



# THE SHIELD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BALTIMORE RETIRED  
POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

SERVED WITH HONOR

EARLY WINTER 2025

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Sometimes the best  
thing that you can do  
is not think. not  
wonder. not imagine.  
not obsess. Just  
Breathe. and have faith  
that everything will  
work out for the best.

"You're braver than  
you believe, and  
stronger than you  
seem, and smarter  
than you think".

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

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

Mike Wilhelm  
*1st Vice President*

Kenneth Dickstein  
*2nd Vice President*

Kathy Conrad  
*Secretary*

Daniel Miller  
*Treasurer*

Ellis S. Baldwin  
*Sergeant-at-Arms*

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Barry Powell  
George Stiemly, Jr.

*Board of Governors*

Robert Haukdal  
Daniel Fickus  
Mike May

*Pension Board Trustee*  
Robert Haukdal

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Daryl Buhrman*

I hope that 2025 has started out good for everyone.

- Our Raffle was a fairly good success considering the economy. Of the over 10,000 tickets sold, four outstanding people purchased almost 2,000 of them (subsequently, their chance to win was higher).

Thank you to all who purchased, sold, and/or made donations. It is appreciated by everyone you help through the Distress Fund.

- Many thanks to Kathy Conrad for taking over the raffle for me, and to Mike Wilhelm for stepping up upon my absence. And I would be remiss if I did not also thank the rest of the Board for helping me out. It's heart-warming to know you can rely on others in your time of need.

To the members of the BRPBA, thank you for the calls, cards, and prayers.

- Speaking about my "time of need", I wanted to give you my health update. Currently I am facing surgery and possibly further treatment with chemotherapy and/or radiation. We shall see what happens after surgery.

Being sick is scary and it made me finally realize how fragile life is. Please keep everyone who is battling an illness or those who are caring for someone battling an illness, in your thoughts and prayers. We all need prayers.

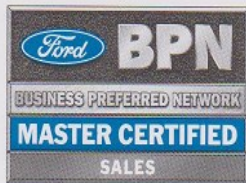
- We will be cutting back on who we mail the raffle to even further to eliminate those who have not purchased tickets in the last five years. This will save a

considerable amount of time and money. However, if you want tickets and have not been receiving them, please drop us an email at [BRPBAOffice@gmail.com](mailto:BRPBAOffice@gmail.com) and we will add you back onto the list.

- We recently had an issue where someone was quite upset with us because they could not receive a members death benefit. On Page 11, Article X of our By-Laws, it states "There will be no death benefit payable if a deceased member has no beneficiary form on file." There is nothing we can do about this. It's our law. We are being as transparent as we can. When there is no form on file, it causes major issues with estates who have held on to checks forever, or results in family members arguing over who gets the money and taking it out on us. We just can't be in the middle of that. I don't know what else we can tell you to get you to fill out a form. It's your money after all.

On page 9 is a list of members from A-Si who still have no form on file despite us begging and pleading to get it done. Not to mention if there is an old form on file. This causes major issues when a 2<sup>nd</sup> spouse was not listed on the form and the 1<sup>st</sup> spouse gets the money. OR if you have changed your address and we have no way of getting a check to you. Please, just take a moment and look at the page and see if your name is on the list. The rest of the names will be in our next newsletter (SL-Z).


- You may notice a slight difference in our newsletter. We have moved to a new printing company due to dissatisfaction with the people who bought out the old company.



**NICHOLAS CONSTANTINE**  
Commercial Accounts Manager

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Representing  
[www.InsureWithFuller.com](http://www.InsureWithFuller.com)  
[www.AAGInsurance.com](http://www.AAGInsurance.com)

*Two Great Agencies to serve your needs*

**THE ADS YOU SEE ON THESE PAGES ARE MEMBER'S BUSINESSES. PLEASE CONSIDER USING THEM FOR YOUR NEEDS!!**

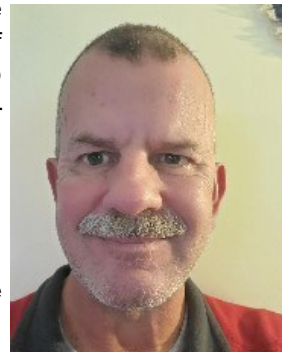
Greetings,

I wanted to take a moment and introduce myself to the membership of this great organization. I can only hope to do this job as well as Mike May did for all the years he served the BRPBA. I have only been a member of the BRPBA for two years but during that time, I got to know Mike May very well. He is a great person and a good friend.

I feel it is important to give you a little background on my career, since many of you probably do not know me.

I served 30 years with the BPD, retiring in 2022. I started my career working in the SWD. I worked in Patrol until 1995, at which time I began working in the SWD Narcotics unit. I went on to work in CID Narcotics until I was promoted to Sergeant in 2004. I went to the NWD, after being promoted, and worked Sector Three midnight shift. I worked for three years in the NWD and then transferred to the District Detective Unit. I worked at DDU for one year. In 2008 I was put in charge of a new unit called the Gun Offender Registry Unit. I worked this assignment until I retired in 2022.

In addition to my BPD background, I served in the US Military for 26 years. I served in the US Army as an Infantryman prior to becoming a Baltimore Police Officer. At the time of joining BPD, I was a member of the Maryland Army National Guard. In 1998 I transferred to the Maryland Air National Guard and served as an armament specialist for the A-10 Warthog Jet. I served three tours of duty in Afghanistan during my time with the Air Guard. I retired from the Air Guard as a Master Sergeant in 2013.



Moving forward, I want to let you know I am here to serve you and this organization.

I hope you get through the rest of this horrendous winter safely. If you happen to attend one of our membership meetings, please seek me out and say Hello.

Last but certainly not least, please keep Daryl and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Mike Wilhelm

### Federal and State Withholding Forms

**Bob Haukdal**  
**F&P Trustee**

The new year brought raises to the pensions of many retirees and beneficiaries which may cause some of you to change the amount of your federal (W-4P) and/or Maryland state (MW-507P) tax withholding. You can get the two forms from the pension system's website, <https://www.bcfpers.org>. Then: *Membership, Retirees/Beneficiaries and the Retirees/Beneficiaries Forms*. Scroll down and click on the form you want.

Last year I mentioned a new federal withholding form was to be implemented and it has. Since the federal form is now more complex, the F&P has provided a couple of ways to aid in completion.

The F&P made a YouTube video to assist in completing the form. Go to YouTube, and enter *bcfpers understanding the new IRS withholding form W 4P*. When you do the search, you will also find additional instructional videos made by other people.

You can also call the F&P at 410 497-7929 and listen for the prompt that offers the assistance.

You can email the completed form/s to [FPAccounting@bcfpers.org](mailto:FPAccounting@bcfpers.org) or fax to 1 888-919-3240. Ask them to confirm receipt.

## MIKE

You've seen articles about him and from him in our newsletters before. Many of you know him personally. I kinda know him (I've only spoken with him a few times), but I know he is one of the most honorable and giving people I have ever encountered.

And on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, we were pleased to honor this great man, Michael P. May, with a plaque commemorating his years of service to the BRPBA. Also at that meeting, he received a host of other awards from various organizations, but before I get into that, let me give you some background of Michael P. May.

Born in the late 40's, a child in the 50's, a teen and member of the armed services in the 60's. He met his wife, Sally, at the infamous Club Venus and she told me she fell in love immediately. She was 21 and he was 23. They were married fifty-four years ago this past December. They had two boys, who are now 49 and 53.

Mike is a retired Military Police Sargeant having served with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division of the U.S. Army. Upon his return to civilian life, he joined the Baltimore City Police Department where he rose to the rank of Detective Sargeant. In 1975, Mike was preparing to interrogate a felon, Wendell Beard (Beard who was a known escape artist who decided to escape again by jumping out of the 2nd story window of the district). Mike decided to chase him (Mike described Beard as wearing "felony flyers" shoes).

Mike dove out the window behind Beard. Unfortunately, upon landing, he shattered his right ankle and injured his left. He had a screw placed in one ankle, and one ankle never recovered: thereby ending his police career. His injury made the front page of the Sunpapers. (See pic)



During his time at the BPD, Mike attended Loyola University where he graduated with a B.A. in Sociology in 1973 and then went on to the University of Baltimore where he obtained his Master's Degree in Criminal Justice in 1976. He then enrolled in law school at the University of Baltimore, where he served as the Managing Editor of the Law Review and graduated second in his class in 1980.

After law school he joined the Baltimore law firm of O'Doherty, Gallagher and Nead, where he later rose to be named a partner in the firm. In 1997, he went solo, forming the Offices of Michael P. May.

In addition to his law practice, Mike served as a Judge Advocate of the National Fourth Infantry Division Association and as Secretary of its Carolina Chapters. He also served on the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Maryland State Bar Association and was a member of the Baltimore City Veterans Service Court.

Mike joined the BRPBA in 2002 and became a member of the Board in 2011. He currently holds one of the Board of Governors positions.

On October 16, 2024, Mike stood before the members of the BRPBA at a General Meeting and announced that he had been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, most likely due to the exposure to Agent Orange when he served in Vietnam. This disease has changed his life dramatically, but not his spirit, and not his drive to continue to be involved in what matters most to him.

Continued Page 5

In addition to what was noted above, while being a lawyer, and being a husband and father, Mike dedicated his “extra” time to many organizations, including:

- Ancient Order of the Hibernians (oldest and largest Catholic organization, promotes Irish heritage and culture.
- Friendly Sons of St. Patrick – dedicated to the relief of Irish immigrants coming to America.
- St. Thomas Moore Society. Thomas Moore Society is the premier not-for-profit public interest law firm championing Life, Family, and Freedom. On October 28, 2021, Mike was honored by St. Thomas Moore Society of Maryland at their annual “Man for All Seasons” Award Banquet. That Mike was honored with the “Man for All Seasons” award is no surprise to the BRPBA. Mike is always there when asked. He is a proficient writer of many of our newsletter articles, is called upon for legal advice consistently, and despite all he has been through, is a kind and considerate man.
- Chimes, a not-for-profit organization that assists people with intellectual and behavioral challenges to achieve their fullest potential.
- Catholic Men’s Fellowship - Our Mission is to strengthen men's spirituality in the Archdiocese of Baltimore through evangelization and discipleship.

In addition to our plaque given to Mike at the BRPBA Holiday Party, he was also presented with these awards:

1. The Governor’s citation of leadership which recognizes a specific achievement such as an anniversary, grand opening, milestone birthday (70+ years), Boy Scout Eagle Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, retirement, or a similar achievement for volunteerism.
2. The Veterans Treatment Court, who honored him with the Mentor Dedication Award. The Veterans Treatment Court Program supports state, local, and tribal efforts to plan and implement or enhance the operations of veterans treatment courts.
3. Police Emerald Society Lifetime Achievement Award – This Society is composed of Irish-American law enforcement personnel drawn from various agencies throughout Maryland, and associate members who are interested in Celtic culture and support law enforcement.
4. The Sons of St. Patrick was the Commodore John Barry Award.

In October of 2023, Mike was awarded the Maryland State Bar Association Brigadier General Philip Sherman Award.

On November 12, 2024, at the Veterans Court Graduation, Mike was presented with the first annual Mike May Mentorship Award.

He will eventually be inducted into the American Police Hall of Fame.

At a time when many organizations are having trouble getting members to join, or to even get people to volunteer to help, Mike May’s decades-long contributions to society is unremarkable and admirable.

I am humbled by what I have learned about him. Good job, Mike, and congratulations for all the awards you were rightfully... awarded.





## HONORING THOSE LOST IN 2024. MAY THEY REST IN ETERNAL PEACE

Deputy Sheriff Justin Smith (AR)  
 De. Sheriff Eric Anthony Minix (GA)  
 Deputy Sheriff Jeremy Malone (MS)  
 Sergeant William A. Burkel (NY)  
 Lieutenant David J. McShane (NY)  
 Trooper Joel Popp (MI)  
 Sergeant Michael "Zini" Kurinzi (NJ)  
 Trooper Jimmy Cenescar (GA)  
 Trooper Zachary Fink (FL)  
 Chief Dep. Sheriff Ken Prorok (SD)  
 Dep. Sheriff Timothy Rivers (GA)  
 Dep. Sheriff Chris Johnson (NC)  
 Trooper Steven A. Tyrrell (NY)  
 Deputy Sheriff Greg McCowan (TN)  
 Deputy Sheriff Rondald Bates (TX)  
 Patrol Off. Jonah Hernandez (NM)  
 Sergeant Nevada Krinkee (WY)  
 Dep. Sheriff Robert Leonard (TN)  
 Police Officer Paul Elmstrand (MN)  
 Police Officer Matthew Ruge (MN)  
 Trpr 1st Class Chase Redner (GA)  
 Deputy Sheriff Charles Rivette (TX)  
 Police Officer Wisbens Antoine (TN)  
 Dep. Sheriff John McCrary (AL)  
 Officer Cody Allen (MO)  
 Trooper Christopher M. Gadd (WA)  
 Dep. Sheriff Bryan Sweetman (TX)  
 BPA Christopher Luna (USA)  
 CofP William Anderson, Sr.(MS)  
 Sgt Thomas A. Sanfratello (NY)  
 Patrolman Justin Hare (NM)  
 Sergeant Frank Cimmino (NY)  
 Detective Jonathan Diller (NY)  
 Deputy Sheriff Christina Musil (IL)  
 Agent Eliezer Ramos-Velez (PR)  
 Lead Police Off. Adam Buckner (AZ)  
 Dep. Sheriff Jermiyus Young (AL)  
 Correctional Sgt Andrew Faught (IL)  
 Cof Police Steven Allen Singer (MO)  
 Lieutenant Rodney Osborne (OH)  
 Special Agent Derek Baer (USA)  
 Police Officer Ross Bartlett (NE)  
 Police Officer Joseph McKinney (TN)  
 Sergeant William Jackson, II (KY)  
 Police Officer Michael Jensen (NY)  
 Lieutenant Michael Hoosock (NY)  
 Deputy Sheriff Fred Fislar (IN)  
 Investigator Brian Herbert (TR)  
 Deputy Sheriff Alfredo Flores (CA)  
 Police Officer Jordan Wingate (CA)  
 Deputy Sheriff Tobin Bolter (ID)  
 Police Officer Luis M. Huesca (IL)  
 Investigator John Coddou, III (TX)  
 Police Officer Kyle Hicks (TX)  
 Sergeant Ian Taylor (MA)  
 Police Officer Russell Croxton (LA)  
 MstArms Lyndon Cosgriff-Flax (USN)  
 Police Officer Joshua Eyer (NC)  
 Investigator Samuel Poloche (NC)  
 Investigator William Elliott (NC)  
 Dep.U.S.Mar. Thomas Weeks (DOJ)  
 Assistant Chief Kevin Palmer (TX)  
 Trooper II Marcellus E. Bethea (NJ)  
 Sergeant William E. McLean, III (NY)  
 Sergeant Bill Hooser (UT)  
 Staff Sg Benedicto Albizu, Jr.(NY)  
 Police Officer Jacob Derbin (OH)

P.O. Anthony Mezzacappa. (PAAuth)  
 Corporal Pricilla Soell Pierson (LA)  
 Troop. 1st Class Aaron Pelletier (CT)  
 Police Officer Jamal Mitchell (MN)  
 Agent Davis Martinez (MD)  
 Police Officer Joshua Briese (TR)  
 Sr P. Officer Vicente Ortiz, Jr.(TZ)  
 Sergeant Brenda J. Lowery (MD)  
 Constable Philip John Michael (PA)  
 Sergeant Floyd H. Miles, Jr. (VA)  
 Detective Ryan So (AZ)  
 Dep. Sheriff Bradley J. Reckling (MI)  
 Agent Luis Algarin De Jesús (PR)  
 Youth Counselor Corey Proulx (WI)  
 Deputy Sheriff William Butler, Jr. (MI)  
 Chief of Patrol Kevin Canavan (NY)  
 Police Officer Jamieson Ritter (OH)  
 Prob.P. Officer Edgar Ordenez (NY)  
 Police Officer Matthew Bowen (CA)  
 Dep. Sheriff Fernando Esqueda (TX)  
 Corporal Robert Sumner (OK)  
 Corporal Mohamed Said (MI)  
 Correct. Officer Hunter Miller (KY)  
 Sr Corporal Segus R. Jolivet (LA)  
 Deputy Sheriff Rafael Wordlaw (IL)  
 P.e Officer Demetrice Johnson (TN)  
 Master Dep.Sheriff Bradley Link (FL)  
 Patrolman Troy Floyd (MS)  
 Deputy Sheriff Hunter Reedy (VA)  
 Sergeant Billy Randolph (TX)  
 Dep.Sh. Brandon Cunningham (GA)  
 Patrolman James Crowley (IL)  
 Trooper Steven P. Bilodeau (NY)  
 Investigator Taylor Bristow (GA)  
 Police Officer Austin Machitar (CA)  
 Investigator Wayne Ellis David (DC)  
 Police Officer Darron Lee Burks (TX)  
 Officer Phylcia Carson (MO)  
 Constable Shane R. Eyre (NY)  
 Corporal Raymond Kuuchi (VetAff)  
 Police Officer Zane Coolidge (AZ)  
 Police Officer Jeremy Boykins (FL)  
 Police Officer Jaime Roman (PA)  
 Corporal Brandon Schreiber (IN)  
 Troop. Enrique Delgado-Garcia (MA)  
 Mtr Carrier Off. Daniel Kerstetter (MI)  
 Deputy Sheriff Joshua Phipps (KY)  
 Police Officer David Lee (MO)  
 Deputy Sheriff Cailee Campbell (NY)  
 Major Michelle Lynn Quintero (NC)  
 Tr. Kevin Ramirez-Vasquez (TX)  
 Dep. Constable Ruben Garcia (TX)  
 Detective Clarence E. Word, III (NY)  
 Deputy Sheriff Lex Allen Love (TX)  
 Park Ranger Kevin Grossheim (DOI)  
 Detective Maurice "Mo" Joseph (VA)  
 Corr. Officer Bradford McNew (FL)  
 Trooper Corey S. Thompson (IL)  
 Asst Sp.Agt.inChg Jos Love (DOHS)  
 Senior Inv. John L. Carey (NY)  
 Police Officer Enrique Martinez (IL)  
 Police Officer Evan Dunn (CO)  
 Deputy Sheriff Ralph Waller, Jr. (FL)  
 Corporal Luis Paez (FL)  
 Deputy Const.Katherine Hutson (TX)  
 Deputy Sheriff Ignacio Diaz (FL)  
 Police Officer Cooper Dawson (TX)

Police Officer Jesse Branch (TR)  
 Detective Allan Reddins (IL)  
 Police Off. Jacob Candanoza (TX)  
 Sergeant Rick Finley (TN)  
 Sergeant Elio Diaz (FL)  
 Air Inter Agt Jeffrey Kanas (DOHS)  
 Detention Officer Isaiah Bias (TX)  
 Trooper Clay M. Carns (IL)  
 Police Officer Michael Horan (NC)  
 Correct.Officer Andrew Lansing (OH)

K9 Nyx (IL)  
 K9 Maze (WV)  
 K9 Leo (FL)  
 K9 Luca (MS)  
 K9 Raiden (WI)  
 K9 Rivan (VA)  
 K9 Dax (IL)  
 K9 Max (CO)  
 K9 Cobra (SC)  
 K9 Wick (SC)  
 K9 Archer (FL)  
 K9 Vader (MO)  
 K9 Odin (IL)  
 K9 Dolar (OK)  
 K9 Mikka (SC)  
 K9 Riddick (ID)  
 K9 Kodak (SC)  
 K9 Draco (NC)  
 K9 Titan (GA)  
 K9 Bumi (SC)



**31 Officers were  
 shot in January  
 2025. 1100 in the  
 last three years.  
 This has to stop.**

**LET US TAKE A MOMENT AND SEND A QUICK PRAYER HEAVENWARD FOR THE  
MEMBERS WE LOST IN 2024.**

Robert Becker (01/01/2023)  
Raymond Buda (01/04/2024)  
Keith Tiedemann (01/13/2024)  
Richard Hancock (01/21/2024)  
Howard Stephens, III (01/14/2024)  
Wes Wise (01/19/2024)  
Ronald Mullen (3/3/2024)  
David F. Clauss (03/04/2024)  
Douglas Kress (03/07/2024)  
Charles Strachan, Jr. (03/15/2024)  
John Blueford, Jr. (03/26/2024)  
Thomas Howard (04/07/2024)  
William Sullivan (04/15/2024)  
Joseph Metz, Sr. (04/19/2024)  
James Horner (04/29/2024)  
Leonard Sullivan (04/30/2024)  
Robert Douglas (05/10/2024)  
Daniel Marshall (05/11/2024)  
Henry Schmidt (05/11/2024)  
Edward Dunlap (05/15/2024)  
John P. Rorke (05/18/2024)  
John Worsham (05/22/2024)

Richard Koel (5/30/2024)  
Elmer Turner (06/04/2024)  
Robert Bowman (06/09/2024)  
Alan Yeater (06/21/2024)  
James Hagan (06/28/2024)  
Raymond Betag (06/30/2024)  
Jacob Kuebel (07/03/2024)  
Louis Kulaga (07/05/2024)  
Thomas J. Joyce (08/16/2024)  
Clifton White (08/21/2024)  
Joseph Wolf (09/02/2024)  
Ronald E. Roberts (09-04-2024)  
Milton Duvall (09/07/2024)  
Robert Kues (09/24/2024)  
Dennis D. Bell (10/16/2024)  
James Tillis, Sr. (10/16/2024)  
Benjamin Koszczepki (11/11/2024)  
Joseph Kaczynski, Jr. (11/11/2024)  
James Madigan (11/17/2024)  
John Freund (11/20/2024)  
Patrick Conley (12/01/2024)



**In the hearts of those who loved you, you  
will always be there.**





## BENEFICIARY FORM

*Please type or clearly print 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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





**STOP!!!!!! Do not pass Go. Do not get \$1500 for your beneficiary because you have no form on file!**

																																
	Ricardo Alston	Russell Gayle	Wendell Marshall																													
	Theresa Anderson	Robert Gibson, Jr.	Rodney Matthews																													
	Ralph Archibald	Philip Gonyo	Arnold McDonald																													
	David Barley, Sr.	Richard Goodwin	Jeffrey McKnight																													
	Martin Beauchamp	Veronica Green	Tony McKoy																													
	Lawrence Bennett	James Guntner	Linda McLaughlin																													
	Ronald Bolling	Alvin Gwynn, Jr.	Tuesday McEntrye																													
	John Borelli	Harry Harcum	Paul McManus																													
	Kimberly Boyles	Leonard Harper	Robert Miller, Jr.																													
	Eric Brooks	Kevin Harris	Theodore Miller, Jr.																													
	Garry Brown	Lynee Harrison	Jerome Minor, Jr.																													
	Charles Bryant, Jr.	Robert Harrison	Kirk Montague																													
	Edward Burns	Cheryl Harvin	George Moore																													
	Stephen Burrier	Mark Haygood	Ronaldo Morales, Jr.																													
	Staccato Butler	Ronny Hege	Bernice Myer																													
	Tracy Byrd	Terry Henderson	Desiree' Naylor																													
	George Cannida	Edmond Herring	Medrick Norrington																													
	Louis Carapico, Jr.	James Hicks, Jr.	James O'Brien																													
	Jeffrey Cardwell, Sr.	Kevin Hoff	Timothy O'Connell, Sr.																													
	Johnny Ray Carroll	Michael Holcomb	Louis Orzech, III																													
	Kristy Carvell	Charles Hyatt	Eric Oswald																													
	Paul Choi	Charletta Jackson	Mark Perzan																													
	Edward Coker, Jr.	Troy Jackson	Ronald Peterson																													
	Darryl Collins	Frank Jarrell, Jr.	Joyce Pinnock																													
	Patrick Conley	Duane Jefferson	Donner Powell																													
	Stephanie Constant	John Jendrek	Robert Probeyahn																													
	Ericka Cooper	Matthew Johnson	Tawna Pruitt																													
	Ted Cox	David Jones	Ilir Qesati																													
	Dionysia Dameron	Jeremiah Kelly, III	Carl Rach																													
	Lavinia Davis *Taylor	Ronald Kennedy	Irma Reed																													
	Walter Davis	Tyrone Kilby	Aquiles Reyes																													
	Roderick Dotson, Sr.	Charles Klein	Michael Richburg																													
	Errol Dutton	Kim Koerber	Edward Rigby																													
	Wayne Early	John Kowalczuk	Clifton Rineheart																													
	Robert Edwards	Robert Kreczmer	Scott Roper																													
	Kevin Festerman	John Lanzetta	Stephen Saghy, Jr.																													
	Jerry Flanary	John Legere	James Salyers																													
	Daniel Ford	Timothy Longo	Larry Sanders																													
	Mark Frank	Willard Lorah	Anthony Schadt																													
	Stephen Frasier	Charles LoRocco	Thomas Schmidt																													
	Charles Fruhwirth	James Lytton	Robert Sharp																													
	Christopher Fry	Clifton Macer, III	James Sharpe																													
	April Fullwood-Jackson	Eddie Mack, Jr.	David Shirey																													
	Shaun Garrity	Wayne Mack	Linda Simpson																													
	Wayne Garrity	Valentine Markowski, Jr.	Gary Sisserman																													

## **The Journey from Badge to Beyond**

*By: Kimberly Stratman*

It's been four-and-a-half years since I retired from the Dallas Police Department, and the time has flown by. Reflecting on these past few years, I often compare them to my first four-and-a-half years on the force. Both chapters are marked by growth, challenges and unforgettable moments, but each journey has been uniquely transformative.

### **The First Four and One Half Years**

When I began my career, the Academy was my initiation into a new world — one that was both exhilarating and intimidating. Then came field training, where I learned on the streets, confronting the real-world complexities of police work. My first assignments in patrol divisions were a mix of experiences; being drafted to a ritzy, upper-class area I didn't enjoy, followed by the dream assignment of Oak Cliff. Oak Cliff was fast-paced, demanding, and always in need of service, and it felt like a place where I could make a real difference. Like most rookies, I couldn't wait to get to work! I did not even want my days off.

Life was a whirlwind. I married a fellow officer, built our first home and faced one of the most harrowing experiences of my career; being involved in an officer-involved shooting alongside my partner. Fortunately, we were both physically unhurt. 13 months after, I had my first baby — a bright spot but one that definitely added to the stress of shift work. I got promoted, dove deeply into Problem-Oriented Policing and found immense satisfaction in tackling the root causes of crime.

Yet, along with these professional highs came painful losses. The deaths of several co-workers were a stark reminder of the dangers we faced every day. The never-ending violence witnessed on the streets raised many emotions and frustrations. The excitement and danger came with high costs. But these years also shaped me in ways I never expected, molding a resilience that would carry me forward.

### **The Transition to Retirement**

Stepping away from the department, I thought I was prepared. I had well-thought-out plans and was able to accomplish each goal. But retirement brought its own set of challenges, including the lockdown that came shortly after I left the force. Watching the riots unfold as a spouse rather than a lieutenant responsible for troops was surreal and unsettling. Without the responsibilities that once defined my days, I had to redefine what purpose and fulfillment looked like.

I threw myself into new activities—joining Camp Gladiator, spending a couple of hours a week at a fabulous gardening shop, and joining a daytime Bible study. My essential oil business partnership, which I had hoped would flourish, faced unexpected struggles, forcing me to pivot. That pivot led to earning Life Coaching and Retirement Coaching Certifications, creating two businesses specifically aimed at serving first responders, and stepping into the world of public speaking. A different kind of stress and excitement.

### **Creating a New Path**

The first four-and-a-half years of my career were marked by establishing myself in a high-pressure field, but these early years of retirement have been about carving out new identities and passions. I created two YouTube channels, built two Instagram pages and learned how to make videos — skills I never thought I'd master. I began public speaking, sharing my experiences and knowledge at conferences and events, all while continuing to lead Debt Free classes for various departments. In addition, I am on staff at a resiliency company and partnered with Financial Wealth Builder. All of my professional actions serve first responders.

I found my niche in serving female first responders, using my personal experiences to connect with others navigating similar paths. Along the way, I learned to write blogs, authored a chapter in a #1 bestseller and had several articles published. Not everything was smooth; I had another run-in with cancer and was diagnosed with a rare form of diabetes. But these challenges only deepened my resolve.

### **Embracing New Connections and Opportunities**

Retirement opened doors I hadn't even realized were there. I joined numerous networking groups and experienced the growth of friendships with civilian women — relationships that have become invaluable. I discovered a deep passion for horses and spend hours every week caring for the most handsome horse ever! However, life also came with its share of heartache, including the loss of three family members.

With our future needs in mind, my still-working SWAT officer husband and I took on a massive cabin renovation project in Colorado and completed several home improvement projects in our Texas home. I earned my Yoga Instructor Certification, began my Ayurveda journey, and planned yoga-related trips to Hawaii and Costa Rica.

Continued on Page 11

### Lessons Learned Along the Way

Identity beyond the badge: My identity had always been tied to my role as an officer. Retirement forced me to explore who I was beyond that role, and this discovery process, though challenging, has been incredibly fulfilling. The adrenal rushes and the important moments of stillness are available. Some lessons learned:

- Adaptability and Resilience: From pivoting my business to dealing with health issues, retirement has been a lesson in resilience. Adapting to change, whether expected or not, has been essential in navigating this chapter.
- The Power of Community: Maintaining connections with fellow officers was vital, but I also found unexpected joy in new communities—gardening, yoga, Bible study and networking groups. Each of these has helped me build a fulfilling post-retirement life.
- Continuing to Serve: Retirement didn't mean the end of my service; it just shifted. Whether it's through coaching, speaking or volunteering, I've found new ways to give back and stay connected to the first responder community.
- Recognizing the shift: Despite all these accomplishments, there are still days when I feel lazy and unaccomplished, questioning if I'm truly making the most of this new chapter. I continue to explore these thoughts and ideas.

### Moving Forward

As I reflect on these two distinct but equally transformative periods of my life, I feel immense gratitude. I pull out my phone and look at all the amazing aspects of the last four-and-a-half years. I wish I had pictures of the first four-and-a-half years of my career.

If you're approaching retirement or are already in it, remember that just like your early years on the force, these first years of retirement are about growth, adjustment and rediscovery.

You've dedicated your life to serving others — now it's time to serve yourself. Embrace new passions, cherish old and new friendships, and lean into this new chapter with the same courage that guided you in your career. The badge may be behind you, but your journey is far from over.

*Kimberly Stratman retired as a lieutenant from the Dallas Police Department after an exciting and fulfilling 30-year career. She and her law enforcement husband have two grown sons and two dogs that get lots of attention. Kimberly is the owner of To the Point Coach, a Certified Retirement Life Coach and Certified Life Coach service that focuses on first responders. Her goal is to ensure our law enforcement community thrives. She can be reached @ [tothepointcoach.org](mailto:tothepointcoach.org)  
[BLUE Magazine](#)*

### NOTES OF INTEREST

**Are you aware that when a member's spouse dies, the member is due a benefit from the BRPBA? Please let us know when your family has experienced such a loss.  
Every little bit helps when paying for final expenses.**

**REMINDER: Don't forget the \$50.00 bounty to any member who signs up a new member.**

**MOVING????? PLEASE LET THE BRPBA KNOW AT  
BRPBAOFFICE@GMAIL.COM OR CALL 410-803-2293. ALSO, DON'T FORGET  
TO LET THE FOP KNOW, AND THE F&P. EVEN THE CITY NEEDS TO KNOW.  
DON'T LET EVERYONE LOSE CONTACT WITH YOU!!**

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**  
*As of 2/10/25*

Freddie DeGraffinried  
Gerald M. Hensley  
Maurice Moore  
Kenneth Nauman  
John W. Rennie

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

President: Daryl Buhrman ..... 410-803-2293  
1st VP: Michael Wilhelm ..... 410-671-7411  
Website ..... [www.brpbba.com](http://www.brpbba.com)  
Email Address: [brpbbaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:brpbbaoffice@gmail.com)

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**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.

**Distress Fund Chairman:**

Daryl J. Buhrman  
410-803-2293

Patches \$2.00 each. Can pick up at a meeting or email a request to: [BRPBAAOffice@gmail.com](mailto:BRPBAAOffice@gmail.com)



Lapel pins \$5.00 each (includes shipping and handling). Can pick up at a meeting or email a request to: [BRPBAAOFFICE@gmail.com](mailto:BRPBAAOFFICE@gmail.com)



## DISTRESS FUND NEWS

The BRPBA 2024 raffle is over. The winners were:

Sean Thomas	Dorothy Staley
Jerry Wiley	Agatha Hurley
John Opitz	Vernon Grundy
Tom Joyce	Stevie Landon
James Bocklage	Judy Rumpf
Angela Riddle	Steve Zabetakis
Keith Matthews	Peter Oktavec
Marge Sloan	Christian Terry
Pete Oktavec	Kim Hammack
Leigh Beck	Pat Smith
Brian Ford	Ken Norris
Robert Manning	Brennan Gray
Al Wilder	

If you did not receive your winnings, please let us know. The 2025 Raffle will be mailed the first week of September. Again, the prizes are as follows:

4 \$50.00 winners	19 \$100.00 winners	4 \$200.00 winners,
3 \$300.00 winners	1 \$400.00 winner	4 \$500.00 winners.

As always, we wish you luck.

Daryl

Memoriam:

In memory of John Barnold

In memory of John Barnold

Donation given by:

Judy and Rick Pontillo

Reed Hutner

### BALTIMORE RETIRED POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION TAG PROGRAM

As of February 2025, we have 742 sets of professional looking tags in Maryland. Many members continue to display their pride of being a police officer, even in this current climate. Our tags are a one time fee of \$25.00 to the MVA and a small donation of \$20.00 to the Distress Fund.



Contact Daryl Buhrman at 410-803-2293 for more info.



"The only limit to our realization of tomorrow is our doubts of today." - Franklin D. Roosevelt



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Joseph Balzano (12/18/2024)

Timothy Holt (07/03/2024)

Carroll Jubb (06/22/2024)



## BRPBA FINAL ROLL CALL

As of 2/11/2025

Gordon Amey, Jr. (01/11/2025)

Raymond Betag (06/30/2024)

Thomas Birchett, Jr. (01/11/2025)

Robert Bowman (06/09/2024)

John Boyd (12/13/2024)

Patrick Conley (12/01/2024)

Robert Douglas (05/10/2024)

Milton Duvall (09/07/2024)

John Freund (11/20/2024)

Jacob Kuebel (07/03/2024)

Robert Kues (09/24/2024)

Louis Kulaga (07/05/2024)

Richard Lanham, Sr. (01/20/2025)

John Miller (12/28/2024)

John Nelson (01/12/2025)

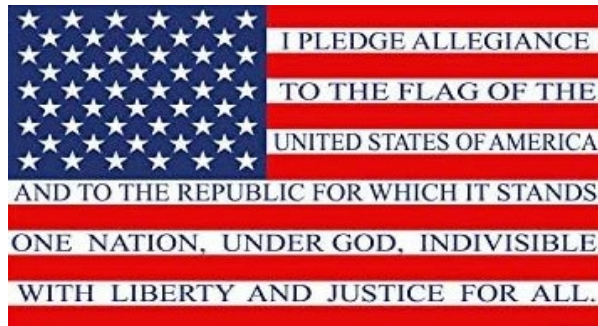
Dale L. Snyder (1/4/2025)

Marion Wiczulis (01/22/2025)

Deborah A. Wilson (12/23/2024)

John Worsham (05/22/2024)

Alan Yeater (06/21/2024)



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***Executive Board Meetings held the second Wednesday of the month and  
General Meetings on the third Wednesday (except no General Meeting in  
July and August) at Knights of Columbus Gardens, 4301 Klosterman  
Avenue, Perry Hall, MD. Please join us!***