list of those assets and their location.
8. Digital Assets & Liabilities – Provide a list of any income that is directly deposited into your checking account (such as a paycheck, pension, or Social Security payments). Also, provide a list of any expenses that you pay through automatic deduction from your checking account (such as mortgage payments, insurance premiums, recurring bills, donations, etc.).
9. Provide a list of any recurring bills that you receive.
10. Other – Provide any information that you think necessary. (If you would like to see any information in someone else's "survivor's book", put that information in your book.)

### **WILL YOU GET STUCK WITH FAMILY MEMBERS' DEBT AFTER THEY DIE?**

Generally, family members are not personally liable for the debts of other family members. However, it depends on the debt itself and how connected the family members' finances are. Money and other assets left behind after death should go towards paying off any debt. If the money runs out before all the debts are paid, the unpaid balance usually is the creditor's loss.

But in some cases, a family member may have to pay. Co-signers (such as on joint credit cards, mortgages or other loans,) are on the hook for any remaining balance. Also, for car loans, home mortgages, and other loans secured by assets, the creditor (bank) can repossess the car, house, or other secured asset if the amount of the loan is not repaid.



### **TAX FREE GIFTS**

Beginning January 1, 2018 the amount that you can give away without tax consequences increases to \$15,000. (The amount is \$14,000 in 2017.) That means that each individual gift cannot exceed \$15,000. But you can give that amount to multiple people without tax consequences, and multiple people can receive that amount.

For example, if you are married and have 3 grandchildren, both you and your spouse can give each child \$15,000 (in 2018). In this example, both you and your spouse would have given \$45,000, and each child would receive \$30,000. There are no tax consequences.



In any event, the receiver of the gift pays no income tax, regardless of the amount of the gift they receive. However, if any individual gift exceeds the limit stated above, the giver of the gift should file a Gift Tax return, and may have to pay tax on the amount exceeding the limit.

Note: The above limits are calendar year limits. You could make a \$14,000 gift in December 2017 to a person and then make another \$15,000 gift to the same person in January 2018, with no tax consequences.

Note: The above limits are annual limits. You can't get around the rule by making two separate \$10,000 gifts to the same person in the same year. That counts as a \$20,000 gift.

This quarterly newsletter provides business, financial planning, and tax information to clients and friends. None of this general information should be acted upon without first determining its application to your specific situation.

For additional copies of this newsletter or further details on any article, please contact me.

*Love the life you live. Live the life you love. - Bob Marley*

## **MILITARY INJUSTICE: FUNDAMENTAL UNFAIRNESS**

No matter the case, no matter the political pressure, the law guarantees fairness. The law does its best to deliver justice. Or does it?

Suppose a military tribunal conducted a hearing by depriving an accused member of cross-examination. Suppose it attacked and demeaned opposing counsel. Suppose the military relied entirely upon hearsay. Suppose it engaged in unrelated and questionably reliable character assassination. Suppose the military, because its tactics still did not achieve the result desired, retaliated against the respondent's witnesses. Is that justice?

Imagine a military case involving a highly decorated 16-year veteran. Imagine an effort to banish the veteran from the military and to brand him with the ignominious Scarlet Letter of an Other Than Honorable discharge. Imagine the difficulties the veteran would then encounter for the rest of his life, the insurmountable obstacles that would prevent him from obtaining suitable employment, from supporting his children, from retaining his heretofore spotless reputation. Should not a proceeding designed to achieve so draconian a result exhibit scrupulous fairness?

The Maryland Army National Guard recently instituted an Administrative Separation Proceeding whose goal was to cast a soldier out with an Other Than Honorable discharge. So invested was the National Guard in achieving that result that it modified its charging document to change the year of the offense, a sexual impropriety on the grounds of the Fifth Regiment Armory, when it discovered that the alleged victim did not even live in Maryland in the year the National Guard first contended the activity occurred. The National Guard also declared that the female soldier who engaged in alleged sexual behavior with two male soldiers at the same time was a victim, even when she admitted, in crude vernacular terms, that she had performed the act for her enjoyment. She also received special treatment when the act came to light years later.

The case began when a screen shot of a video depicting the sexual act surfaced some time in 2016. The only participant clearly identifiable, by her face and her uniform name tag, was the female. The males had their backs to the camera with only a small portion of their anatomies visible. The female contended that the behavior occurred in one of the Honor Guard offices at the Fifth Regiment Armory, but she could not even supply the month when it had occurred.

The National Guard tried to prevent or curtail cross examination at the hearing. Its Judge Advocate, without drawing Respondent's counsel's attention to a deliberate omission and certainly hoping he would not notice, furnished respondent's counsel a pre-hearing witness list that did not contain the name of the female soldier. When counsel noticed that right away and objected, the Judge Advocate replied that the Army Regulation, 15-6, controlling the proceeding permitted the National Guard make its case through the soldier's hearsay statement with nothing more. Several rejoinders to that argument initially appeared to fall on deaf ears.

Then, several weeks before the first trial date, the National Guard's Judge Advocate suddenly filed a motion pursuant to Military Rule of Evidence 412, a "rape-shield" rule severely limiting defense counsel in criminal court-martial proceedings from delving into victims' sexual backgrounds. The motion demanded that respondent's cross-examination be curtailed, although counsel did not know until the moment that he got the motion that there might be a cross examination after all, that the female soldier, who somehow became a "victim," would now testify. The motion also contained the signature of a non-Maryland attorney who contended that he was counsel for the alleged victim. That "victim" told an investigator that she had engaged in the behavior for "kicks [although she substituted a lavatory vulgarity, with the same number of letters, for that word] and giggles." The motion also personally attacked respondent's counsel, accusing him of a lack of intelligence or understanding and of an effort to harass and intimidate the alleged victim. The Separation Board's Legal Advisor, essentially acting as a judge, granted the Judge Advocate's motion.

Even then, however, the respondent's counsel did not receive an opportunity to conduct so much as a severely limited cross-examination of the female participant in the activity. Later on, several days before the second trial date, the National Guard Judge Advocate again changed course and notified the respondent's

Continued Page 9

counsel that the National Guard had decided to present the female soldier's version of the event only by playing a video. The Guard lawyer told the respondent's counsel that he could travel to the Fifth Regiment Armory to view the video while being "monitored," guarded that is, by another soldier. Having no choice, counsel traveled to the Armory to view the video because the National Guard declined to give him copy of it.

A few days later, the hearing began at 7:00 a.m. Luckily for him and his client, the respondent's counsel arrived 30 minutes early because the Maryland Army National Guard had armed uniformed police officers waiting for him to search his bag. The Guard also had two armed police officers accompany the respondent everywhere he went, and they stayed in the room for the whole hearing. Additionally, the prosecution had a psychologist sitting in the room (apparently to imply that the respondent was mentally unbalanced). A chaplain was present throughout. She declined to introduce herself although she made quite a display of practicing her kick boxing moves while the board deliberated after the testimony.

Naturally, the respondent's counsel obeyed the ruling forbidding him from delving into the female soldier's rather extensive past sexual activities. Although the respondent could not cross-examine the female soldier because the National Guard only used her video, the Judge Advocate "offered" to make the soldier available for questioning by the respondent although he could not very well cross examine his own witness.

The Legal Advisor's ruling about not delving into the alleged victim's past did not apply to the National Guard's attacks on the respondent. Notwithstanding Military Rule of Evidence 404, forbidding evidence of past wrongs designed merely to show a propensity for misconduct, the Guard produced "evidence" of the respondent's alleged misbehavior in the form of pleadings from his civil divorce case containing accusations made by his former wife, who did not testify. The Legal Advisor allowed that over objection.

The respondent denied having engaged in the activity of which he was accused. Unfortunately, the other alleged participant, an Air Guard member the alleged victim accused, could not testify because about a half a year prior to the hearing, he became involved in a gun battle with a third male Guard member. He died while the other male languishes in a persistent vegetative state.

The National Guard's "investigation" failed independently to establish the identity of the two individuals with whom the female soldier, who remains on full-time duty with the Maryland Army National Guard, engaged in sexual improprieties. The Guard had only her assertion, and at the hearing, it deliberately did not adduce her live testimony in its case in chief to protect her from cross-examination. The investigation also turned up absolutely no evidence to corroborate the soldier's assertion that she had applied for a job in the Honor Guard, in whose office area the sexual activity allegedly occurred, by "filling out" an application. The investigators did not even speak to any of the clerical persons who may have been physically in the area where it allegedly happened. At least some of them had worked in that area for over a decade. The Guard's presentation demonstrated an investigation that was nothing more than a cynical, result-oriented charade.

Despite the one-sided atmosphere, the Maryland Army National Guard did not obtain the result it desired. The soldier received a general discharge under honorable conditions, leaving him eligible for all VA benefits except for the G.I. Bill. That result apparently angered the Guard.

Less than two weeks after the Board's decision, the Guard officer who served as the appointing authority caused an administrative investigation to be launched against two of the respondent's character witnesses. In the future, other soldiers solicited as character witnesses in other cases need to consider, very carefully, whether they might experience the same retaliation as the respondent's witnesses.

The proceedings achieved, perhaps, some measure of institutional vindication, but they failed to achieve due process or the goal of ruining the respondent's life.

Michael P. May, Esquire  
*The author tried the case described in the article.*

## AFTER FREDDIE GRAY: WHERE IS BALTIMORE RISING?

Dan Rodricks' Sun article, of November 26, 2017, *Some Lessons From Freddie Gray 's Death* says, "Baltimore has gone through too much trouble for nothing of meaning to come out of this tragedy." Reviewing the events related to, or caused by, Freddie Gray' s death and the subsequent unsuccessful prosecutions of the Baltimore 6 must be a part of any search for meaning.

Even before Gray's arrest, Baltimore witnessed protest marches related to Ferguson Missouri. Some of the marchers blocked traffic and screamed that they desired "dead cops."

Then, on April 12, 2015 in an area of West Baltimore plagued by drugs and crime, Freddie Gray fled the minute he saw the police. Fifteen years before that, the United States Supreme Court decided *Illinois v. Wardlow*, 528 U.S. 119 (2000), which held that fleeing from the police in a high crime area provides enough reasonable suspicion for a *Terry* stop, a principle reiterated by the Court of Special Appeals of Maryland recently in *State v. Sizer*, 230 Md. App. 640, 149 A.3d 706 (2016).

The police observed an illegal knife and arrested Gray who was so combative and uncooperative that a crowd gathered. The police placed Gray in a wagon, unaware of a very recent policy requiring the securing of prisoners by a seat belt. Instead, concerned for their safety and for the safety of the prisoner, Gray, who could easily have been hurt in any skirmish, they made the prudent decision to remove Gray and themselves from the area of the arrest.

Gray continued his pattern of uncooperative and disruptive behavior, banging about in the rear of the wagon. Indeed, another prisoner, Donta Allen, heard him. Tragically, Gray died on April 19, 2015.

At that point, violent protests erupted. On April 27, 2015, there were riots in the vicinity of Camden Yards involving massive destruction and injuries. Matters became so serious that for the first time in Major League history, on April 29, 2015, two teams, one of them the Orioles, played a game at which no spectators were in attendance. It was simply too dangerous for people to come downtown.

After Gray died, Donta Allen changed his story about Gray's banging about inside the van, essentially denying that occurred. Channel 11's "lead investigative reporter," Jayne Miller inter-

viewed him. At the time, the Code of Ethics of the Society of Professional Journalists said, "Journalists should avoid conflicts of interest, real or perceived [and should] disclose unavoidable conflicts." At the time, Ms. Miller was the significant other of Janice Bledsoe, Esq., a deputy state's attorney charged with investigating the Baltimore 6, but she did not disclose it.

Meanwhile, Baltimore experienced severe riots. Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake delayed calling the Maryland State police or National Guard. She explained, "We also gave those who wished to destroy space to do that as well."

On May 1, 2015, Marilyn Mosby Esq., surrounded by a phalanx of prosecutors, loudly announced the criminal charges lodged against the Baltimore 6 from the steps of the War Memorial, shouting to the cheering, exuberant crowd, "Our time is now." Maj. Sam Cogen of the Baltimore Sheriff's Office signed the charges although later, when he was sued, he submitted a sworn affidavit stating that he had merely signed a statement of charges prepared by the State's Attorney's Office.

Ms. Mosby claimed that the charges were predicated upon her office's independent investigation although she now claims immunity from a civil suit brought by five of the Baltimore 6, an immunity destroyed when a prosecutor acts as an investigator. Ms. Mosby, at various times, bitterly demeaned the competency, integrity, efficiency and professionalism of the Baltimore Police Department. Yet she also refused an offer of assistance from the Maryland State Police.

After the prosecution charged the Baltimore 6 with crimes up to and including second degree depraved heart murder, some of them filed a motion to recuse, or disqualify, Ms. Mosby from the case. The motion made prominent mention of Ms. Miller's relationship with Ms. Bledsoe, but Channel 11 did not mention that aspect of the motion in its reporting.

Then, on May 12, 2015, when confronted, Ms. Miller said that she would "step back" from reporting on the Freddie Gray/Baltimore 6 matter. She told other members of the media that she had intended to "step back" when "it got to the point of charging. That was always the plan. " She referred any further inquiries to her editor so that no one could ask her if her "point of charging" remark meant that she knew during the apparent investigative stage, when she

Continued Page 11

interviewed Donta Allen, that the prosecutor's intent all along was to charge at least some police officers with something. Mr. Miller also did not answer, and apparently was not asked, any questions about possible ethical violations related to an actual or apparent conflict of interest.

May 21, 2015 saw the indictment of the Baltimore 6. An issue before the grand jury was Freddie Gray's manner of death. The medical examiner conducting the autopsy, Carol Allen M.D., described the death to Detective Dawnyell Taylor as a "freakish accident." The detective had challenging interactions with Ms. Bledsoe, who at one point stormed out of a room in what the detective described as a "tantrum". The detective additionally testified under oath that Ms. Bledsoe refused to take or look at her notes. When she testified that before the grand jury, Ms. Bledsoe handed her pre-typed pages of notes inconsistent with the detective's recollections and demanded that she read them to the grand jurors. The detective additionally indicated that she could not answer their questions because the prosecutors intervened. At one trial, it came to light that the other deputy state's attorney trying to convict the Baltimore 6, one Michael Schatzow, Esq., wrote a letter to the Police Department demanding that Detective Taylor be removed from the case.

Long afterward, local media reported that Detective Taylor was charged with unrelated assaults in a tragic domestic matter. On March 7, 2017, she was acquitted of those charges. No one reported the acquittal.

Well after the riots, former Police Commissioner Anthony Batts, speaking at a symposium at St. Mary's University, said that the members of the Baltimore Police Department "took a knee" because he tried to reform the Department. Those "reforms" apparently consisted of telling police to stand down at the outset of the riots, thereby exacerbating matters. Batts apparently did not answer any questions at the symposium as to whether he left the top police job in Oakland Cal. in October, 2011 for pursuing the same strategies as he utilized in Baltimore. According to the Sun, in 2016, he purchased a home in a gated community in Coral Springs Florida with five bedrooms and four baths under the name Jean Luc Giovanni.

The first trial against one of the Baltimore 6, Officer William Porter, ended in a hung jury. The prosecutors vowed to retry him. Indeed, so anxious were the prosecutors to secure a conviction that they gave both William Porter and Garrett Miller, another

of the Baltimore 6, a type of immunity to compel them, with charges still pending against them, to testify against their fellow police, a matter that the prosecution argued all the way to the Court of Appeals of Maryland.

After the Porter case, the remaining matters went before Judge Barry Williams, a former Department of Justice attorney who prosecuted police misconduct. Judge Williams, whom Marilyn Mosby later bitterly maligned, acquitted Edward Nero, Brian Rice and Caesar Goodson. By then, Mr. Schatzow and Ms. Bledsoe, who had tried all four cases without obtaining a conviction, had to give the remaining cases to Lisa Phelps, Esq., now a judge in the District Court for Baltimore County, and Sarah David, Esq. Shortly thereafter, they resigned from the State's Attorney's Office. At that point, Marilyn Mosby dropped the "cases" against the remaining police defendants.

In the aftermath of dropping the cases, on July 29, 2016, Ms. Mosby, accompanied by her acolytes, stood before a mural of Freddie Gray. She complained of the police investigation and said that it demonstrated an "inherent bias." She additionally complained, notwithstanding the law, that none of the Baltimore 6 should have been able to choose a court trial, as opposed to a jury trial without the consent of her office.

On September 8, 2016, Baltimore City agreed to pay the family of Freddie Gray \$6.4 million.

Then, there were disciplinary proceedings against some of the Baltimore 6 after two accepted minor punishment rather than running the risk of undergoing a trial board. Had they been found guilty of anything, the Police Commissioner could have fired them regardless of the nature of the infraction or the trial board's recommendation.

The investigators recommended that Caesar Goodson, Brian Rice and Alicia White, the sergeant who had suffered a panic attack so severe that she required hospital treatment, lose their jobs. They had to stand trial.

Goodson stood trial first. The trial board found him not guilty of all 21 charges lodged against him. That occasioned bitter disappointment in some quarters. Commissioner Davis said, "My thoughts and prayers remain with the Gray family." Mayor Catherine Pugh said "I do think it's fair to have citizens [aren't police citizens?] sitting on the trial board, so we'll be back in Annapolis asking for the two citizens

Continued Page 12

on the trial board," i.e., attempting to obtain passage of a bill mandating the placement of non-police on trial boards, as opposed to keeping the issue a matter of collective bargaining, as is now the case.

After Goodson, Rice received a not guilty finding from the trial board, and finally the Police Department decided not to proceed against Alicia Wright.

At this point, the lawsuit against Ms. Mosby by five of the Baltimore 6 remains.

What also remains is a consent decree. The report "supporting" it suffers from a questionable methodology whose focus is difficult to ascertain. It does not clearly articulate a beginning hypothesis or specific measurable goals. It is unclear how it will benefit the community.

Against this backdrop, HBO began a series, *Baltimore Rising*. It is fair to ask from what Baltimore is rising and to where it intends to rise. What of meaning should come from this tragedy? Currently what has come from it, sorrowfully, is the specter of greatly increasing crime, especially murders, increased mistrust and fearfulness, flight and a police department so demoralized and decimated that Commissioner Davis, a while ago, actually solicited retired police officers to come back.

If Baltimore is indeed rising, it is not, sadly, the mythological Phoenix rising from the ashes.

That is heartbreaking.

Michael P. May  
November 27, 2017

## THE YEAR 2027

### Conversation #1:

*"Did you get the letter that they are raising our insurance rates again?"*

*"Yea, sucks. I can't afford it as it is."*

*"I wish there was someone we could turn to for help with this."*

*"Wasn't there an organization a long time ago that used to fight for us?"*

*"Yea, the BRPBA."*

*"What happened to them?"*

*"Nobody would volunteer their time, so it went under."*

*"Shame, we could use them now. Maybe someone should start it up again."*

*"Good luck with that."*

### Conversation #2:

*"I heard that John Smith's widow is in pretty bad shape financially. John was a great guy, I hate to see his widow struggling so badly."*

*"Really?"*

*"Yea, parts of her roof blew off in a storm last summer and rain is leaking into her home, and to top that off, she's going deaf and can't afford hearing aids."*

*"Oh man, that's sad. Can't anyone help her?"*

*"No, nobody cares apparently, or if they do care, there is no way to get the word out."*

*"I wish I had the money, I would help her. Hey, what happened to that group that used to help us retirees and widows at times like this?"*

Continued Page 13



*“That was the BRPBA Distress Fund. They are no longer around.”*

*“Why?”*

*“The people who ran it got older and wanted to retire and nobody would step in to take their place.”*

**The two conversations above could be from the future.** Crickets could be heard after the last newsletter when we asked for people to volunteer a few hours (as many or as few as you want) a month to a worthy cause. Out of 1800 retirees, not one person responded to our request for volunteers. Have we grown so apathetic that we don't care anymore? Who will fight for your rights in the future? Who will fight for your spouse's rights? Your minor children? Who will help when there is a hurricane or fire and a member loses everything? Who will be there with a helping hand when the gas and electric company turns off your widow's lights?

To say we were disheartened by the lack of response would be putting it mildly. As a brother/sisterhood, we expected at least one response from someone wanting to be a part of such a great organization.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR WANT TO RECEIVE EMAIL UPDATES?**

Are you in the process of moving? Please notify the BRPBA of your change of address so that you won't miss any important mailings. Also, if anyone would like to be included on the email updates, please send us your email address.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

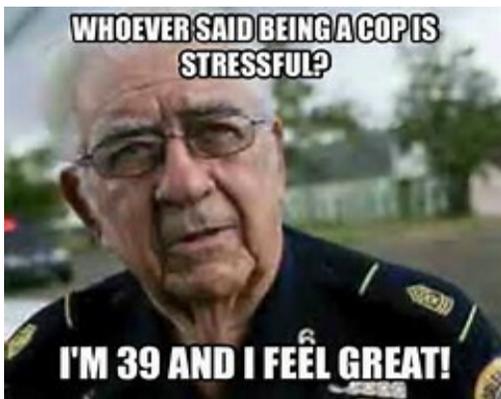
Old Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

New Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

New Phone Number: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Personal E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to: BRPBA, P.O. Box 6217, Baltimore, MD 21206**



**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!**

Freddie Bland, Jr.	Sherri Notargiacomo
Thomas Brannock	Carolyn Salley
Frederick Gilbert	Neil Splain
John Gilden, Jr.	John T. Wagner
Edward S. Jones	Lewis "Gary" Yamin
Anthony McLaughlin	
Mario Notargiacomo	

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

President: Daryl Buhrman ..... 410-803-2293  
1st VP: Richard Nevin ..... 410-876-1027  
Distress Fund ..... 410-803-2293

Website ..... [www.brpba.com](http://www.brpba.com)

Email Address: [J8518@aol.com](mailto:J8518@aol.com)



**WE ARE NOW UP TO 828 MEMBERS WHO RECEIVE EMAIL UPDATES! THANK YOU!**

***If you would also like to receive updates, please email [J8518@aol.com](mailto:J8518@aol.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.

**SICKNESS OR DEATH OF MEMBER**

Please arrange for someone to call Ditty Baldwin at 410-666-7279 whenever a member is sick. This is the only way our Association is aware of it. Remember, upon your death, your spouse or immediate family should notify the Police Personnel Board at 410-396-2546.

**Newsletter Chairman:**

Patrick Youells  
([cody7762@hotmail.com](mailto:cody7762@hotmail.com)).

**WITH OUR NEW STREAMLINED DISTRESS FUND APPLICATION, IT HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER TO ASK FOR HELP.**

**CALL DARYL BUHRMAN, 410-803-2293 WHEN YOU NEED A HELPING HAND.**

## WHEN A CON MAN CALLS

Let's face it, fraud using false identities is on the rise. How many times have you received a call from a local high school or car dealership and it turns out to be a telemarketer or some type of scam? We need to recognize those types of scams and ignore them. Below is a list of the most common:

**The Jury Duty Manager:** "Hi, I'm calling from the courthouse and you missed jury duty. You have to pay a \$400 fine now or you will go to prison."

**The Puppy Breeder:** "As a dog lover, you should know we just got a beautiful litter of purebred golden retriever puppies, just \$200 each!"

**The Utility Company:** "We will be shutting off your electricity in 24 hours if you don't pay the past-due amount on your bill immediately!"

**The Government Clerk:** "You have unclaimed property with our state. Simply pay this fee and we will release it to you!"

**The Ticket Seller:** "As an affiliate of a major ticket vendor, we can get you seats for your dream concern for a discount, if you act quickly!"

**The Bank Verifier:** "There is a data problem with your checking account. Please verify this information so we can confirm things and fix the error."

**The Big-Winner Announcer:** "I'm from the Canadian lottery and you have won \$1 Million! Pay the import tax and fee, and we'll send you your winnings."

**The Doctor Representative:** "Research shows conclusively that this new medicine will stop your disease in its tracks."

**The Police of Fire Department:** "We're raising money for officers/firefighters injured in the line of duty. How much will you be donating today?"

**The Internal Revenue Service:** "You owe taxes and are at grave risk of large fines or jail time if you do not settle this situation immediately."

**The Long Distance Lover:** "In these weeks of chatting, I've fallen so in love with you. Send money for a plane ticket and, oh, the magic that will happen."

**The Military Rap:** "I'm from the Veterans Administration, and you are entitled, as an ex-soldier, to benefits from this program. I just need to know...."

***BE CAREFUL! DO NOT GIVE OUT PERSONAL INFORMATION TO CALLERS OR IN EMAILS!***

***ALSO. NEVER, EVER SEND CREDIT CARD INFORMATION OVER THE INTERNET!***

DON'T FORGET TO JOIN OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: MEMBERS ONLY BRPBA.

365 MEMBERS NOW GET NEWS THE QUICKEST THIS WAY!

## THE BRPBA CARES....

*The Board of the BRPBA unanimously voted in October of this year to begin an annual program whereby we pick one family in need at Thanksgiving and one family at Christmas/Kwanzaa/Hanukkah and gift them with a \$200.00 shopping spree for food for the holidays.*

*For this most recent Thanksgiving, 13<sup>th</sup> District Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke submitted the name of Mrs. Denise (last name withheld for privacy), who is living in a single family, three-bedroom home with four adults and three children.*

*Daryl Buhrman contacted the family, requested a shopping list, and he and Kathy Conrad went shopping for them.*

*This family, who live on The Alameda in Baltimore City, were beyond happy to receive such a gift and were extremely grateful.*

*We have to admit that it selfishly gave us great pleasure to be able to help this struggling family and we know our members will appreciate the money spent on such a worthwhile cause.*

*We look forward to seeing the happiness of others as we continue with this most meaningful program.*

## **Be aware of the scams.**

You've taken the plunge and are cleaning out your closet. Now, where to donate? For many, the easiest option is to drop off the bags at one of those big dumpster-like donation bins scattered around grocery store parking lots. Easy. Convenient. And you can sleep better knowing the needy will benefit from your lightly used clothing. Or will they?

A closer look reveals that some of these donation bins are not all they claim to be. According to nonprofit watchdog service [Charity Watch](#), a popular clothing collection charity called Planet Aid warrants closer scrutiny. According to Charity Watch, Planet Aid raises almost all of its funds by selling donated items, rather than giving them to needy people. One year, it only distributed \$8,000 of donated goods of the \$8.7 million it spent.

So, where to donate used clothes? Well, there are still some good (and well-vetted options), many of which will pick up donations from your home:

- Dress for Success
  - American Red Cross
  - Salvation Army
  - Goodwill
  - Vietnam Veterans of America
- Local homeless shelters and battered women shelters are also good options. Donating to local organizations is sometimes safer because there is no middleman or complicated distribution process. You can simply take the clothes to the front door and talk to a real human being.

**THE EARTH HAS MUSIC FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO LISTEN.**

*Shakespeare*

## DISTRESS FUND NEWS

As you are already aware, the raffle is under way and I am happy to report it is going well. We always appreciate all you do and cannot thank you enough.

Currently the Distress Fund is in the process of helping a widow in need, and your donations/purchases will go far in helping her.

The drawing for the Raffle will be held at our annual Christmas Party on December 19<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion, 8666 Silverlake Drive, Perry Hall, MD 21128. The time for our gettogether is 7:00 p.m.

**PLEASE NOTE: Due to the change in venue, the date stated on the raffle tickets is WRONG. Note the above date!!**

Each year, the BRPBA Distress Fund purchases gift cards for widows we have helped in the past, to ease the burden of their holiday food needs. This year's cards were mailed the week of 11/13/17 and we could not be happier to be in the position to help these ladies who live on a very fixed income. Again, this could not be done without you.

We wish to thank the following for their generous donations in memory of our members:

Beverly Garner, in loving memory of her husband, Thomas Garner

Cecilia Gettier, in loving memory of her husband, Robert C. Gettier.

Deborah Mellott, in loving memory of her husband, Kenneth A. Mellott

Donald Steinhice, in memory of Edward Aro.

Barbara Brenton, in loving memory of Wallace Brenton.



Proudly state your retirement from the Baltimore City Police Department by purchasing your own license tag. Visit our website for more information at: [www.brpba.com](http://www.brpba.com) under Member Information or call Daryl Buhrman at 410-803-2293.



*IN MEMORIAM*

Det. Patricia Bradds (11/11/17)  
 Agent Wallace Brenton (09/03/17)  
 Carina Caprinolo, daughter-in-law of Nick Carpinolo (08/28/17)  
 Barbara Israel, wife of Burton Israel (09/27/17)  
 Sgt. Martin Johnson (11/06/17)  
 P.O. Howard Jones (11/04/17)  
 Katarzyna Lane, wife of Ken Lane (12/29/16)  
 Louise M. Perrica, wife of Leslie E. Perrica (05/07/17)  
 CSO Mary Pridgen (10/05/17)  
 Det. Sean Suiter (11/16/17)  
 Joann Thompson (10/08/17)  
 Tom Tumminello's mom, Mrs. Muriel Nickey, (10/21/17) and nephew, Robert Tumminello, (10/22/17).  
 Barbara VanCleaf, wife of Harry Van Cleaf. (09/01/17)

*BRPBA FINAL ROLL CALL*

Edward Aro, Jr. (10/08/17)  
 William Ficek (10/22/17)  
 Norman Hess (09/21/17)  
 David Hollingsworth (10/17/17)  
 Paul Napier (11/02/17)  
 Robert Novak (11/09/17)  
 David C. Robertson, Jr. (09/13/17)  
 William Stickline (11/09/17)

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A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies. It brings us together again and again. - Maya Angelou



quotes.bloote.com



*Do not stand at my grave and weep  
 I am not there. I do not sleep.  
 I am a thousand winds that blow.  
 I am the diamond glints on snow.  
 I am the sunlight on ripened grain.  
 I am the gentle autumn rain.  
 When you awaken in the morning's hush  
 I am the swift uplifting rush  
 Of quiet birds in circled flight.  
 I am the soft stars that shine at night.  
 Do not stand at my grave and cry;  
 I am not there. I did not die.*



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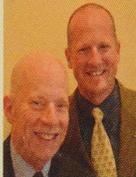
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Perry Hall, MD. Please join us!***