



THE SHIELD



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BALTIMORE RETIRED POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

SERVED WITH HONOR

SUMMER 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The upcoming FOP3 election is currently dominating everyone's attention. As you can see from page 3, after considerable thought and with our sole focus on what is best for our membership, the Board endorsed candidates for various FOP3 positions.

We would never tell you who to vote for, nor are we bad-mouthing any candidate not endorsed by the BRPBA. We are merely making suggestions and in light of the current hostility associated with this election, we owe it to our members to explain those suggestions. No matter your views on the subject, I hope that we can treat each other with respect, even when we reach different conclusions.

Please let us explain: In these challenging times, with police under siege and our pension suit worrisome, it's important to maintain a smooth transition in this election. Gene Ryan, FOP3 President for the last four extremely difficult years, has led our fight.

In fighting for us, Gene stopped an effort by the president of another organization to reach a separate settlement of the pension dispute. Success would have benefitted his people and hurt ours. Gene never bragged about stopping the guy. He just took care of the problem — and all of us. He fixed it because he knew all the players. Now, with the pension litigation once again at a critical stage, we desperately need someone whom everyone knows.

That someone is Gene.

Gene also recognizes his obligation, which he sees as part of the FOP's mission, to advance the interests of retirees. A few of those who seek to unseat Gene have shown hostility toward retirees. Some of them even expressed it at an FOP3 meeting on June 25, 2018, going so far as to reject FOP election committee nominees just because they were retired. Gene believes retirees should have a voice while some of his opponents want us all to have laryngitis.

Hostility toward law enforcement people, active and retired, has become part of society these days. Maryland has seen incessant legislative attempts to dilute the LEOBR. Gene and Lisa Riha, together with Don Helms and Dan Fickus, all of whom know and have access to everyone in Annapolis, have fought tirelessly and success-

fully against those efforts. Legislators tend to disregard people whom they do not know. Were that to happen in our case, law enforcement would suffer. Inevitably, retirees and our pensions would suffer, as would our families.

Gene's compassion and tireless efforts on behalf of the Baltimore 6 also impressed us immensely. Through it all Gene stood tall, fighting for the 6, for all of us. He endured all manner of insults. Lesser people, at the end of Gene's term, would simply walk away, would simply reject the stress associated with taking care of active — and retired — Officers. Under the circumstances, who could blame them? Under these circumstances, how could we ever reject Gene, who is willing to continue the fight?

Even now he continues the battle: Several years ago, a police officer was justifiably cleared of departmental charges in a tasing incident. Recently, the Baltimore City State's Attorney reopened the case and charged the officer with a felony. Suspended with no pay and destitute, he faced losing everything. Gene stepped in. The officer got help: funds to pay attorney's fees and bills.

It turned out to be an extraordinary stroke of good fortune when Gene was first elected as FOP3 President. He fought the city on the pension. He pushed for an immense pay raise. His efforts achieved collective bargaining binding arbitration. He battled to correct issues relating to drafting policy, shift strength and leave difficulties — all while continuing to advance BRPBA interests.

He deserves the opportunity to finish what he started. He deserves our endorsement. He earned it.

Additionally, we have had an issue with our Facebook page recently. Some heated arguments and bashing arose as a result of FOP political postings. After receiving complaints from our members, the Board made the decision to ban all political posts on the Members Only, BRPBA page. It doesn't matter if it is FOP, BRPBA, local, State or Federal elections, political postings will not be allowed. The Facebook page was created as a means of information for our members; not as a place to start a verbal war.

In other matters:

On June 19, 2018, we honored Active Sergeant Keith McNeill who was shot repeatedly on March 14, 2014.

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

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For four years he has bravely fought through countless surgeries and painful rehabilitation with the hope to return to work at some point. We presented him with a plaque at a ceremony his family attended, as you can see from the pictures below. His gracious presence and courage inspired, humbled and honored all of us. We have no doubt that he will continue the good fight.

Last May, the BRPBA board voted to donate \$500 to Mayor Pugh's reelection campaign. There were several members who opposed this and let their displeasure be known; however, the Board thought on this long and hard and came to the conclusion that adopting a calming and cooperative, as opposed to a confrontational approach would be better as we continue to negotiate a resolution of the ongoing pension issue.

I trust everyone had a safe summer. Our raffle tickets will be mailed shortly. I look forward to seeing everyone at our September 18 meeting where we will be promoting members' books and businesses (See bottom of this page).

Daryl



The BRPBA is proud of our talented members and as a way to showcase that talent, our September General Meeting has been designated as a time to *celebrate their accomplishments*, whether it's the writing of a book or two or starting and growing a business.

Therefore, we are inviting you to attend the meeting on 09/18/18 at 7:00 p.m. where we will have tables set up for you to display your published book(s), your business cards, or informational material.

Bring some "extra cash" in case you want to buy a book!

If you would like to take part in this endeavor, please give me a call at 410-803-2293. If you are unable to attend but would still like to showcase your book or business information, give us a call and we can see if we can work something out.

Below are the BRPBA Executive Board's picks for the upcoming FOP3 Election. As stated in the President's Message, we are not telling you how to vote. These are merely our suggestions based on our desire for continuity with our Pension Lawsuit and protecting our money.

President	- Gene S. Ryan
1 st VP	- Kenny Butler
2 nd VP	- Paul M. Blair, Jr.
3 rd VP	- Ronald A. Starr
Secretary	- Lisa M. Riha
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Newsletter

July 2018

MARYLAND SALES TAX “HOLIDAY” AUGUST 12 - 18, 2018



From August 12 through August 18, 2018, qualifying clothing and footwear sold in Maryland and priced at \$100 or less (per item) will be exempt from Maryland's 6% sales tax. (The seven-day Sales Tax Holiday gives shoppers a money-saving incentive to shop in Maryland for back-to-school and other clothing purchases, while helping Maryland merchants.) Qualifying apparel include belts, coats, dresses, blouses, shirts, skirts, jackets, pants, shoes, socks, and sweaters, among other items.

Each qualifying article of clothing selling for \$100 or less will be exempt, regardless of how many items are purchased at the same time. For example, two \$60 sweaters purchased at the same time are both exempt, even though the total purchase price is more than \$100. Any individual item costing more than \$100 will be fully taxable. For example, if the item costs \$110, sales tax is due on the entire \$110.

Special clothing or footwear designed primarily for protective use and not for normal wear, such as football pads, do not qualify and therefore remain subject to the sales tax. Additionally, the first \$40 of a backpack or bookbag purchase is also tax-free. Accessory items, except for backpacks, are not included. Accessory items are items such as jewelry, ties, handbags, and umbrellas.

FORM 5498 – WHY DID YOU GET IT AND WHAT DO YOU DO WITH IT?

OMB No. 1545-0747

2017

Form 5498

IRA
Contribution
Information

If you have an IRA, you may have received a **Form 5498 – IRA Contribution Information** around the end of May for each IRA that you own. Your IRA trustee (not you) is required to file this form with the IRS by May 31st each year, and the trustee typically sends you a paper copy.

Many people think that they must use Form 5498 in order to file their tax return. Since this form arrives after the April 15th deadline, many taxpayers are worried that they need to file an amended return. But there is nothing to worry about.

This form is an information return only, and you do not need to do anything with it – other than check it for accuracy. It shows how much (if any) you contributed to your IRA in the prior year, and it shows the Fair Market Value (FMV) of your IRA as of December 31st of the prior year. If you are age 70½ or older, box 12b will show the amount of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from that account. This is the amount that you must take from that IRA prior to December 31st of the current year in order to avoid a penalty. Your IRA trustee should send you a separate letter reminding you about your RMD.

This form contains important information, but as long as it is accurate, you need not do anything with it.

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THE MEDICARE “DOUGHNUT HOLE”

Most plans with Medicare prescription drug coverage (Medicare Part D) have a coverage gap (commonly referred to as the "doughnut hole"). This means that your drug plan will pay more of the cost for a while. Then when you (your total costs) reach a certain amount you enter the "doughnut hole", and your plan pays less and you pay more of the cost of your prescriptions. Then when your out-of-pocket costs reach another threshold you leave the doughnut hole, and you pay less and your plan pays more. Let me try to explain using real dollars.



- **Stage 1 – Annual Deductible:** You pay the full cost of your prescription costs until you reach your deductible. The amount of your deductible depends on which plan you selected. (My plan “F” has a deductible of \$350.)
- **Stage 2 – Initial Coverage:** During this stage, your plan pays the amount according to the specifics of the plan you selected.
- **Stage 3 – Coverage Gap:** For 2018, once your total drugs costs reach \$3,750, you are in the doughnut hole. You must pay up to 35% of the cost of brand-name drugs and 44% of the cost of the less expensive generic drugs. You typically pay much more while you are in this stage.
- **Stage 4 – Catastrophic Coverage:** Once your out-of-pocket costs total \$5,000, you leave the doughnut hole and enter the Catastrophic Coverage Stage. While you are in this stage, your plan will pay 95% of your drug costs and you pay only 5% of the costs.

Note that the above calculations are done for each individual – there are separate calculations for the taxpayer and spouse. Also note that on January 1st of each year, you start over again.

The good news is that under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, the doughnut hole will close at the end of 2018. Beginning in 2019, Part D enrollees will pay 25% of the cost of brand name drugs and 37% of the cost of generic drugs from the time they enter the gap until they reach catastrophic coverage.

DEATH OF A TAXPAYER

When a taxpayer dies, they still have to file a personal income tax return (Form 1040) for the year of their death. If the taxpayer was married, the spouse can take care of this. (The spouse would still file as “Married Filing Joint”.) If the taxpayer was not married, the court appointed Personal Representative is responsible for preparing, signing and filing the tax return. As with all personal income tax returns, that Form 1040 is due by April 15th of the following year, regardless of when the taxpayer died.

Any income that the taxpayer received between January 1st and the date of death must go on the taxpayer’s final personal income tax return. Any income received after the date of death is considered to be income of the taxpayer’s Estate, not income of the taxpayer, and must be reported on Form 1041 – Fiduciary Income Tax Return. Such income includes a paycheck received after the date of death, interest income, pension income – in fact, it includes any income received after the date of death.

Federal Form 1041 can be filed electronically. The corresponding Maryland Fiduciary Income Tax return (MD Form 504) cannot be e-filed – it must be prepared in paper format and mailed. I have experience preparing Fiduciary Income Tax returns, and I am available to help you if you need it.

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.

History of Baltimore's Recall Lamp

Every story has a beginning, so let's go back to January 1918 when John Martin, Superintendent of Baltimore's Telephone and Signal Division, first obtained his position as a Lineman with the Baltimore Police Department. At that time there was a Lieutenant and a Sergeant acting as the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of the Telephone and Signal Division, five linemen. They used one truck and two touring cars for construction and maintenance of the entire system.

The equipment to be maintained were 265 call boxes, eight telephone switchboards, 800 Bluestone gravity batteries, 15 bank alarms, four pawnbroker alarms, eight station houses and approximately 181,665 feet of underground telephone cable. This was before the addition of the Southeast District, which didn't come about until 1959. Along with the then 8 Districts, there was all of this equipment which to the best of Superintendent Martin's knowledge had been in service 25 to 30 years before 1918 and was still operating reasonably well while he was directing the Division Circa 1921/22. At that time, the timestamps and registers were all printed with ink and at times would be impossible to define one call box number from another as the ink was known to smear and spread over the recorded tape.

Our police telephone switchboards worked on what was known then as the target type and operated as follows; when a patrolman wanted to make a telephone call, he would pull down the lever marked telephone and lift the receiver. This would release a target on the telephone switchboard that was numbered one, two, three, etc. to let communications know from which circuit he was calling. The target was about the size of a silver dollar, and when released it would show that the patrolman wanted to talk over that circuit. This method of signaling was not very satisfactory, especially when the patrolman had a prisoner alongside him at the box. Often the target, which fell by gravity, would fail, as it would not fall. Consequently, there would be no indication at the switchboard that the patrolman wanted or needed assistance. The only other method he could use would be to pull the lever on the wagon call, but this signal was not audible and would only register on the tape that a wagon call was needed. This often caused considerable delay in dispatching the wagon or getting the much-needed assistance to the patrolman.

At that time there was no means of notifying the officer in the district of an emergency or that he was wanted to communicate with headquarters: Unlike today or even after the "Recall Light" was introduced, when an officer could be told to either call the station or call communications.

In the year of 1921, thirty-six years after the introduction of the call box, General Charles Gaither had an idea that would be implemented making the call box a much better piece of equipment for communications with the officers on patrol, and for station houses all over the city. From the advent and installation of the signal light, this took place (it would later come to be known as a Recall Light). The first of these "blinking" lights was mounted on a call box in the Central District located on the southeast corner of Baltimore and Charles Streets. The signal was made up of an electric light bulb and a wash basin to shade the bulb to protect it from the elements, such as rain, snow, animals and other types of debris. Along with the lamp and wash basin was also a marine lens or globe.

The mechanism for the operation of this light was located in the old central police station on Saratoga Street near Charles Street and consisted of an alarm clock to provide the flashing apparatus.

This method of notifying an officer that he was wanted proved to be very successful at the time. The department would eventually install 269 of the recall lights throughout the city. As was described, the first of these blinking lights, like many prototypes were very primitive and met with many upgrades and improvements over the next 50 years before the end of its use in the 1980's. On a much more improved pattern than that first lamp, the final recall system would consist of a commercial signal flasher made by The Russell & Stoll Company. The lamp sat atop each call box wired to a switchboard within each district's station house, which carried 110 V to each recall light and was operated with either a continuous or flashing light that was controlled by the telephone operator in each of the then nine districts.

It should be noted that the idea for the "Recall Light" was sparked, like many good ideas, from a need to solve a problem. At the time, Commissioner Gaither realized they needed a better way to get in touch with an officer on the beat than hourly call-ins. With this, he sought a way of providing a faster emergency response time to the citizens of Baltimore when they needed us.

Gaither wanted a way for officers to more quickly pass along information about wanted suspects, or wanted persons that might be fleeing police so we could virtually shut down their escape route. While contemplating this problem, he was also working on an issue that dealt with traffic control. This was one of the things that he started working on almost immediately after his taking the oath of Baltimore's first solo Police Commissioner. It seems from all documents and newspaper reports that Gaither's first significant project was one that caused a little

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anger within the community. It was a project in which he ended a Semaphore station at several intersections that produced such push-back from the neighborhoods affected that he had to rethink his take, and in fact, admit he was wrong and re-institute those corners giving back their traffic control.

He was a General in the National Guard and knew how to turn what seemed like a failure to many into his looking successful for listening to the community and giving them what they wanted, and what they needed. So where many would have lost faith, because he made it seem as if he was ready to listen and not just bring it back, but bring it back better, he gained faith and built a closer alliance with the neighborhoods he served.

The problem started when he shut down most of the Semaphore (manual traffic control stations, these being the predecessor to the traffic light.) Initially, the Semaphore was a pole with what was called a GO-GO-STOP-STOP signal affixed to the top. Eventually, a railroad handheld type lantern would be fashioned to the top of this to illuminate Red and Green lamps that corresponded with the GO-GO-STOP-STOP portion of the sign. Because the lamp was higher and constructed with large round pans that were also painted in corresponding colors, Green and Red.. it was easily seen from a distance, and with the lamp lit, as dusk or dawn approached, drivers could more easily see the direction given by the officer.

This was a single lamp, surrounded by four lenses and four large dishes. When turned 90 degrees left or right, approaching traffic to the intersection from East or West might see a Red lamp; while the traffic approaching from North and South would be presented with a Green lamp. By simply turning the pole 90-degrees forward or backward, the East and Westbound traffic at that same intersection would now see Green, while the North and Southbound incoming traffic would be seeing Red. (Any pun you might take from that last line was not intentionally written, but if it makes you laugh, I will take full credit!)

Because of the success of this, a universal traffic light system would be established across the country using the same color codes with an automatic traffic lamp system. Gen. Gaither was opposed to a two-color traffic light system and went up against several other cities, many of which were considered as strong opposition. Aside from those cities, he was also going up against the National Chiefs of Police Association. Gaither wanted a third color; in analyzing the Semaphore system, he talked to officers that worked these corners, he sat back and observed the men working intersections, and he realized the need for a third phase in the lighting. Gaither knew that without a third lamp, there would be vehicles turning left stranded in the

intersection, as well as pedestrians in the crosswalk at risk of being struck or without a right of way. So he fought for, and eventually along with many others, obtained that third phase (amber light).

This is important to the recall light because, with these lights in mind, he had a problem with a much-needed cure, so he began blending the two problems and then came an "aha moment." He was a new Commissioner, and in learning about the current systems, he happened upon a blinking light system already in use. At the time, lamps hung outside most of Baltimore's financial institutions and when a robbery was taking place, someone inside would trip a switch activating the blinking light outside. Police would see the flashing light alerting them to the trouble inside. With this, they would notify other police and set up a perimeter to catch the suspects as they were leaving.

Gaither realized this was the concept he needed, but on a much larger and much more complicated scale. What the department needed, unlike the banks that had just one bank with one switch connected to one lamp outside, was a similar system but connected to eight station houses each with as many as 30 to 35 call boxes each with its own light. These boxes and lights would be spread out across the eight districts throughout the city, with a single operator flipping a switch causing a lamp to blink at one of the nearly 270 call boxes to notify that one patrolman on his post that he was needed right then and there.

The first recall light was put into place in September of 1922. This first lamp was painted green to match the existing call boxes, lamp posts, and other city-owned properties. Like most everything painted by the city having an intent to both save money and blend in with the surroundings, it was a dark green, a little darker than Kelly Green, but lighter than Forest Green. I think it is best described by many as a Dumpster Green.

When a patrolman was wanted the lamp above his call box would "flash," and it continued to blink until the telephone inside the box was removed from its hook. The lenses or globes on the first recall lights were "Red." This came as a result of the department using salvaged parts from the Marine Unit Radio Shop, and other bits and pieces being retrieved throughout various units within the department. But a problem was noticed almost right away and would have to be corrected. Gaither didn't want Red or Green lenses/globes. Remember he was working on the traffic light system and didn't want anyone from a distance confusing the recall lamp with a traffic lamp. Anyone that has seen an Amber recall light, might describe it as Brown, while we all know anyone describing an Amber traffic light might call it a Yellow light. The two Amber lights couldn't have been more differ-

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ent, and this created no issues in the mind of Commissioner Gaither.

Once they had the system working the way they wanted it to work, they purchased commercial lamps made to their specifications from The Russell & Stoll Company. The original lamps were made of a cast iron; later switched to having the same shape, but made of brass.

In our collection, we have one of the original prototypes lamps, one of the first cast iron Russell & Stoll lamps, and two of the Russell & Stoll's brass lamps. The older of the three Russell & Stoll lamps is the one that is cast iron; it's painted green. The two brass are unpainted, one has a patina from weather leaving it the color of the Statue of Liberty, and the final was mounted on a board by the departments' construction and repair unit, making a desk lamp or display piece out of it. It was owned by a Lieutenant, former member of the US Navy; he couldn't leave the brass tarnished, so he polished it to a beautiful shine. I am sure he would be disappointed, as I have not carried on his tradition. I like the natural rust and tarnish of history.

Kenny Driscoll

A FALSE-AND THEN A TRUE- 50th VIETNAM ANNIVERSARY

On May 5, 2018, the Maryland Historical Society celebrated the 50th anniversary' of the Catonsville Nine by erecting a monument near the site of their crime.

On May 17, 1968, in the name of peace and in keeping with Christian principles of nonviolence and pacifism, the Berrigan led coalition heroically raided the Catonsville draft board. The Nine bravely assaulted three female clerks before courageously setting fire to draft records to prevent soldiers, according to them, from traveling to Vietnam to burn children. Although genuine civil disobedience before May 17, 1968 consisted of protestors' acceptance of the consequences of breaking the law as part of any protest, when they went to trial the Nine argued that the jury should ignore their crimes and acquit them, that they should not receive any repercussions.

Fifty years to the day before the Baltimore County celebration, on May 5, 1968, almost 9,000 miles from Catonsville, a long Fourth Infantry Division convoy commanded by ILT Paul E. Troy, now a retired Massachusetts trial judge, made its way northward from Pleiku in Vietnam. It contained various supplies, but nothing, the Nine's accusations to the contrary, to help soldiers burn children. The vehicles never reached their destination.

Protected by V-1 OOs, wheeled octagonal armored vehicles designed to assure their occupants greater security, in operational use for the first time ever that day, the convoy encountered a mile-long NVA regimental ambush. Incessant fire erupted from both sides of the road. I LT R. Mark Crassweller sped southward from Kontum in another V-100 to assist. No one ordered him there; he just went.

His V-100 sped into the midst of intense fire. A rocket struck it, killing SGT Ray Gee and severely wounding Mark. John Eckel and Mike Osteen died at the same time. Eventually a dust off helicopter arrived. Horribly wounded and rapidly losing blood, Mark refused to leave. He finally did though because he lost consciousness, not because anyone persuaded him to go.

When he arrived at the 71st Evac. Hospital just outside Pleiku, the doctors saw they did not have the

Continued Page 9

capability there to treat wounds that severe, so Mark went to Japan. He endured surgery and its painful aftermath. Then, never once complaining, he suffered through excruciating physical therapy. He returned to active duty and made a career of the military.

Vietnam never ended for him, not ever. Decades after his return, the defoliant heavily used over there, Agent Orange, attacked him. It accomplished something the NVA could not. It killed him. For years upon years he submitted to treatment upon treatment. As usual, he never complained, never lost that smile, never stopped helping military. He acted as a mentor in the Baltimore City Veterans Service Court until the ravages of the cancer caused by Agent Orange prevented even that.

On October 11, 2017, a few hours after I saluted my friend for the last time as he lay dying at the Gilchrist Hospice in Columbia, MD. MAJ (Retired) Roger "Mark" Crassweller reported for duty in Heaven. At the funeral, Paul Troy gave a magnificent eulogy. Later, Mark's remains consecrated the hallowed ground at Arlington National Cemetery. After the interment, his wife, Liz, and his friends and family, including his angelic granddaughter, Evie, whom Mark's loss devastated, gathered at his home in Elkrige. We shared our sorrow and our gratitude for having had him with us, for the ways he enriched our lives while giving so much to our country.

Mark Crassweller won't receive a 50th anniversary celebration like the Catonsville Nine. He won't get a special monument on public land. His monument, a gravestone finally about to have the 41D patch engraved on it, remains at Arlington National Cemetery, where other soldiers, with character totally unlike the Nine, lie.

As the old toast says, ""Here's to us and those like us." It ends with, "Few left." Let's hope, for the sake of our country, that there are many more than a few left. Let's ignore what the Maryland Historical Society did in honoring the crimes of May, 1968 and instead think of the military, those who sacrificed their lives on May 5, 1968--and those who continue to this day to do so.

Michael P. May



Nationwide
is on your side

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YOU'VE EARNED IT!!!

We have all heard the phrase, "There are two things we can be sure of – death and taxes." Thinking about and talking about death is not something that most people want to do, but we better serve ourselves and others when we prepare for what is definitely inevitable.

Your service to Baltimore and the Baltimore Police Department has entitled you and your family to certain benefits and services upon your death. Each benefit/service stands alone but the Baltimore Police Department's Employee/Retiree Affairs Unit is here to be a "one-stop shop." One call to our office at 410-396-2546 will provide you or family members information and understanding on these benefits and services.

Regarding the funeral services, officers can communicate to their families that they would like a motorized escort for the funeral procession to a grave site or that they would like to be viewed in uniform, or the family can request these when making arrangements. The Employee/Retiree Affairs Unit communicates the escort request to the Motors Unit and they advise us on their availability. For the uniform, we request a uniform, hat, and pins for the last assignment from the Quartermaster and deliver it to funeral homes within a 2 hour drive of Baltimore. In the event of a cremation, a uniform display can be arranged.

The most important thing the Unit needs when notified of an active or retired member's death is contact information for the spouse or family. We want to connect with and build a relationship with the family to help them through what is a very difficult time. Family is first when dealing with the loss of their loved one, but is also faced with a lot of details to handle. The funeral arrangements are the first hurdle but then come the paperwork and phone calls to insurance companies, banks, Social Security, organizations, etc. The Employee/Retiree Affairs Unit will take care of notifying the F.O.P., Baltimore Retired

Police Benevolent Association and the Fire & Police Pension. We will also give the phone number to call for the City Benefits Office for the \$7,000 death benefit provided by Securian/Minnesota Life Insurance. This office asks to be contacted by family directly.

The most appreciated and unique service the Unit provides is that of visiting the widow/widower of personnel within 2 hours of Baltimore with the pension and F.O.P. paperwork. The pension paperwork packet is composed of: Federal and State income tax withholding forms, a direct deposit form, a permission form to mention the officer's name in the newsletter, and health insurance transition and pricing information. We help make sure the forms are completed correctly and that any documents requested by the pension are collected, like copies of the death certificate, widow's Social Security card, marriage certificates, etc. We then deliver the forms to the pension office. If the officer was a member of the F.O.P., we take care of that form and deliver it to the F.O.P. office.

The Unit also sends the Departmental Death Notice email to active personnel and to the F.O.P. and Benevolent Association (BRPBA). The Notice includes the funeral arrangements so that personnel can pay their respects.

We encourage all personnel to discuss these resources with their family and to have the information in a well-known, designated place. Your desires should be communicated and shouldn't be a secret! Too many police diminish themselves and their service and just want to be put in a hole in the ground or cremated. Don't let this happen!! Celebrate your life, your career, your contribution, your courage and your dedication!! Help your family throw a BIG party as they cherish and remember you!

YOU'VE EARNED IT!!!!!!

Written by Baltimore Police Dept. Employee/Retiree Affairs Unit, 410-396-2546

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that." — Martin Luther King, Jr.

The police pulled me over and asked me 'you know how fast you were going?' I said obviously not fast enough because you caught me.



**IF YOU REQUESTED TO RECEIVE EMAILS
AND YOU AREN'T GETTING THEM,
PLEASE EMAIL US AT
BRPBAOFFICE@GMAIL.COM.
MANY HAVE COME BACK TO US AS
UNSUBSCRIBED OR BOUNCED.
THANKS!**



HOW SCAMMERS GET YOU.

Those that typically get scammed the most are seniors and millennials. Here are some red flags a former scammer revealed to help people avoid being a victim.

- Credit Card scams are becoming quite popular. You will receive a bill that looks similar to your regular credit card bill, only this bill will have charges for purchases you never made. All too often many people just pay the bill without looking at it. Examine your bill and make sure it's real! If you suspect anything, call the number on the statement. If it's a fraudulent bill, then the phone number will also be fraudulent.
- Use your bank card as credit, not debit. Banks prefer you use debit because they collect fees on them, but when you use the card as a debit, you are exposing the money in your bank account. If someone were to falsely charge on your debit card, it takes months to straighten it out, whereas if they steal your card and use it as credit, you are responsible for nothing!
- We have seen this all too often on Social Media. Someone on Facebook wants to talk to someone else and posts their phone number or address. Even worse, they post where they were born and their date of birth. All four of those things are being watched by someone else who wants to steal someone's identity. Social Media offers private messaging. Use it! Do not post your personal information on Social Media!!
- Unfortunately, the IRS scams continue to plague us all. This writer got one today! Don't fall for them. The IRS will NOT call you. They will send you a letter and ask you to call them!
- If you discover that a credit card or loan has been taken out in your name, call the three major credit bureaus and "freeze" your credit. President Trump recently signed a bill into law that makes credit freezes and their subsequent removal free of charge. Protect yourself and stay alert!
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Verify before you take any action. AARP has a toll-free hotline you can call if you suspect a scam: 877-908-3360.

**IF YOU HAVE SENT AN EMAIL TO US AT
BRPBAOFFICE.COM
IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS AND GOT NO RESPONSE FROM US, THERE WAS A SLIGHT GLITCH THAT
HAS NOW BEEN FIXED. SORRY ABOUT THAT!**

HE'S AT IT AGAIN

LEFT LEANING LAW PROFESSOR'S OPPOSITION TO THE POLICE & FOP

Maryland Law Professor Doug Colbert's June 2 Sun attack on Gene Ryan demonstrates that he simply cannot help himself when it comes to expressing his dislike for law-enforcement. This time, tragically, he used the murder of a police officer as a launching pad for his attack.

Apparently, President Ryan's criticism of Marilyn Mosby's office upset the professor. He reacted by writing that "prosecutors vigorously joined [the murderer's mother in] her effort to keep [Dawnta Harris] in jail." He apparently forgot that Harris had never been in jail before he killed Officer Caprio, instead residing for a time in an unsecured juvenile facility. He also forgot that Ms. Mosby and her team declined to disclose, one way or the other, what position the State's Attorney's Office took as to Harris' detention. He also forgot that even if the State's Attorney's Office advocated for Harris' detention, that effort failed. He also forgot that the unsuccessful attempt to keep Harris locked up, if that is what happened, rendered the State's Attorney's Office responsible, to some degree, for Harris' remaining on the street to murder a police officer in the course of a burglary. Instead, identifying himself as a law professor, which some could construe as implying that he had some special insight, Professor Colbert appeared to claim that Gene Ryan's criticism of the State's Attorney's Office amounted to a cynical and disingenuous effort to have Ms. Mosby voted out of office in order to obtain a prosecutor more to the FOP's liking.

Previously, Professor Colbert used the Freddie Gray trials to express his dislike for police. On December 1, 2015, he indicated that he knew (without saying how) that citizens distrust police. On July 27, 2016, when Ms. Mosby had to drop charges against the remaining Baltimore 6 defendants because her office kept losing at trial, Professor Colbert praised her for taking on a "very powerful police union." On October 11, 2016, upset at a civil result favorable to Lt. Rice, he complained that the prosecutors were stymied by a police "code of silence". He neglected to mention that Officer Edward Nero testified against a Baltimore County police officer in an excessive force case.

The professor has an interesting history. In 2012, he teamed with Michael Schatzow, Esq., the principal prosecutor of the Baltimore 6, in *DeWolfe v. Richmond*, 434 Md. 403, 36A.3d 902 (2012), a case involving indigent defendants' rights to counsel at bail hearings. Four years later, Mr. Schatzow properly did not speak to the press, because the trial judge forbade it, during the trials of the Baltimore 6, The professor certainly did, though — repeatedly.

On February 5, 2018, when interviewed outside the federal courthouse about the Gun Trace Task Force scandal, the professor appeared to discount the proposition that a small number of Baltimore police officers engaged in criminal activity. He called for a commission like New York's Knapp Commission to determine the extent of any corruption.

In the final analysis, the professor's correspondence appears to represent yet another in a long line of comments unfavorable to law-enforcement. Gene Ryan commented that Marilyn Mosby's office bore some responsibility for the fact that Harris was on the street to murder Officer Caprio.

That ostensibly caused Professor Colbert to imply that the police had somehow falsified the "public record," whatever that is, and that Lt. Ryan took an "unfair swipe" at Ms. Mosby, whose attempt to imprison six police officers for doing their jobs ended in resounding failure.

The professor's remarks should cause reasonable people to recognize the wisdom of the adage, "Consider the source."

Michael P. May

**LIVING YOUR LIFE IS A TASK SO DIFFICULT,
IT HAS NEVER BEEN ATTEMPTED BEFORE.**

INTENTIONAL MILITARY MISFIRE CAUSED CLIENT'S CATASTROPHE

Six years ago, Army Infantry First Lieutenant (ILT) Clint Lorange, so good an enlisted soldier and so fervent a patriot that he had recently received an OCS commission after the Army sent him to college in the "Green to Gold" program, led his troops, on his second patrol with them, through an extremely hostile part of rural Afghanistan. Replacing 1 LT Dominic Latino, himself severely wounded days before by an IED embedded by unlawful enemy combatants who wore no uniforms so they could disguise themselves as ordinary civilians, Clint wanted nothing more than to protect his soldiers while achieving his assigned mission — within the combat rules of engagement — and to bring everybody home in one piece.

When a motorcycle carrying three Afghans suddenly sped toward the patrol, one of Clint's soldiers, a police officer in civilian life not prone to panic, fired, completely within those combat rules of engagement. He missed. Lorange, unable to see the cycle or fire his own weapon, ordered his over-watch vehicle to engage. Two of the three Afghan aggressors died, and the third fled.

Faced with the demonstrably false claim afterward that those combatants, who wanted to kill Clint Lorange's soldiers, were civilians, the Army faced a dilemma. On February 25, 2012, Abdul Saboor, an Afghan "civilian" working inside the Intelligence Directorate of the Army's Interior Ministry, murdered MAJ Robert J. Marchanti and LTC John D. Loftis. Then, two weeks later, SSG Robert Bates, having been previously deployed multiple times and suffering from PTSD and TBI, murdered 16 Afghans, who actually were civilians, not far away from Clint in the neighboring Panjawi District of Kandahar Province.

Against that backdrop, the Army decided to sacrifice Clint Lorange, who had himself sacrificed so much in a distinguished military career, on the altar of political correctness and expediency.

His court martial took on an Alice in Wonderland atmosphere. In the book, Alice said, "Why sometimes, I've believed in as many as six impossible things before breakfast." Alice clearly could never have included the sixteen US Military actually killed in the area where Clint's platoon was operating between March and August 2012 on her list of six impossibilities. Nor would she have thought to include the Army's departure from its own, most basic, tenets of fairness. Yet the Army tragically decided to create a false narrative that Clint Lorange completely abandoned his morals and murdered civilians. They also astonishingly contended he acted in a way that would have made the survivors of those so-called civilians hate American soldiers more, even though that would have created an even more hostile and dangerous tactical situation for him and his troops.

In betraying Clint, the military tried to mollify those opposed to the mission in Afghanistan. They tried to gain favor with those

protesters who wage war against the warriors. To accomplish that, the Army changed their own legal rules of engagement, those mandates designed specifically to ensure that military personnel accused of wrongdoing receive fair treatment. At the court martial, they hid irrefutable proof that the three "civilians" were actually combatants, biometrically linked (they left their fingerprints and skin on bomb parts) to explosive devices. They crossed out the guerrillas' names on charging documents, referring to them instead as (innocent) persons of Afghan descent. They designated the enemies as "civilian casualties" or "village elders." They deliberately failed to disclose that American drones could legally have killed them. They knew all along (but never acknowledged) that lethal insurgents constantly shadowed and targeted Clint's unit. To do that, they deliberately suppressed a report confirming that Clint's platoon was being scouted for an "impending ambush/attack" and that at least one enemy was killed during Clint's engagement.

Their misconduct continued even after the sham court-martial where Clint received a sentence of 20 years as thanks for his service. To buttress the misleading illusion of fairness they were trying to create, bringing to mind Josef Goebbels' horrible remark that if you repeat a lie often enough, people will believe it, they dishonestly redacted a portion of 1 LT Latino's statement which could have justified Clint's actions. In violating the legal rules of engagement, they authored a false appellate narrative asserting that Clint changed the combat rules of engagement, even though the tainted court-martial panel acquitted him of that. They sneaked inadmissible newspaper articles into the record of the court martial so that the Secretary of the Army would approve the "trial's" flawed findings and utterly unfair sentence. They even misled both Members of Congress and an audience at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) about the case, going so far as to have a General Officer and Chief Judge of the Army Court of Criminal Appeals compare Clint Lorange with William Calley.

Their dissembling and misleading, of course, continue to this day because charging Clint Lorange, much less convicting him and sentencing him to, now, nineteen years at Leavenworth transforms the military's guarantee of fairness and prosecutions, its promise of a process free from improper command influence, into a cynical charade, ostensibly justifying what is actually a horrible travesty. Sir Walter Scott once wrote, "Oh what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive." Making Justice a mockery, as continues to occur in the Lorange case, denigrates the military, demeans its legal system, compromises its mission and ultimately harms the country.

The harm cannot be allowed to progress, to fester. Clint Lorange must be freed, all his rights — and reputation — restored.

Michael P. May

"I can't give you a sure-fire formula for success, but I can give you a formula for failure: try to please everybody all the time."

— Herbert Bayard Swope

Blue Mass



CELEBRANT: ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM E. LORI

September 30, 2018

10:00 A.M.

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RSVP to Tim Markland (tmarkland307@gmail.com)
or Ed Bossle (edbossle@embarqmail.com) by 9/1 so we can make arrangements with the restaurant.

Graphic Courtesy of Sgt. Sgt. Jay Wiley

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WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

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Regis Flynn

Anthony C. Schadt

Donald Silbaugh

Louis A. Tomaschko, Jr.

George Trainor

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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

Website www.brpba.com

TAKE NOTE OF OUR NEW EMAIL ADDRESS!!!!
Email Address: brpbaoffice@gmail.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.

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.

Newsletter Chairman:

Patrick Youells
(cody7762@hotmail.com).

WE STAND AT OUR MEETINGS



I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS, ONE NATION UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.

I watched a segment on Fox where they were interviewing former Police Officers, including a Chief I believe, concerning the fatal attacks upon this Nation's Police Officers. We have nearly equaled last years number for Police killed in the line of duty, and we are just over halfway through the year. This has to stop! One of those interviewed made what to me is a ridiculous statement when he said, in response to the question of what should be done, and he said, among other things: "I think that we have to turn the other cheek." That not only took me by surprise, it literally disgusted me, and this idiot claims to be a Police Officer.

Police are not some sort of super human individuals, They are no better than any other law-abiding citizens. However, they are "special", because it takes a special kind of person to run to the sound of bullets rather than away from them. And, Police are not uniquely the only "special" people either. Our Military and Firemen are similarly special, as well as our first responding caregivers, our doctors, and others. The one thing that really separates the Police from the other very special people is not because of who they are, but rather of what they signify. Police are the living statement of the desire of a law-abiding society to have a lawful, orderly and safe society. Each individual Police Officer is representative of the millions of law-abiding citizens who want he or she to strap on that gun, pin on that badge, and if necessary, to risk their lives to see that society has the protection that it quite obviously (by the mere creation of the Police) desires. Every attack upon the Police, and every Officer who falls in the line of duty, is an attack on that very society. I am proud that I can testify that I took that oath, and gladly took those risks, and am fortunate enough to have survived thirty-three years as a Professional Police Officer.

One last word for the "law abiding society": when "they" shoot and kill an Officer, they are in effect shooting at you!

Robert Di Stefano
Proud Major (retired)
Baltimore City Police Department
Abingdon, MD

The Board and Members of the Baltimore Retired Police Benevolent Association would like to welcome Daniel Fickus and Kenneth Dickstein to our Executive Board. Daniel replaces Board of Governor, Dominic Mastromatteo, who has been a member of the Board since January 2007 and who felt it was time to step down. Kenneth replaces Trustee George Michael, who has been a Board member for two years and had to step down due to time constraints. We sincerely welcome both men to our Executive Board and are truly grateful to Dominic and George for their years of service.

Some days I amaze myself.

Other days, I look for my phone while I'm holding it.

DISTRESS FUND NEWS

Our 2018 Raffle Tickets will be mailed the first week of September. For those of you who are new to the experience, let me give you some background information. At a general meeting of the B.R.P.B.A. on June 18, 2003, we received information that one of our members had suffered a stroke and needed a wheelchair ramp. However, due to financial difficulties, he was unable to have one built. This information came from another member because the disabled member that needed help was too private to ask for help. At that June 18, 2003 meeting, this member's financial situation was discussed, a hat was passed around, and \$524.00 was collected. One of our retired members generously offered to build the wheelchair ramp for no cost. In addition, Home Depot was approached and they graciously helped with the cost of the material.

Hence the beginning of the B.R.P.B.A. Distress Fund.

Our raffle is run yearly with a drawing at our Holiday Party in December. The monies we bring in from the raffle help support the Distress Fund. This Fund is available to anyone who has been a member for one year and is experiencing difficulties. Whether those difficulties are bill related, health related, or any other debilitating circumstance (like a house fire or natural disaster), the Distress Fund is there to help.

All the member has to do is reach out to us. Every request is held in the strictest confidence. Each request is assigned a case number and as the case is discussed from that point on, it is discussed only by case number. Only I, the Chairman of the Distress Fund, will know who the actual applicant is.

At this point in time, we have several open applications for assistance that are in the various stages of completion. We recently were able to help a widow who was being harassed by a creditor for a debt that wasn't even hers to pay. Our thanks to our Attorney, Mike May, for his assistance in this matter.

As always, we also send a thank you to our members for their generosity each year when the raffle rolls around. If you do not believe in gambling and do not want to sell the tickets you are sent, a donation is very much appreciated.

Here's to a good Raffle year.

Donations in memory of Richard Taylor. Thank you.

Janes & Barbara Degaetano, Joseph & Nancy Holcak & Joan Lang

BALTIMORE RETIRED POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION TAG PROGRAM

As of August, 2018, we have 643 sets of very professional looking tags in Maryland. Many members thank us for providing our retirees with the ability to display their pride of being a police officer. Our tags are a one time fee of \$25.00 to the MVA and a small donation of \$20.00.

Contact Daryl Buhman 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 Buhman at 410-803-2293.

IN MEMORIAM

Amy Caprio, Balto. Co. Police Dept. (05/21/18)
Chief Bernard Douglas (06/02/18)
Fredericka Ely (04/27/18), wife of Lewis Ely, Jr
Mrs. Cecilia Gettier (07/04/18)
Patricia Johnston (9/15/17), wife of Phillip C. Johnston
Christine Lloyd (2/1/2014), wife of Harold Lloyd
Ralph Oakes (07/08/18)
Barbara Skiba (04/20/18), wife of Joseph Skiba
Sherrie Sloan (08/11/18), sister to Barbara Sloan
Mrs. Ruth Swingle (06/01/18)
Robert James Tabeling (06/01/18), brother of Steve Tabeling
Col. Glenn Williams (06/06/18)

*At the rising of the sun and at its going down, we remember them.
At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of Winter, we remember them.
At the opening of buds and in the rebirth of Spring, we remember them.
At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of Summer, we remember them.*

*At the rustling of leaves and the beauty of Autumn, we remember them.
At the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember them.
As long as we live, they too will live; for they are now a part of us, as we remember them.
When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.
When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember them.
When we have joys we yearn to share, we remember them.
When we have decisions that are difficult to make, we remember them.
When we have achievements that are based on theirs, we remember them.
As long as we live, they too shall live, for they are a part of us, as we remember them.*

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BRPBA FINAL ROLL CALL

Forever Missed, Forever Loved

- David Custer, Sr. (06/27/18)**
- Sheila Durst (06/09/18)**
- Andrew Hevesy (06/05/18)**
- Arthur Kline (07/02/18)**
- Carlyle Krauss (05/22/18)**
- William Kuchmas, III (02/21/18)**
- Steven Lurz (06/04/18)**
- Airic Moore (06/13/18)**
- John McNamara (08/12/18*)**
- Grace Palabon-Sloan (07/20/18)**
- John Reintzell (06/05/18)**
- William Rochford (06/25/18)**
- Ernestine Ruffin (07/23/18)**
- Walter Sheppard (06/07/18)**
- Leonard Shiloh (06/27/18)**
- Harry Simmont (06/24/18)**
- Robert Lee Smith (05/29/18)**
- Richard Taylor, Jr. (06/28/18)**

(* Have not received official word of Date of Death)





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