



NOTICES

Monday, Feb. 2—Nominations for 2025 District Officers of the Year are due to President Craig Miller.

Tuesday, Feb. 3—Executive Board meeting at 9 a.m. at the DPOA office.

Tuesday, Feb. 10—Board of Directors meeting, 5 p.m., at the Gaelic League Hall, 2068 Michigan Ave.

Monday, March 2—District Officers of the Year bios and write-ups are due to President Craig Miller.

Monday, March 2—Executive Board meeting at 9 a.m. at the DPOA office. Please note day change.

Tuesday, March 10—Board of Directors meeting, 3 p.m. (note time/location change), Sacred Heart Catholic Church Activities Building, 3451 Rivard St.

Tuesday, March 10—General Membership Meeting, 5 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church Activities Building, 3451 Rivard St.

Tuesday, April 7—Executive Board meeting at 9 a.m. at the DPOA office.

Tuesday, April 14—Board of Directors meeting, 5 p.m., at the Gaelic League Hall, 2068 Michigan Ave.

'25 crime data shows significant declines

All categories of major crime in Detroit saw significant reductions in 2025, led by new historic lows of criminal homicides, nonfatal shootings and carjackings. Mayor Mary Sheffield joined with Chief Todd Bettison

and a coalition of local, state, federal and community partners in early January to share the preliminary crime data for last year.

According to the current year-end numbers, violent crime in Detroit in

2025 continued a precipitous drop, including homicides, which fell below 200 for the first time in decades. The city ended 2025 with 165 criminal homicides, a 19 percent drop from the 203 recorded in 2024 and

LEO fatalities drop to near-historic low — Page 17

down 35 percent from 252 in 2023.

Preliminary numbers also show that Detroit ended the year with 447 non-fatal shootings — a 26 percent drop from the

previous year and a 62 percent reduction from 1,176 in 2020. Carjackings saw an extraordinary one-year drop of 46 percent to 77 from the

Continued on Page 12

Making memories



Family fun was the focus of the day when the annual Detroit Police Officers Kiddie Christmas Party was held in mid-December at Farwell Recreation Center. Attendees were entertained by Smiley the Hip Hop Clown, got to visit Santa and receive a gift, and also feast on party staples like hot dogs and pizza. For more photo memories from the day, see pages 13-16.



Photos: David L. Chapman

Nominations are due in for annual awards

It's time once again to submit nominations for the 2025 District Officers of the Year.

Detroit Police Officers Association President Craig Miller said chief stewards are being asked to get their nominations in by Monday, Feb. 2. Those nominees will be reviewed by the District Officers of the Year Committee shortly thereafter, and the announcement of the recipients will come during the Board of Directors meeting to be held Tuesday, Feb. 10.

The year's banquet — the 41st annual — will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, May 1, at Sound Board inside the Motor City Casino.

As always, the banquet is intended to honor outstanding efforts by our members during the prior calendar year.

For the full timeline of deadlines and activities, see the related information box on Page 11.

This longstanding union tradition serves as an important way to recognize and honor the actions and efforts of the Detroit Police Department's best officers each year, Miller said.

Continued on Page 11

The 41st annual District Officers of the Year awards banquet will be held May 1

SAVE THE DATES!

General Membership Meeting schedule for 2026:

- Tuesday, March 10
- Tuesday, May 19
- Tuesday, Sept. 22
- Tuesday, Nov. 10

TIME AND LOCATION: 5 p.m., Sacred Heart Church Activities Center, 3451 Rivard

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

OFFICERS' REPORTS — Pages 2, 4 and 5

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN — Page 23

IN MEMORIAM — Page 24

RETIRES & ASSOCIATES NEWS — Page 26

TRADING POST — Page 27

Plus, officer articles, more news inside!

Find the digital edition of Tuebor on the DPOA website!

www.detroitpoa.com

City must redact officers' ID from BWC video

Best Wishes to all off our Detroit Police Officers Association members for a safe, healthy and happy New Year.

Last year you probably noted I spent a lot of time keeping you updated on our various legal disputes with the city. Unfortunately, 2026 is starting out in a similar mode, though some of the news is positive.

In late October, as you already likely know, the city adopted a new ordinance requiring body-worn camera footage of any officer-involved shooting and use of force to be released within 30 days. In early November we sought and obtained a temporary injunction to block its implementation.

On Tuesday, January 6, 2026, a court hearing was held. The implementation of the ordinance and 30-day release was still permitted, but before the videos can be released, the city must redact the face, name and badge of any involved officer while they are awaiting any Michigan Employment Relations Commission (MERC) hearings.

Also, we are still pursuing the 2.5 percent increase and back pay owed to the 25 Seniority Corporals upon reaching 15 years of service.

And we are still legally contesting how our members currently are being put off on their own sick time by the Medical Section when injured or on restricted-duty status.

We will do our best to keep you updated on these issues as the legal processes continue.

Members, it is very important you know your beneficiaries on your life insurance policies. We have found that several of our members have not updated their beneficiaries in many years and are often surprised when they learn who they have listed as the person who should get their insurance money. To manage, change or check on your benefits, come into the DPOA office, located at 1938 E. Jefferson Ave., with a copy of your



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Craig Miller

current check stub.

It is also very important we have your current address and cell phone number with the DPOA. You can also change it yourself by logging into the private area on the union's website, detroitpoa.com. To access your user profile, use your Detroit Police Department email address; your password is your badge number. If you do not have four digits in your badge number, add zeros to the front.

Members are not required to do phone interviews, interviews with supervision or use their cell phones for Zoom interviews. Notify the DPOA office at (313) 567-877 if you are advised or ordered.

When an officer is served a Notice of Garrity from the Supervisor, contact the office so information can be recorded in the Garrity Book. In addition, please take a clear picture of the Garrity request and email it to legal@detroitpoa.com; include cell phone number as well.

At no time should you ever think you are not the focus of an investigation. You should always request a union steward either by radio or call the DPOA office at (313) 567-8770; there is also always an Executive Board member on call. Also, we do not do interviews with our supervisors, internal or anyone else that can provide you with written statements "Questions" on a 568. The offic-

ers will schedule an appointment with the DPOA office to have questions answered — do not answer them yourself.

If you are not yet aware, please note that the DPOA has a text messaging system in place so we can quickly notify the membership of important information. One important thing to note is that you must "opt-in" to receive these notifications. Please be sure to do this, otherwise you may not receive crucial information you may need. The text will be coming from the DPOA office number, (313) 567-8770. If you have any questions, contact Executive Board Member Keith Baker.

Coalition of Detroit Public Safety Unions Trust HRA Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) Plan

The CDPSU HRA Plan provides eligible retired City of Detroit police and fire fighter employees with reimbursement of covered out-of-pocket medical care ex-

Continued on Page 17

Member tuition reimbursement only available after a year on active duty

Condolences to Corporal Margie Evertt on the loss of her mother; NPO Robert Barber on the loss of his grandmother; friends and family on the passing of retired Officer Dale Hankey; Lt. Jermareo McDaniel on the loss of his father; friends and family of retired Lt. Gregory Williams; Corporal Kristen Nieman and Corporal Kimberly Williams on the loss of their father; and friends and family on the passing of retired Officer Betty Jean Lovejoy-Warren.

Also: Sgt. Carlos Dennis on the passing of his father in law; Corporal Douglas Bartell on the loss of his brother; Corporal Nathan Readous on the loss of his mother-in-law; NPO Deanna Merriweather-Kavalos on the loss of her grandmother; Harbormaster Section, friends and family on the passing of active Corporal Steven Schmekel; friends and family of recently retired Officer Tilman Blair after 58 years of service.

Reminder to members injured in the line of duty: When being admitted or treated at a hospital give the hospital the below listed information for the billing party. It is imperative that you do this to avoid being billed by the hospitals directly. Any officers receiving bills from a duty-related injury are encouraged to contact the Association immediately.

City of Detroit Police Department
1301 Third/6th floor
Detroit, MI 48226
Attention: Medical Section

Members separating from the department under a vested pension should be reminded to fill out the sick/pay out sheets prior to separation. The sick/pay out



VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ron Thomas

sheets to redeem 85 percent of your sick time upon separation are located at the Association Office. Vesting occurs after 10 years of completed service. This only applies to members leaving under a vested pension. Members separating under a Duty Disability Retirement must wait until their 25th year and send a letter to the Chief of Police to be paid from their sick banks.

Regarding tuition reimbursement and when it can be applied — the member is not eligible to request tuition reimbursement until one (1) year after successful completion of the academy.

Members should be reminded that detectives/investigators are not supervisors and have no authority to order you to comply with an order. The courts only recognize sergeant and above as supervisors. An example of this would be a detective/investigator questioning

Continued on Page 6

TUEBOR

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Official Voice of the Detroit Police Officers Association. DPOA Office Hours: Weekdays 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Closed weekends and holidays. After hours, weekends and holidays, a designated on-call Executive Board member or Chief Steward is available by calling (313) 567-8770.

The DPOA is the sole certified bargaining agent for all members of the Detroit Police Department with the rank of Police Officer. The DPOA is a founding member of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO). The views expressed in Precinct/Section articles are not necessarily those of the DPOA or its officers.

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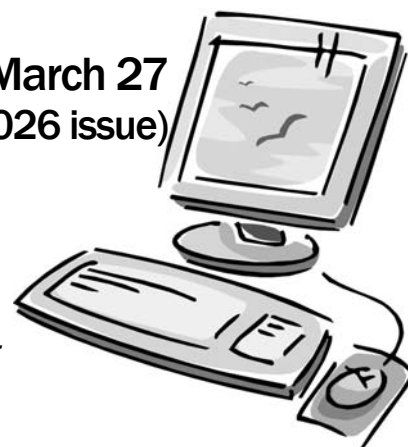
Change of address/subscriptions:
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POSTMASTER: Return forms to
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1938 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit, MI 48207

Writers' deadline for the next issue:

Friday, March 27
(Spring 2026 issue)

Writers needed!
Check with your chief steward if you would like to represent your command area with an article in Tuebor.



Santa's helpers



The family of Myron Jarrett — Cassidy, Caleb and Sacha — with Cpl. Price (left).



Civilian DPD employee and former chaplain corps member Yolanda Stinson with Tasha Biddle, above, and Amari, the son of Elaine Williams, below.



The department's "FAMLE" unit — which stands for Family Advocate and Management Liaison for Engagement — along with the chaplains and peer support organized a special "Shop with a Cop" outing to the Target store in Livonia for the several families of fallen Detroit officers. Cpl. Katherine Price of FAMLE said it was a very enjoyable event and that the work crew at the store was very helpful and supportive.



Cassie and Nadia Hughes



Kahlil Biddle Jr. and William and Alexander Steil with Master Sgt. Anthony Potts.



Kasey Elliott (left) with Patrick Hill Jr. and mom, Deodge.



Darren Weathers' daughter, Nyla, and spouse, Keisha.

Photos courtesy of Cpl. Katherine Price
For additional news from the FAMLE Unit,
see Cpl. Price's article on Page 9

It's never too late to take control of your finances

Yet another year has passed us by and we have moved on to 2026 — Happy New Year, everyone!

I hope 2025 was good for you and may 2026 be full of prosperity, good health and success for you and your loved ones.

It's January so bear with me as I get on my proverbial soap box to preach about your finances for 2026. As I remind everyone on a regular basis, it is never too late to start, or continue, on your savings plan for your future. I encourage everyone to enroll in the city-sponsored deferred-compensation program, 457(b).

Remember that all contributions are pre-tax, so if you chose to have \$100 deducted per pay, your actual take home pay will be approximately \$75 less. Also, when you file your taxes in 2027 all money put into deferred comp is not taxed, therefore bringing down your tax liability.

The 2026 limits have gone up again, under age 50 is \$24,500 (\$942.31 per



**SECRETARY
TREASURER'S
REPORT**

Kenneth
Eppenbrock

pay), over age 50 is \$32,500 which includes the \$8,000 catch-up (\$1,250 per pay), and a change made under the SECURE 2.0 Act, age 60-63 have a higher catch-up of \$11,250 for a whopping \$35,750 (\$1,432.69 per pay). Save as much as you can per pay, especially those of you killing the overtime. You can change your deduction at any time throughout the year.

When we switch to one provider later this year you will be able to change your deduction online as you choose. On that subject, the process continues to move to one provider, and a contract should be signed very soon,

Continued below

Manpower as of Dec. 28, 2025

RANK	BUDGETED	FTEs FILLED THIS MONTH	OVER/UNDER BUDGET
Chief of Police	1	1	0
1st Assistant Chief	1	1	0
Assistant Chief	2	2	0
Deputy Chief	7	7	0
Commander	19	19	0
Commander - DDC	1	1	0
Captains	28	29	1
Lieutenant	119	119	0
Lieutenant - Transit	2	1	-1
Lieutenant - ATPA Grant	1	1	0
Sergeant	333	328	-5
Sergeant - Transit	5	5	0
Master Sergeant	40	39	-1
Sergeant - DDC	15	17	2
Investigator	7	6	-1
Detective	184	182	-2
FTO	85	68	-17
FTO - Transit	3	2	-1
N.P.O.	60	53	-7
Mental Health NPO	14	12	-2
Mental Health PO	11	11	0
Police Officer	1705	1658	-47
Police Officer - Transit	35	31	-4
Sub Total:	2678	2593	-85
Police Assistants	22	21	-1
Police Assistants (Funded)	1	1	0
Grand Total	2700	2615	-86

Upcoming or recent separations from the Department are as follows:

Name	Command Area	Status	Last Duty Date
SPO Alante Oliver	Academy	Resigned	10/17
SPO Autumn Hesse	Academy	Resigned	12/1
PPO Ali Alhamad	6th Pct.	Resigned	11/5
PPO Izaiah London	6th Pct.	Resigned	11/20
PPO Drew Rohn	8th Pct.	Resigned	12/7
NPO Alexis Kellogg	4th Pct.	Resigned	11/23
PO Andrew Cafretsas	12th Pct.	Resigned	10/5
PO Ronald Kyles	3rd Pct.	Resigned	10/8
PO T'Ambris Brown	2nd Pct.	Resigned	10/14
PO Hunter Askew	DTS	Resigned	10/17
PO Jeremiah Proctor	3rd Pct.	Resigned	10/18
PO Jaylin Styles	12th Pct.	Resigned	10/20
PO Jermaine Young	5th Pct.	Resigned	10/22
PO Jennifer Wiederker	12th Pct.	Resigned	10/23
PO Stacey Taylor	3rd Pct.	Resigned	10/23
PO Justin Marroquin	DDC	Resigned	10/24
PO Ali Berro	Transit	Resigned	10/31
PO Michael Loychik	8th Pct.	Resigned	10/31
PO Zahara Madahah	11th Pct.	Resigned	10/31
PO Jay Dantzler	DDC	Retired	11/1
PO Bradley Webb	9th Pct.	Resigned	11/1
PO Sarah Espitia	10th Pct.	Resigned	11/6
PO Taijz Thompson	11th Pct.	Medical	11/10
PO Jacorey Scott	2nd Pct.	Resigned	11/27
PO Reginald Tyson	6th Pct.	Resigned	11/30
PO Albert Brown	8th Pct.	Resigned	11/24
PO Eric Scott	5th Pct.	Retired	12/1
PO Ahmed Aljebori	12th Pct.	Resigned	12/1
PO Dylan Kennedy	2nd Pct.	Resigned	12/5
PO Albert Brown	8th Pct.	Resigned	12/7
PO Hussien Charafeldine	2nd Pct.	Resigned	12/11
PO Leroy Huelsenbeck	8th Pct.	Retired	12/15
PO Antjuan Spigner	Major Violators	Retired	12/19
Det. Jesus Colon	VCTF	Retired	10/1
Det. Steven Pierce	11th PDU	Retired	12/4
Det. Lisa Johnson	Homicide	Retired	12/5
Inv. Brian Fountain	6th Pct.	Retired	12/22
Inv. Brian Sanders	8th PDU	Retired	12/29
Sgt. Christopher Dodd	5th Pct.	Resigned	10/11
Sgt. Danny Barbee	Det. Bureau	Retired	12/8
Sgt. Jonathan Gardner	6th Pct.	Resigned	12/30

at that time the new provider will be named. Thank you for your patience during the process, it will be beneficial to all participants when it's completed.

Over the past several years, the trend of online harassment of officers, the publishing of private identifying information, targeting officers at their private residences, and/or posting their private address, has greatly increased. As most of you know, a simple internet search can reveal personal information which puts you at risk. It has happened

very recently to members of our department.

I strongly suggest you reach out to the Spectrum representative to enroll in an online scrubbing service provided by one of our partners. It is inexpensive, \$50 per year, and may save you from unjustified harassment.

Take a break from the job and take time to enjoy some of Michigan's winter wonderland activities, there are many. As always, stay safe and be careful out there.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- Officers' Rights under Miranda & Garrity — Page 5
- Meet your Executive Board members — Page 6
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- Be aware of coverage changes at age 65 — Page 26

Scholarship applications available soon

The Detroit Police Officers Association Scholarship Fund Inc. is proud to announce that we will be awarding scholarships in the amount of \$800 for the 2026-2027 school year.

Applications are expected to be available in mid-February.

The scholarship committee is made up of Detroit police officers. The idea that inspired the scholarship fund was to provide aid to active police officers' children without the debt attached to student loans.

Scholarship Applications will be available for pickup mid-February, for the 2026-2027 school year. Recipients must possess a high school diploma or general equivalency diploma and be enrolled in an accredited institution of higher learning or trade school. Applicants must write an essay.

Applications are due no later than 3:30 p.m., Monday, May 4, 2026, in the DPOA office. Applications received after 3:30 p.m., Monday, May 4, 2026, regardless



SERGEANT AT ARMS REPORT

Linda Broden

of the postmark, will not be eligible for review.

The scholarship monies are made available through fundraisers, generous donations of many of Detroit's finest, associations, local businesses, citizens and friends.

If you wish to contribute to the DPOA scholarship fund via payroll deductions, contact DPOA Secretary Treasurer Corporal Kenneth Eppenbrock via email or

call (313) 567-8770.

Eligible recipients must have a parent or stepparents employed by the Detroit Police Department. Awards are not limited solely to DPOA members. Police officers that have advanced their own careers through promotions and relinquished their membership in the DPOA is a terrible reason to deny a child of that parent this award.

The DPOA Scholarship Fund Committee would like to thank everyone who supported this organization this past year. If it wasn't for your participation with our events and donations, we would not be able to meet our goal in providing scholarships to active police officers' children.

Thank you for your continued support and contributions to this worthy cause. Together we can all make a difference.

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and best wishes for a prosperous New Year!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: "Nothing is particularly hard if you divide it into small jobs."

— Henry Ford

Always be aware of your Miranda and Garrity rights

Regarding your rights under Garrity and Miranda, please refer to Section 16 page 41, of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, entitled "Members' Rights - Investigative Procedures."

This section details your rights in any and all investigative procedures. I would also like to emphasize that it is each individual Officer's responsibility to be aware of these rights and to fully exercise them. These rights apply whether the interview is conducted at the Offices of the Internal Affairs Section, Office of the Chief Investigator or any other location.

In addition to this information, be aware that members have a right to 72 hours notice of a Garrity interview and the right to have an attorney present at that interview. In order to ensure the presence of an attorney, it is each officer's responsibility to notify their union steward and/or the

DPOA of the date, time and place of the interview. In turn, it is the DPOA's or the steward's responsibility to notify this office of same. It should not be "assumed" that an attorney will be present if this office is not notified.

It has recently become the practice of some Investigators and Sergeants to attempt to convince officers that they should waive their right to an attorney, telling them that they are not the focus and "do not need an attorney."

The Collective Bargaining Agreement in Article 16 addresses this issue. It specifically states that members have a right to have both legal counsel and a representative of the union present during an interview. Officers should never waive their constitutional or contractual right to an attorney or any other right that the DPOA has fought hard to obtain for you.



Photo: Kelth Baker

Onboarding



Photo: Lashun O'Rear

Several new stewards and alternates have joined the DPOA Board of Directors over the past few months since our last issue published. Taking the oath from Sergeant-at-Arms Linda Broden in the top photo are Kristopher Rhinehart (left) of the 10th Precinct, and Miesha Wallace, a new alternate from DDC, and Ryan Jones, an alternate for the Fifth Precinct. Above, Tamika Taylor, an alternate from the Fifth, takes the oath from Broden in January in the DPOA office. Being sworn in at the January board meeting at left are Romeo Kue (left) from Gaming; Remington Robinson, steward for Transit; Beverly Jones, alternate for Transit.

YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS



Craig Miller
President



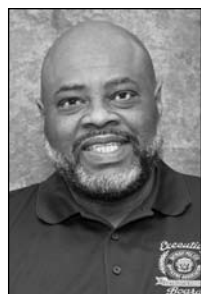
Ron Thomas
Vice President



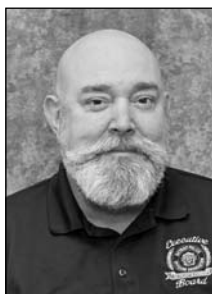
Linda Broden
Sergeant-at-Arms



Ken Eppenbrock
Secretary-Treasurer



Calvin Adkins



Keith Baker



Michael Fountain



Royce Hill



Karen Maxey



Lashun O'Rear



Charles Roland



Christine Rozier



Sean Wayrynen

ABOUT TUEBOR:

The official publication of the Detroit Police Officers Association, Tuebor is published quarterly. Our next issue will be published in April both in the print edition and a PDF version posted to the union's website, www.detroitpoa.com. Recent back issues also are available on the website. Several writer positions are currently open. If you see that your command area doesn't have a writer and you are interested in serving in that role, please see your steward. Do you have DPOA-related news you'd like to share? Letters, photos and other information pertinent to the DPOA membership can be emailed to tuebordetroit@yahoo.com. Items may be submitted anytime between now and March 27 to be considered for publication in the next issue.

Contact Tuebor Editor Joe Hoshaw Jr. at (734) 558-6955

Ron Thomas: DPFERS expects to be managing DROP by July 1

Continued from Page 2

you after a shooting. Nothing would be protected under *Garrity vs New Jersey*. Any statement under those circumstances would be considered a voluntary statement and could be used against you criminally.

The rate of return for the DROP for the next quarter is 3.06 percent. The pension system anticipates the DROP will begin to be managed by the Detroit Police Fire Retirement System starting July 1, 2026, as outlined in the Collective Bargaining Agreement and the Plan Document, barring any unusual circumstances.

Members should be reminded that we are under no obligation to give voluntary statements to Internal Affairs or for any

departmental investigation. Garrity rights were put in place to protect you, and the Association encourages you to follow your rights. When in doubt, request a steward.

If a member comes across a civilian police commissioner or civilian member of the Department while you are actively engaged in a law enforcement function, you should immediately contact a supervisor.

Understand that they cannot interfere with any investigation or arrest. They have no police powers and could be subject to arrest for interfering or resisting/obstructing if they interfere with your investigation.

Until next time, stay safe and remember to back each other up.

Ron Thomas:

Assisting City of Detroit Police Officers with the Accumulation and Protection of Their Assets

At Michigan Financial Companies, we focus on addressing the financial needs of individuals and families. We understand and have the experience and resources to help you make the most of your earnings and accomplish your goals for the accumulation and protection of your assets.

Solutions available include:

- ◆ Detroit Annuity Rollover Options
- ◆ DROP Rollovers
- ◆ Annuity Rollovers at 20/25 Years
- ◆ Life Insurance
- ◆ Long Term Care Insurance
- ◆ Asset Accumulation and Protection
- ◆ Tax Strategies Related to Investments*
- ◆ Retirement Funding Strategies

For more information, please contact:

MICHAEL MONETTE
Registered Representative
Cell: (313) 218-5585
mmonette@michiganfinancial.com

*The financial analysis and recommendations are not intended to replace the need for independent tax, accounting, or legal review. Individuals are advised to seek the counsel of such licensed professionals. Securities offered through Royal Alliance Associates, Inc. member FINRA/SIPC. Royal Alliance Associates, Inc. is separately owned and other entities and/or marketing names, products or services referenced here are independent of Royal Alliance Associates, Inc. 38600 Van Dyke Ave., Suite 260, Sterling Heights, MI 48312. (586) 939-6926

New year, same job

Time to renew that commitment to take care of yourself

By The Rev. Peter Latouf

Every January, people start asking about resolutions and fresh starts. Most officers I know don't spend much time on making "New Year's resolutions," however. You're usually thinking about your next shift, who you're working with, whether the car is going to work, and probably how long it's been since you last slept well. In other words, the calendar changes, but the job doesn't.

Still, the start of a new year has a way of making people reflect, even if they don't realize it.



We're heading into 2026 with some real changes happening. Detroit has a new mayor, and with that comes new leadership, new expectations, and maybe even some uncertainty about the future. Some things may improve and other things may be frustrating. Who knows. That's usually how it goes in Detroit. Detroiters have always learned to survive by adapting to the circumstances.

What will *not* change this year is the way the work actually gets done. It still happens one call at a time, mostly out of sight, by officers doing their best in situations that don't come with clear answers. Politics doesn't change what it looks like at street level at two in the morning.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

That's why talk of "new beginnings" in the DPD usually sounds different than it does in other careers. It's not about completely changing things or starting over from scratch. It's more about adjusting a few things and trying not to carry more than you must.

Of course, making a new year's resolution isn't a bad idea either. It might mean doing something to take care of yourself a little better physically, or even mentally, emotionally, or spiritually. Physically, the job takes a toll in obvious ways. You might not be getting as much sleep as you'd like, or you decide to skip meals and just eat whatever's quick. Exercise competes with overtime and family obligations, and exercising might not be the most fun thing to do after a long shift. But when physical health gets ignored long enough, it affects everything else, including patience, judgment, and mood on the job.

The mental and emotional side is harder to measure, and because of that it's often easier to avoid. Policing trains people to do what psychologists call "compartmentalize." You handle just what's in front of you, then move on to the next call.

Like putting things in boxes then forgetting about it. That skill keeps you effective and might help you cope for a little while, but it doesn't mean the stress disappears. Over time, irritation becomes easier than compassion and being on edge starts to feel normal. That's what I hope our officers stay aware of.

Police officers aren't indestructible, even if the job sometimes requires you to act like you are. I know you need to be "human" sometimes too, even if there isn't much space for that during a shift. The beginning of the year is as good a time as any to think honestly about how you deal with stress. Who do you actually talk to when things pile up? What helps you decompress and chill out? Are you dealing with the pressure of the job, or just storing it up and hoping it doesn't surface at the wrong moment?

There's also the part of life that has nothing to do with radio calls or roll calls, but still matters. These are things like spending time with family, picking up new hobbies, growing in your faith, or anything really that reminds you that you're more than your badge.

I think that in this new year there are lots of reasons to remain cautiously hopeful. New leadership in the city always brings uncertainty, but it can also bring opportunity. Improvements rarely come quickly, but they do happen when people keep standards high and support one another internally, regardless of what the

bigger picture looks like.

So, a good resolution for this year might be to start paying more attention to sleep, work on staying in shape, or finally talking to someone you trust instead of carrying everything alone. It might mean being more patient with yourself, or with the people you work with every day. None of that makes you less committed to the job ... it makes you more likely to still be doing it well years from now.

Detroit has never survived on hype; it survives because people keep showing up and doing the work, even when it's hard and even when it goes unnoticed. The same is true of this department and this Association.

As the year gets underway, I hope you give yourself some credit for what you carry and make a few choices that help you stay grounded as the months move on.

Stay safe, and look out for one another. Take care of yourself and make this year a happy and healthy one.

Father Peter Latouf recently completed his missionary assignment in Taiwan and Hong Kong and is now assigned to serve as parochial vicar at Holy Family Catholic Church in Orlando, Fla. The Detroit-area native is the son of retired Police Officer Donna Latouf, the former secretary-treasurer for the Detroit Police Officers Association, and also the brother of Police Officer Lisa Latouf of Internal Affairs.

Tuebor Writers Workshop is scheduled for March 18

The Writers Workshop, a special annual get-together for Tuebor writers and other contributors, has been scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, at Sinbad's Restaurant and Marina, 100 St. Clair St.

The Workshop is an opportunity to interact with other writers and Editorial Committee members to share feedback and ideas on how to best use Tuebor to serve the communication needs of our members.

Anyone interested in being part of the Tuebor team can contact their steward or Editor Joe Hoshaw at tuebordetroit@yahoo.com or (734) 558-6955 for more details.

Writers wanted!

Don't see your command area represented with an article in Tuebor? You are welcome to help us change that. If you are interested in being the writer and are willing and able to provide a quarterly article, please contact your chief steward or email tuebordetroit@yahoo.com



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Marking a decade of DPOA service

The January Board of Directors meeting included a special presentation to Rafael Clements (left) by President Craig Miller. Clements, a steward for COS/Tech Support, is seen here receiving a commemorative ring for 10 years of service as a DPOA union steward.

Very busy year includes 128 grievance filings

Hello again and Happy New Year! Here is some of what has been going on since the last article.

Total Grievances Filed in 2025 = 128

Arbitration Decision(s)

Denied Seniority Transfer — This grievance was submitted due to the grievant being passed over for a junior member on the Seniority Transfer List.

The grievance was heard and granted by Arbitrator Gail M. Wilson. The grievant is to be transferred to the Seniority Based Unit, but the City is challenging the arbitrator's decision. This puts a hold on the member transferring to the Unit. The City has appealed several arbitrators' decisions in the past, to no avail. We believe this will be the same outcome for the City.

Denied Holiday — This grievance was for two Third Precinct Members. The two were denied working a holiday in late 2023 while all of their co-workers in the unit were allowed to work their job assignments on the holiday. The command stated that no one but Full Duty members were to work the holiday. This violation was finally scheduled to go to arbitration this past November. Just before the arbitration hearing, the City agreed to award compensatory time to the grievants. This was accepted by the Association and the file closed.

Important information
DROP Extension

- Participating DROP members who



THE GRIEVANCE FILES



Keith Baker

are reaching the end of their 10th year and would like to continue doing so for another year must send a request to the Chief of Police.

- This request must be submitted to the Chief of Police no less than two months prior to your DROP end date.

- If you are uncertain of your DROP date, call and speak to a member of the Grievance Committee. We have that info and a template of the request to extend.
- DPOA Texting System (Active DPOA Members)

- The Association has a texting system in place to distribute Union information.

- There are still active members who have not opted into the texting system.

- If you wish to opt in, text your name to (313) 567-8770 to be added.

Remember,

- You never really learn much from hearing yourself speak.
- If you never try, you'll never know.
- You have health insurance, get a physical.

Board of Directors
Attendance Record
January-December 2025

M-Meetings/P-Present/E-Excused/A-Absent
(C) Chief Steward / (A) Alternate / * Executive Board
(T) Transferred / (P) Promoted / (R) Retired / ** Died Active

DIST	Pit/Sec	Name	M	P	E	A
1	Downtown SVS-2	Michael Harrington (P)	7	7	0	0
	Downtown SVS-2	Julias Price	4	4	0	0
	Downtown SVS-3	Dale Hopkins (T)	5	4	1	0
	Downtown SVS-3	Aaron Gagnon	7	6	1	0
	3rd Precinct-1	Darryl Johnson (C)	12	10	2	0
	3rd Precinct-2	James Bradford	12	10	2	0
	3rd Precinct-3	Mario Esselman	12	10	1	1
	Gaming-1	Darryl Jackson	12	10	2	0
	Gaming-2	Christopher Hicks	12	12	0	0
	Gaming-3	Calvin Adkins*	12	11	1	0
2	2nd Precinct-1	Angel Munoz	12	7	3	2
	2nd Precinct-2	Keith Baker*	12	12	0	0
	2nd Precinct-3	Anthony Porcalla (T)	1	1	0	0
	2nd Precinct-3	Ethan Stoermer (T)	4	4	0	0
	2nd Precinct-3	Max Zahringer	6	5	0	1
	4th Precinct-1	Sarah Kimberlin	12	10	2	0
	4th Precinct-2	Nicholas Medrano (C)	12	10	2	0
	4th Precinct-3	John Furmanski (C) (T)	10	10	0	0
	4th Precinct-3	Mando Mendoza	2	2	0	0
3	6th Precinct-1	Darwin Smith (P)	4	1	0	3
	6th Precinct-1	Malek Nasser	7	6	1	0
	6th Precinct-2	Rosemary Coleman (C)	12	12	0	0
	6th Precinct-3	Wade Rayford	12	12	0	0
	8th Precinct-1	Kenneth Hampton Jr.	12	11	1	0
	8th Precinct-2	James Pierce	12	8	1	3
	8th Precinct-3	Verona Shaw	12	11	1	0
4	10th Precinct-1	Aaron Dudek (T)	11	11	0	0
	10th Precinct-1	Kristopher Rhinehart	1	1	0	0
	10th Precinct-2	Cyprian Freeman (C)	12	12	0	0
	10th Precinct-3	Jeremiah Flores	12	11	0	1
	12th Precinct-1	Stephen Merritt	12	8	1	3
	12th Precinct-2	Raymond Chesney (T)	8	6	1	1
	12th Precinct-2	Yolanda Gann	4	1	0	3
	12th Precinct-3	Allyson Rock	12	10	2	0
5	5th Precinct-1	Angela Abbott	12	9	2	1
	5th Precinct-2	Karen Maxey*	12	12	0	0
	5th Precinct-3	Anthony Murray (C)	12	12	0	0
	9th Precinct-1	Jarick Home	12	5	1	6
	9th Precinct-2	Lashun O'Rear*	12	12	0	0
	9th Precinct-3	Alec Rebecca	12	10	1	1
6	7th Precinct-1	Ali Dakhllallah	12	9	1	2
	7th Precinct-2	Nathan Readous	12	12	0	0
	7th Precinct-3	Frederick Williams (C)	12	12	0	0
	11th Precinct-1	Kevin Smith	12	9	0	3
	11th Precinct-2	Douglas Nichols	12	12	0	0
	11th Precinct-3	Thomas Deloof (T)	10	9	0	1
	11th Precinct-3	Thomas Deloof (T)	10	9	0	1
	Harbor Master	Marcel Clark	12	12	0	0
	Mound Road Detention Center	Derrick Wilson	12	12	0	0
7	Cos/Tech Support-1	Raphael Clements	12	11	1	0
	Cos/Tech Support-2	Charles Roland*	12	11	1	0
	Cos/Tech Support-3	Michael Fountain*	12	10	2	0
	Narcotics/Firearms Inv.	Lavondria Herbert (C)	12	10	2	0
	Forfeiture/Magnet/Auction Detail	Carlton Williams	12	7	5	0
8	DPSH, 1301 Third, 5th Floor	Ernine Gamble	12	11	1	0
	DPSH, 1301 Third, 6th Floor	Lucretia Wright (C)	12	9	3	0
	DPSH, 1301 Third, 7th Floor	Royce Hill*	12	12	0	0
9	Law Dept/OCI/EPU/Council	Christine Rozier*	12	12	0	0
	DMPA/Range	Sean Wayrynen*	12	12	0	0
10	TAC Response Unit - 1	Darius Shepherd	10	9	1	0
	SRT/Bomb Squad	David Shaw	12	12	0	0
	TEU/TSU	Loranzo Jones (R)	4	4	0	0
	TEU/TSU	Barry Hayward	7	7	0	0
	K-9/Mounted/Aviation	Matt Miller	12	11	1	0
	Transit	Jenna Grier	11	11	0	0
	CIT	Henry Simmons III	10	10	0	0

Family first! Holidays a busy time for unit

By Katherine Price
FAMLE UNIT

Let's enter 2026 with renewed determination and a commitment to our families, each other, and our communities. New Year's resolutions aren't just personal goals; in law enforcement, they are life-saving commitments that strengthen readiness, emotional resilience, and accountability. Here are some key suggestions:

- 1. **Update Beneficiaries:** It's crucial to review and update the beneficiaries on all your policies regularly.
- 2. Communicate with Family:** Engage in an open conversation with your family regarding the policies you hold with the Detroit Police Department. This includes health, disability, insurance policies, annuities, deferred compensation, and others.
- 3. Organize Important Documents:** Create a secure folder for all important documents. Ensure your family knows where to find it for access if needed.
- 4. Practice Emotional Intelligence:** Make sure to check in on the well-being of your coworkers, especially during times of grief or trauma. Remember that law enforcement officers often carry silent burdens, and expressing emotions can be stigmatized. If you notice a coworker in need of support, assist them discreetly and confidentially. Be kind, and if necessary, consider informing a

trusted supervisor or a peer support member.

5. Support the Families of Fallen Officers: It is important to remember the families of officers who have died or been critically injured. Honor your commitments by reaching out to them and their children. Make an effort to be present at significant events for their spouses and children, as your support means a great deal to them.

6. Commit to Making Healthy Lifestyle Changes: Adopt a nutritious diet that focuses on balanced meals, whole foods, and adequate hydration, while minimizing the consumption of processed foods and sugar. Aim for at least 30 minutes of physical activity each day by participating in enjoyable activities such as walking, dancing, or stretching. Do this for yourself, your family, and especially for your children.

FAMLE attended the following

News from FAMLE



Survivors of Detroit's fallen officers were well represented at the Michigan Concerns of Police Survivors annual banquet in Lansing. At left is the family of Officer Glenn Doss, while pictured above is the family of Sgt. Joseph Abdella, along with Casey Elliott from FAMLE.



Making a delivery to Devin Jackson (above) and to Carmella West at left for Amelia and Anthony West.



Delivering to the Latoya Williams family above, and to the Hudnal family at left.



The FAMLE Unit in December launched its first-ever Family Blessing, through which they adopted and delivered gifts to two families. Participants shown above are Lt. Delicia Anderson, Kasey Elliott, Zahra Richardson and Cpl. Katherine Price. At right, Anderson, Elliott and Price are joined by James Kisselburg and Benjamin Atkinson.



events:

On Dec. 2, 2025, FAMLE attended the 22nd Annual Southeast Michigan Project Blue Light Ceremony in Hazel Park, Mich., to honor Police Officer Kelvin Patrick and Corporal Rhonda Morris.

On Dec. 7, 2025, FAMLE attended the MI COPS Annual Banquet in Lansing, Mich., where we had the chance to connect with the families of fallen officers.

On Dec. 19, 2025, FAMLE took part in the Sergeant Santa gift distribution, assisting the families of homicide victims during this holiday season. The smiles on their faces were truly priceless.

On Dec. 22, 2025, FAMLE adopted two families for our Annual "Family Blessing" event. We provided Christmas gifts for the children of Cameron Richardson and offered a gift card to critically injured Retired Police Officer James Kisselburg and his family.

On Dec. 23, 2025, FAMLE participated in the Shop with a Cop event in Livonia, Mich., supporting the families of fallen officers during this meaningful time of year. It is vital to recognize and honor the children of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. (See photos on Page 3).

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Ride with the right coverage



Continued on Page 18



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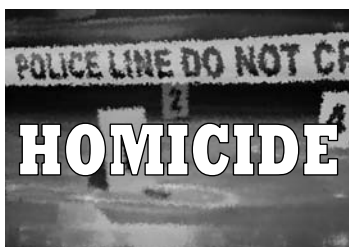
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Things are busy at Major Crimes

Back with another Tuebor article! Back with my beard, better than ever! Back with the news! It's been a while. I no longer work at the Sixth Precinct. I now work at Homicide – Missing Persons Squad, under the umbrella of Major Crimes. Let me tell you about what's going on around here.

Let's start with the Major Crimes members of the month; these members have set very high standards for everyone in their units and definitely deserve to be recognized. Detective Anthony Besso (Homicide-Fatal Squad), Office Management Assistant Rhonda Juneau (Homicide), Detective Ben Biddle (Child Abuse), Detective Treva Eaton (Domestic Violence), Officer Lazeita Parish (Sex Crimes), FAIR Coordinator Kara England (Domestic Violence), Social Worker Belinda Edwards (Victim Assistance Program). Keep up the great work!

The Domestic Violence Unit handles the most cases per year compared to any other investigative unit. They investigate over 10,000 incidents a year — that's a lot of re-



Chris Smith



ports to sift through. The Domestic Violence Taskforce was created to get weapons out of the hands of repeat offenders. We've all been to a DV call and made an arrest, only to find out the victim refused to prosecute. The DV Taskforce doesn't stop there! They've seized more than 200 guns, and got more than 40 felon-in-possession warrants signed.

Fatal Squad handles over 600 critical or fatal motor vehicle accidents per year. They've been working hard. Fatal Squad has teamed up with special ops units across the city, as well as TSS. They are pursuing individuals who flee from accident scenes and getting victims justice.

Have you seen Headquarters Surveillance around lately? Of course not, because they're

amazing at their job. I'm certain they've seen you though.

I did not attend the Major Crimes Christmas Party, but I've seen pictures. You all looked good. I'll make more of an effort to be in attendance next year. Shout out to Domestic Violence for winning the Christmas Decoration Battle on the fifth floor. This is their second consecutive victory! I spoke to a detective in DV who wishes to remain anonymous. The detective stated, "I promise it's not rigged." All squads who participated did a wonderful job, and the judges had a hard decision to make.

I've spoken to the captain and commander, and they are proud of everyone and the work they're doing. Keep up the good work! I didn't forget about Sex Crimes, Child Abuse,

Missing Persons, and the different Homicide squads. I'll brag about you all in the next segment of, "Will Cpl. Smith get his article submitted on time?"

Before I let you go, I'd like to give a word of advice to the newer officers. Stay vigilant. There will be times when you find yourself going to the same house for the same thing, over and over. Don't allow yourself to become comfortable and complacent — this can lead to trouble. It can go right 1000 times, but it only has to go wrong once. Don't get the "Oh, not them again" attitude, and walk up to the door casually, and not paying attention to your surroundings because you've been there so many times. Stay alert! Also remember, you are the answer. Someone somewhere had a problem and they didn't know what to do, so they called the police. They believed when the police arrived, they'd know what to do. Don't forget that.

Well, that's all from me for now. Everyone, be safe, and watch your partner's six. Take care, brush ya hair.



Romeo Kue



Unit serves as primary shield in gaming districts

When people think of Detroit's casinos (MGM Grand, Motor City, and Hollywood Casino at Greektown) they think of bright lights, entertainment, and the thrill of the game.

But behind the scenes, a specialized team of officers works around the clock to ensure that the integrity of the environment is maintained and that every visitor can enjoy the city's offerings in a secure setting.

The Detroit Police Department Gaming Operations Unit serves as the primary shield for the millions of visitors who frequent our city's gaming districts. Our mission is clear: to maintain the integrity of the gaming industry and ensure the safety of every guest and employee.

Unlike a traditional precinct patrol, the Gaming Operations Unit operates in a highly specific and fast-paced environment. Our responsibilities span a wide spectrum of law enforcement, including criminal investigations, handling everything from financial crimes and fraud to thefts and disturbances on casino property; public safety, maintaining a visible, proactive presence to deter criminal activity; and collaborative policing, working hand-in-hand with casino security teams, Michigan State Police Gaming Section, and the Michigan Gaming Control Board to uphold state laws and city ordinances.

The three major casinos are vital to Detroit's economy and tourism. By ensuring these venues remain safe and secure, our unit plays a direct role in the city's continued growth.

Whether we are identifying criminal activity or simply helping a lost tourist find their way, our goal is to provide a world class level of service that matches the venues we protect.

The next time you visit one of Detroit's casinos, you might not see us immediately, but know that the Gaming Unit is there working tirelessly to keep the casino a safe place.

Top officer nominees needed

Continued from Page 1

Nominees are being sought from all 10 department districts for on-the-job performance between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025.

Each recipient's photo along with a written account of their accomplishments will be printed on its own page in the District Officers of the Year keepsake program. These profiles and photos also will be published in a special commemorative section that will appear in the Spring 2026 issue of Tuebor.

The awards for being chosen as one of the DPOA District Officers of the Year include a monetary certificate, a department-approved DPOA service ribbon to be worn on the recipient's uniform, a framed reproduction of the recipient's page in the keepsake program and a certificate from the Union, along with the yearbook commemorating this year's event.

Motor City Casino is located at 2901 Grand River Ave.

Guidelines for Selection of Award Recipients

1. One officer will be chosen from each District of the Detroit Police Department.
 2. The recipient must have been an active member of the bargaining unit during the time events occurred for which he or she is going to receive the award. The recipient's parent command during such time must have been within the district from which the award emanates.
 3. Recipients shall be selected in recognition of their outstanding police work, community service or their efforts on behalf of various charitable organizations. It is the DPOA's desire to emphasize the performance of outstanding police work.
 4. The Chief Stewards, Stewards and Alternate Stewards shall keep in mind that the awards represent the highest recognition possible from the officer's peers.
- MONDAY, FEB. 2** — Deadline for submitting candidates
- TBD** — Submitted candidates will be reviewed by the District Officers of the Year Committee.
- TUESDAY, FEB. 10** — Recipients will be announced at the Board of Directors meeting.
- MONDAY, MARCH 2** — Deadline for turning in recipient's biographical sheet and supporting paper-work to Craig Miller at the DPOA office.
- THURSDAY, MARCH 5** — Awardees' photo shoot, 9-11 a.m. at the DPOA office (in the first-floor board room).
- FRIDAY, MAY 1** — 41th Annual District Officers of the Year Awards Banquet at Sound Board, Motor City Casino, 2901 Grand River Ave.

Retirement Getting Close? Annuity Rollovers Deferred Compensation DROP Plan



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Let us begin the New Year with high hopes

Hoping everyone had a wonderful holiday season and wishing you all a Happy New Year, as we get into gear to celebrate with high hopes and expectations.

It is the time of year when families, friends and loved ones travel around the globe to be with one another or significant others to celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's, together. It is also the time of year when people are in high spirits for holiday parties, mingling in anticipation of receiving that special gift.

To the men and women patrolling the streets,



Kromanix



as you know, it is the busiest time of the year. I urge you to exercise caution and safety in responding to these runs. Though we are protecting and serving the public, it is also our hope to return home to our families at the end of our tour of duty.

On the home front, our

kudos to our community relations team, headed by Sgt. Charles Spruce and his team, for putting up a great Halloween event.

The garage of horror was spectacular! The parking lot was crowded with tons of children and their parents, dressed in various Halloween costumes,

standing in line to receive candy treats. Vehicles lined up with trunks opened, full of various candies to pass out to the children and their parents.

There were two cement truck mixers with Halloween decorations spewing candies. After

receiving their treats, they lined up and went through the garage to be horrified by ghosts and goblins making terrifying thriller sounds.

Thanks to Sgt. Charles Spruce, NPOs Danyel Robinson, Marcia Williams, Eric Hill, Asacrea and Jasmine. Great job; well done!

On the other hand, Captain Derrick Griffin has been transferred to Neighborhood services. We bid him farewell and wish him good luck in his new assignment.

Captain Griffin is a humble servant, energetic and hard-working. While he was at the precinct, he

treated everyone with respect, humility and grace. We welcome Captain Leonard at the Blues Inn. PO Ryan Heaton was elected Union Steward on Platoon 3. Congratulations!

Nonetheless, we bid farewell to our former colleagues who separated from the Department: POs Demiralee Robertson, Derrick Doud, Timothy Parish, Julian Johnson, Frankly Brookins, Lian Shaw, Alvin Hughes, Gina Gibson and Steel Ross on DD.

Until next time, stay tuned, stay safe and back each other up.



Abdul Shabazz

Several of our officers earn their 'blue stripes'

Happy New Year! I hope and pray that everyone will have a safe and prosperous New Year. As of press time from my last article, we had a motorcycle class for the first time in a while.

I'm happy to inform you that we have additional motormen, Officers Brent, Bush and Vales-tine, members of Traffic Enforcement, who have earned their "blue stripes" along with Officers Burley and Pawlos from other

precincts who also graduated.

Congratulations to you! Most notably the top scorer of the class goes to Officer Charo Turner II. I know we have had multiple families whose offspring continued to follow in the footsteps of their parents to become police officers, but I had the pleasure of working with the patriarch of the family, Sgt. Clyde Turner-3708 and of course Officer Charo Turner, the lead

instructor, and his son, now all motormen.

If I'm allowed to be on this earth to see it, another Turner will be born with the shadow of the blue stripes.

The new year also brings the city of Detroit a new mayor so I'm cautiously optimistic that we will continue to rise from that low point we were in. Time will tell.

In the meantime, let's stay safe out there and back each other up!

Mayor and chief unveil some encouraging '25 crime stats

Continued from Page 1

142 recorded in 2024. Carjackings in Detroit today have been reduced 84 percent since 2015.

Mayor Mary Sheffield praised Chief Bettison, DPD officers and their many partners in this work for making Detroit a safer place for its residents and visitors.

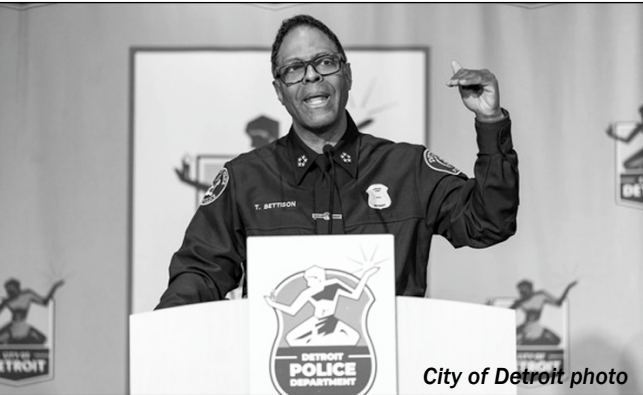
"Nothing we do as a city is more important than keeping our residents safe," said Mayor Mary Sheffield. "Safer communities and historic reductions in crime like this don't happen without effective strategies, great partnerships and the political will to fund these efforts. All of those things exist in Detroit and will continue to in the Sheffield Administration."

Mayor Sheffield also pledged to create a new office of Neighborhood & Community Safety within her first 100 days.

"Prevention is the key, and my office will be deeply involved in developing new strategies to build on the great work already being done," Mayor Sheffield said.

All categories of crime see reductions

Detroit follows Michigan State Police and FBI standards for reporting crime statistics annually. While official 2025 num-



Chief Todd Bettison recaps the 2025 crime statistics.

Crime category	2024	2025	% change
Homicides	203	165	-19%
Nonfatal Shootings	603	447	-26%
Carjackings	142	77	-46%
Sexual Assaults	613	529	-14%
Auto Theft	8,331	6,391	-23%
Robbery	1,209	953	-21%

bers may change slightly as some cases conclude ongoing investigations, preliminary data is in the chart above.

The city's overall crime showed a reduction in all major categories, including a 10 percent drop in overall violent crime and a 10 percent drop in property crime.

"These stats represent the commitment I promised you all when I was first sworn in as police chief, for continued dedi-

cation and constant improvement by the Detroit Police Department," Bettison said. "As we embark on this new year, with our new mayor, I am confident that the work done in the previous year to decrease crime will continue and be even more effective with her support and guidance. There is a saying that there is no I in team; and this collaboration is the true representation of teamwork."

Editor's Note: The article deadline for the next issue of the Tuebor is Friday, March 27. Please email articles and other info for publication to Editor Joe Hoshaw Jr. at tuebordetroit@yahoo.com. He can also be reached at (734) 558-6955. For more details on being a contributor to Tuebor, please see Page 6.

Looking for a recent past issue of Tuebor? Did you know the last three years are available on the DPOA website? Check them out by visiting www.detroitpoa.com and click the "Tuebor Editions" tab.



CHRISTMAS, DPOA STYLE

2025 Kiddie Christmas Party Memories







Photos: David L. Chapman



Special thanks to the Entertainment Committee for all the effort put into making the Kiddie Christmas Party a highly enjoyable event for the children of our members. Thanks also to "Santa," aka Juan Windham, a retired Detroit Police officer who now works as a youth officer for Detroit Public Schools Community District. Another DPOA thank you to our great "Grinch," Marquiece Williams, son of 11th Precinct NPO Marcia Williams. And of course, the diverse talents of Demarcus Hughes, better known to us as the one and only Smiley the Hip Hop Clown.



Digital copies of event photos are available to members by emailing me at tuebordetroit@yahoo.com. Be sure to include the page number and description of the photo you would like — JH

'Encouraging downward trend'

Decline in fatalities linked to broader policing trends

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The number of law enforcement professionals nationwide who died in 2025 decreased 25 percent compared to the same time period last year, according to preliminary data provided in early January by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

The NLEOMF data shows that 111 federal, state, county, municipal, and U.S. Territories officers died in the line of duty in 2025, representing a 25 percent decrease compared to the 148 officers who died in 2024.

The 111 line-of-duty deaths in 2025 represents a near-historic low. The last time annual officer fatalities were at a comparable level was in 1943, when 94 officers were killed in the line of duty.

"Each of the 111 fatalities we publish in this report represents a selfless sacrifice made on behalf of the community and the nation in which they serve," said NLEOMF CEO Bill Alexander. "We lament to document even a single such death, but this encouraging downward trend in fatalities likely reflects the continued adoption of proven best practices by police, sheriff, and corrections agencies, as well as a growing emphasis on the physical and psychological health of the men and women who work to keep our communities safe."

"These practices align directly with — and underscore the importance of — NLEOMF's Officer Safety and Wellness initiatives, which are designed to help ensure that

more officers return home safely at the end of each shift."

Firearms-Related Fatalities

Firearms-related fatalities have claimed the lives of 44 officers in 2025, which represents a decrease of 15 percent from the 52 officers killed

by gunfire in 2024 and was the leading cause of death.

Traffic-Related Fatalities

There were 34 traffic-related fatalities in 2025; this is a decrease of 23 percent compared to 2024, which had a total of 44.

Other Causes and Fatalities

The "other" category contains a wide variety of health-related deaths and other line-of-duty fatalities. 33 officer deaths are listed in the "Other" category versus 52 for last year, which represents a 37 percent

decrease.

Additional Demographics

There were 102 male officers killed in the line of duty, and nine female officers. The average age of the fallen officers is 44, with an average of 14 years of service. On aver-

Continued on Page 27

Craig Miller: HRA can help with out of pocket health costs

Continued from Page 2

penses on a non-taxable basis.

Eligible participants include City public safety employees who have retired *after Jan. 1, 2015*, while covered under a collective bargaining agreement between the City and the following Unions: DPOA; DPLSA; DPCOA; and DFFA. The current HRA monthly stipend for DPOA is \$250 per month.

To apply for your monthly benefits, contact CDPSU's claims administrator, Automated Benefit Services, Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at (877) 456-4306; or, for more information about the CDPSU HRA Plan, visit CDPSUTrust.com.

As we begin the new year, we also are starting our annual process of recognizing our officers for outstanding and heroic service in the previous year by calling for nominations for District Officers of the Year.

The process begins in early February with the deadline for submission of nominees by your stewards. The details and dates of the nomination and selection process appear on Page 11. Please get your nominations and written info turned in as requested.

The process will conclude May 1 when we honor the recipients of the 2025 awards at our 41st annual District Officers of the Year Awards Banquet Friday, May 1. The banquet will again be held at Motor City Sound Board.

Also, please save the date for our annual DPOA Charitable Fund Golf Outing, which is scheduled for Friday, June 12, at Oak Ridge Golf Course, 35035 26 Mile Road, New Haven MI 48048 (at I-94).

Please stay safe and back each other up. We are all we have.

You asked for it. Colonial Life delivers On-Duty Disability to Detroit Police and Fire Departments.

The following Colonial Life benefits are offered as guaranteed-issue for a limited time.

COLONIAL LIFE ON-DUTY DISABILITY IS BACK

Disability Insurance* helps replace a portion of your income to help make ends meet if you become disabled from a covered accident or sickness. Coverage is being offered to all employees up to 60% of your salary up to \$4,000 with a max monthly benefit of \$5,000 a month. Please note that the on-job benefit is 50% of the off-job benefit.

Whole Life Insurance*

- Ages 18-50 up to a max of \$150,000
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Term Life Insurance**

- Age 15-50 to a max of \$125,000
- Age 51-60 to a max of \$75,000
- Age 61-75 to a max of \$30,000

Spouse Term Life

- Age 16-50: \$25,000
- Age 51-75: \$10,000

New Critical Illness Insurance with Optional Cancer bene it* is being offered to all employees up to a \$20,000 benefit.

Hospital indemnity insurance** Is being offered to all employee up to a \$1,000 Hospital Confinement benefit.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO CITY OF DETROIT EMPLOYEES:

Accident Insurance*

Cancer Insurance

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WITH MOST PLANS:

- Coverage is available for your spouse and eligible dependent children.
- Benefits are payable directly to you, unless you specify otherwise.
- You can continue coverage when you retire or change jobs, with no increase in premiums.
- You may receive benefits regardless of any insurance you may have with other companies.

*Offered with guaranteed-issue underwriting, which means no medical underwriting to qualify for coverage. Benefits may be subject to a pre-existing condition provision.

**Post-enrollment guaranteed-issue means that health questions must be answered at point of enrollment for the policy to be issued as guaranteed-issue. Benefits may be subject to a pre-existing condition provision.

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ColonialLife.com

Policy forms marketed by the company vary by product and are too numerous to list in the advertisement, but a list can be provided upon request.

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Don't forget

Scan the QR code to schedule your 1-to-1 benefits session with a Colonial Life benefits counselor.



Don't miss the 41th annual DPOA Charitable Fund Golf Outing

Friday, June 12

*Registration opens at 7 a.m.
Shotgun start for 4-man
scramble at 8 a.m.*

Oak Ridge Golf Course

35035 26 Mile Road, New Haven



**Same great day of fun and camaraderie on the links
— all to help benefit DPOA Charitable Fund giving**

\$125 ticket

includes driving range,

18 holes w/cart,

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cocktail hour, dinner, gift

CONTESTS
Closest to the Pin
Longest Drive
Skins
4-man team
scramble

**For more info and a registration form,
contact Mary Moss at the DPOA, 313-567-8770**

**Sponsorship and co-sponsorship
opportunities available**

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Project Blue Light service offers us a powerful reminder

By Chontel Jones
DETROIT POLICE
HONOR GUARD

Greetings from the Detroit Police Honor Guard. The 22nd annual Project Blue Light Ceremony was a meaningful and successful event that gave us the opportunity to honor both the past and present members of our law enforcement family. It was a time for reflection, remembrance, and appreciation, and it reminded us why this tradition continues to matter each year.

We especially remember and honor the retirees who passed away: Lieutenant Richard Baker, Lieutenant



Ernest Travis, Sergeant Nathaniel Rucker, and Investigator Rube Williams. Each of these individuals dedicated their careers to public service, and their commitment, leadership, and sacrifice helped shape the department and the community they served. Their legacies continue to live on through the values

they modeled and the impact they made on those around them.

We also recognize active member Corporal Steven Schmekel, whose continued service reflects the same sense of duty and professionalism demonstrated by those we honored. His presence represents the connection between those who laid the foundation and those who now carry that responsibility forward.

Overall, the ceremony served as a powerful reminder of the importance of honoring our fallen, supporting those who continue to serve, and maintaining traditions like Project Blue Light that bring us together in remembrance and respect. It was a successful event not only in execution, but in meaning, and it reinforced the strong sense of unity within our department and the broader law enforcement community.

The Honor Guard is looking for dedicated members who are interested in joining the most prestigious team in the department. Interested members should submit a 568 to Corporal Jeremy Rozycki at rozyckij670@detroitmi.gov. We honor our blue family with dignity and respect.



The 22nd annual Project Blue Light Ceremony, held in early December at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church in Hazel Park, was a meaningful and successful event honoring both past and present members of our law enforcement family. At top is the Detroit Police Honor Guard, which participate in the ceremonies. Above is Kyle Patrick, who is placing a flower on a wreath in honor of his father, Police Officer Kelvin Patrick. At right are photos of two members of the family in blue lost since this ceremony was held: Corporal Steven Schmekel, who died active Dec. 19; and retired DPD Investigator Rube Williams Jr., who died Jan. 1.

Patrick photo courtesy of
Cpl. Katherine Price.
All others seen here are from
Cpl. Chontel Jones.



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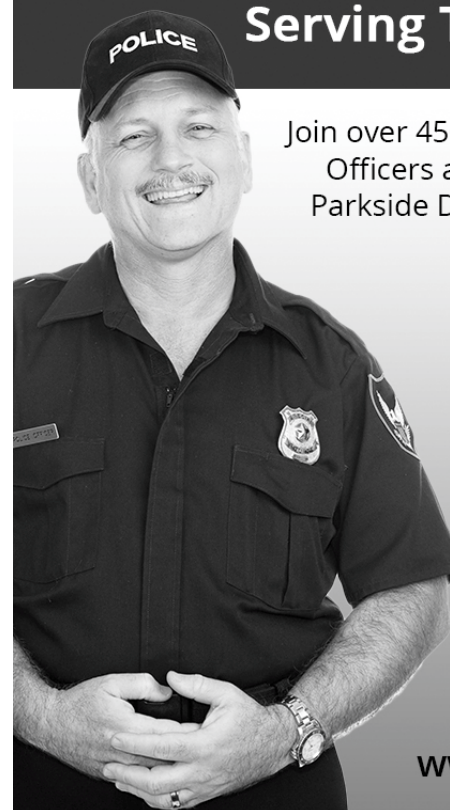


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36444 W. Warren Ave
Westland, MI

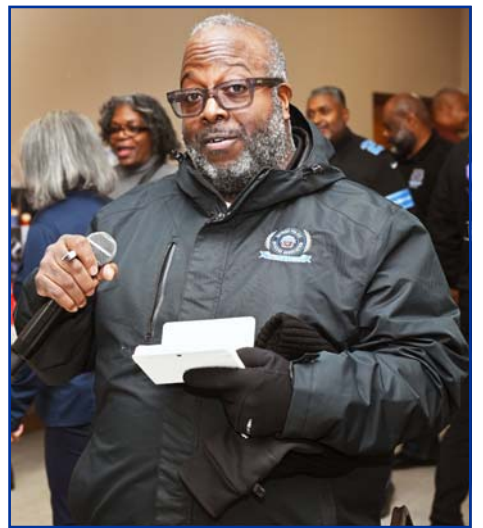
Conveniently located at the northwest corner of Warren & Central City Parkway; just blocks west of Westland Mall.

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Farewell to 2025



The final General Membership meeting of the year, held a few weeks before Thanksgiving, generally showcases a festive holiday spirit and this year's event was no exception.

Photos: David L. Chapman



Along with the normal expansive variety of prizes handed out to raffle winners, the November meeting traditionally also includes a Turkey giveaway. Executive Board Member Lashun O'Rear and Entertainment Committee Member Doug Nichols can be seen at top, rolling the cart full of holiday birds into the room. Approximately 80 turkeys were awarded to active members and retirees who bought raffle tickets. The winners of the grand prizes that evening were Aaron Dudeck, who netted a Blackstone Grill; and Haley Hebner, the winner of a Greenworks battery-powered snowblower. The Entertainment Committee prize patrol is gearing up for its next big giveaway at the first General Membership Meeting of 2026, set for Tuesday, March 10, at Sacred Heart.

Special recognition

13th Above & Beyond honors first responders

The Detroit Public Safety Foundation hosted its 13th annual Above & Beyond Awards Ceremony on Nov. 13 at Ford Field, welcoming a sold-out crowd of more than 600 attendees.

The evening honored the extraordinary courage and dedication of Detroit's first responders while bringing together civic leaders, families, and community partners in a powerful celebration of service.

Outgoing Mayor Mike Duggan opened the event with welcoming remarks, followed by incoming Mayor Mary Sheffield, who also presented one of the evening's top awards. Jason Colthorp, WDIV anchor, served as emcee.

A key highlight of the night was the presentation of the 2025 City Change Maker Award, given by Eric Larson, CEO of the Downtown Detroit Partnership, to Bob Riney, CEO of Henry Ford Health. Mayor Elect

Mary Sheffield presented the Public Safety Partner Award to the Detroit Athletic Club Foundation for its steadfast commitment to Detroit's safety community.

In total, 37 first responders were recognized for acts of bravery and service. Their families filled the audience, sharing emotional moments — such as a grateful fire survivor joining the firefighter who rescued him on stage, and powerful body-cam footage of officers saving a victim from a burning vehicle. One young girl proudly shouting, "That's my daddy!" captured the heart of the evening, emphasizing the profound impact these heroes have on the families who stand behind them.

Honors included numerous Detroit police officers receiving the "Medal of Valor," including officers Devonte Brooks, Quentin Glover, Jalen Roberts, Willie



Detroit Public Safety Foundation photos

The Detroit Public Safety Foundation honored 37 Detroit first responders at its annual Above & Beyond Ceremony in mid-November.

Harvey, Morcos Rosario, Luqmaan Lucas, Eli Thompson, Andrew Wyborski, Salvador Paramo and sergeants Trey Lyons and Rodney Ballinger, as well as "Purple Heart" honoree, Officer Ethan Teefey.

The DPSF said this year's ceremony was generously supported by the Penske Corp. as Title Sponsor and the Detroit Lions and PVS Chemicals as Commanding Sponsors, along with many additional partners who help make the event possible.

The objective of the Above & Beyond Awards ceremony is "to shine a light on the remarkable individuals who protect Detroit every day — and the loved ones who support them."

(From the Detroit Public Safety Foundation's website, detroit-publicsafety.org.)

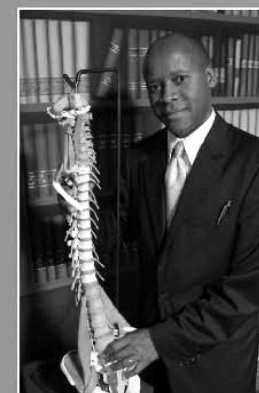


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NAPO looks back on 2025

With the challenges came several legislative victories

While 2025 was a challenging year, the National Association of Police Organizations was successful in moving several of our legislative and policy priorities forward, including the Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act and the HALT Fentanyl Act. These wins and others are highlighted below in our 2025 year in review.

NAPO Priority Legislation Signed into Law

The Honoring Our Fallen Heroes

Act recognizes exposure-related cancers as line of duty injuries and would cover them under the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program for death and disability benefits.

The Halt All Lethal Trafficking (HALT) Fentanyl Act makes permanent the current nationwide scheduling of all fentanyl-related substances as Schedule 1 drugs under the Controlled Substances Act, giving law enforcement the tools and

resources necessary to combat and deter fentanyl in our nation's communities.

The Improving Police Critical Aid for Responding to Emergencies (CARE) Act establishes baseline standards for trauma kits purchased using grant funding under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) and requires the development of best practices for training law enforcement

Continued on Page 25

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REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

Police Officer John G. Gordon END OF WATCH: Jan. 3, 1914



Detroit Police Officer John Gordon was shot and killed Jan. 3, 1914, while attempting to arrest five men who had just committed several robberies in the area.

Shortly after receiving a lookout for the men, Officer Gordon, who had been on the job with the Detroit Police Department for about two and a half years, spotted the group at the intersection of Clinton Street and Dubois Street. As he approached them two of the subjects immediately opened fire.

Despite being mortally wounded, Officer Gordon, 36, was able to crawl to a call box and call for help. He was taken to a local hospital where he was able to identify four of the five suspects before dying later in the morning.

Two of the subjects, 22 and 24, were convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison. On Dec. 12, 1969, the 22-year-old suspect's sentence was commuted to time served. He had been in prison the longest of any inmate. In poor health, he was transferred to a nursing home. Two others were convicted of robbery and sentenced to 7 to 15 years.

Officer Gordon was assigned to the Hunt Street Station. He was survived by his wife.

Police Officer Gilbert T. Stocker END OF WATCH: July 31, 1972

Military veteran and Detroit Police Officer Gilbert Stocker was shot and killed July 31, 1972, by a 19-year-old youth while attempting to question him about a stolen rifle at his second-floor apartment on Hillsboro Street, near Joy Road and I-96.

The suspect opened fire through his front door as soon as Officer Stocker and three other officers knocked on the door and identified themselves as police officers. Officer Stocker was shot in the head, and another officer was critically wounded. The suspect was captured as he fled from his apartment.

The suspect was convicted of manslaughter and felonious assault and sentenced to 12 to 19 years in prison on Dec. 19, 1972. He was paroled in July 1981.

Officer Stocker, 30, was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and served with the Detroit Police Department for seven years. He was survived by his wife and three children.



Sergeant Selwyn C. Adams END OF WATCH: March 23, 1963

Detroit Police Sergeant Selwyn Adams, 46, was shot and killed March 23, 1963, with his own service weapon while making a traffic stop at the Russell off-ramp of I-94. The man he stopped for speeding and reckless driving had been drinking after an earlier argument with his wife.

As recounted on the Officer Down Memorial Page website, Sgt. Adams holstered his gun after he stopped the vehicle and noticed the suspect's 1-year-old son strapped in the front seat of the car. The officer had the suspect hand over the car keys and exit the vehicle.

The suspect then began to struggle with Sgt. Adams and was able to obtain the officer's gun. He shot the officer three times, killing him.

The suspect surrendered to police two hours later and was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison. He served 17.5 years of a 19- to 55-year term when his conviction was overturned in 1981 on a technicality. He was released in 1982 and in 1983 he stabbed his wife to death and then fatally stabbed himself.

Sgt. Adams, a 20-year department veteran, was survived by his wife, two sons, and a daughter.

"I never got to meet the father of my father, his image lives on through memory," a grandson posted in the ODMP "reflections." "He was a great man because he had a great son, my dad. He died a hero, he is remembered as a hero."



Police Officer Brendt Leroy Stephens END OF WATCH: May 25, 1974

Detroit Police Officer Brendt Stephens, 30, was shot and killed May 25, 1974, while backing up another officer at a call involving a man with a gun. When they arrived on the scene they encountered the man, who then fled into a nearby building on the 8500 block of Chrysler Service Drive, according to the ODMP website. As the two officers ran after him, he began firing, fatally wounding Officer Stephens.

The suspect, 45, was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to life. In October of 1980, the Michigan Supreme Court commuted his conviction to voluntary manslaughter and ordered another sentencing hearing. Officer Stephens, who was assigned to the 13th (Woodward) Precinct, had served with the Detroit Police Department for two and a half years. He was survived by his wife, two daughters, a son, and his parents.

"I was 2 years old when my father was killed," his son posted on ODMP. "I don't have memories of my father. Fortunately he had a positive impact on others on and off of the job, and (they) have related these stories to me and my sisters."

"He has been missed dearly by family and friends. We appreciate everyone for leaving reflections and remembering those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the citizens of Detroit."

Police Officer Stacey Mizner END OF WATCH: Jan. 29, 1927

Detroit Officer Stacey Mizner was shot and killed Jan. 29, 1927, while he and several other officers responded to a robbery at Webster's Pharmacy at 2900 Jefferson St., a location about four blocks east of the present-day Detroit Police Officers Association headquarters.

In an exchange of gunfire, both suspects also were killed. One suspect was shot 30 times before dropping his gun. Before dying the other suspect told police that reputed Chicago gangster Tommy O'Connor, who had been convicted of killing a Chicago officer about six years prior, planned the robbery.

"Terrible Tommy O'Connor," as he was known in media accounts, was one of Chicago's most notorious gangsters during the heyday of better-known thugs such as Al Capone and Johnny Torrio.

He escaped from Chicago's Cook County Jail on Dec. 12, 1921, just five days before he was to be executed. He had been sentenced to death for killing Detective Patrick J. O'Neill of the Chicago Police Department on March 23, 1921. O'Connor was never recaptured. It was reported that he died in 1951.

Officer Mizner, 39, was scheduled to be promoted to sergeant the following week. He was survived by his wife and four children - all younger than 10 years old.



Police Officer Sherdard Raymund Brison END OF WATCH: March 5, 1990



Detroit Police Officer Sherdard Brison, 40, was shot Feb. 28, 1990, while attempting to arrest an armed robbery suspect on Livernois near the Lodge Freeway at 1:45 p.m.

As chronicled on the Officer Down Memorial Page website, Officer Brison and his partner stopped a cab after a nearby armed robbery of a dress shop. Officer Brison was patting down the passenger, who had just robbed the apparel store and injured a customer there, when the passenger pulled a pistol and shot him.

After being felled, Officer Brison sustained additional head injuries when he was struck by a car.

The suspect then shot his partner below her vest and ran. His partner killed the suspect with one round as he ran away. The suspect had been sentenced for three previous felony charges and paroled each time after barely serving any time.

Officer Brison died from his injuries six days after being shot.

Officer Brison was a U.S. Army Vietnam War veteran and had served with the Detroit Police Department for 12 years. He was survived by his wife and daughter.

In Memoriam

BAJERCIOUS — Retired Commander Arvidas Bajercius, 78, died Dec. 2, 2025. Commander Bajercius was appointed to the Department on Dec. 16, 1968, and retired March 11, 1992.

BALL — Retired Police Officer Kenneth Ball, 76, died Oct. 26, 2025. Officer Ball was appointed to the Department on June 1, 1971, and retired January 8, 2000.

BESSINGER — Retired Police Officer Gary Bessinger, 86, died Dec. 7, 2025. Officer Bessinger was appointed to the Department on Oct. 18, 1971, and retired Aug. 29, 1986.

BREWER — Retired Sergeant Ray Brewer, 92, died Dec. 4, 2025. Sergeant Brewer was appointed to the Department on Jan. 3, 1956, and retired Jan. 6, 1988.

GRANGER — Retired Sergeant Brenda Granger, 74, died Oct. 23, 2025. Sergeant Granger was appointed to the Department on Sept. 12, 1974, and retired Dec. 1, 1992.

GUFFREY — Retired Lieutenant Rudolph Guffrey, 99, died Sept. 15, 2025. Lieutenant Guffrey was appointed to the Department on June 5, 1950, and retired Dec. 10, 1975.

HANKEY — Retired Police Officer Dale Hankey, 75, died Nov. 2, 2025. Officer Hankey was appointed to the Department on Oct 4, 1971, and retired April 12, 1997.

HARPER — Retired Police Officer Carl Harper, 78, died Oct. 27, 2025. Officer Harper was appointed to the Department on Dec. 6, 1971, and retired Jan. 3, 1997.

HARRAH — Retired Police Officer Rodger Harrah, 79, died Nov. 5, 2025. Officer Harrah was appointed to the Department on Sept. 18, 1972, and retired Jan. 10, 1998.

HURLEY — Retired Police Officer Howard Hurley, 94, died Nov. 6, 2025. Officer Hurley was appointed to the Department on July 5, 1954, and retired June 27, 1992.

KAUFFMAN — Retired Police Officer Thomas Kauffman, 86, died Nov. 23, 2025. Officer Kauffman was appointed to the Department on April 27, 1964, and retired July 14, 1989.

KINNEE — Retired Police Officer Robert Kinnee, 81, died Nov. 16, 2025. Officer Kinnee was appointed to the Department on March 21, 1966, and retired April 1, 1991.

KLINEFELT — Retired Police Officer Ira Klinefelt, 86, died Nov. 4, 2025. Officer Klinefelt was appointed to the Department on Aug. 13, 1962, and retired Aug. 11, 1989.



LUDLOW — Retired Police Officer Donald Ludlow, 81, died Nov. 28, 2025. Officer Ludlow was appointed to the Department on April 3, 1967, and retired April 3, 1992.

MACDONALD — Retired Police Officer James MacDonald, 77, died Nov. 20, 2025. Officer MacDonald was appointed to the Department on Nov. 2, 1970, and retired July 3, 1998.

MILLER — Retired Commander Jerome Miller, 89, died Dec. 13, 2025. Commander Miller was appointed to the Department on March 26, 1962, and retired Dec. 3, 1986.

MORAN — Retired Police Officer Dennis Moran, 75, died Nov. 16, 2025. Officer Moran was appointed to the Department on Sept. 20, 1971, and retired March 5, 1987.

MOSBY-COLBERT — Police Officer Kim Mosby-Colbert, 65, died Oct. 14, 2025. Officer Mosby-Colbert was appointed to the Department on July 6, 1998, and died active.

NORWOOD — Retired Investigator Judith Norwood, 75, died Nov. 12, 2025. Investigator Norwood was appointed to the Department on Aug. 31, 1987, and retired Oct. 31, 2012.

ST. ONGE — Retired Sergeant Roy St. Onge, 95, died Oct. 13, 2025. Sergeant St. Onge was appointed to the Department on Oct. 3, 1955, and retired Feb. 3, 1987.

SCHMEKEL — Corporal Steven Schmekel, 65, died Dec. 19, 2025. Corporal Schmekel was appointed to the Department on April 21, 1986, and died active.

SLAPPEY — Retired Police Officer John Slappey, 85, died Nov. 6, 2025. Officer Slappey was appointed to the Department on July 8, 1968, and retired Sept. 3, 2002.

STALLWORTH — Retired Police Officer Darren Stallworth, 57, died Oct. 10, 2025. Officer Stallworth was appointed to the Department on Nov. 20, 1995, and retired Nov. 24, 2015.

TRAVIS — Retired Lieutenant Ernest Travis, 88, died Dec. 5, 2025. Lieutenant Travis was appointed to the Department on Jan. 3, 1961, and retired Jan. 4, 1996.

VANDEVENDER — Retired Police Officer Jimmie Vandevender, 91, died July 17, 2025. Officer Vandevender was appointed to the Department on July 13, 1959, and retired Aug. 3, 1985.

WARREN — Retired Police Officer Betty Warren, 78, died Nov. 7, 2025. Officer Warren was appointed to the Department on Nov. 21, 1977, and retired March 3, 1992.

WILKEWITZ — Retired Sergeant Ralph Wilkewitz, 82, died Oct. 17, 2025. Sergeant Wilkewitz was appointed to the Department on Jan. 25, 1965, and retired Jan. 27, 1990.

WILLIAMS — Retired Lieutenant Gregory Williams, 79, died Nov. 13, 2025. Lieutenant Williams was appointed to the Department on June 28, 1971, and retired Jan. 4, 2002.

ZELASKO — Retired Police Officer Richard Zelasko, 74, died Oct. 11, 2025. Officer Zelasko was appointed to the Department on June 12, 1972, and retired July 25, 1985.

ZIOLKOWSKI — Retired Police Officer Terrence Ziolkowski, 76, died Oct. 22, 2025. Officer Ziolkowski was appointed to the Department on Nov. 17, 1969, and retired July 11, 1995.

*Special Thanks to Cindy Kallapure and the
Detroit Police Benefit
and Protective Association for providing
the information used to compile these notices.*

With challenges came several legislative wins

Continued from Page 22

officers to use trauma kits, and for deployment and maintenance of the kits in vehicles and government facilities.

The PROTECT Our Children Reauthorization Act reauthorizes and improves the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Program to combat child exploitation and abuse.

The Chief Herbert D. Proffitt Act covers retired law enforcement officers who are killed or permanently and catastrophically disabled due to their previous work in the line of duty under the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program.

The TAKE IT DOWN Act establishes federal liability for those who generate and distribute deepfake intimate and explicit images, giving law enforcement needed tools to bring justice to the victims of these crimes.

NAPO Priority Legislation Passed by the House

The Improving Law Enforcement Officer Safety and Wellness Through Data Act would build on existing reporting requirements and fill data gaps to increase our understanding of the circumstances precipitating and involving ambush-style attacks against law enforcement. It would also require a report on the stresses and mental health toll these assaults have on officers and the extent to which mental health and wellness programs provided are meeting the needs of officers.

The LEOSA Reform Act would expand the areas qualified current or retired officers are allowed to carry a firearm, including in a Gun Free School Zone; on state, local and private property otherwise open to the public; and in certain federal facilities. It would allow qualified officers and retired officers to carry an ammunition magazine of any capacity that is not prohibited by federal law. Importantly, it would reform qualifications standards to alleviate undue burdens for those carrying under LEOSA.

The Common-Sense Law Enforcement and Accountability Now in (CLEAN) DC Act would revoke the District of Columbia's (D.C.) Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Act, which stripped the officers of the Metropolitan Police Department of their right to bargain over accountability or disciplinary issues, amongst many other concerning provisions.

The Protecting Our Nation's Capital Emergency Act would restore the right to negotiate disciplinary matters to D.C.'s Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officers through collective bargaining as well as restore the statute of limitations for bringing disciplinary cases against members or civilian employees of the MPD.

Additional NAPO Victories

NAPO secured language in the Fiscal 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) giving state and local law enforcement agencies comprehensive counter-UAS authority, allowing them to detect, track, identify, and mitigate drones that threaten public safety. Under the NDAA, agencies can detect and track a drone, identify who is operating it, and disrupt, or bring it down if it poses a credible threat. These authorities are allowed when drones threaten large public events or venues, critical infrastructure, public spaces, or prisons, jails, and detention centers. It also includes provisions to allow Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) and Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant funding to be used by state and local law enforcement agencies to purchase drones and authorized counter-UAS systems.

NAPO looks forward to building on these victories and continuing to press our legislative agenda in 2026.

(From the National Association of Police Organizations)

Honoring a hero



Photo courtesy of Cpl. Katherine Price

The family of Detroit Police Officer Kelvin Patrick, during a recent visit to the Michigan Fallen Heroes Memorial in Pontiac. The memorial honors Michigan police officers and fire fighters who lost their lives in the line of duty. Officer Patrick died in February 2025 from complications caused from injuries suffered when he was shot on duty in 1996.

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RETIREE & ASSOCIATE NEWS

Be aware of insurance coverage changes if you are approaching 65

If you are approaching your 65th birthday and paying for life insurance, this information is for you.

If you are retired, your pension check shows deductions for Code 40610, 40620, 40640 or 40650.

If you are active, your pay stub shows deductions for Code 40650 or 40652.

According to the

terms of the plan, your benefits and premiums will be reduced by 50 percent when you reach age 65. However, the benefits are not reduced for your spouse or dependents.

To make the change in your deduction, contact Benefits Coordinator Katie Fuquay Murphy at the DPOA office at least 30 days prior to your 65th birthday.

Have your pay stub

handy so you can tell her what deduction code you're referring to. Call her at (313) 567-8770 or write her at the DPOA office, 1938 E. Jefferson, Detroit MI 48207.

You must also contact the pension board. Write them at Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, Room 908, Detroit MI 48226 or call (313) 224-3362.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Pension Board

Detroit Police & Fire Retirement System

(313) 224-3362
(800) 339-8344
908 Coleman A. Young
Municipal Center
Detroit, MI 48226-3413

Detroit Police Benefit and Protective Association

(313) 870-9301
New Center One Bldg.
3031 W. Grand Blvd. Suite 405
Detroit, MI 48202-3023
www.dpbpa.org

Benefits Administration

Human Resources

(888) 288-2684
(313) 224-2742
(313) 224-4809
(313) 224-4813
Coleman A. Young
Municipal Center
2 Woodward Suite 1026
Detroit, MI 48226-3445

U.S. Health (ABS) Claims

(586) 826-4380
(800) 225-9674
8220 Irving
Sterling Heights, MI 48312-4621
Mail Claims to:
P.O. Box 37504
Oak Park, MI 48237-0504

Dental Program

Delta

(800) 524-0149

Optical Program

United Healthcare

(Formerly Spectera)
(800) 638-3120

Blue Cross/Blue Shield

(313) 225-0843
600 E. Lafayette
Detroit, MI 48226-2998

Blue Cross/Blue Shield

Major Accounts Claims

(800) 951-2583
This number appears on the back of
your medical, Blue Cross/Blue
Shield membership cards

CLIP AND SAVE!

The next TRADING POST ad deadline is March 27!

Ads may be dropped off at the DPOA office or emailed to

tuebordetroit@yahoo.com*

Only written and signed requests accepted

*Trading Post ads cannot be accepted by phone

What's Cooking?

With Mary Moss



Happy New Year!

Welcome to 2026! Hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year. The days are getting a bit longer each day, and spring will be here before you know it.

In the last article, I mentioned my new left knee. Recovery has been going well. The right has been talking and looks like a new right is in my future. I will now have a matching pair. At least I know what to expect with regard to recovery.

As the cold wind blows, thoughts turn to the winter comfort easily found in a hearty meal comprised of a traditional beef chili and a fully textured skillet-made cornbread.

Bon Appetit!

Mary

Beef Chili

Ingredients

1 pound lean ground beef
1 (15-ounce can) tomato sauce
1 (15 ounce) can kidney beans, drained
1 (15 ounce) can chili beans, not drained
2 tablespoons chili powder, or to taste
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Directions:

Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook and stir ground beef in the hot skillet until browned and crumbly, 5 to 7 minutes.

Stir in kidney beans, chili beans, and tomato sauce. Bring to a boil and stir in chili powder. Reduce heat to a simmer, and cook, stirring occasionally, until thickened, about 15 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper.



Three-ingredient Cornbread

This recipe is designed for a cast-iron skillet to achieve the best crust, but a greased 8- or 9-inch baking dish will also work.

Ingredients:

2 cups self-rising cornmeal (brands like Martha White or White Lily are recommended as they include leavening agents and salt)
1 to 1 ½ cups buttermilk
2-4 tablespoons bacon drippings or vegetable oil, divided

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 400°F (200°C).

Heat the skillet: Place your cast-iron skillet in the oven with 2 tablespoons of the bacon drippings or oil inside while it preheats. This step is crucial for a crispy crust.

Mix the batter: In a large bowl, combine the self-rising cornmeal and 1 cup of the buttermilk, stirring until just combined. The batter should be thick but pourable; add more buttermilk a splash at a time if it's too dry. Do not overmix.

Add to skillet: Carefully remove the hot skillet from the oven. Swirl the melted fat to coat the bottom and sides, then pour the batter into the hot skillet (it should sizzle immediately).

Bake for 20 to 25 minutes, or until the top is golden brown and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.



Planning a move? Don't forget to update your address at the DPOA office.

Send your retiree news items to **tuebordetroit@yahoo.com**

THE TRADING POST

MISCELLANEOUS

WANTED TO PURCHASE FOR A FRIEND — TMU challenge coin for a retired TMU officer. Contact R. Swanson at 810 919 8875,(24/7). New or used coin OK.

DETROIT POLICE PATCHES wanted. Will trade or buy. Call PO at 313-995-0966.

AMERICAN RIFLEMAN magazines wanted for the following years: 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1979, 1965 and 1998. Contact ret. Lt. Ralph Palmer at email address Palmer-las@aol.com.

WANTED WWII stuff — Retired DPD officer buying headgear, weapons, uniforms, insignia, photos. **DON'T THROW IT AWAY. SELL IT TO ME.** Call Mark at 313-319-1604.

WANTED — Police call boxes, parts, phones, locks and street posts; Detroit Police memorabilia. Email roccoc@juno.com or call 313-839-9042.

WANTED — Old coins, post-cards, photographs, comic books. Call 313-580-2393.

DETROIT POLICE FIRE-ARMS wanted. Any make, model or caliber firearms or long guns marked DPD or Detroit Police. Please contact Sgt. Corsetti at roccoc5255@gmail.com or call 313-410-3197.

CHALLENGE COINS — 2 inch Detroit Police Mobile Field Force Challenge Coin for sale; \$15.00 per coin plus \$3.50 shipping per coin unless picked up in person; see Maureen Whitten at DDC Platoon 2 or call 313-445-3593.

Decline in fatalities is linked to broader trends

Continued from Page 17

age, officers left behind two children.

The statistics released in the 2025 report are based on preliminary data compiled by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund and may not represent a final or complete list of individual officers who will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in 2026.

The Engraving

There are currently more than 24,000 names of officers killed in the line of duty inscribed on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C., dating back to the first known death in 1786.

For a complete copy of the 2025 End-of-Year Law Enforcement Officers Fatalities Report, go to: <https://nleomf.org/memorial/facts-figures/latest-fatality-reports/>

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR WINTER ISSUE ADVERTISERS!

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Pinnacle Wealth Strategies-Luke Nowacki
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Steven Azoury

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