



# THE SHIELD



## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BALTIMORE RETIRED POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

SERVED WITH HONOR

SUMMER 2019

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By the time you receive this newsletter, our hot and humid summer will be winding down and, hopefully, the temps are cooling a bit. However, I doubt it. My A/C bill took a heck of a hit this summer.

- Our next meeting is September 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Our starting time is earlier because it will be a packed meeting. First and foremost, City Councilwoman Shannon Sneed will be gifted with a plaque for her tireless work in obtaining a seat for the BRPBA on the healthcare committee. Additionally, Betsy Gardner from the Mayor's office will also be presented a plaque for helping us to honor retired Baltimore City Police Officer Michael Dunn at our General Membership Meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup>. If you recall, we had attempted to recognize these ladies at our May meeting, but due to circumstances beyond our control, we had to postpone. We hope to see you there.

- Also on September 17<sup>th</sup>, we will be holding a silent auction of police memorabilia and other items of interest. If you have any donations you would like to contribute, please feel free to contact me. My phone number is listed further in this newsletter. Thanks!

- And, lastly, also on September 17<sup>th</sup>, an election committee will be formed for our November 2019 elections. Positions up for election are one Board of Governor post and a Trustee post. Running for re-election for these positions are Dan Fickus, Board of Governors, and Trustee, Barry Powell. Of course, anyone can nominate someone else from the floor.

- On January 1, 2020, our Healthcare is going up by 4.2%. Our healthcare has not had an increase in two or three years, so I guess we should at least be grateful for that.

- Many of you have asked and I'm letting you know now that we are NOT losing our prescription coverage. This is why we fought so hard to be on the healthcare committee ... to have a voice in these decisions. Again, thank you Shannon Sneed and Danny Fickus for helping us obtain a position on this very important committee.

- A few of our members have expressed an interest in obtaining motorcycle tags displaying the BRPBA emblem. According to the MVA, they will not start issuing motorcycle tags until we have twenty-five (25) total requests. In other words, we have about four people interested so far, so we would need another twenty-one in order to get tags. Anybody interested? Please contact me.

- Along those lines, some members have asked about Disabled BRPBA tags. Same thing here... we need twenty-five (25) people to want them before the MVA will begin issuing them. To qualify, you must be injured LOD or have a job-related disability. If interested in these tags, please contact Kenny Driscoll at [thedriscolls@gmx.com](mailto:thedriscolls@gmx.com).

Daryl

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

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## CITY'S "EXPERTS" ATTEMPT TO REDUCE CITY'S LIABILITY

Finding that Baltimore City breached its contract with Fire and Police retirees by significantly reducing their raises and eliminating the variable benefit did not end the battle. The trial in January, 2019 became a battle of economic experts. After listening to both sides take highly complex economic and actuarial positions as to the calculation of damages, Judge Julie Rubin decided that the City's experts had the better argument. She ruled that the City's actuaries' theories would furnish the basis for determining damages.

Not surprisingly, disagreements between the City and Fire and Police retirees, among other aggrieved persons, erupted. After briefly hearing both sides, Judge Rubin directed them to submit written explanations of their positions by August 13, 2019. As it had throughout years of litigation, the City did everything in his power to reduce the money it owed the retirees who had risked their lives and health on a daily basis. The City's experts' opinions, far from actuarially realistic, rather cynically engaged in a ploy to reduce the contribution the City needed to make in order to pay what it owed and what the Fire and Police retirees had already earned, a status the Court found telling in determining the existence of the breach in the first place. This time, changing their initial calculations, the City's experts, without any legal, factual or theoretical justification, added a fictitious \$600 million into the equation. Like the fallacious and unrealistic assumption rate of years past and the breathtakingly misleading and inexplicable smoothing and double smoothing phenomena, the addition reduced the City's contribution obligation. Naturally, that diminished the retirees' damages.

At this point, Judge Rubin will likely make a decision as to the fairness and legality of the City's experts' latest calculations, part of a series of formulations that have changed over time, fairly quickly. With all the twists and turns the case has taken, trying to predict her eventual ruling amounts to an attempt to catch smoke in a butterfly net. Any claim by anyone to know how the judge might rule should articulate that opinion with the theme from Mission Impossible playing in the background.

Meanwhile, as always, our attorneys and the BRPBA continued to do their utmost to help retirees get what they have earned.

Mike May, written 8/13/19

## THE HANDSHAKE

By Patrick Youells

The other week my wife and I were having supper at a local restaurant. From my vantage point I could see the front door, (even though retired, a cop's habits are hard to quit). During our wait for our meal, an elderly man walked over to a booth at the front of the restaurant to speak to some people. I noticed he was wearing a VFW cap and I heard him say "D Day". I shot up to where he was before he left and after he spoke to the folks at the front booth, he turned to me. I shook hands with him and thanked him for his service.

He told me he was in the 29th Division and proudly said he weighed the same as he did in 1944. His son then told us that he trained with the British Commandos in Scotland and parachuted behind the German lines on the 6th of June 1944. These commandos played havoc on the German communications.

This gentleman was 98 years old, and as I shook his hand, I began to think that I am shaking hands with history. Not just history as in a book but living history.

Once he left, I returned to the booth where my wife waited for me. She asked what that was all about and I explained. She could see I was in deep thought and asked me what was wrong. I told her that the deeds of those men will be forgotten in the future. When I was talking to this gentleman and listened to him my mind said, "I wish I could call Dad and tell him who I just met." My Dad passed away in 2002. He also was in the 29th Division and landed there on D day and was in the Battle of the Bulge.

When I saw the man standing there with his VFW WWII cap on, I knew I could go and talk to him. Dad use to say that if I was to see a man wearing a WWII cap or any cap with a military writing, as in what this gentleman was wearing, he would be approachable and did not mind you shaking hands with him at all. He was right.

I have lived to see the last American WWI soldier pass who was 110 in 2011. There are around 600,000 American Vets left from WWII. They are dying at a rate of 1,100 per day according to Veterans Affairs. The number of deaths will rise dramatically as the veterans age. Most of the ones that are left are in their nineties. If I live to see it, I will be alive when the last American WWII veteran dies. All of the sixteen million American vets that were a part of WWII will be gone.

So the next time you are out and if you get the rare chance to see a WWII veteran proudly wearing a cap that states his Service to our country, go up to him and shake his hand and thank him for his service. At that moment you will be shaking hands with living history.

To borrow the first part of a quote from General Douglas MacArthur, "Old Soldiers never die; they just fade away."



## Ragged Old Flag

I walked through a county courthouse square  
On a park bench an old man was sitting there  
I said, your old courthouse is kinda run down  
He said, naw, it'll do for our little town  
I said, your old flagpole has leaned a little bit  
And that's a ragged old flag you got hanging on it

He said, have a seat, and I sat down  
Is this the first time you've been to our little town?  
I said, I think it is  
He said, I don't like to brag  
But we're kinda proud of that ragged old flag

You see, we got a little hole in that flag there when  
Washington took it across the Delaware  
And it got powder-burned the night Francis Scott Key  
Sat watching it writing say can you see  
And it got a bad rip in New Orleans  
With Packingham and Jackson tuggin' at its seams

And it almost fell at the Alamo  
Beside the Texas flag, but she waved on though  
She got cut with a sword at Chancellorsville  
And she got cut again at Shiloh Hill  
There was Robert E. Lee, Beauregard, and Bragg  
And the south wind blew hard on that ragged old flag

On Flanders field in World War one  
She got a big hole from a Bertha gun  
She turned blood red in World War Two  
She hung limp and low a time or two  
She was in Korea and Vietnam  
She went where she was sent by Uncle Sam

She waved from our ships upon the Briny foam  
And now they've about quit waving her back here at home  
In her own good land here she's been abused  
She's been burned, dishonored, denied, and refused

And the government for which she stands  
Is scandalized throughout the land  
And she's getting threadbare and wearing thin  
But she's in good shape for the shape she's in  
'Cause she's been through the fire before  
And I believe she can take a whole lot more

So we raise her up every morning  
We take her down every night  
We don't let her touch the ground and we fold her up right  
On second thought, I do like to brag  
'Cause I'm mighty proud of that ragged old flag

Songwriters: Johnny Cash

**MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A COMPLETED BENEFICIARY FORM WITH THE BRPBA.**

**IT'S A MESS FOR ALL INVOLVED WHEN WE DON'T HAVE ONE ON FILE.**

## **BENEFICIARY FORM**

*Please type or print clearly all information below.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
TODAY'S DATE

I, \_\_\_\_\_ upon my death, desire all benefits entitled to me as a member of  
Baltimore Retired Police Benevolent Association, Inc., be paid to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

### **BENEFICIARY'S NAME**

#### **Beneficiary Information:**

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contingency Beneficiary ('s) Name/Relationship/Address:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Member Information:**

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Retirement: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CUT OUT THE ABOVE AND MAIL TO BRPBA, P.O. BOX 6217, BALTIMORE, MD 21206.**

**THIS IS YOUR MONEY... MAKE SURE YOUR BENEFICIARY GETS IT!!!!**

BW Unlimited Charity Fundraising presents...

Event Title Sponsor

**2019 REAL AMERICAN HEROES BASH**

Benefiting the BADGES UNITED FOUNDATION

"Ladies inspired to cycle"

Martin's Crosswinds  
7400 Greenway Center Drive  
Greenbelt, MD 20770  
Casual Attire

Saturday, September 21st, 2019  
7pm to 11pm

Your Tickets Include:  
An "All you can eat Buffet" filled with hand sliced Pit Beef, Pit Ham & Turkey, Maryland Steamed Shrimp, BBQ Ribs, Fried Chicken, Italian Meatballs & Sausage and tons more - PLUS All the Beer, Wine & Sodas are INCLUDED in the price of your ticket!!!

Featuring:  
Live Auction & Silent Auction for Worldwide Vacation Packages, Autographed Sports & Celebrity & Music Memorabilia, Beautiful Jewelry, incredible Wall Decor and TONS of Raffles...so much you'll have to see it to believe it!!!

Tickets:  
Table of 10 - \$750.00  
Single Ticket - \$80.00

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY: BW UNLIMITED

For Tickets or Questions:  
Sara Laszaic  
Phone: (813) 784-4270  
Sara@BadgesUnitedFoundation.org



Police: Where do u live?  
Me: With my parents.  
Police: Where do your parents live?  
Me: With Me.  
Police: Where do you all live?  
Me: Together.  
Police: Where is your house?  
Me: Next to my neighbors house.  
Police: Where is your neighbors house?  
Me: You won't believe me if I tell you.  
Police: Tell Me!  
Me: Next to my house.



## IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN !

Whether Retired, Active, or Simply Wore The BPD Badge in The Past...

Please Join Us for Lunch, Fellowship, and "War Story" Swapping at Our Thirteenth Reunion Luncheon in Central Florida.

**NEW DATE - - Thursday, September 19, 2019**

Noon until ???

BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse

8761 Vineland Avenue

Kissimmee, Florida

Just South of Interstate 4, Exit 68

RSVP to Tim Markland (tmarkland307@gmail.com) or Ed Bossle (edbossle@embarqmail.com) by 9/1/19 so we can make arrangements with the restaurant.

*Spouses/Significant Others Always Welcome !*

**ALERT!! ALERT!!! THE LOCATION FOR OUR GENERAL MEETINGS WILL BE CHANGING TO THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL, CARDINAL GIBBONS COUNCIL, 4301 KLOSTERMAN AVENUE, NOTTINGHAM, MD 21236. WE WILL NOTIFY YOU BY EMAIL, WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK REGARDING THE DATE OF THE MOVE. STAY TUNED.**

**Leonard A. Delozier, Jr.**  
Certified Public Accountant

1602 Junius Court, Bel Air, MD 21015-1550  
(410) 893-1671 (Baltimore) ~ (410) 638-6141 (Bel Air)  
1-866-929-8153 (Toll Free Fax)  
e-mail: [ldelozier1@comcast.net](mailto:ldelozier1@comcast.net)

# Newsletter

July 2019

## **THE MOVE IS OVER (BUT NOT THE UNPACKING!)**

I have now moved into my new house (and my new first-floor office!).

My new address is: **5022 Shirleybrook Ave, Rosedale, MD 21237-3329**. (The Post Office tells me it is in "Rosedale", but it is west of I95, just south of White Marsh Mall.)

My primary telephone number (**410-893-1671**) is unchanged, and my primary e-mail address (**LDELOZIER1@COMCAST.NET**) also is unchanged. But please note that my Harford County phone number (**410-638-6141**) is no longer active. So please call me on the **410-893-1671** phone number.



It is toll free for all of my clients.

Directions to my office are as follows:

- \* From MD Route 43, turn south onto Perry Hall Blvd. (That's a right turn if you are coming from Belair Road, or a left turn if you are coming from I95.)
- \* Go past the second stop light, then 1 block to the top of the hill, and turn left onto Buck School House Road.
- \* Go 1 block (Buck School House Road ends here) and turn right onto Babikow Road.
- \* Go about ½ mile, and turn left onto Shirleybrook Ave. (That is the first street on the left, and it is the first street after you cross over 2 speed bumps.)
- \* After about ¼ mile the street will make a sharp dogleg to the left. Make that turn, and I am the 2nd house on the left.
- \* If you will be coming to my office, I will give you a detailed map.

## **NEW TAX FORMS FOR 2019**



Here we go again! In an attempt to make tax returns easier to understand and simpler to prepare (LOL), IRS is making changes to the Form 1040 for 2019. They are also reducing the number of schedules that must be attached to the Form 1040. The changes have not been finalized yet, so I can't make an evaluation on them.

And as I mentioned in an earlier Newsletter, the IRS is making changes to the Form W-4 that you use to tell your Payroll people how much withholding to take out of your pay. The new Form W-4 (also not finalized) is very confusing. What you need to know is that Form W-4 is just a worksheet that does not get filed with IRS. It is used only to help you determine how many exemptions to claim and whether you withhold as "Single" or "Married". In reality, the only thing that counts is how much is to be withheld. Your goal should be to have enough withheld to cover your total annual taxes. For example, if last year's total tax was \$12,000, and you get paid once each month, you should have \$1,000 withheld from each paycheck. Use "Single" or "Married" and whatever number of exemptions you need to get to that figure.

Continued Page 7



### **WHAT IS AN RMD?**

RMD stands for “Required Minimum Distribution” and it applies to all tax-deferred retirement accounts, such as Traditional IRAs, 401(k) plans, 403(b) plans, 457(b) plans, SEP IRAs, and SIMPLE IRAs. RMDs do not apply to Roth IRAs and Roth 401(k) plans. It is the minimum amount that you must withdraw from your tax deferred retirement account(s), or pay a substantial penalty.



Generally, taxpayers MUST start taking their required minimum distribution by April 1<sup>st</sup> of the year after they turn 70½ -- and every year thereafter. Your plan trustee typically will tell you the amount of your RMD, i.e., how much you must withdraw. But if you are 70 and they haven’t told you yet, you should contact them and ask them. This is very important, because if you do not take the RMD when you are supposed to, you are subject to a 50% penalty for not taking the distribution!

You can calculate the amount of your RMD yourself, if you wish. IRS Publication 590-B -- Distributions from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) gives you the percentage to use for calculating the required minimum distribution. You must add up the prior year-end balances of all of your Traditional IRAs, etc., and then multiply that total by the applicable percentage from the IRS table. This gives you your required minimum distribution. (It is a lot easier just to contact your plan trustee.)

Note: Any distributions (including RMD distributions) from any tax deferred account are fully taxable in the year you take the money.

### **YOU CAN AVOID PAYING TAX ON YOUR RMD IF YOU DONATE IT TO A CHARITY.**

Because of the new tax law, many taxpayers are taking the standard deduction instead of itemizing. That means they don’t get a specific benefit for charitable donations. However, even if you take the standard deduction, you can exclude from income any amount of your RMD that you gift directly to a charity (up to \$100,000, but not more than the RMD). This is called a “Qualified Charitable Distribution” (QCD). But there are specific steps you must take to be able to exclude that donation.

- \* The donation must come from the RMD, and cannot be more than the RMD.
- \* The donation must either be sent by the plan trustee directly to the charity, or must be in the form of a check made payable to the charity. If it is in check form, you can personally send or hand-deliver the check to the charity. The check cannot be made payable to the taxpayer.
- \* The donation must come from a Traditional IRA. It cannot come from a 401(k) plan, 403(b) plan, or any other tax deferred account. However, you can transfer money from your 401(k), etc. into your IRA, and then take those same dollars out of the IRA for the QCD. Be aware that you can make only one such transfer each year. (That’s how Congress wrote the law!)

To reiterate, to take advantage of the Qualified Charitable Distribution exclusion:

- \* You must be 70½
- \* The money must be part of your Required Minimum Distribution.
- \* The money must go directly to the charity, and not to you.
- \* The money must come from a Traditional IRA.



**If you want to do this, I suggest you call me first to review the procedures.**

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.

## The Civil War's First Bloodshed By Kenny Driscoll

18 April 1861

A Day Before the Pratt Street Riots was a Different Set of Fighting and Rioting Down Howard to Camden, up Camden to Eutaw, Paca and Pratt streets to Mount Clare Depot

On April 18, 1861, two companies of US Artillery and four companies of militia arrived from Harrisburg at the Bolton Station, in the northern part of Baltimore. A large crowd assembled at the station, subjecting the militia to abuse and threats. According to the mayor at the time, "An attack would certainly have been made but for the vigilance and determination of the police, under the command of Marshal Kane."

Kane and others in Baltimore, knowing the fever pitch of the city, sought to learn about plans for other troops to pass through town, but their telegrams north asking for information were largely ignored, probably at least partly because of Kane's well-known Southern sympathies. So it was on the next day, April 19, that Baltimore authorities had no warning that troops were arriving from Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. The first of the troops had arrived at the President Street Station, on the east side of town, and had successfully traveled the one-mile distance along East Pratt Street via horse-drawn rail cars, to the Camden Street Station (now near modern "Camden Yards"/Oriole Park baseball stadium) the west side, to continue to Washington. There a disturbance ensued that soon brought the attention of Marshal Kane. His police, (according to Mayor Brown's later memoirs), prevented a large and angry crowd "from committing any serious breach of the peace." Upon hearing reports that the mobs would attempt to tear up the rails leading toward Washington, Kane dispatched some of his men to protect the tracks.

Meanwhile, the balance of northern troops encountered greater difficulty traversing Pratt Street. Obstructions were placed on the tracks by the crowd and some cars were forced back toward the President Street station. The soldiers attempted to march the distance along Pratt Street, and according to Mayor Brown was met with "shouts and stones, and I think an occasional pistol shot."

The soldiers fired back, and the scene was one of

general mayhem. Marshal Kane soon appeared with a group of policemen from the direction of the Camden Street Station, "and throwing themselves in the rear of the troops, they formed a line in front of the mob, and with drawn revolvers, kept it back. ... Marshal Kane's voice shouted, "Keep back, men, or I shoot!" According to Mayor Brown, "This movement, which I saw myself, was gallantly executed and was perfectly successful. The mob recoiled like water from a rock." By the time it was over, four soldiers and twelve civilians were dead. These were the first casualties of the American Civil War.

Even though Kane appears to have executed his duties faithfully during these events, and wrote an official account defending his actions (Public record defense by Marshall George P. Kane of his actions on April 19, 1861, in dealing with the riot in Baltimore that "shed the first blood of the Civil War"), there is no question that he was very pronounced in his Southern sympathies. After the riot, Marshal Kane telegraphed to Bradley T. Johnson in Frederick, Md. as follows:

"Streets red with Maryland blood; sends expresses over the mountains of Maryland and Virginia for the riflemen to come without delay. Fresh hordes will be down on us tomorrow. We will fight them and whip them, or die."

This startling telegram produced immediate results. Mr. Johnson, afterward served as a general in the Confederate States Army, commanding the Maryland regiments came with volunteers from Frederick by a special train that night and other county military organizations began to arrive. Virginians were reported hastening to Baltimore.

From the book,

Dear Ma – The Civil War Letters of Curtis Clay Pollock - First Defenders and First Lieutenant of the 48th Pennsylvania Infantry by John David Hoptak Curtis Clay Pollock was one of among the more than two million soldiers who donned a Union blue and fought in defense of the United States during the American Civil War. And, by war's end, he would be counted among the many hundreds of thousands of those soldiers who died to help ensure that this nation might live.

Continued Page 9



He was among the very first to respond to his country's call, volunteering his service immediately upon the outbreak of hostilities in the spring of 1861. On 17 April of that fateful year, just five days after the wars opening at Ft Sumter and in response to President Abraham Lincoln's first call to arms, 18-year-old Curtis Pollock marched off to war as a private in the Washington Artillery, a militia company recruited from the young volunteer's hometown of Pottsville, Pennsylvania.

The very next evening (18 April 1861), the Washington Artillery, along with four other companies of Pennsylvania volunteers, arrived in the distressed Nation's Capital. As it turned out, these men, Pollock included, would be the very first Northern Volunteers' to arrive in Washington following the commencement of the war and would go down in history as the famed "First Defenders." Earlier that same day (18 April 1861), as the volunteer soldiers of these five companies made their way through the streets of Baltimore on their journey south to Washington, they were assaulted by a vehement mob of Pro-Confederate sympathizers who hurled not only insults, but also bricks, bottles, and stones. Pollock escaped injury, but some of the Pennsylvanians were struck down and seriously injured during the melee, thereby shedding some of the very first blood in what would prove to be America's bloodiest war.

This serves as more written documentation of the first day of fighting in Baltimore's two days of rioting in our streets. This first day on the 18th led to the first bloodshed of the civil war, the next day the 19th led to the first deaths of the civil war.

<https://baltimorecitypolicehistory.com/our-police/riots-1861.html>

You may or may not know, but all residents of Maryland are required to make appointments with the MVA and change your Driver's License. Why? Because of the Federal REAL ID Act.

The federal REAL ID Act was adopted after 9/11 to create security standards for driver's licenses and identification cards for all states. As a result, Maryland residents are required to bring in documentation of age and identity, social security, and two proofs of Maryland residential address to meet federal REAL ID standards.

What do you need to bring?

U.S. Birth Certificate - original or certified copy (*Documents issued by a hospital, notification of birth registration, birth registration cards, and foreign birth certificates not accepted*), or, U.S. Passport - valid or expired less than 5 years , or Consular Report of Birth Abroad, Permanent Resident Card- valid, unexpired, Certificate of Naturalization, Certificate of Citizenship, Employment Authorization Documents, Unexpired Foreign Passport WITH current valid USCIS Documentation, US or MD Birth Certificate for adopted individuals with Adoption Records/Certificate/Decree, U.S Adoption records with full name and date of birth.

**Note: If you changed your name, you will need additional documents.**

**Married?** Bring marriage certificate.

**Court order name change?** Bring court-issued document.

**Divorced?** Bring divorce decree

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**MEMORIES: THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'... OH MY GOD WHAT HAVE THEY DONE**

Recently the problems in Baltimore prompted Bob DiStefano and Mike May to exchange thoughts by email.

*Bob:*

Baltimore was, at one time, a great city. Baltimore's Police Department, at one time under D.D.P., was a great Police Department. Sadly, today, neither is true! When I was "coming up," on the east side (Tenth Ward), in the evenings we didn't have to lock our front doors. The police knew all of us, and if we did something wrong, they didn't chase us. They went to our houses and told our parents. We could then expect a painful greeting when we did go home. We had a little row house on Wilcox Street. My mother would wait at the front door, and when I tried to get by, her hand would administer a stinging punishment.

One half-block from my home was Johnston's Square, which had green grass instead of concrete. The Little Sisters of the Poor had a home for the indigent elderly between Biddle and Preston Streets, immediately adjacent to the park. On Sunday, the park was filled with older gentleman for whom the Little Sisters cared. They sat and read their papers. The center of the park had a circular garden, with lots of flowers and benches. We were not allowed to play in the park and not allowed on the grass. We could sit on the benches and ride our bikes through as long as they remained on the cobblestone pathways. Anyone who got off the path had to get out of the park. No one ever bothered the old men.

That neighborhood was a ghetto before the ideologues commandeered the word and gave it a negative context. It was a blue collar neighborhood with Italian, German, Irish and Polish mainly, all living in harmony, one with the other. There were no government programs. St. John's Catholic Church at Eager and Valley Streets had CYO dances, and St. James, at Eager and Aisquith Streets had a drum and bugle corps, of which I was a member.

The biggest crime that the children committed was hanging out on the corners. We bothered no one. We assaulted no one. We destroyed no property. We respected the police even though they would run us off the corners now and then. We never felt that the city owed us a job or anything

else. I cannot recall anyone in our group ever suggesting we go downtown and break windows, steal stuff, assault pedestrians and maybe trash a police car.

We went into the military, and many of us went into the Police Department or Fire Department. No one went to prison.

When I "came on" the Police Department in '62, I was assigned to a traffic corner which I had to work for a couple weeks before being assigned to a district. When I got there, one of the old neighborhood police officers expressed utter amazement that I managed to get "on the force."

*Mike:*

I grew up in New Northwood in St. Matthew's Parish in the 1950s and 1960s until I went into the Army in 1966 after a year at Loyola College when it became apparent that the reason I thought I was there differed dramatically from the reason the school thought I was there.

We too had an immense respect for the police. One of my most treasured memories is the day my uncle, Sgt. John J. Dohony, one of the old foot sergeants who never drove a car and was the best man I ever knew, took me to Pennsylvania Station by bus. Once at the station, we boarded a train for DC. Uncle John took me through the Smithsonian Institute for hours. Then widowed, he also took me to his fiancée's house in DC. She was widowed as well, and was his son's, and my cousin's, mother-in-law.

I also recall my godmother, Aunt Mary Dohony, who also never drove, taking me and my brother to the boats at the foot of Broadway to spend the day at the amusement parks at Tolchester and Betterton before there was ever a Bay Bridge. Once in a while, we would see another uncle, Fr. Nicholas Dohony, a priest at St. Patrick's at Broadway and Bank. In fact, when Uncle John first joined the Police Department in the early 1940s, he was stationed at the old Eastern District and had a foot post on Broadway. I could never figure out which uncle had the good side of the street and which had the bad.

Continued Page 11

At home, we played wall ball, curb ball, baseball, football and basketball. Little League baseball took place at Mullen Field and later at Kelly and Bailey Fields near Northeastern District. When we were not playing on a team or playing in the street, we chose sides and played on a field in the neighborhood. We had to be home when the streetlights came on.

We played tackle football without equipment. Often, as with baseball, we went to the fields at Woodbourne Junior High. I also learned to play basketball there. In fact, we also went to Dewees, just east of Woodbourne, which had the best basketball in the area. There was no point in stepping on the court unless you could play.

When we got older, we went to dances at St. Matthew's CYO and Northwood Rec. Three different groups of us hung at Northwood School, never damaging anything. There were also groups that hung at Northwood Shopping Center, Alameda Pharmacy, the Medical Center and Sun Ray Drug Store at Hillen and Belvedere. If anybody invaded our territory, which seemed to happen during St. Matthew's Carnival, all of us came together. No one ever got shot or stabbed.

Baseball and basketball continued, baseball at Mount Pleasant, Northwood, Herring Run, Patterson, Bloomingdale Oval, Parkside, Clifton, Bocek, Swan and other places. Basketball was also everywhere. We could play inside during the week at Northwood. Nobody liked to play at the old Poly on North Avenue. The doors were right near the basket at one end of the court. One time on a fast break, I got hit from behind and went through the doors and halfway down the steps. Even the floor at the Civic Center had dead spots that mitigated the thrill of planning there back in the days when the Bullets were in Baltimore with Walt Bellamy and Earl The Pearl Munroe among others.

In the days before the Internet, when we still had party lines, the mothers had this amazing hotline. Somehow, no matter how many precautions I took, I never got away with anything. The word about what I had done made it home before I did, and physical consequences generally awaited. Meanwhile, no one ever wanted to be brought home by the police. At the same time, no one ever wanted to be the subject of a negative complaint by the police or by a

teacher. We respected adults. While we certainly got into our share of mischief, no one ever deliberately hurt a person or destroyed property.

*Mike's Reflections:*

Then the 60s arrived. In 1963, Bob Dylan sang *The Times They Are A-Changin'*. Most of us thought it was just another folk song, part of a passing fad. We did not perceive it as a clarion call to reject traditional values. Then, 10 years later, after Vietnam (we didn't lose; we left), the brilliant Irish composer, Phil Coulter, wrote *The Town I Loved So Well*, about his hometown of Derry, practically destroyed during *The Troubles*. After recounting the joyous episodes of his youth, he describes the carnage, the devastation, the destruction he witnessed when he came back. Broken hearted, Coulter then laments, "Oh my God, what have they done?"

In Baltimore, in the aftermath of riots, hatred, virulent resentments, disdain for any type of authority, flight from and rejection of the City, ineffectual crime strategies, attacks of all kinds on law enforcement by not only the people law enforcement protects and serves, but also by the very persons charged with taking care of police officers (FOP 3's president was castigated for referring to persons committing crimes as criminals, and the City continues to spend millions in legal fees to reduce pension benefits), Coulter's plaintive expression of grief fits our hometown.

No formulaic answers exist. As retirees, we can, to borrow from Former Governor Bob Ehrlich, at least begin to Turn This Car Around by living and exhibiting the values that formed us, by refusing to succumb to the counterproductive influences of political correctness. We can never surrender. What has been done can, although it certainly will take time, be undone.

Bob DiStefano  
Mike May  
July 14, 2019

A simple way to take measure of a country is to look at how many want in.. And how many want out."– Tony Blair

*WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!*

Shelton Jones, Jr.

Steven Krause

Richard Manning

Frank Melcavage

John Windle

### INCLEMENT WEATHER

Please remember, monthly meetings may be canceled due to inclement weather when:

- Baltimore County Schools are closed because of snow or inclement weather; or,
- There is a snowfall after schools are dismissed and the Baltimore County snow emergency plan is placed in operation.

### Newsletter Chairman:

Patrick Youells  
(cody7762@hotmail.com).

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

President: Daryl Buhman ..... 410-803-2293  
1st VP: Richard Nevin ..... 410-876-1027  
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Email Address: [brpbaooffice@gmail.com](mailto:brpbaooffice@gmail.com)

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### Distress Fund Chairman:

Daryl J. Buhman  
410-803-2293

### UPCOMING GENERAL MEETINGS

September 18, 2019, 6:00 p.m.  
(Special Time, Special Meeting to honor Special Guests)

October 16, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

Regular General Meeting

Location to be announced.

November date to be announced.

### 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

Last year, 598 members bought raffle tickets. The BRPBA membership consists of 1,700 members. That means that 1,102 members did not even purchase one ticket. That's sad, but it is what it is. Some people just don't believe in gambling. However, we will state that if all those who did not purchase tickets bought only one of the tickets they received, it would cover the mailing and printing costs of the entire raffle. Think about that for a moment.

As you know, our raffle offers twenty-five (25) chances to win. Winning tickets will be drawn at our holiday party in December. Just like the lottery, you have to play to win.

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

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

Tickets will be mailed around the time of this mailing. If you wish to receive more tickets, please contact me at the number below.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at (410) 803-2293 or email to [bigfoot571s@yahoo.com](mailto:bigfoot571s@yahoo.com).

Thank you,

Daryl J. Buhrman, Sr.

Chairman

### 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](http://www.brpba.com) under Member  
Information or call Daryl Buhrman at  
410-803-2293.

In Memorial Gifts Made to the BRPBA Distress Fund

Thomas Uzarowski, in memory of Raymond Staniewski

WANT YOUR NEWSLETTER EMAILED INSTEAD OF MAILED? LET US KNOW AT [BRPBAOFFICE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BRPBAOFFICE@GMAIL.COM)



*BRPBA FINAL ROLL CALL*

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Fred Daum, (5/20/2019)  
Karl Harris, (03/22/19)  
Elsie D. Haukdal, mother of Robert Haukdal,  
(08/09/19).  
Kevin "Butter Bean" Vaught (06/06/19)

Jack Baker (05/20/19)  
James Bush (07/11/19)  
Ray Butler (07/23/19)  
Calvin Felthouse (07/15/19)  
Franklin Galaski (06/25/19)  
Robert E. Hager (07/10/19)  
Francis Hutson (06/26/19)  
Jerry Landsman (06/07/19)  
Ronald Mikles (06/27/19)  
James Rainey (08/14/19)  
Robert Wright (05/30/19)





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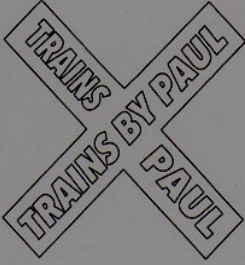
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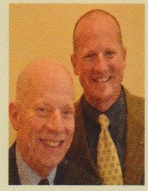
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