



THE SHIELD



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BALTIMORE RETIRED POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

SERVED WITH HONOR

SPRING 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's Spring! Although to be fair, I'm not sure we really had a winter. A few small snowstorms and a couple of cold days. It wasn't even cold enough to kill the fleas and they expect the east coast to have a banner year in bug infestation. Oh yippie!!

* If you belong to our email system or our Facebook page, you will have seen the updates on the Pension Lawsuit. The judge ruled this week "in favor" of the retirees, but that's not saying much. The bottom line for the retirees is that the City's elimination of the variable benefit breached its contract with the retirees. The Court will NOT restore the variable benefit. The Court will use the CITY's experts to calculate our damages, i.e., what the City must pay to make us whole because the Court liked the City's experts and did not like ours. There will be a status conference in June to determine the further course of the case. Stay tuned... we will keep you informed as things progress.

* The BRPBA organization made a recent decision regarding our dues that has created a bit of controversy and has cost us two members who decided to leave the organization. We are sorry for that and hate to see them go, but we really had no choice. Let me give you a bit of insight into the reason for our decision:

1. *Lack of interest with the younger generation in joining. They have no desire to maintain contacts/ friendships after retiring. As little as four years ago, we were closing in on 2,000 members (not including our widows). Now we are down to 1,700. It's depressing.*
2. *Sadly, a lot of our original members are passing away. There have been 90 members who have died in the past eighteen months. That's a disbursement of \$90,000 in death benefits and a*

loss of \$8,100.00 a year in dues. This does not include the significant increase in Bereavement Assistance we send out when a member's spouse passes away.

3. *Previously, we held our General Membership Meetings at an establishment where the owner was also a retired member of the BRPBA and graciously gave us a substantial discount on food and a free rental of the hall. Sadly, he had to retire, and we were forced to find a new place to meet. This cost increased significantly as a result.*
4. *Website costs have increased.*
5. *Our quarterly newsletters have increased in cost and we are addressing that issue also. Our newsletters will be smaller from now on unless there is a specific reason to increase its size. In addition, we sent an email to the 878 members we have email addresses for and 259 responded that they would like to receive the newsletter via email. That will also help with the cost. If you never responded and would like your newsletter emailed instead of printed, please write to us at brpbaoffice@gmail.com.*
6. *As with everything else, the costs of our office supplies and postage continues to rise.*

None of us really wanted to increase the dues. We are very aware that some of our members live on a fixed income. In fact, we even had two members who graciously offered to help pay the dues for any member who needed the help.

* The 2019 Raffle will be mailed out in early September. We are forever grateful to our members and widows who purchase tickets. Bad things happen to good people and those good people are extremely appreciative

**BALTIMORE RETIRED
POLICE BENEVOLENT
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Baltimore, MD 21206**

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for the help they receive, especially because it is coming from their Brothers and Sisters in Blue.

- On Monday April 15, 2019, at 5:00 p.m., the Baltimore City Council passed resolution #19-0147R. *As of April 15, 2019, retirees from Baltimore City have a seat at the big boys table and a voice in the decision making about our healthcare.* This was made possible because of the coordinated efforts of City Councilwoman Shannon Snead and our own Brother and Board Member, Dan Fickus, to give us representation. FYI, all City Council members signed the resolution except Ryan Dorsey. We can't help but wonder why he refused.
- On April 16th, the BRPBA honored Officer Michael Dunn at our General Meeting. There is a full article on the next page detailing the reasons for this event. But I wanted to take a moment and express our extreme gratitude to Kathy Conrad for all that she did to see that this event was a success ... and she did a lot. So much so, that she went to Florida for a week after the presentation to recuperate. Ben Brannock and myself were humbled to also be included in this celebration. Thanks Kathy! You're the best.

Have a safe summer. Our next newsletter will be mailed in September.

OFFICER HAYS' COURAGE RESULTS IN SERIOUS WOUNDING

On May 2, 2019, many thought the mid-afternoon droplets touching them in Towson and Parkville were rain. They were wrong. They actually felt the tears of Retired Captain James DiPino who commanded the Southwest District as part of the then-second generation who swore to protect and to serve as police. He wept because one of the fifth generation of that distinguished family, his great-granddaughter, Officer Tabitha Hays of the Baltimore County Police Department, sustained a serious gunshot wound that day.

Maintaining and fulfilling the family law enforcement tradition of running to, instead of fleeing from, extreme danger, Officer Hays, the granddaughter of City Police Major Charles DiPino and daughter of Sarasota Police Chief Bernadette DiPino, with other Baltimore County police officers, responded to a call for an armed person in a home on Linwood Avenue. They encountered an apparently suicidal armed suspect who brandished a weapon at them. The ensuing gunfire resulted in Officer Hays' being wounded.

Transported to Shock Trauma, she received that facility's usual magnificent life-saving care. Having undergone one successful surgery but anticipating more, she expects a full recovery and return to her calling, her family tradition. Surrounded by her family and unconditionally supported by them and by her law-enforcement family, she remains upbeat, doing extremely well.

During a month honoring law enforcement's Fallen Heroes, we can rejoice at Officer Hays' recovery. We can thank God for her vocation, and ours, and for her encouraging prognosis. We also pray for her, for all the police who responded to Linwood Avenue with her and for all law enforcement.

Michael P. May, May 4, 2019

HONORING THE DESERVING

"In the 1500s, Italian and Roman royalty experimented with the idea of bullet proof vests. They built body armor with layers of metal that were meant to deflect bullets. The outer layer was designed to absorb the bullet's impact, while the inner layer was added to stop further penetration. However, metal body armor was largely ineffective against firearms.

In the 1800s, softer body armor was developed by the Japanese, who made the armor from silk. These silk garments proved to be quite effective but also expensive.

After President William McKinley was assassinated in 1901, the US military explored the use of soft body armor as well.

The flak jacket was invented during World War II. It was made from ballistic nylon and provided protection from ammunition fragments. Flak jackets were bulky and ineffective against most rifle and pistol fire, but they were widely used, as they provided some modicum of protection and allowed soldiers to feel secure.

In the 1960s, new fibers were discovered that made truly bullet resistant vests possible. In the early 1970s, DuPont's Kevlar ballistic fabric was invented. The fabric was originally intended to replace steel belting in tires, and it was extremely strong. Waterproofing and additional layers of fabric were added to the Kevlar to make the vests more durable and wearable. The National Institute of Justice tested versions of Kevlar vests for several years and found that the vests could stop the most common lead bullets: 38 Specials and 22 Long Rifle Bullets.

A final phase of testing monitored Kevlar armor's effectiveness. Kevlar armor was found to ensure a 95% probability of survival after being hit with a .38 caliber bullet at a velocity of 800 ft/second. The probability of requiring surgery after being hit by a projectile was found to be 10% or less.

In 1976, scientists came to the conclusion that Kevlar was bullet-resistant, wearable and light enough for police officers to wear full-time. The funny thing was that bulletproof vests had already become commercially available, even before the National Institute of Justice published these claims.

Since that time bulletproof vests have improved. Currently, a level IIIA bulletproof vest weighs approximately 5.5 pounds and can protect the wearer from almost all handgun rounds. According to the International Association of Chiefs of Police, bulletproof vests have saved over 3,000 officers' lives since 1987."

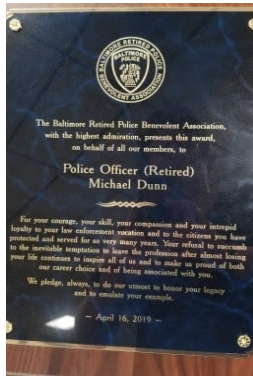


Baltimore City Police Department Officers are included in that 3,000, in part thanks to Officer Michael Dunn.

On April 7, 1978 at 10:43 p.m., Officer Dunn made a routine traffic stop of a van for no taillights, in the 2900 block of S. Hanover Street. Officer Dunn approached the driver and asked for the driver's license and registration. Officer Dunn was looking over the driver's credentials

when he heard a woman scream from the rear of the van. Officer Dunn's attention immediately was focused on the scream for a split second. When he returned his attention to the driver, the driver pulled out a gun and shot Officer Dunn in the mid chest, left arm and left leg from close range.

Officer Dunn fell to the ground and immediately put out a description of the vehicle and driver as the driver sped away. There were two women in the rear of the van who had escaped during the traffic stop and they attended to Officer Dunn until help arrived. These two women had been kidnapped at gunpoint by the driver, driven to a secluded area and raped at gunpoint by the driver.



The driver was stopped by way of legal intervention by Officer Scott Ritchie who saw the driver over his left shoulder pointing his weapon at him and Officer Ritchie fired one shot missing the driver.

Newly promoted Sergeant Thomas "Ben" Brannock and Officer Daryl Buhman arrested the driver who was identified as James Anthony Johnson with an AKA of James Anthony Young.



Thanks to everyone over the years who worked hard to create the bullet proof vest, Office Dunn survived his injuries and was grateful to live to tell about it. If not for that vest, his injuries, although painful, would have otherwise been fatal.

Officer Dunn was the *first* Police Officer in Baltimore City to wear the "then" newly issued bullet resistant vest.

On April 16th, 2019, the Baltimore Retired Police Benevolent Association (BRPBA) and the American Police Hall of Fame honored Officer Dunn, Officer Buhman and Sergeant Brannock with a dinner and presentations at the American Legion Post



#130, 8666 Silver Lake Drive, Perry Hall, MD 21128, where Officer Dunn was presented with a Certificate of Recognition from Ex-Officio Mayor Bernard "Jack" C. Young, A Governor's Citation, a plaque from BRPBA, as well as the American Police of Fame Purple Heart and the Silver Star of Bravery award. Mike was also presented with a handmade Blue Line American Flag depicting the Baltimore City Badge with his badge number, the Maryland Transportation Authority Patch and a Silhouette of an Honor Guard.

Presented to Sgt. Brannock and Daryl Buhman were Certificates of Recognition from Ex-Officio Mayor Bernard "Jack" C. Young, A Governor's Citation, plaques from BRPBA, as well as the American Police of Fame Awards Merit for Excellent Arrest.

Commissioner Woods also presented Mike with his actual Baltimore Police Medal of Valor.

In addition to the American Hall of Fame awards, Mike also, on April 18, 2019 received the Distinguished Service Award from Col. Jerry Jones, Maryland Transportation Authority Police.

I would like to thank the BRPBA Board of Directors, and a special thank you to Retired Commissioner Edward V. Woods, Retired Deputy Commissioner Powell, Lt. Col. Rich Worley and Maryland Transportation Police Col. Jerry Jones for their assistance in presenting the awards. Again, congratulations to Mike, Ben and Daryl. This was long overdue.

Kathy Conrad



Secretary



Daryl Buhman, BRPBA
President

Ben Brannock



ACADEMY CLASS 86/3

A REUNION AND CRAB FEAST
SATURDAY AUGUST 3rd. 2019 from 1 to 5
AT THE SUE ISLAND GRILL WATERFRONT CLUB
ALL YOU CAN EAT
MEDIUM AND LARGE CRABS
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ALL SIDES AND DESSERTS
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more information.

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD TO OTHERS FROM CLASS 86/3.

“THE PESSIMIST SEES DIFFICULTY IN EVERY OPPORTUNITY.
THE OPTIMIST SEES OPPORTUNITY IN EVERY DIFFICULTY.” – WINSTON CHURCHILL.

Memorial Day as Remembered by an Eight-Year-Old Boy

It was May 1965 on the weekend before Memorial Day when a very young boy was at the Pennsylvania Train Station in Baltimore. He was preparing to travel south to South Carolina with his Mom to see his extended family in both North and South Carolina. His Mom had taken him out of school so he could see the family and be home for "Memorial", as his Mom referred to the day.

To those down South it was a time to honor family that had died, not just in war, but the deaths of everyone in their family. The family would go to the local cemetery and clean up the graves, weed and clean the stones. After saying a prayer, the entire family would go back to one of the sister's home and have a large picnic where everyone brought something.

While standing on the train platform with his Mom and Dad, the young boy got a case of the wanderings. Eight-year-old boys do not stand still long, especially when they are at the train station on the platform where they can see the train engines come and go. So, he wandered off. What happened next changed his life forever.

As the young boy walked down the platform, after getting instructions from his Mom not to get on the tracks, he then noticed a railroad baggage cart. The cart was sitting by itself with no one or any other carts around it. Instead of baggage there was a coffin in it. Draped over the coffin was an American Flag. He had never seen this before and he stood there for some time taking it in. He walked up to the coffin and reached up and touched the American Flag. Still trying to understand why this coffin was covered in an American Flag puzzled him. About that time his Dad walked up behind him and placing his hand on his son's shoulder he asked his son what he was thinking. The young lad looked at his Dad and asked why was an American Flag on this coffin. A few moments past and his Dad said to him. Inside that coffin is the body of an American Solider. The flag draped over the coffin let's all of us know that and it is to be respected.

His Dad then reminded him that the Vietnam War was still going on. That this solider may have died in that war and was on his way to be buried. The boy asked where will that be? His Dad said, "He is going home."

The boy then looked up at his Dad who was trying to hold back the tears and told his Dad he understood, and he would remember this.

To this day I remember that evening on the train platform of the Pennsylvania Station. I have never forgotten my Dad's lesson either.

This Memorial Day please think of those that gave their full measure for us. And if you happen to see a casket covered in an American Flag, know that this Service man or woman is going home.

Patrick Youells



Newsletter

April 2019

THE 2019 TAX SEASON - RECAP

The 2019 tax season is over and, as I predicted, it was quite a bumpy ride. The new tax law, new tax forms, and new withholding tables created a lot more work for me and a lot of surprises for my clients. Here are some of my observations:

1. **More people “chose” to take the standard deduction.** With the federal standard deduction approximately double, combined with the curtailing of some itemized deductions, the logical choice for many taxpayers was to take the standard deduction. Many clients thought that charitable contributions and real property taxes were no longer deductible. That was not the case. But if the total of all of your allowed itemized deductions (which included state and local taxes and charitable contributions) was less than the standard deduction, it typically made sense to take the higher standard deduction.

2. **Sometimes it was better to itemize, even if the federal standard deduction was higher.** Maryland law says that if you take the standard deduction on your federal return, you must take the standard deduction on your Maryland return. I found that for about a dozen of my clients, their total combined Federal plus Maryland taxes were lower if they itemized deductions, even if their federal standard deduction was higher. This is because the Maryland standard deduction is relatively low, and those clients saved more in taxes by itemizing on their Maryland return than they lost by not taking the higher standard deduction on their federal return.



3. **Even though most people paid less total tax for 2018, the fact that less tax was withheld meant that their refund was lower or they had to pay more when they filed.** After the new tax law was passed, IRS adjusted the tax withholding tables. The result was that less federal withholding taxes were deducted from your pay. So even if for withholding purposes you didn't change anything, you still had less tax withheld, with a corresponding increase in your take home pay. Unfortunately, in their rush to adjust the tables, the IRS didn't get it right – they had too little taxes withheld. (I alerted my clients to this possibility in my January 2018 Newsletter, and I offered to calculate the correct amount of withholding that my clients should have taken out of their pay. Only 4 clients took advantage of my offer, however.)

4. **More clients got “Corrected” Forms 1099-DIV and 1099-INT from their investment companies.** Many of those corrected statements didn't arrive until the very end of March and a few arrived in April. This meant that, at best, tax returns were delayed or, in some cases, I had to file amended returns. This was very frustrating both to my clients and to me. Next year, for those clients that got corrected Forms 1099 from their investment companies, I will not file their tax returns until April. That will mean that there will be a tight turnaround time for clients to sign the e-file authorization forms and return them to me before April 15th. (Or, I can put them on extension.)

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FILING FOR AN EXTENSION

Form **4868**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service (99)

If you file your tax return and later you receive corrected tax information (such as a corrected W-2 Form or corrected Forms 1099 from your investment company), you should file amended tax returns. Before you file your return, however, if you reasonably expect that you will be getting corrected tax information, you can ask IRS for a 6 month extension from the April 15th due date. As long as you follow proper procedures, the extension is automatically granted, and you can avoid either (1) the penalty for filing late or (2) having to file amended returns. Although getting an extension is pretty straightforward, you (we) have to do a little more than just ask for it.

1. First, I need to be able to reasonably estimate what your total taxes will be. To do this, you must give me all of the tax information that you do have.
2. Next, I need to know how much you have already paid in taxes.
3. Finally, if what you've already paid is more than what we estimated that the total amount due will be, we simply file the request. If the estimated total amount due will be more than what you've already paid, then you must pay the additional amount when we file for the extension.

If you file with IRS for an extension, you automatically are covered with Maryland. And note that the extension only applies to the due date of filing the tax return. Any taxes due are still due by April 15th. Any taxes due on April 15th but paid after that date are subject to an interest charge.

THE CONFUSION IS NOT OVER YET!

Later this year IRS is scheduled to come out with a new Form W-4. This form will "help" you adjust the amount you have withheld from you paychecks. Early versions of the form, in my opinion, will leave workers frustrated. The current version of the proposed form asks for income information, deduction information, and dependent information. All of this is intended to get you to the proper amount that you should have withheld. All of that information is requested only in an effort to help you. None of that information is required. When the final version of the new Form W-4 is released, I will have more to say about how to fill it out.

2019 MILEAGE RATES

The standard mileage rate for business use of a vehicle increased to 58¢ per mile in 2019, up from 54.5¢ in 2018. Mileage is no longer deductible on Schedule A as an itemized deduction, but the 58¢ rate can be used to reimburse employees for the use of their personal car or to compute the mileage deduction on a business tax return.



I HAVEN'T MOVED YET.

My new house (and new office) should be ready by early June. I will include my new address, directions to my office, and all contact information in my July newsletter. For now, you should know that my mailing address has not yet changed, and that I expect to keep my primary telephone number (410-893-1671) and my primary e-mail address (ldelozier1@comcast.net).

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.

Try To Be The Rainbow In Someone's Cloud—Maya Angelou

**HEALTHY HOLLY AND FISCAL FITNESS
OR
DOES SELF PUBLISHING JUSTIFY SELF DEALING?**

Recently the Sun reported that a member of the UMMS Board, Mayor Catherine Pugh, sold her self-published books, whose protagonist was a fruit-eating exercise aficionado named Healthy Holly, to the University for \$500,000. Until then, few knew the City's Chief Executive was a prolific author.

Since probably the second half of the last century, Maryland has consistently treated its citizens to questionable political conduct. After Spiro Agnew, Sen. Joseph J. Staszak, who supported a liquor bill which would have made him a lot of money, answered a reporter's question about whether he had a conflict of interest by saying that it did not conflict with his interest. Years later, after he drowned while awaiting sentencing on mail fraud and tax charges for hiding his ownership in a tavern while serving on a liquor board, his long-time ally, one Mimi DiPietro, assured everyone that Joe was an "honest man."

In 2000, now-Senior Federal Judge J. Frederick Motz, in sentencing lobbyist Gerald Evans for fraudulent behavior, decried the "culture of corruption" in Maryland politics. Unfortunately, Judge Motz' comment produced little cultural change. After Evans finished his imprisonment, he successfully applied to have his lobbyist's license reinstated. Last year, when Ben Jealous was running for governor, he sought Evans' support — just after the indictment and conviction of Sen. Nathaniel Oakes for using his political office to extort money.

Since her Senate days, until she recently resigned, Mayor Pugh served as a member of the UMMS board. During her copious free time, she wrote Healthy Holly and published it herself. She then sold the books to the University for that \$500,000, a figure which pales in comparison to the \$ 12 million former Senator and current board member Frank Kelly' s insurance agency got from the University.

Maryland law requires corporate board members to act "in a manner the director reasonably believes to be in the best interests of the corporation." Md. Corp. & Ass'n Code Sec. 2-405.1 (c) (2). "As such, directors of the corporation are entrusted with powers which are to be exercised for the common and general interest of the corporation, and

not for their own private individual benefit. " Storetrax. Com, Inc. v. Gurland, 397 Md. 37, 915 A.2d 991 (2007); Booth v. Robinson, 55 Md. 419 (1881). The law further states, " [Corporate board members] will in no manner use their positions to advance their own individual interest as distinguished from that of the corporation or acquire interests that may conflict with the fair and proper discharge of their duty. The corporation is entitled to the supervision of all the directors, in respect to all the transactions in which it may be concerned; and if one of the directors is allowed to place himself in the position of having his conduct and accounts made the subject of supervision and scrutiny, he, of course, cannot act, in regard to those matters, both for himself and the corporation." Indurated Concrete Corp. v. Abbott, 195 Md. 496, 503-04, 74 A.2d 17, 20 (1950), quoting Cumberland Coal & Iron co. v. Parish, 42 Md. 598, 605-06 (1875).

Thus, it is abundantly clear that fiduciary responsibilities accompany board membership. The most quoted description of the obligation comes from Meinhard v. Salmon, 249 N.Y. 458, 164 N .E. 545 (1928), which held that a managing partner in a joint venture had a fiduciary duty to inform the investing partner of an opportunity that arose from his status as a partner even though it would vest after the anticipated end of the partnership. Chief Judge, and later Supreme Court Justice, Benjamin Cardozo, in defining fiduciary responsibilities, wrote, "A trustee is held to something stricter than the morals of the marketplace. Not honesty alone, but the punctilio of an honor the most sensitive, is then the standard of behavior... the level of conduct for fiduciaries [has] been kept at a level higher than that trodden by the crowd. Id.

Self-dealing makes it much more likely that any "deal" will benefit the self-dealer. The Maryland Lawyers' Rules of Professional Responsibility forbid it. With only a few exceptions, cases disciplining lawyers for engaging in self-dealing, generally with a client, have resulted in indefinite suspensions or disbarments. See, e.g., Attorney Grievance Commission of Maryland v. Penn, 431 Md. 320, 65 A.3d 125 (2013) (disbarment). Yet, the University of Maryland gave Mayor Pugh \$500,000 for books that sit in a warehouse and gave former Sen. Kelly \$12 million.

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Judge Motz' remarks clearly fell on deaf ears — as have the entreaties of the active and retired Police and Firefighters who beg the City to engage in good faith dialogue about a pension dispute that has lasted almost 10 years.

Michael P. May
March 24, 2019

From: Bob Haukdal

Re: Federal Income Tax Withholding W-4P

The 2018 federal tax season brought sticker shock to a number of taxpayers. Many people received less than expected refunds or perhaps even had to send the IRS a check. This was likely a result of the 2017 changes to the federal income tax laws that caused reductions to the tax withholding tables. Although it meant higher take home pay, it also caused insufficient withholdings for many people. As such, you may need to change the amount of money you have withheld from your retirement checks this year.

You can download a W-4P from the F&P website and email or fax the completed form to them. The link for the W-4P is:

www.bcfpers.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/FP-FRM058-W-4P-Federal-Income-Tax-Withholding-Certificate.pdf

It may be emailed to the F&P accounting office at: FPAccounting@bcfpers.org

Or faxed to: 888-443-7008

Ask them to confirm receipt of your W-4P.

The IRS has recognized the problem and will waive under withholding penalties for 2018 to those who have paid at least 85% of their tax liability. Usually the penalties start if 90% is not withheld. See the related article at this link;

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/u-irs-waive-2018-penalties-214147274.html>

BALTIMORE RETIRED POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION TAG PROGRAM

As of May, 2019, we have 657 sets of BRPBA tags in Maryland. Our tags are a one time fee of \$25.00 to the MVA and a small donation of \$20.00.

Contact Daryl Buhrman at 410-803-2293 if you would like to proudly display the fact that you are 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.

“If you want your children to listen, try talking softly to someone else.”

DO WE ALWAYS SUPPORT EACH OTHER?

Reflections on the Law Enforcement Profession

Our identification cards say, "Served with Honor." We meet monthly to share anecdotes, to rekindle and nurture old friendships, to make new friends, to maintain our ties to the law enforcement community and to take care of each other. No longer on active duty, we nonetheless continue to bear the physical and emotional scars from the days we wore the badge. At the same time, we have immense, justified pride in having done good work only a few can do.

We swap anecdotes, often the same ones. They naturally get better over time. We find humor in events that disturb others. We get together outside our scheduled meetings. Then we tell more stories and exchange an insult or two. An individual wearing a toupee can hear that he looks like Davy Crockett. The retiree with the crutch becomes Tiny Tim. The fellow who has picked up a few pounds laughs along with everyone else at the "beach ball with eyes" description. Police, it seems, never lose the ability to communicate creative insults.

Let an outsider encroach upon our territory by demeaning one of ours though. No one laughs then. At best, the invader, an interloper, receives an icy stare and the deafening silence of rejection. That individual is not pan of the group. Outsiders have no right to engage in our banter.

Over the years, those who dislike or resent police bitterly complain about a "blue wall" of silence. The term implies that police overlook and tolerate all manner of misconduct, and even criminal behavior, by other police. Without any empirical or verifiable data, they complain that police are complicit in professional misconduct because they refuse to report it when they encounter it. They insinuate that police embrace the same "stop snitching" ethos popular among criminal gangs.

A police officer can become impaled on the horns of a dilemma. Certainly all officers have heard the adage that thou shalt not rat. Its ostensible justification probably results from the dangers police officers encounter every day. If an officer surrounded by a hostile crowd needs help, it is not likely, he or she thinks, to come from another officer who was the subject of a past complaint by the officer who now needs help. In addition, there exists a natural human desire for acceptance by one's peer group.

One officer who turns in another for even a minor infraction can become a pariah, not a peer. No one wants that.

Yet, no one can tolerate criminal behavior either. No one can overlook crimes committed by other police officers. No one should — ever. The danger in ignoring trivial misdeeds is that doing so makes it so much easier to disregard or even to endorse, at least implicitly, activity significantly more serious, behavior that must be reported. It is impossible to define or to draw a meaningful, moral and lawful distinction between the two.

Adding to the challenge is the fact that some people actually misuse internal discipline to achieve their own ends. A "culture of vengeance" exists in some police departments. People with personal axes to grind can and do hijack an internal justice system designed exclusively to advance the Police Department's mission, nothing else, to settle personal scores, to get revenge. Opportunists can also engage in a harmful and counterproductive mischief. Decades ago, a high-ranking individual, who wanted another promotion, utilized the Police Department's internal investigative protocol in an attempt to embarrass a competitor for the same job he wanted. He did not succeed, but he ruined a good detective, a mere bystander, in the process.

Despite all the cynical anger they express at management, most police have a genuine respect for authority. They believe, even in the face of clear injustice in individual cases, that the agency's hierarchy will mete out discipline fairly and impartially. They want to believe that the leadership will refuse to succumb to political pressures, that no one would sacrifice them unfairly just to protect "THE DEPARTMENT." When it happens, as occasionally it does, they feel perplexed, then disappointed, then angry.

Certainly, the bosses are not bad people. The overwhelming majority do their very best. They take on excruciatingly difficult responsibilities knowing that they are not perfect and not infallible. They know they will experience criticism and probably public calumny and vilification. Despite all that, denigrated by the citizenry and some politicians, sometimes demeaned by the



rank-and-file, they continue to try their best, without complaint.

The Baltimore Retired Police realize all this. They vividly recall the elation of a good arrest, the excitement of encountering danger, fear, and even terror, the devastation of losing a comrade, narrowly escaping death or serious injury themselves, the fulfillment of personal and professional friendships, the enduring pain associated — even now — with physical and emotional injuries, the missed family time, the sacrifices, the congratulations of the power structure for good work and the occasional feelings of betrayal associated with what they consider an unjust disciplinary result. But, they still continue to have an indelible and self-sustaining pride in having worn that cherished badge. They remain police.

Every May, we honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice. This May, and always, we must also take the time to reflect upon the pride we have in having been police once — and young. God bless us all.

Michael P. May
April 22, 2019

In Memorial Gifts Made to the BRPBA Distress Fund

Patrick Youells, in memory of Sam Walters

Leslie Stickles, Jr, in memory of Sam Walters

Leslie Stickles, Jr., in memory of Leslie Stickles, Sr.

John Gavriles, in memory of Sam Walters

Jane Cook, widow of Douglas M. Cook

Jane Cook, in memory of Sam Walters

Virgina and Ronald Berninger, in memory of Floyd Myers

*THE NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT REUNION
will be held on June 29th, 2019 from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.*

Location: FOP Lodge 34, 730 Wample Road, Middle River, MD 21220

*For more information, please contact Nick Constantine at
410-365-3904 or email, Nockeye@aol.com*



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Wanda Alston
Adam Kirhagis
Robert McCulley
Carl Rach
Michael Schmitz
Francis Sedlak

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.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

President: Daryl Buhrman 410-803-2293
1st VP: Richard Nevin 410-876-1027
Website www.brpbba.com
Email Address: brpbbaoffice@gmail.com

F&P Retirement System 410-497-7929
FOP 410-243-9141
Balto. City Life Insurance 410-396-5830
Health Care Benefits 410-396-5307
Securian Financial 1-888-658-0193
Municipal Employees Credit Union 410-752-8313
Employee/Retiree Affairs Unit 410-396-2546

Newsletter Chairman:

Patrick Youells
(cody7762@hotmail.com).

Distress Fund Chairman:

Daryl J. Buhrman
410-803-2293

Pledge of Allegiance

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.



DISTRESS FUND NEWS

On a beautiful day fifty years ago two young officers graduated from the police academy. They became friends, married within a year of each other, joined a softball team together.

However, about fourteen years later, their paths changed. One of the young officers had an exceptional career; never being injured, never staring death in the face, rising in the ranks. The other officer was not so lucky. He answered a routine call for kids disrupting business in a local carry out. He never knew that those young kids would be carrying a stolen gun.

That officer had to retire LOD injury. Forgotten by the city he had given all for, that officer and his wife now had to survive on his disability pay and the income from her part time job. With rising medical bills, there was no other choice. His wife would have to work two jobs and he would be left to fend for himself.

Time went on, they survived living paycheck to paycheck, accepting life for what it was, until she got too old to work and went on Social Security. Shortly thereafter, the officer's LOD injuries took him. The love of his life was left behind to survive on \$16,000 a year, with a house that had been neglected because there just wasn't enough money to fix it.

Shingles were missing from the roof. The windows were old, broken, held up in the warmer weather by poles. The sidewalk was cracked and sat in pieces, and the car was fourteen years old with over two hundred thousand miles.

Yet she was surviving, never complaining about her lot in life, until a hurricane came along. The winds took a good portion of her shingles and rain poured into the house.

She was horrified. How would she afford this? Give up food? Her medications? Sell the old car?

One day, on a fluke, the first officer stopped by to visit her and saw the conditions in which she was living. Breaking down in tears, he promised to help her. And he did. One of the organizations he called was the BRPBA who set about finding people to donate time to fix her roof, and then donated money to pay for the materials. He got churches to donate food, and he went on social media and raised money for windows, an A/C unit, and much more.

This story is partly fiction, but this gives you an idea of what the Distress Fund does. In 2018, 771 people out of 2000 members and widows bought tickets for the raffle. Why? That's pretty sad. As we have said before, even if everyone bought one ticket, that would be \$1229.00. That \$1229.00 could go a long way in helping our members and widows who are in desperate need.

Know what I mean?

If you have any questions or concerns, or if you find yourself in need of help, please call me at (410) 803-2293 or email to bigfoot571s@yahoo.com.

Thank you,

Daryl J. Buhrman, Sr.
Chairman



R
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Christa Marie Stephens, (03/9/19), daughter of member Joseph Stephens
Geraldine Fickus (3/25/19), mother of Dan Fickus
Kent Baldwin, (04/07/19), brother of Ditty Baldwin
Robert E. Briscoe, retired city police officer
Retired Lieutenant Colonel John Barnes passing on February 16, 2019
Mrs. Janice DiStefano (12/18/18), widow of deceased member Louis DiStefano
Mildred Marks, (12/6/18) wife of Tom Marks
Aubrey "Bud" Carter (02/12/19), retired city police officer

BRPBA FINAL ROLL CALL

- Ronald Arnold (01/19/19)
- Robert Fischer (01/28/19)
- Michael Guzman (05/01/19)
- Larry Johnston (03/23/19)
- Edward R. Keith (04/23/19)
- Rudy Metzger (02/09/19)
- James L. Miller (04/15/19)
- Joseph Mueller, Jr. (04/09/19)
- Floyd Myers (02/08/19)
- Arnold Saboy (02/12/19)
- Ronald Teufer, Sr. (01/30/19)
- Raymond Staniewski (02/20/19)
- Gilbert Wankmiller (02/25/19)



*When I Must Leave You
by Helen Steiner Rice*

*When I must leave you
For a little while-
Please do not grieve
And shed wild tears
And hug your sorrow to you
Through the years,*

*But start out bravely
With a gallant smile;
And for my sake
And for my name
Live on and do
All things the same,*

*Feed not your loneliness
On empty days,
But fill each waking hour
In useful ways,*

*Reach out your hand
In comfort and in cheer
And I in turn will comfort you
And hold you near;*

*And never, never
Be afraid to die
For I am waiting for you in the sky!*





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Commercial Accounts Manager

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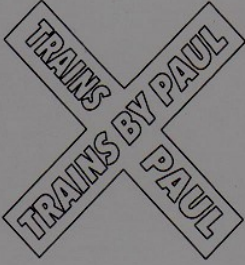
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901 N Frederick Ave (301) 258-1015 main
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Peggy Mullen
REALTOR®




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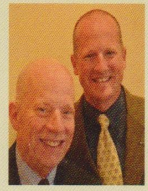
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***Executive Board Meetings held the second Wednesday of the month and
General Meetings on the third Tuesday at American Legion Post 130,
Perry Hall, MD. Please join us!***