



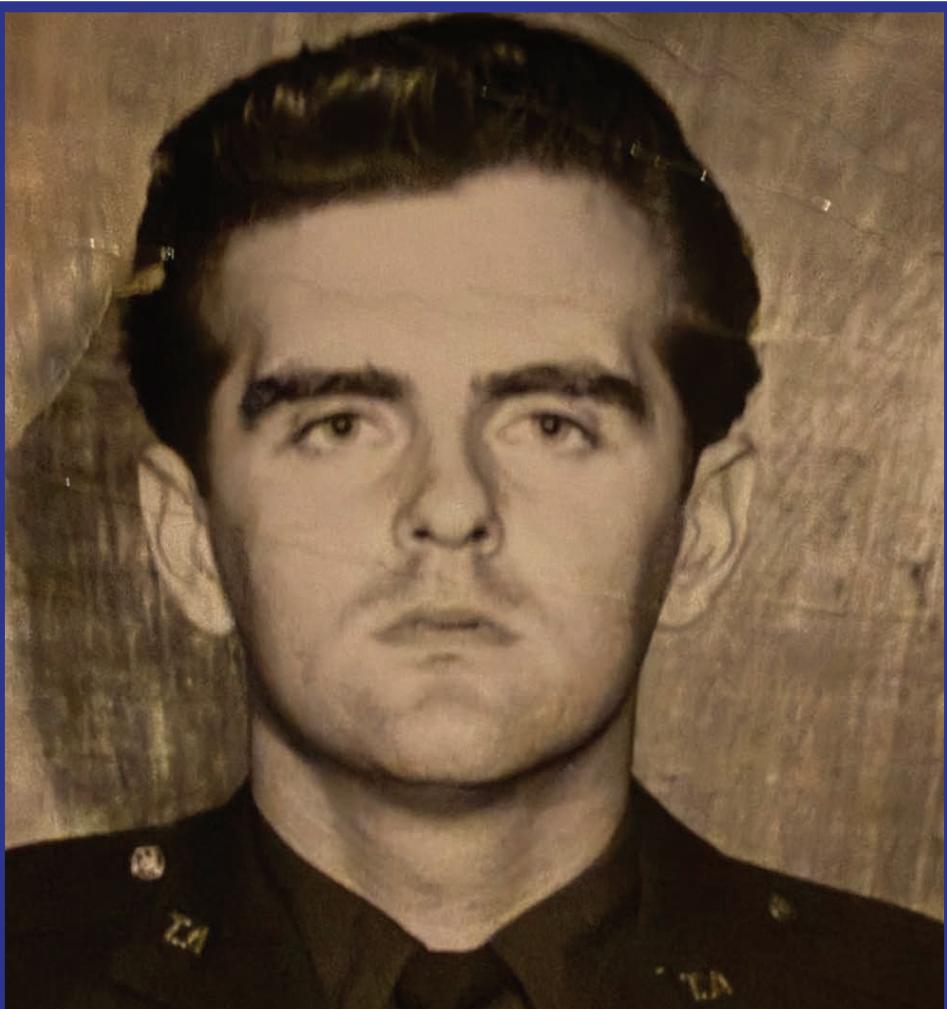
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February/March 2026



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## NEXT MEETING

### NEXT MEETING

**Thursday February 5th**  
**Noon**

**@ The Coral House**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday February 14th,**  
**St. Valentine's Day**

**Monday February 16th,**  
**President's Day**

**Wednesday February 18th,**  
**Ash Wednesday**

**Sunday March 8th,**  
**Daylight Saving Time**

**Tuesday March 17th,**  
**St. Patrick's Day**

**Wednesday April 15th,**  
**Tax Day**

**Thursday April 2nd,**  
**Meeting The Coral House, noon**

**Sunday April 5th,**  
**Easter Sunday**

**Sunday May 10th,**  
**Mother's Day**

**Thursday May 14th,**  
**Rick Rottkamp's Birthday**

**Monday May 25th,**  
**Memorial Day**

**Thursday June 11th**  
**Scholarship Awards**  
**LI Shield's meeting, 7pm**  
**The Coral House**

**THE SHIELDS OF LONG ISLAND ON THE WEB:**

**LongIslandShields.com**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year everyone. I hope everyone enjoyed Christmas, Hanukkah or whatever holiday you celebrate as December became a tough time with the passing of Rich Petito on December 10th 2025.

Rich was not a charter member of the then Nassau County Shields in 1969 but joined a year later in 1970 and was very involved with the organization from the start. He was there when the Suffolk County Shields folded and its members became part of the Nassau County Shields and the name changed to its current name, The Long Island Shields to include all Long Islanders. Rich did a tremendous job as president running the LI Shields from 1982-2020. Thirty-eight years of keeping it together and building the membership to its peak of 1600 members in 1986. Although the numbers are no way near what they once were, we are holding steady at just below 300 members in 2026. Rich began his career with the NYC Transit Police Department in 1964 and remained there until the "Hostile Takeover" on April 2, 1995. A year later Rich retired from the NYC Police Dept. ending an illustrious thirty-two years serving the City of New York. The year he began his police career is also the year he married his first love Joan. They had two beautiful children in Bill and Jennifer and settled into Massapequa where they raised their family. Sadly in 2001 tragedy struck as Joan became ill and died suddenly. To say Rich was devastated would be an understatement. But he had Bill and Jennifer at his side and as usual kept things together and in order. The birth of Rich's grandson Ryan put an unbelievable spark back into Rich. There is no doubt in my mind that Ryan has made Richie the most proud grandfather in the world. He loves Ryan more than life itself. He would tell great stories of Ryan, his time in college and of course his graduation.

As luck would have it, Rich met a very pretty widowed lady named Rosemary Wildeman and in 2007 they were married. Rich and Rosemary once again found true happiness. Some people never

find true happiness, Rich and Rosemary were fortunate to have found it twice. They spent eighteen years together. How wonderful !

Just a couple of things to note. I want to thank everyone for their toy donations to SCO. Luke and I delivered a car load of toys to the children at SCO. It's so rewarding to make a difference in a child's life. Thank you.

I also want to thank everyone who made a donation with this year's dues. Little things like this is what helps us to keep running and be able to continue to give college scholarships. The donations are greatly appreciated and all those who made a donation please see your name on the donation list.

At our January board meeting the board voted on a couple of things. The board has decided to have two evening meetings. The June 11th, scholarship meeting and the September (Date TBD) will be at 7pm. As you know there are still many members who are working full time jobs and want to attend meetings. I hope everyone understands. Secondly, beginning next year in 2027 we will be raising dues. The cost of operating keeps going up and we are just keeping up. The good news is that it's only a \$5 increase. We want to be able to continue to run our meetings here at the Coral House and keep the same quality food and beverages, so this small increase is needed.

I hope everyone enjoyed our last guest speaker. Sheriff Toulon was amazing. I'm happy to report that the Sheriff is now a member of the LI Shields and hopefully we will see him at some meetings. I was honored to receive an invitation to his swearing in ceremony which will be on January 16th. I will put some photos in the next issue of the Call Box. I hope to see everyone at the February 5th meeting which is noon at the Coral House,

Stay safe,  
Mike Villa, President



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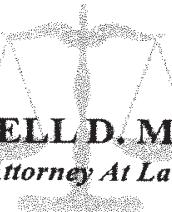
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## CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

As we begin a new year, we are naturally given a moment to pause, take stock, and look ahead. The turning of the calendar offers us more than a date change—it provides a fresh start. For those who have served, and continue to serve, in law enforcement, the new year can be an invitation to renew what first called you to this vocation: a commitment to protect, to serve, and to stand for what is right even when it is difficult, or the future is unknown. New beginnings do not require dramatic resolutions; often, they begin quietly, with a renewed sense of purpose and perspective.

This is also a good time to get back to basics. Over the years, careers, responsibilities, and life itself can add layers of complexity that pull us away from what truly matters. The basics—faith, family, friendships, integrity, and service—are the foundations that sustain us over the long haul. Re-centering our lives on these fundamentals can restore balance and remind us that our worth is not measured only by what we do, but by who we are and how we care for one another.

Finally, the new year invites us to declutter—not only our homes but also our hearts and minds. Letting go of unnecessary burdens, lingering resentments, constant noise, and distractions can create space for peace and clarity. Decluttering our lives allows us to carry forward only what strengthens us and to leave behind what weighs us down. My prayer for each of you this year is that you may find renewed clarity, more profound peace, and the quiet strength that comes from living simply, faithfully, and well. Prayers and Blessings for you and your families as we begin the year 2026.

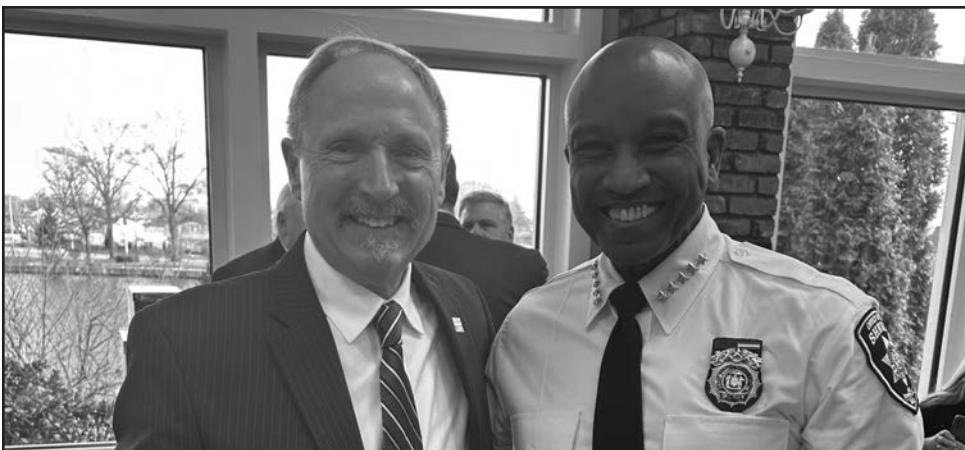
Fr. Christopher Costigan

## Donations

*"The Shields would like to Thank everyone for additional donations on top of their Dues"*

Last Name	First Name	Donation	BILELLO	JOSEPH	\$30
ANNUNZIATO	RICHARD V.	\$200	JOHNSON	LUKE	\$30
SASSO	ROBERT	\$200	BROOKS	DAVID	\$25
RYAN	JAMES	\$140	COOLEY	JOHN	\$25
COONEY	EDWARD	\$100	GEORGENS	EDWARD	\$25
KALT	KATHLEEN	\$100	NUNNS	WALTER	\$25
LAWRENCE	CHRIS J.	\$100	STAINKAMP	ROBERT	\$25
RICH	ROBERT	\$100	BRENNER	BRUCE	\$20
ROTTKAMP	RICHARD	\$100	CHECO	JUAN	\$20
VILLA	MIKE	\$100	DELARGY	NEIL	\$20
REDMOND	MICHAEL	\$75	DEMARINO	ANTHONY M	\$20
BECKER	REDMOND	\$60	GALLO	ANTHONY	\$20
KING	JOSEPH	\$60	GALLO	MICHAEL	\$20
MORRIS	ROBERT E	\$60	GIBBONS	ROBERT	\$20
NIEPERT	KENNETH	\$60	KOEHLER	ROBERT	\$20
WILDE	JOHN	\$60	LAVELLE	MICHAEL	\$20
FROEHLICH	GEORGE	\$50	MAHLER	ROXANNE	\$20
MURRAY 3rd	DAN	\$50	MARGRAF	PETER	\$20
ZYDZIEBKO	ROBERT	\$50	MATTHEWS	KEVIN	\$20
ANDREWS	LAWRENCE	\$40	MCCANN	GREGORY	\$20
CASSAR	EDWIN	\$40	SILEO	DONALD	\$20
COLORUNDO	JOHN A	\$40	MORAN	CHARLES	\$15
CRUPI	JOSEPH	\$40	MUSA	NANCY	\$15
D'ARCY	JACK	\$40	PUHALSKI	WALTER	\$15
DAVIDSON	ERIC	\$40	DOUGHTEN	GLEN	\$12
DOYLE	MICHAEL	\$40	FARRELL	JOHN	\$12
DUGAN	THOMAS	\$40	CIRILLO	JOSEPH	\$10
FARINA	ALPHONSE	\$40	COPPOLA	DOMINIC J.	\$10
FERNANDEZ	THOMAS	\$40	DIACZUN	STEPHAN	\$10
FIGOSKI	ROBERT	\$40	DILLON	THOMAS	\$10
GALLO	ENZO	\$40	DIPALMA	MICHAEL	\$10
KOHLMANN	ELIZABETH	\$40	KISELEWSKI	ROBERT	\$10
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LOPIPAGO	JOSEPH	\$40	RINI	JOHN	\$10
PRYOR	MEGAN	\$40	SEIFERT	JAMES	\$10
SORGER	CHARLES	\$40	VALENTINO	ROBERT	\$10
THORNTON	RICHARD	\$40	VOLPICELLO	BENJAMIN	\$10
WEBSTER	MARCK	\$40	DEL CASTILLO	VINCENT	\$5
GALLEGHER	PATRICK	\$36	KELTY	JAMES	\$5
HOGAN	DANIEL	\$36	ROHE	JOHN	\$5

## Guest Speaker Sheriff Errol Toulon Jr.



## A Pure Heart

This past month, two wonderful members of the NYC Transit Police Department returned their souls to Almighty G-d.

William McKechnie and Richard Petito will always be remembered as two individuals who did everything to make the lives of their fellow officers easier to deal with challenges of their daily patrol duties.

William was very popular and caring as president of the New York City Transit Police PBA. He gave it all.

Richard Petito made it his business to alleviate his colleagues when facing medical challenges.

Richard led the Long Island Shields as president for many years. It was his leadership that members of Law Enforcement of other departments joined the Long Island Shields to make one of the best fraternal groups in the United States. He gave the members the opportunity to meet many great law enforcement personnel, as well as recognizing the Officers of the Month.

Both did everything for the love and respect for all police officers.

“Teach me to do your will,  
for you are my God;  
may your good Spirit  
lead me on level ground” Psalm 143, 10

William and Richard followed the above quote from the Psalmist.

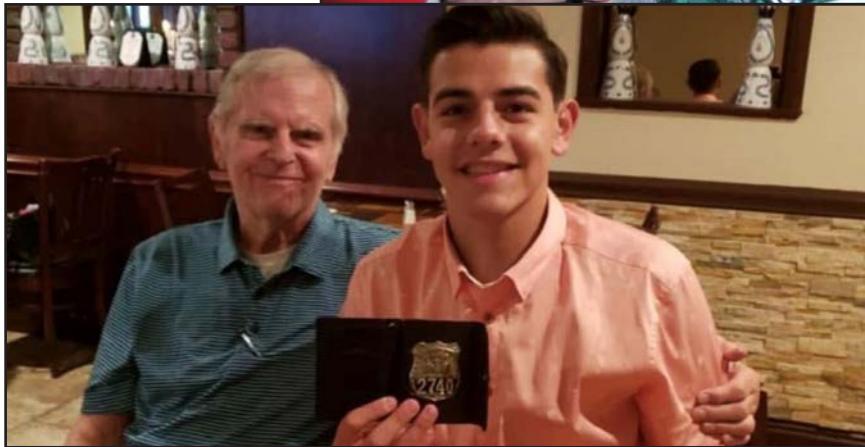
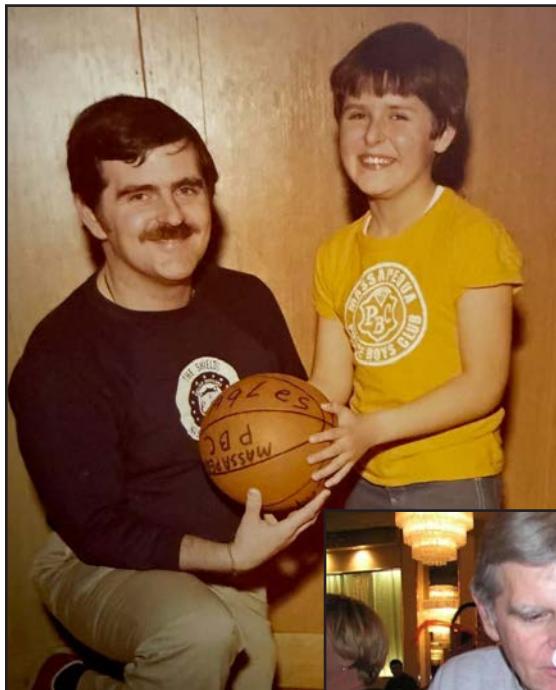
May William and Richard’s souls be bound in the  
bond of Eternal life.

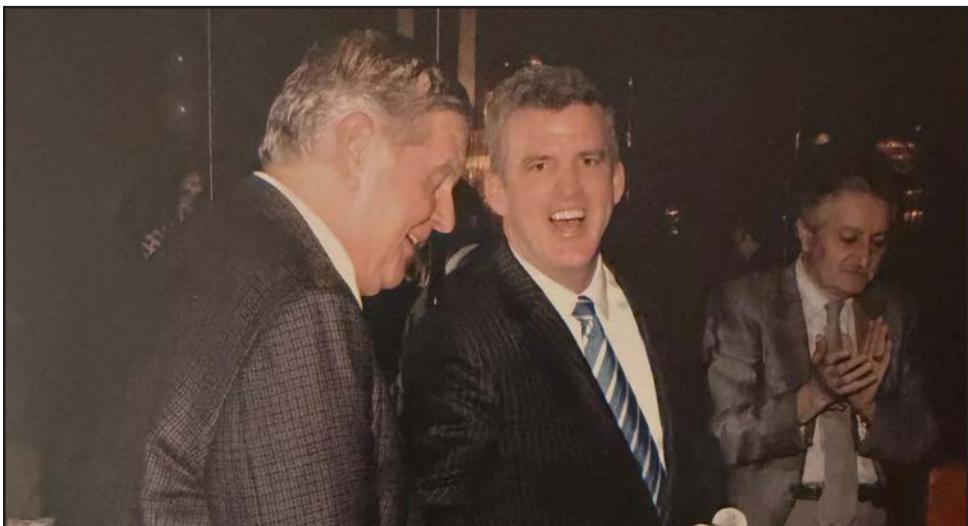
Rabbi Harry Tzvi Berkowitz  
Chaplain  
Long Island Shields



Rich's last meeting as President, Feb 27th 2020

## **“A Tribute to Rich”**











Billy Eulogizes his Father



Father Chris Does Invocation



Jack D'arcy Presents P.O. of the Month

## P.O. of the Month



**"P.O of the Month Robert Morrissey Jr.  
Accepts Award with Mom & Dad(Retired NYPD Seargent)**

**REPORT UNDER**  
PSB # 2025-997  
OCD #2025-4714

**POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF NEW YORK**

October 13, 2025

From: Commanding Officer, 115 Precinct  
To: Commanding Officer, Patrol Borough Queens North  
Subject: **115 PRECINCT CENTURION AWARD NOMINEE – Q3 2025**

1. As requested, the undersigned has reviewed the memorandum from Chief of Patrol, regarding *"Centurion Foundation Award Nominations"* and concurs that the award recognizes members of the service, civilian and uniformed, involved in noteworthy incidents or who performed outstanding community service or any other circumstances for which a Commanding Officer feels the member of the service should be recognized. The undersigned recommends the following 115 Precinct Member of the Service to be submitted for consideration for the Centurion Foundation Award:

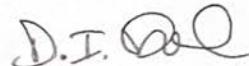
• **Police Officer Robert Morrissey, Tax# 966233**

2. On Sunday, July 20, 2025, Police Officer Robert Morrissey, Tax #966233, assigned to Field Training Officer, displayed exceptional bravery and composure and applied life saving measures to a stabbing victim. The details are as follows:

On the aforementioned date and time, Police Officer Robert Morrissey assigned as the Field Training Officer in the confines of the 115 Precinct, responded to a call of a 10-34 Assault and upon arrive encountered a crime victim who was stabbed in the neck and back. Without hesitation, Officer Morrissey quickly took control of the scene and immediately applied medical intervention to the victim, applying the necessary pressure to wounds while directing other members on the scene to help coordinate the application of medical attention while awaiting responding EMS. For over fourteen (14) minutes, Officer Morrissey applied direct pressure to wounds inflicted, while constantly ensuring the victim was breathing and repeatedly assuring him that he would be okay. Upon the arrival of EMS, Officer Morrissey gave clear and distinct medical updates to FDNY EMS personnel and assisted in the victim's rapid transportation to the hospital. Following this heroic act, Officer Morrissey was an integral part of disseminating the necessary information needed to safeguard an active crime scene and facilitating the necessary steps of the start of the investigation into this crime. Following the initial investigation, three (3) wanted individuals were arrested on August 3, 2025 by the 115 Detective Squad for the assault. It is without a doubt that Officer Morrissey's decisive and swift action, strong leadership and experience, attributed to the fact that the victim is alive and the persons wanted were brought to justice. His actions reflect the highest standards of the Department and the spirit of service that the Centurion Foundation Award seeks to honor. It is with great respect and recognition of his bravery that Police Officer Robert Morrissey is nominated for the Centurion Foundation Award. His heroism on July 20, 2025, not only saved a man's life but also reassured the community that its safety remains in the hands of dedicated and courageous officers.

3. The undersigned highly recommends Police Officer Robert Morrissey to be considered for the "*Centurion Foundation Award Nominations*" for the period of July 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025.

4. For your **CONSIDERATION**.



David F. Cordano  
Deputy Inspector

## GOOD TO KNOW

Peter J. Caso, Esq.

Happy New Year, and may it be a healthy and prosperous one for you and your family. The New Year also commences the annual ritual, "Tax Season."

While you're busy gathering your paperwork for tax season, scammers and cybercriminals are devising schemes to steal your identity and money. Know how to protect yourself and your loved ones from these criminals. During 2024, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) identified more than \$2.12 billion in tax fraud.

There are a number of preventative measures you can take to help you protect yourself, recognize possible fraud warning signs and take action if you become a victim:

**Use secure filing websites:** Only trust tax-filing portals with "https:" before the URL. This indicates that data transmitted between you and the site is encrypted.

**Create an ID.me Account:** The IRS provides a sign-in option with ID.me, which offers access to IRS online services with a secure account that protects your privacy. New York State's Department of Finance has the Tax Online Services Portal, where you register and create your personal account to conduct tax filing and transactions.

**Create strong passwords:** For any portal that can access your sensitive tax information, make sure that you choose a lengthy, complex password that's different from any others you use. Concerned about remembering so many passwords? A password manager can help you create and safely store your passwords.

**Take advantage of multifactor authentication:** When filing your taxes online, you should only use a tax service provider that, in addition to requiring a username and password, allows you to use another factor, like a one-time

security code, to access your account.

**File early:** The IRS only accepts a single return for each SSN. In addition to obtaining an identity protection PIN, submitting your return early can help further limit the possibility that a criminal may use your SSN later to file a false return.

**Refund deposited electronically:** Fraudsters take advantage of tax season to perpetrate check fraud, stealing checks placed in the mail to alter the payee or amount. Using IRS and state-recommended electronic payment methods helps ensure your payments arrive securely and on time.

**Protect your personal information:** Never click on email or text message links made to look like they come from federal or state tax authorities. Fraudsters create "phishing" emails that appear to be legitimate but are simply a guise to get you to share personal or financial information. These emails may purport to be from the IRS or State and threaten you with legal or financial consequences if you fail to comply. Do not respond to such emails; instead report such activity to the IRS or NYS Dept. of Finance.

By taking these simple precautions, you can ensure your personal information and refund, if you receive one, are secure.

### **Disclaimer:**

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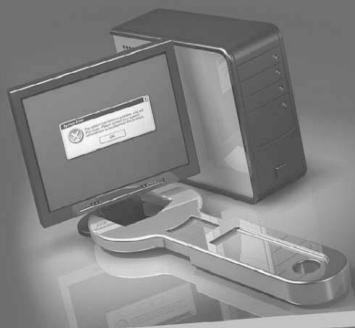
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