



THE SHIELD



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BALTIMORE RETIRED POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

SERVED WITH HONOR

LATE WINTER 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Covid 19. Sick of hearing about it yet? We are all asking ourselves, when will this go away? Obviously not any time soon because cases are surging worldwide again; however, when you take into consideration that there have been 240,000 U.S. deaths from Covid this year in a population of 328 million, it's not as bad as it could have been. By comparison, it is projected that 606,000 people will die of cancer in the U.S. this year and 665,000 people died from heart disease in 2019.

Of course, to anyone who has lost someone to this horrible virus, it has been extremely painful, and we send our deepest condolences. Any loss is tragic, and we understand your grief. We, personally, know of people who have suffered through this virus and a two people who have passed away, so it's no small matter.

Fortunately though, most of our populace are continuing to be cautious and following all restrictions. Also, it appears that our medicines to combat this illness have vastly improved. It is estimated that over 3.5 million have already recovered from this virus here in the U.S., however, that is just an estimate as many people did not report having it. If you were to catch Covid now (versus when it first appeared), you have only a 2.3% chance of dying from it, so I guess that's something to be comforted by in this time of unease.

No matter what, we are all tired of dealing with it... the masks (no more smiles, hard to hear sometimes, people who have to read lips in real trouble), the six feet of separation (which make lines appear very long, haha), the isolation and loneliness, and just the inconvenience of it all. Will the vaccine help? When will it be released? Will this be a mandatory thing? Or could this virus die down on its own? There are many who say this virus won't go away until next winter!

We just have to remain diligent and wear those masks and wash those hands and pray for an end to it all.

* On October 20, 2020, at our first meeting after five months of no meetings because of the virus, we had a good turnout. The Executive Board made a recommendation to raise our Death Benefit from up to \$1,000 to up to \$1,250 starting on January 1, 2020. A motion was made and seconded, and unanimously passed by the membership to approve this raise.

Also at the meeting, Mr. Randy Hart was our guest speaker (hired by the Fire and Police Unions). He spoke and answered questions about our health care plan that will be changing January 1, 2021. This new plan with Aetna will replace Care First

and Silver Script. Please see Mike May's article on Page 2 & 3.

Lastly at the meeting, nominations were made for the next two years for our Board of Directors, and at the November meeting were elected with no opposition.

President: Daryl Buhrman

1st VP: Richard Nevin

2nd VP: Patrick Youells

Treasurer: Don Kent

Secretary: Kathy Conrad

Board of Trustees: Charles Brawner

Board of Governors: Mike May

Sgt. At Arms: Ellis (Ditty) Baldwin

Trustees Barry Powell and Ken Dickstein, and Board of Governors Bob Haukdal and Dan Fickus were not up for reelection this year.

Thank you for having confidence in us for two more years.

* I'm sure many of you have heard by now that Mayor Jack Young vetoed Councilman Ryan Dorsey's bill that would rename a city monument dedicated to explorer Christopher Columbus to instead honor victims of police violence. The bill would have placed this memorial close to another memorial honoring officers who died in the line of duty. This was distressing to many active officers, retired officers, family members of officers lost in the line of duty, and even concerned citizens. Many, including myself, wrote letters to Mayor Young and the entire City Council in protest of this bill.

I applaud Mayor Young, the five City Council members and Commissioner Harrison who worked together to veto this bill. While I can understand that people want a memorial, to have it placed so close to the police memorial was inappropriate.

* I hope everyone has and will enjoy the holidays.

* At this point in time, our holiday get-together will be December 15th, although it appears we will only be able to have a 50% capacity gathering. We intend to have a great feast for

Continued Page 2

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

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

**Richard D. Nevin
1st Vice President**

**Patrick Youells
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Nick Caprinolo**



all members who are weary of 2020 and just want to celebrate our collective holidays, and we will draw our yearly raffle on that date. As in the past two meetings, all safety measures will be in place to ensure your good health.

Daryl

P.S. I want to send a special thank you to all who sent well wishes/cards after my mishap in August. I hope to never repeat that again.

P.S.S. From Mike Mancuso regarding our Pension:

All,

We received word today from Charles Monk (Saul Ewing), the lead attorney in our pension lawsuit. The Court of Appeals has agreed to take up the case from the Court of Special Appeals and to hear it this coming February 2021.

This is good news because we can now skip a step and should have a decision sometime in August 2021 (if not sooner).

*Stay well!
Mike Mancuso*

(From Daryl: This is very good news. It will save us about \$250,000 in court costs, plus, there can be no more appeals by the city. This will be the end of it all.)

AETNA'S NEW MEDICARE PLAN FOR RETIREES

Thanks to the efforts of our President, Daryl Buhrman and our Secretary, Kathy Conrad, our November 17, 2020 meeting at the Knights of Columbus Hall focused on the new health care plan furnished by Aetna. Because of the COVID crisis, we had fewer in-the-person attendees than normal, but Kathy had a phone hookup so that while people physically attending could listen to the Aetna presentation, other members could listen on the phone — and ask questions.

Christopher Chambers and Liz Sampo of Aetna made the presentation, with Liz doing the bulk of it. Naturally, our members had different concerns, so it is impossible in a short article to address everyone's issues. It is critical, therefore, to know that the Aetna help phone, designed especially for our retirees, is 1-855-303-3896. The website, which additionally answers questions, is Baltimorecity.aetnamedicare.com. In addition to that, although Aetna's representatives did not mention it, retirees can also look at aetna-medicareplans.com and at the 2021 Baltimore City Retiree Benefits Booklet at humanresources.baltimorecity.gov.

It is absolutely critical for our members to understand that if there is a conflict between a retiree's understanding of what the Aetna representatives said on November 17, 2021 and the actual group insurance policy, the language of the policy is the language upon which a court will rely in the event of a dispute over coverage. The same holds true as to Aetna's descriptive materials and the City benefits booklet. The policy controls if there is a conflict.

The Aetna representatives assured the retirees that in all probability, they would be able to keep the doctors they already had under the prior plan. It is important to understand that there are no guarantees. The most prudent action for a retiree to take is to contact the treating physician, ascertain if that doctor participates in Aetna's program and then to confirm that with Aetna. The likelihood is that the physician will be enrolled in the plan, but it is impossible to make that determination generally.

Continued Page 3

As both the City and Aetna have said all along, those enrolled in the prior Blue Cross/Blue Shield program will automatically be enrolled in the Aetna program. Those members should receive a card and a letter from Aetna. Once the retiree receives a card, it will not be necessary to display the Medicare card as well, although the retiree should put that card in a safe place and not discard it.

Aetna will, according to its representatives, additionally offer prescription coverage at most participating pharmacies. Naturally, the retiree must initially determine whether a particular pharmacy is part of the Aetna network. The representatives assured us that most major chains were included in the network.

The premiums for Medicare eligible retirees are low, as are the deductibles. It is impossible, in an article of this nature, to provide information as to the financial obligations, or burdens, for all the families. Naturally, an issue arises when one spouse is eligible for Medicare and the other is not. Under those circumstances, the premium will naturally be higher. No doubt an underwriting formula enables Aetna to determine premiums in every case. Unfortunately, there was no discussion of the appeal process in the event the individual retirees perceived that deductions from their pension checks for health insurance were excessive.

There is no automatic coverage for vision or ordinary dental work. Retirees may, of course, purchase such coverage. It was unclear if that purchase would then be deducted from the pension check or would have to be paid separately.

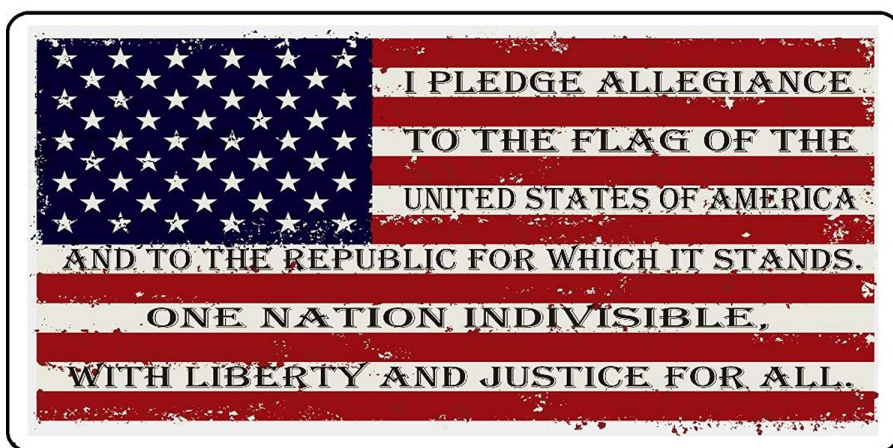
There was also a long explanation as to Medicare, Plans A through D. That information is available generally and beyond the scope of this article.

Aetna also has preventive health plans, including home visits by nurses. Certainly, that could be a significant benefit for older retirees. In fact, Ms. Sampo rather forcefully encouraged retirees to take advantage of the preventive programs available through Aetna.

The insurance personnel who participated in the discussion took the better part of an hour and went through what they said were frequently asked questions, which of course raises the issue of what they mean by frequent and who asked the questions. When some members asked questions, they candidly admitted that they did not know the answers. They then got the person's phone numbers to be able to call back with actual responses the next day. That approach was more encouraging than the circumlocution characteristic of many bureaucrats.

In the final analysis, most retirees who utilized Blue Cross/Blue Shield in the past will become automatically enrolled in Aetna's plan. If they have any questions, they should refer initially to the City Benefits Booklet, the Aetna Internet materials and the help line. Because the plan is new, while obviously there will be confusion at the outset, the hope is that Aetna, as a new provider, will be most accommodating and efficient. Certainly, the website and help line offer encouragement. Time will tell.

Michael P. May



WANT YOUR NEWSLETTER EMAILED INSTEAD OF MAILED?
LET US KNOW AT brpbaoffice.com.

Newsletter

October 2020

SUSPENDED PAYROLL TAXES



On August 8th, President Trump signed an executive order “suspending” the withholding of the employee portion of payroll taxes. That means that if you are getting a paycheck, your employer is not required to take out the employee portion of FICA and Medicare from your paycheck. Consequently, your take-home pay would be a little higher. Please note the following:

1. This executive order only affects payroll. It does not affect pensions, Social Security payments, or IRA distributions.
2. This executive order only covers the period September 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.
3. If your employer did stop withholding your portion of the payroll taxes, please be aware that those taxes are not forgiven. **You will have to pay these taxes back starting in January 2021.**
4. In most cases, your employer will take out twice as much payroll taxes from each paycheck, starting in January, until the full amount is paid back.
5. However, your employer is not required to temporarily stop withholding employee payroll taxes. So if your paychecks are / were unchanged, that means that your employer did not participate in the suspended payroll taxes program, and therefore the above items do not apply to you.

529 PLAN DISTRIBUTIONS

Distributions from a 529 Plan are not taxable if they are used to pay (or reimburse) qualified educational expenses. However, those distributions must be made in the same year that the expenses are paid.

This can be tricky when paying spring tuition bills. Typically, spring semesters begin in January. But colleges often send out spring tuition bills in December, before the semester begins. If parents pay the tuition bill in December, then the 529 Plan distribution must be made in December in order for that distribution to be non-taxable. If parents



wait until January to pay the tuition bill, the 529 Plan distribution must be taken in January (or later in the same year) in order for that distribution to be non-taxable. If the tuition is paid in December but the 529 Plan distribution is not taken until January, that distribution is taxable.

This is not a problem if the 529 Plan pays the tuition directly to the college or school (the payment and the distribution would be simultaneous). But if parents pay the tuition themselves and then take a distribution to reimburse themselves, they must be very careful of the timing. I know this can be inconvenient, and easy to forget. But the risk of having to pay taxes on the 529 Plan distribution makes it absolutely necessary to pay the expenses and take the reimbursement in the same year.

Continued Page 5



WORKING FROM HOME BECAUSE OF COVID-19 CONCERNS?

As more office workers and teachers continue to juggle their lives, their family responsibilities, and their jobs from home, many people are asking questions about potential tax breaks for home offices. Unfortunately, if you're working for someone else, (such as for a school system, or law firm, or any other employer), the tax rules do not allow you to claim a home office deduction for unreimbursed business expenses relating to working from home.



Prior to 2018, certain employees could deduct the cost of home office expenses as unreimbursed employee costs included in miscellaneous itemized deductions. But the 2017 Tax Cuts and New Jobs Act repealed this category of tax breaks starting in 2018. Under current tax law, there is no deduction for an employee working out of their house.

Self-employed people or independent contractors, however, who use a room or space in their home exclusively and regularly as their principal place of business may qualify for the home office deduction.

ARE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS TAXABLE?

Part of your Social Security benefits may be taxable, depending on the amount of your income. Here are the rules:

- First, you must calculate your "Provisional Income". This is your (1) Adjusted Gross Income, plus (2) any tax free interest from municipal bonds, plus (3) ½ of your social security benefits.
- If your Provisional Income is below \$25,000 (Single) or \$32,000 (Joint return), your Social Security benefits are tax-free.
- If your Provisional Income is between \$25,000 and \$34,000 on a Single return (or between \$32,000 and \$44,000 on a Joint return) then ½ of your Social Security benefits are taxable.
- If your Provisional Income is above \$34,000 on a Single return or above \$44,000 on a Joint return, then 85% of your Social Security benefits are taxable.



Note that the above rules apply only to your federal income tax return. All Social Security benefits are tax free on your Maryland income tax return.

HAVE YOU SENT A CHECK TO IRS THAT HASN'T YET CLEARED YOUR BANK?



IRS is still behind on processing the mail that has piled up due to COVID-19. Included in the backlog are tax returns and other correspondence sent in by taxpayers with paper checks. So if you sent a check to IRS that has not cleared your bank account, don't worry. They will get to it, eventually.

Unfortunately, many taxpayers have actually received a letter telling them that the taxes were not paid, and assessing a penalty. Again, this is an IRS error and it will get straightened out.

Do not cancel the original check and don't send in another check. This will only confuse the IRS even more. There is no need to worry about penalties if you sent the payment in on time. IRS credits payments to accounts based on the envelope's postmark date, not the date the payment is processed.

I know it is easy to say, but please be patient. Some of my clients already have received letters from IRS correcting their error, acknowledging receipt of the payments, and removing all penalties.

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.

UNCLE JOHN

Born in 1906, Sgt. John J. Dohony did not join the Baltimore Police Department until he was 35. When he emigrated to County Heaven in 1982, he bequeathed an extraordinary legacy of decency, compassion, wisdom, and sacrifice for those he left behind to attempt to emulate, never quite succeeding. I knew the lung cancer from the Pall Mall cigarettes he smoked his entire life was killing him. I thought I was prepared to say goodbye. I was wrong.

To this day, over 38 years later, I grieve. I hear his voice. "The badge is no good without a heart underneath." I try my best to fulfill that simple, eloquent advice. I know of no other way to honor Uncle John.

After he finished the Police Academy, he walked a foot post on Broadway, across the street from St. Patrick's Church at Broadway and Bank where Father Nicholas W. Dohony, his brother and another uncle, was stationed as a priest. One of them had the good side of the street, and the other the bad. I could never figure out who had which.

Back in those days, no one knew the area as Fell's Point. In addition to the Irish, there was a heavy Polish population. Years later, on December 11, 1970, Uncle John attended a wedding rehearsal party for me and my wife. We were getting married the next day. My wife's maid of honor still spoke with a thick Polish accent, not having come to the United States until she was 21. Uncle John approached her and began to speak to her in Polish. When I asked him how he knew the language, he explained that he had many first-generation Poles on his foot post. He had to learn to communicate with them, so Uncle John, who had not graduated from high school, picked up conversational Polish.

Uncle John, promoted to sergeant, went to the Southern District and traded work times with Frank Battaglia, later Police Commissioner, so that he could see his wife, who was dying of a brain tumor. When she departed, Uncle John continued to stay in touch with the family. At the same time, he raised his son, John J. Dohony, Jr., the father of current Detective Sgt. Robert L. Dohony. He also taught himself to cook — superbly.

Meanwhile, his son, Jack, went to Georgetown and met his wife, Kitty. Uncle John became close to Kitty's family, the Kelly's. He got particularly close to Jack's mother-in-law, Aunt Kate, then a widow. He married her.

One of my best and most vivid memories resulted from a trip I took with Uncle John when I was 9 years old. Early one Saturday morning, he picked me up, and we took the bus to the train station. Uncle John, one of the old foot sergeants, never drove an automobile — ever. We went to Washington DC and spent the day at the Smithsonian Institute. When we finished, we went to Aunt Kate's house, because their wedding was still a few months away, ate dinner and took the train back to Baltimore.

I joined the Army in 1966. I knew what I wanted to do. I signed up for the Military Police Corps. After all, Uncle John was a police sergeant. That did it for me.

In July 1967, I was home on leave before I went to Vietnam. One night, I drove Uncle John to the Southwest District, where he was assigned as a desk sergeant. The respect he received from the police officers made an indelible impression on me. I remember one officer in particular telling me how patient and kind Uncle John was to him his first night on the street when he did not have a clue as to what he was supposed to have been doing.

The day I was leaving to catch a plane from Friendship Airport to go to Oakland Army Base for transportation to Vietnam, Uncle John, of course, called me. To this day, I can hear his voice, "God bless you."

Then, just after Thanksgiving, 1967, I somehow got a mail delivery while I was running, convoys between Kontum and Dak To. The return address said 3422 Cardenas Avenue, where Uncle John and Aunt Kate lived. Uncle John told me he had decided to retire.

Meanwhile, I returned from Vietnam, finished my time in the Army, joined the Baltimore Police Department and went back to school. I talked to Uncle John all the time because I needed his wisdom and his advice. He also had us over for dinner. In fact, on one occasion, I went over to his house after the midnight shift because he was having us over for dinner that night. He was sipping Canadian whiskey, and I thought that I could surely keep up with him because I had youth on my side. That turned out to be a bad idea.

In 1975, as a 28-year-old Detective Sergeant, I got badly hurt when an escape artist got away from me. Some people in the Police Department actually debated what punishment I should receive because "the Department was embar-

Continued Page 7

rassed. " Uncle John, John Lewandowski, Ted Weintraub and Bob Larkin very strongly advised me to shut up for once. Uncle John told me to let Ted take care of things. I did; he did; and things worked out.

Before I got hurt, one day I walked out of the Headquarters Building to get several diet Polish hot dogs from Polock Johnny's, and I encountered Uncle John. Back then, he used to take two buses to go over to the 1300 block of W. Lombard St. to shave another cousin, Ignatius Creaghan, a retired Baltimore Police Officer severely disabled by a stroke, and he was changing busses. I told Uncle John I could go back into the building, sign out a car and drive him home. He declined the offer, leaving me with the impression that he did not think much of my judgment in making it in the first place.

Time has created extraordinary, if not cataclysmic, revisions in policing. There are no more foot sergeants. Gone are the days when police walked their prisoners to call boxes, which do not even exist anymore. Police on patrol do not wear white shirts any longer. They no longer dread being caught outside without a hat. The job is so different nowadays.

One aspect of the profession, however, should never change. The decency, compassion and sense of service must continue. My cherished Uncle John displayed those qualities every day. He taught me by example — and still does through my memories. I remain proud of my service with the Baltimore Police Department and of my membership in the BRPBA.

Michael P. May

As police, we like to play the "You think that was bad, listen to this" game. Here is one of those stories: The shear trauma of which haunts me to this day.

Bing Hunt, Pete Harbin, Bob Franklin and I were the original four "Officers Friendly." We visited elementary schools to speak with the kindergarten and first grade classes. Our program was about forty (40) minutes long. Some schools had only two or three classes, while some took us two days to complete the schedule. If we were in a larger school, we didn't have the time to just chat with the kids. We had to say our piece and move on to the next class.

I was in Beechfield Elementary School, one of the larger schools. I had just started my talk when a little girl raised her hand. I said that if we had time later, I would answer questions. During my presentation, she raised her hand 3-4 times. Even her teacher motioned for her to put her hand down. I finished up and was ready to move on when up went the hand once again. I figured I had best let her say what was on her mind, so I called on her. She very proudly said "Officer Friendly, your fly is open." Now I was here to talk about police relations, but at this point, I wasn't sure what kind. Here is the problem: If I zip up, that's all they will remember next time. If I don't do anything, maybe they wouldn't remember. The problem is, how bad is it? I mean they aren't supposed to take anatomy and physiology until college. Needless to say, I got out of there as fast I could and zipped. I'm finally at the point where I don't wake up screaming at night.

Bob Dean



**If you spend your life looking at the past,
you will never see the future.**

Jesse James Once Lived in Baltimore

Submitted by Kenny Driscoll

Jesse James stayed in Baltimore more than once as did other well-known western characters from American history. Doc Holiday, for one, was trained as a dentist here in Baltimore at the University of Maryland Dental School. Getting back to the James Boys, it seemed when things got hot, they found their way to Baltimore where Jesse stayed under his alias Thomas Howard. Neighbors said he was a calm easy-going man. Approx. 1879, at the end of what was known as the "Serious Seventies", Baltimore was a quiet town. It had cobble stone streets for which barouches and other such vehicles of the time bumped and clattered their way over. The population at the time was only made up of 330,000 and city government only collected about \$4 million a year in taxes. The mayor at the time was Ferdinand Latrobe who began his career as mayor and continued the position for seven terms. The Northern boundary of the city was North Ave. and its intersection with Madison Ave.

Jesse James' Family Headquarters: Of all the parts of Baltimore's history, Jesse and Frank James staying along with their families was not known until the 1920's. It turns out that the bandit, his wife, kids, and his brother Frank James sometimes made Baltimore their headquarters and this took place during the serious and picturesque seventies. There was a story of a close call of what would have been a shootout between Frank James and our Baltimore City Policemen of the time. Frank James lucked out and also prevented the thrill of anyone knowing the James boys were harbored by this city. It wasn't often that Jesse James would leave a clue of his true identity when he galloped away from a crime back to where he once came, said, Robertus Love, a former newspaper writer, who knew Jesse personally and for a short time road with the James Boys in order to pen Jessie's biography, "The Rise and fall of Jesse James," Love liked Jesse very much. Mr. Love wrote, "Mr. James stated that the family had lived in Nashville, and elsewhere in Tennessee in recent years, and for a time in Baltimore Md., and for some months in Kansas City just removing to St. Joseph.

Where did they live? The records are unclear, and the reason is unclear, he obviously didn't give the name Jesse and Frank James, Thomas Howard wouldn't have been as well know back then as it became after his having been killed. When Mrs. James spoke, she said, "We

came here to live as other people do. They tell some hard things about my husband, but a better man never lived. He never drank, smoked, or chewed. He never liked whisky. He never swore in my presence and wouldn't allow others to do so," Jesse was evidently a good husband and father. A good family man. A Good Neighbor

"Tom Howard" was the name taken by the man who was much "wanted by the police" in those days, and in all probability he was so successful in his attempt to "live as other people live" that his presence among them created no suggestion of a ripple in the quiet lives of his various neighborhoods. At the time of his death several people who had known him in various cities gave testimony that Tom Howard was "a good neighbor." There were many who believed Jesse James was not an outlaw and bandit by choice, but that after the civil war he became involved in the guerrilla warfare which continued for some time between the border states, and through these conflicts becoming attached to an outlaw band, he found it impossible to break away. He had a ton of friends among law-abiding groups making it easy to slip in and out of towns where he did not commit crime and blend right in. There were many neighbors that said he attended church and sang all the hymnals, though they say he was obviously a better bank robber than he was a singer. A Baptist Minister once asked Jesse why he does not stop the things he is doing? Jesse answered, "If you'll tell me just how I can stop, I'll be glad enough to stop; but I don't intend to stop directly under a rope!" His brother Frank found a way to stop. He made his way into seeing a governor in the state of Missouri and turned himself in. He was tried for one crime in a plea deal, served his term, came out of prison, and lived to be a respectable member of society. It was at this period in his life that he told a story of his experience in Baltimore City. At the time of the telling he was employed as doorkeeper at a prominent theater, and the tale was related to a man who was then a young detective. The story was told in Mr. Love's book and was based on Frank James' theory that "the officer always gets it when he least expects it" "He then illustrated his point by relating his Baltimore experience, as he put it, "They thought they wanted me." He said he was stopping in Baltimore; he had a room in a house built of solid block of dwellings with no space between them. One night he wanted something to eat, so he took a walk

Continued Page 9

to a nearby market that was open. On the way back to his room with a basket of food on his left arm, his coat collar turned up and his hat brim turned down, he noticed a number of policemen walking up and down in front of his house and they were waiting for him to return. He said, "I was too close to turn back without drawing their suspicion. Directly across the street from the policemen I noticed a white horse hitched to a buggy; the street was well lit from gas lamps and the horse showed up quite well in the mellow gleam."

"I decided quickly upon my plan of action. Probably the officers, I thought, had the block surrounded. My plan was to walk straight on past them if they didn't interfere with me; I would not go into my room at all. If they attempted to capture me, I would try to reach the horse and buggy by "shooting it out" with the officers. And then drive away as fast as that horse would have taken me." - "James said he walked along with his six shooter, which he had harnessed under his left arm. His right hand thus was concealed under his coat and under the arm in which the basket hung. Approaching the bunch of officers, he edged out toward the curbing, intending to walk around them as though he had not noticed them especially. When he

was opposite the officers, one of them reached out a hand to stop him. James sprang backward into the street, off the sidewalk, toward the horse and buggy, pulling his pistol from its place, but not quite getting it out – not so that it was visible to the policemen. "Well, sir, what is it? What is it?" James asked the officers who had tried to stop him. "Don't be scared," said one of the officers, with an oath; we're not going to hurt you," James again said, "What is it?" expecting any second to find it necessary to open fire and "get" as many of them as he could, when another officer in a rather gentle tone said, "Say, don't be afraid of us; we're not going to harm you, man; we simply want to get men enough to serve as a jury in a coroner's case where a man in the house next door to my house had died without medical attention, by natural cause or otherwise." James then saw, he stated, that the policemen were in front of the house adjoining the one where he was roomed..... he "simply told them he was not a citizen of Maryland but lived in Washington." But those Baltimore Policemen never knew how close they came to shooting it out with Frank James, and or how far from James his outlaw brother Jesse might have been.

<https://baltimorepolicemuseum.com/en/component/k2/item/1073-jessie-james.html>

BALTIMORE RETIRED POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION TAG PROGRAM

As of November, 2020, we have 684 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. Don't forget to contact Daryl if you want motorcycle tags.

Contact Daryl Buhrman at 410-803-2293 if you would also like to tell the world how proud you are to be a retired Baltimore City Police Officer.

Visit our website for more information at: www.brpba.com under Member Information or call Daryl Buhrman at 410-803-2293.



A DOG'S TALE

By Patrick Youells

Christmas 2006 was when a five lb. ball of fur came into our home and into our hearts.

The family had talked about getting another German Shepherd after my last K9 "Cody" had died. My wife advised me that the next German Shepherd was to be a female. I was not thrilled at the prospect of having a half of Real Dog in our home. I had had three males of 112, 105 and 95 lbs. each. Real dogs. I always figured if you had to put it on a table to look at it that creature was not a real dog.

I went looking for another German Shepherd. While I told my wife, I was only looking for a female pup but my heart was set on a male Shepherd. This led me to several dead ends. On December 23, I struck a deal with a nice man who had a few pups to sell. I drove to Columbia, and looked at what he had. He had one all white GS that was male and one little, tiny female with the color coat of a coyote. While the little voice in my head said "Don't do it! You promised to get a female" I had to ask about the male. I was told to my dismay that the male was already sold. The female was all that was left. So, I bought her.

The drive back up the highway was not the best one I have ever had. You see the tiny coyote was not having it. Being taken from her mom and put into an open cardboard box was not on her list of things to do. She did nothing but cry and howl until I managed to get her out of the box. This was not my smartest move at all. The puppy got away from me. I was trying to drive and hold onto the little coyote was impossible. She managed to get free and while I was doing 65 on I 95, she got under the driver's seat. Not good.

I managed to pull over but had to get the pup without opening the doors as I feared she would get out onto the highway. After cutting my hand on a spring under my seat I managed to free her from the seat. Back in the box she went and there was more crying and howling to follow.

Once back in the neighborhood I had a prearranged deal with a good neighbor to bring the pup there for safe keeping for a few hours. On a predetermined time, our neighbor came to our home with the puppy in the box.

Our two kids were happy that Mrs. Susan, our neighbor, had gotten a new puppy. When the kids were told the pup was theirs, they were about as happy as I have ever seen them. Both kids were eager to hold this little ball of fur. As if on cue the puppy made sure she greeted the kids with the kisses that only puppies can do to endear them to you.

I asked them to name the pup. When they found out that the puppy was born on Halloween my son Pat came up with the name "Boo". It seemed to be appropriate so "Boo" it was. After naming the pup, "Boo" started to walk around the Christmas Tree smelling the gifts. As we sat there watching this little pup traverse the gifts, she made her way around the far end of the tree and christened it with a gift of her own. Yes, it did stink.

The first year is always interesting with puppies. They are chewers. Boo chewed up one of my gray cowboy hats that I had bought. However, her biggest accomplishment of the destruction was the \$300.00 chair we had purchased right before she came into our lives.

Then, as if someone waved a magic wand, she became a good member of our home. While still short in my view she was 86 lbs. and had a beautiful coat. She became the protector of my wife when she would walk her. She was ever vigilant at home guarding it. She was always there if you were feeling down and would do her best to make things better by getting close to you and seemed to be ready to listen to your tales of trouble.

Each year we had a birthday party for her with a cake and yes, we all sang Happy Birthday to her. This song became to be a trigger when she heard it would run over to the one chair at the head of the table and wait for her cake. The problem was that even if the birthday was someone's else's Boo responded to her chair and waited for her cake.

Time passed and then we had a housefire that displaced us to a hotel for almost four months. Boo was with us in our rooms thanks to a Regional Manager of the Best Western. Boo became an exceptionally good distraction from dealing with the fire. Boo was good for the soul. Each day several times a day were walked down from the 6th floor to let Boo out. We could go back up the stairs

Continued Page 11

using the elevator. It was funny that no matter how busy the lobby was it was like parting The Red Sea when went on the elevator. We rode as a rule, just the two of us.

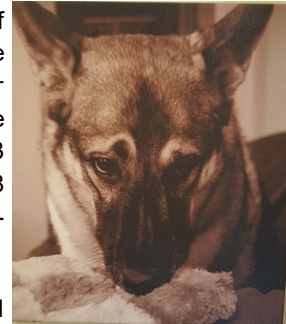
Time went on and the kids grew up and both started their own lives away from here. Boo stayed here. I had retired from my second employment and time spent with her was more and more. She became "Daddy's Baby Girl". She became someone I talked to if my wife was not here to talk to. Even then, I found that both of us talked to Boo and while she rarely answered us you could read her. Those who were in K9 will understand this. Reading your K9 is something that comes with time.

Each morning I would call down the steps and tell Boo that "I'll be down in a minute". She would always answer me with a shake of her collar.

She would ring the bells that we placed on the door-knob of the back door when she wanted out. She was the keeper of the Guinea Pigs were inherited for our son.

Years passed and the family celebrations here of Christmas, Birthdays etc. came and went. Boo's Stocking hung on the mantle as did the rest of the families. Boo was here and said her goodbyes to my Mom who was here for hospice seven years ago with a kiss to my Mom's hand that night.

Then one day in June of 2019, Boo had a stroke. A visit to the vets told us so. She had lost control of her legs completely. Dr. Smith of Vinson's was great. She told me that she believed that the effects of the stroke would ease but what the damage was unknown. She was put on an over the counter medication. Boo's ability to walk returned for a time. She then was unable to go outside without my assistance and a harness. She was not in any pain and still was part of things. Then that day came that anyone who has ever had a pet dreads. Boo let me know it was time. After 13 years, 11 months and 18 days it was time to say good-bye for now.



I contacted a service called Peaceful Passage and I scheduled them to come to our home to put her to rest. The family was here. While I have been through this before it still hurts like having a part of your heart being removed. The memories we have of our fearless and intelligent pup Boo will always make us smile and yes cry. I know I will miss her until I die.

The best quote that I know about dogs is that "Dogs are the only creatures that love you more than they love themselves".



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Don W. Lee
Robert W. Morris, Jr.
Deitra A. Pitts
Thomas Wolf

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. Buhman
410-803-2293

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DISTRESS FUND NEWS

The 2020 raffle ticket drawing is supposed to take place at our Holiday Gathering in December. At this point, it looks like we will have a party, but it will only be at 50% capacity. We hope you reserved your seat early.

The breakdown for the drawings is:

Twenty-five (25) chances to win. Just like the lottery, you have to play to win.

14 - \$100.00 winners 3 - \$300.00 winners
4 - \$200.00 winners 4 - \$500.00 winners

Sellers of the winning tickets receive \$25.00 each. Top Seller of over 200 tickets receives \$100.00. The next top seller of over 100 tickets receives \$50.00, and any sellers of over 100 tickets receive \$25.00 each.

Good luck to all who purchased a ticket.

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Remember: The Distress Fund is here for you financially. If you are experiencing a hardship, please contact us. For legal purposes, paperwork does need to be filled out, but your anonymity is held in the strictest confidence with only two people on the Board knowing who you are (and they will never tell another soul).

Finally, as we try to do on every newsletter, we want everyone to remember. If you are feeling depressed or lonely, we are also here for you. Please reach out to us at 410-803-2293. ***YOU ARE NEVER ALONE.***

In Memoriam Donations Made to the Distress Fund

Anthony Bickauskas, by wife Sharon Bickauskas
Melvin Howell, by wife Suzanne Howell
Paul Seitz, by wife Nancy Seitz
Berry Grant, by wife Jennifer Grant
Walter Sheppard, by wife Patricia Sheppard
Forrest (Dino) Taylor, by wife Ambre Taylor
John Coleman, by daughter and son-in-law Mr. and Mrs. John O'Hara
Roger Leonard, Jr., by Lewis and Janice Tippett
Kenneth Mellott, by wife Deborah Mellott
Frank Walmer, by wife Mary Walmer
Donald Chase, by wife Donna Chase



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smile because you had the chance to know
them.**

**They live on in your heart and your
memories.**





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***Executive Board Meetings held the second Wednesday of the month and
General Meetings on the third Tuesday at Knights of Columbus Gardens,
4301 Klosterman Avenue, Perry Hall, MD. Please join us!***

(currently 50% capacity attendance)