

LODGE HISTORY: PHILLY 5 // P. 46

FOP JOURNAL



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Past National President

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Grand Lodge Fraternal Order of Police

National Headquarters 701 Marriott Drive, Nashville, TN 37214

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Social Security Fairness Act Update



// **WRITE TO US!** If you have further questions, contact Patrick Yoes at (504) 234-4300, or pyoes@fop.net.

Press Release: Rule Change Reversed! Social Security Fairness Act Back on Track for Consideration

July 29, Washington, D.C. — Patrick Yoes, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, welcomed today's news that the House reversed the rule adopted the previous day that complicated the path to get H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act, a vote on the House floor in September.

"Yesterday, the House voted to adopt H. Res. 1289, a short and routine administrative resolution governing debate on a legislative branch appropriations measure, but which also changed existing House rules with respect to how bills with more than 290 co-sponsors are to be considered," Yoes

explained. "It meant that we would not meet the requirements to get H.R. 82

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and ask them for
their support.**

onto the Consensus Calendar and to the House floor as we'd planned to do in

mid-September."

Following the vote, House leadership reached out to Representatives Rodney L. Davis (R-Ill.) and Abigail A. Spanberger (D-Va.), and the FOP also weighed in on the matter.

"Today we saw the impact of the FOP's resolve to get this critical bill to a House vote," Yoes said. "Just 24 hours later, the House adopted another rule change, effectively reversing their actions on Thursday. While we remain optimistic that we will get our bill to a vote, we cannot let up. Keep calling your representatives and senators and ask them for their support. As we learned yesterday, things can happen quickly, and if you're not engaged, we could lose this opportunity." **FOP**

FOP Testimony to Senate Judiciary on Violence Toward Police

With violence against law enforcement on the rise, the Senate Committee on the Judiciary held a hearing in Washington, D.C., on July 26. The following is my testimony submitted for this hearing.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Grassley and all the distinguished members of this Committee, I want to thank you for accepting this testimony for the record, which is offered on behalf of the 364,000 members of the National Fraternal Order of Police. My name is Patrick Yoes, the National president of the Fraternal Order of Police, our nation's oldest and largest law enforcement labor organization. We thank the Committee for having this hearing to discuss the issue of

violence and threats of violence targeting law enforcement officers.

This hearing has been a long time coming and has been discussed for the past several Congresses. I am pleased that this issue is finally getting the attention it deserves and disappointed I could not join you in person.

This past year has been one of the most dangerous years for law enforcement in recent history due to the increase of violence directed toward law enforcement officers, the nationwide crime crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. Frankly, it is unlike anything I've seen in my 36 years of law enforcement. Last year we saw more officers shot in the line of duty than any other since the National Fraternal Order

of Police began recording this data in late 2015. At that time, there was no government entity or other organization compiling this information, but the FOP understood the value of having this data and began tracking and recording the number of officers who were shot in the line of duty.

To the extent that we were able, we worked to identify which incidents were ambushes because the FOP views these attacks as the most dangerous and deadly. In 2018, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), under the auspices of the National Blue Alert Program, also began tracking this data. Just two years ago, the FOP received

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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an award from the COPS Office which allowed us to enhance our ability to collect this data, expand the number of data points we collect and provide better analysis — particularly with respect to the nature of the shooting incidents.

In 2021, a historic 346 law enforcement officers were shot in the line of duty; 64 of those brave men and women were killed. To make matters worse, there were 133 officers shot in 107 separate ambush-style attacks. I'm sad to report that so far this year, we are outpacing last year's historic number of officers shot and killed. This fact is disturbing and should alarm all Americans. As of 25 July, there have been 203 officers shot in the line of duty, 38 of whom were killed. When people look at this data, they often just see numbers. But we must remember that these are real people we are talking about — fathers, mothers, sons and daughters. They are heroes who suit up and show up every day to serve and protect the communities they love.

These grim numbers would be even worse, were it not for significant advancements in medical trauma science and anti-ballistic technology. Officers who are shot in the line of duty have a better chance of surviving the incident, but the number of attacks on officers continues to increase. Every felonious attack on a law enforcement officer, especially by gunfire, is disturbing regardless of the circumstances. Officers are in the line of fire and must always be vigilant and maintain the highest level of situational awareness. In most response scenarios, officers can quickly assess situations, recognize threats and take adequate defensive actions.

Tragically, not every threat can be seen or mitigated. The most troubling and dangerous incidents are ambush-style and other calculated attacks on law enforcement. Based on the guidelines set by the COPS Office — which defines "ambush-style attack" as when an officer is struck by gunfire without any warning or opportunity to defend themselves — our data shows the number of ambush-style attacks in 2021 increased by 115% from the previous year. So far this year 68 were shot in

43 separate ambush-style attacks. This should alarm all Americans.

A 2017 report from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) identified a disturbing and growing trend of attackers who are motivated by a desire to kill a law enforcement officer. This motivation, the report concludes, is from a "singular narrative that portrays the officer as guilty in traditional and social media and the subject as the victim." Fourteen of the 50 assailants — 28% — that participated in this study expressed a desire to kill law enforcement officers.

This is a frightening statement. A December 2017 study by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), which examined law enforcement officer fatalities from 2010–2016, found that 20% of ambushed officers were seated in their patrol cars and 56% of officers killed in an ambush were not on a call or engaged in any enforcement activity. Many of these officers were simply eating, sitting a post, or were targeted and killed while at their home or on their way home. All targeted, one could conclude, by someone whose sole motivation was to kill a cop.

In 2018, the Criminal Justice Information Services Division within the FBI released a report entitled *Ambushes and Unprovoked Attacks: Assaults on Our Nation's Law Enforcement Officers*. This comprehensive report concluded: "While the overall number of officers who were feloniously killed was declining, the percentage of officers feloniously killed during surprise attacks was increasing." Now that we have established that attacks on officers have been increasing and that a significant number of assailants are motivated by a desire to hurt or kill an officer, we must ask: how did we get here? How did we reach a point in our communities where law enforcement officers went from being universally respected as "Officer Friendly" — a figure parents would urge their children to seek out if they were ever in trouble — to being the subject of such distrust and disdain? And why is there no sense of urgency to address this issue in the Senate or in the Administration?

We have clearly documented a terrifying increase in violence targeted at police. Yet Congress is taking no action to address this epidemic when it could be considering the "Protect and

Serve Act" — which is something this committee ought to be considering. And yet, following the turmoil of the 2020 election and credible threats of violence against poll workers and election officials, the U.S. Justice Department has launched a full task force to address these threats.

This is obviously a serious matter, and the FOP has been engaged in outreach to the field about this effort, but I am disappointed that we know — we know — that law enforcement officers are already under threat and are being shot and killed because of the job we do — just like the election worker — and there seems to be a greater sense of urgency to potential violence against election workers than actual violence against law enforcement officers.

For the record, there is no similar task force to address violence against police. In response to threats against election officials, Senator Ossoff has introduced S. 2928, the "Election Worker and Polling Place Protection Act," which is very similar to Senator Tillis' S. 774, the "Protect and Serve Act," and creates a new federal offense in the criminal code. Similarly, Senator Blumenthal has introduced S. 2528, the "Journalist Protection Act," which creates a new federal offense and allows federal charges to be brought against anyone who inflicts bodily harm on a journalist. Why does Congress believe that election officials and journalists suddenly need additional support and protection? Because of a sharp increase in vile and violent rhetoric aimed at them for simply doing their job. And, because we know — we have actual data that demonstrates — an escalation of rhetoric against occupants of a particular profession ultimately leads to violence.

In June 2018, we witnessed the killing of five journalists in Annapolis, Maryland, by a gunman who escalated verbal harassment into mass murder. We have seen it and documented it in the profession of law enforcement since 2015. The erosion of respect for law enforcement coupled with public figures spewing antipolice rhetoric — rhetoric that is amplified by social media platforms — has fueled greater aggression toward police officers than what has been seen in previous years — undoubtedly

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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emboldening people to turn verbal assaults into brazen acts of violence against law enforcement. Anti-police rhetoric led to the mass murders of law enforcement officers in Dallas, Baton Rouge and countless other instances in which an individual was motivated solely by a desire to injure or kill a cop.

Yet there is no sense of urgency, no federal task force and no recognition of the actual physical and too often lethal violence that has targeted our nation's law enforcement. Frankly, enough is enough. We need this committee, if it is serious about addressing this kind of hate-fueled violence, to act and to act soon on S. 744, the "Protect and Serve Act." The hostility toward law enforcement is not just limited to those who attack officers, it has also been displayed by the public at large. In September 2020, two Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department deputies were shot in the head by a coward when he walked up to their squad car and ambushed them as they sat there in their vehicle.

Anti-police protesters descended on the Los Angeles hospital where the two deputies were fighting for their lives. As they blocked the entrance and exit

of the hospital emergency room, the anti-police agitators repeatedly chanted, "We hope they die!" Few condemned this heinous act and even fewer were surprised. Violent and hateful rhetoric, if left unchallenged, leads to physical violence. We have seen it happen on a widespread basis in the profession of law enforcement, and now it seems the Administration and Congress fear that verbal and social media attacks on journalists and election officials could become violent physical attacks.

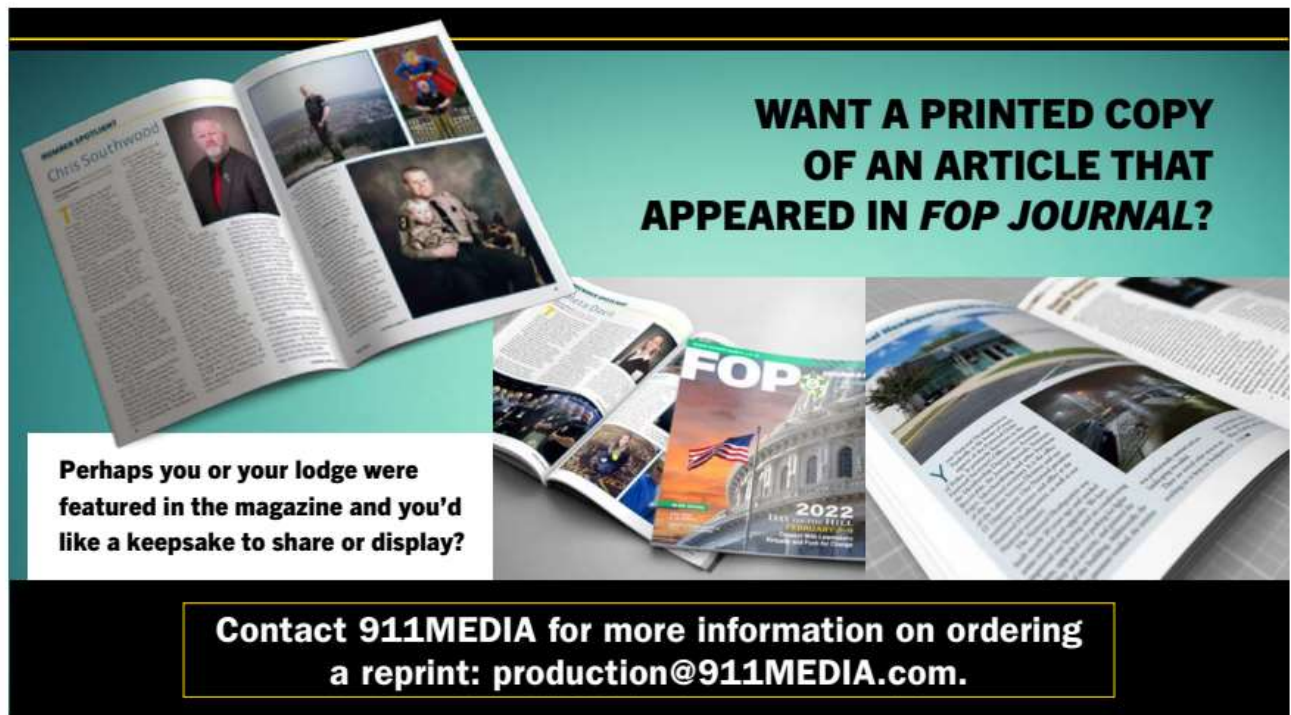
This is a legitimate concern because we know it is happening to law enforcement officers. To be in law enforcement is to put yourself in harm's way, but no officer should be at risk while simply sitting in their patrol car, standing a post or heading for home at the end of a shift. When a member of the public calls for help, we answer that call. Now is the time for our elected officials at every level of government to answer our call and support law enforcement by addressing the surge of targeted violence against police officers.

We are asking for your help now, and I again urge this Committee to consider S. 774, the "Protect and Serve Act," and send it to the floor for a vote. This bill would make it a federal offense to target a law enforcement officer with violence in

certain, limited circumstances. It would not make every attack against an officer a federal crime, but it would give the U.S. Department of Justice a tool to fight back against targeted attacks on police.

By passing this legislation, you will demonstrate in a very real way that Congress supports the men and women in law enforcement, because right now, they feel completely abandoned. Finally, I ask that each one of you join us in calling on all Americans, in every community across the country, to join us in taking a stand — to say, "Enough is enough!"

To make it absolutely clear that this type of deliberate and targeted violence is completely unacceptable; it's a stain on our society, and it must end. We must challenge the hateful rhetoric that leads to this violence — whether it is against a cop, a reporter or a poll worker — and let our communities know that it is not acceptable. It is incumbent upon you, our elected officials, as well as our community leaders, to stand up and support our men and women, and speak out against the violence aimed at law enforcement officers. I thank you all again for this opportunity to speak for the 364,000 officers in every region of our great nation. I would be pleased to answer any further questions for the record. **FOP**



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FOP: The Trusted Voice

// **WRITE TO US!** If you have further questions, contact Joe Gamaldi at jgamaldi@hpou.org.

There is no doubt in anyone's mind who the voice of law enforcement is in this country — it is the Fraternal Order of Police. We have educated the public on crime issues within their communities and the challenges impacting our profession. A recent poll suggests our reach and the public's confidence may be even stronger than we thought. Eighty-six percent of Americans believe crime and public safety are a major problem in the U.S., and 79% say crime and personal safety is one of their top concerns. In addition, 61% rate the police as doing an excellent or good job addressing crime and public safety. Possibly the most telling and compelling information is that 72% of Americans said they trust the FOP, and seven out of 10 said they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who supports policies like "defund the police."

All of these data points show that our strategy of educating the public is working, and the overwhelming majority of individuals still support police officers

and trust the work we are doing. Never one to miss an opportunity to spread a positive message, we created our own original commercial to highlight this poll. It has been posted on all our social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram), our website and our free mobile app, with a call to action for all members to spread the word. I ask you all, please take the time to watch the commercial and share it with your family, friends and co-workers, and on all your social media platforms. It is important for everyone to know who the trusted voice in this country is when talking about crime, public safety and law enforcement...the FOP!

Saying Goodbye to an Icon

As I am sure most of you are already aware, we said goodbye to an icon last month. Past National President Gil Gallegos passed away at the age of 78. Brother Gallegos had a storied career in law enforcement. Not only did he serve

as FOP National president for six years, but he also served as the National vice president for eight years and, as if that weren't enough, was the chief of the Albuquerque Police Department.

Brother Gallegos was always willing to lend a helping hand, provide guidance and share the wealth of knowledge that he amassed over his decades in leadership positions. He helped build the incredible foundation that we all now stand upon. He will truly be missed within the Fraternal Order of Police and our profession as a whole. I ask that you lift up his family and all of our brothers and sisters in New Mexico as they deal with this tremendous loss. RIP, Brother — your commitment and sacrifices will never be forgotten.

As always, be safe out there, and if you need anything, I am only a phone call, text, email, Facebook Messenger or Twitter direct message (@JoeGamaldi) away, or message me on our **free** National FOP mobile app. **FOP**

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A Sad Goodbye to Three Great FOP Leaders



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Brothers and sisters, I hope this August edition of the *FOP Journal* finds you and your families well. It has been a busy summer for us all, and especially for your National Executive Board. Most state conferences have finally returned to their normal sessions after several years of hiatus due to COVID. It is good to finally see so many good friends and make new ones.

During the past month, we have experienced some good things but have also been faced with sadness. This month's *Journal* is dedicated to past National President Gilbert Guadalupe Gallegos, who passed away on July 5. I served with Brother Gil on the National Executive Board when he was National vice president and Brother Dewey Stokes was National president. We had some great times together, working on labor issues and expanding our membership nationwide. When Brother Gil was president of Albuquerque FOP Lodge #1, he put his career on the line by leading his membership on a quest for increased pay and benefits and better terms and conditions of employment. He was a trailblazer and will always be remembered for his calm demeanor and analytical reasoning.

Another loss we felt was the passing of past D.C. Lodge #1 President and past D.C. National Trustee Louis P. Cannon on June 21. Brother Lou and I worked together on the National Board of Trustees. He was passionate in promoting the betterment of all law enforcement, but especially federal officers. He was one of the original organizers of our annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service and "Tent City" in Washington, D.C. Lou was a strong advocate of community outreach. He routinely invited citizens of various backgrounds to the lodge to engage in discussions about policing with the Lodge #1 membership. There was no greater supporter of the Auxiliary than Brother Lou.



Jimmy Holderfield and Gil Gallegos on the National Executive Board

Closer to home for me was the passing of my dear friend and brother Peter A. Fire, past National trustee from Florida. Pete was a native of Buffalo, New York. He and his wife, Janice, moved to Belleair, Florida, and Pete was employed by the Clearwater Police Department, where he retired as a detective. Pete was the president of Clearwater FOP Lodge #10 for years. He helped teach me the skills needed to run a full-service labor lodge when I was president of Jacksonville Lodge #5-30. When Pete and I were on the Florida State Lodge Executive Board, Pete was first vice president and I was second vice president. Pete decided not to run for president, but instead ran for and was elected the National trustee from Florida. I was elected president of the Florida State Lodge. Together, we worked to gain better pension benefits, the law enforcement bill of rights and job protections for deputy sheriffs. Brother Pete will be missed, but his legacy will live forever.

On a positive note, due to the extraordinary efforts of National President Yoes, National Legislative Chair and Oklahoma State President Mark Nelson, Legislative Director Jim Pasco and Legislative Staff member Tim Richardson, the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82) has received the necessary co-sponsors to have the bill heard by the House. This is the most support this legislation has ever received. There has been a motion filed for consideration, and it is anticipated that it may be heard in late September. Members are encouraged to continue to contact your representatives and urge support and passage of this much-needed legislation. Good work by the various state and local lodges that made this happen.

During the July Fourth weekend, I was on leave and traveled to Minneapolis to attend the annual

Continued on page 20 >

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Meet Jim Mullen, the man behind the sauce

My name is Jim Mullen and I am a disabled Chicago Police Officer. My extra thick and chunky applesauce is re-created from my mother's recipe. It tastes like apple pie without the crust. I believe it is the best tasting apple sauce on the market today and everyone who tries it tells me the same thing! Order some and see for yourself how delicious it is. Please note that a portion of the profits from Mullen Foods is donated to a veteran's or first responder's charity. Visit our website at Mullenfoods.com.



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SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 18 >

Shriners Convention. The Shriners is a philanthropic organization that operates 22 children's hospitals in North America that never charge for their world-class pediatric medical services. I was fortunate to have Minnesota State Lodge President Matt Hagen come by and meet with me and several Shriners/FOP members. Brother Matt was working patrol in the downtown area and gave us some great information on where to eat and where not to go. Thanks, Brother Matt.



Minnesota State Lodge President Matt Hagen stopped by to greet fellow FOP members attending the Shriners Convention.

Congratulations go out to Ohio State Lodge President Gary Wolske on his re-election, and all the brothers and sisters of the Ohio State Lodge Executive Board. The Ohio State Lodge is masterful at engaging candidates for political office with its members, and this year's conference was no different. During their hospitality events, candidates for local, state and federal offices were on hand to meet the members and discuss the priority legislative issues facing the various local lodges and the State Lodge. Ohio St. Clair Lodge #210 received the honor of being awarded the Lodge of the Year. It was a high honor to install the 2022-2024 Ohio State Lodge Executive Board. God bless you all and our members everywhere.

In closing, be safe out there, keep up the great work you are doing for the Order and your communities, and I will see you at the next meeting. **FOP**



Jimmy Holderfield with fellow Shriners/FOP members at the annual Shriners Convention in Minneapolis



The Ohio State Lodge Executive Board being sworn in by National Secretary Holderfield



The Ohio Lodge of the Year, St. Clair Lodge #210



BENEFITS OF FOP MEMBERSHIP

The Fraternal Order of Police is the world's largest organization of sworn law enforcement officers, with over 325,000 members in more than 2,100 lodges. We are committed to improving the working conditions of officers and the safety of those we serve through education, legislation, information, community involvement and employee representation. Here's a quick overview of the wide variety of services and benefits that the FOP offers to its members.

Legislative Office

The office on Capitol Hill lobbies on issues important to rank-and-file law enforcement officers. The National Legislative Program is the most active and comprehensive of any law enforcement organization in Washington.

Legal Defense Plan

This self-funded plan is available to eligible FOP groups and individual members to cover law enforcement exposures, including administrative, civil and criminal legal coverage; H.R. 218 coverage; and the Moonlighting Liability Insurance Program.

Labor Services Division

Comprehensive resources and services designed to ensure that no officer goes to the bargaining table alone. Labor Services stands ready to provide the people and resources you need for contract information, experienced legal experts, training seminars, personalized labor research and more.

National Peace Officers' Memorial Service

This solemn event is held every year during National Police Week to honor those who have given their lives in the line of duty. Open to the public, it brings together the expanded law enforcement family and national leaders, pays tribute to the fallen and offers words of comfort to their surviving family members.

FOP Journal

Published digitally 12 times a year, the *FOP Journal* is the official publication of the Grand Lodge. Each issue contains reports from the Executive Board, updates on law enforcement legal and labor issues and so much more!

Disaster Relief

As part of the NFOP Foundation, the Fraternal Order of Police Disaster Relief Fund (a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization) relies on the generosity of individuals, organizations and corporations and is always prepared to assist our members in distress.

Charity Partnerships

- **Easter Seals:** Helping children and adults with disabilities live better lives is at the heart of Easter Seals' mission, and the FOP, as a long-standing Easter Seals National Corporate Partner, has helped raise more than \$15 million. Donate online at www.easterseals.com and be sure to indicate your FOP affiliation when donating!
- **Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics:** The FOP is committed to helping people with intellectual disabilities learn to become self-reliant and contributing members of our communities.

Service Providers

The National FOP list of Service Providers currently includes Liberty Mutual insurance, Avis and Enterprise car rentals and a variety of licensed products from HALO, the official FOP merchandiser.

Education Services

The Education Services Committee develops and implements professional law enforcement training programs and events to equip members with the skills needed to enhance their careers, and has established a training schedule covering a wide spectrum of leadership, labor and legal issues. The Grand Lodge also provides scholarships to eligible applicants.

National Fraternal Order of Police University (NFOPU)

Recognizing that four-year and graduate degrees are increasingly important for law enforcement career advancement, the FOP collaborates with a select consortium of universities willing to offer members the education they need with a flexible schedule and reasonable cost. **FOP**



For more information on all of these programs, visit www.fop.net.

Despite the DA, Police Have Equal Rights in Philadelphia



// **WRITE TO US!** If you have further questions, contact Steve Weiler at (267) 249-1486, or sweiler@fop5.org.

Back in 2018, Philadelphia Police Officer Ryan Pownall came in contact with an armed adversary on a dirt bike on the streets of Philadelphia. In the course of trying to apprehend this individual, a physical struggle ensued, with the armed individual attempting to utilize his weapon. Officer Pownall immediately drew his weapon, but it jammed. He then cleared it, reacquired the target, fired and subdued the individual, all the time fearing for his life. The individual died from the gunshot, and he was no angel, having a lengthy record.

That's where District Attorney Larry Krasner and his team of cop-hating lawyers took over. They took the matter to a grand jury and completely slanted their presentation. They never told the grand jury that Officer Pownall was covered under

Pennsylvania law in firing a weapon under the very circumstances that were present for him that day. Not knowing these facts, the grand jury returned a presentment that allowed the DA's Office to secure an indictment for capital murder.

The DA's team wasn't done there. They then wanted a Commonwealth judge to prevent the defense team from offering a defense that was and is provided for under Pennsylvania law. This was on the eve of trial, and to make matters worse, they informed the judge they were going to file an appeal to Superior Court **before** she offered her opinion, which they did do. The judge denied their appeal, as did the Superior Court, allowing the defense team to offer their defense.

That was still not enough for this team of progressive prosecutors. They

appealed to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, claiming the law the defense was going to present in their defense arguments was unconstitutional and should be overturned.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court, in a 4-2 decision, determined that DA Krasner and his team were wrong. In a particularly scathing filing, Justice Kevin Dougherty further excoriated Krasner and his team at a level few have seen.

Now a trial that was supposed to start at the end of August will be further delayed as Krasner and his team seek further appeals with the U.S. Supreme Court.

For now, and I'm certain in the future, Police Officer Pownall has equal rights under the law, and so should everyone. Krasner is not a king and can't make up laws. **FOP**

Visit FOPCovid19.org



Get the latest updates on the FOP's activities in response to the coronavirus pandemic and helpful safety information for law enforcement!



If Not You, Then Who?

// **WRITE TO US!** If you have further questions, contact Keith Turnery at kturney@fop.org.

Where do I start with this month's article? The rising number of suicides among our ranks? Or perhaps the number of active shooter events across the country? The state of our United States Supreme Court? The police response in Uvalde? The number of officers killed in the line of duty? The resurgence of COVID? Gender identity issues? The war in Ukraine? Defunding the police? The lack of community support? Today's state of affairs reminds me of a couple popular songs: "Ball of Confusion" by the Temptations and "We Didn't Start the Fire" by Billy Joel. For our younger members, you should Google those songs.

I guess today I am speaking to our younger members, because I want to assure you all that what we are currently experiencing is really nothing new. As a lyric sung by Billy Joel states, "We didn't start the fire, it was always burning since the world's been turning." This is very true. Many of us understand this, and many of us have lived through these sorts of crazy times before. Many of us started our activism as law enforcement representatives during trying times similar to today. The turmoil in our country back then energized many of us to get involved and try to change things. We tried to change the world. In some areas we were successful; in other areas we failed miserably.

I say all that above to say all this below. Do not give up. Don't become jaded by the current state of affairs. Do not check out. Don't convince yourself that there is nothing that you can do. Your energy is needed. It's required! The workforce we

have entering law enforcement now is more highly educated than ever before. You are well equipped to deal with the obstacles society has placed in front of you. So don't give up.

I often hear that our younger officers have already checked out. I hear that from them personally, from their peers and repeatedly from senior officers. It seems an air of frustration exists, particularly when one looks at the polarization of our political parties and the breakdown of our well-established institutions. We often hear, "What's the use?"

If there was ever a time to become engaged, it's now. The world is in flux and well-established rules and norms are moving in directions never imagined. This is exactly the time to leap in headfirst! You could be the one who changes the current trajectory.

As all things change, there are still truths that will last forever. To quote the first-century scholar Hillel the Elder, "If not you, then who? If not now, when?" Make it happen! The future needs you...

As always, God bless you all and God bless the FOP. **FOP**

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

The FOP constantly endeavors to hear about the experiences of our members, so that we can understand how best to serve you.

The FOP was selected to partner with the Department of Justice to build standardized training in law enforcement peer support. Share your thoughts with us on how this training can best help our profession at surveymonkey.com/r/PowerInPeers.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Les Neri

JIMMY HOLDERFIELD / NATIONAL SECRETARY

This month's Member Spotlight recognizes one of the Fraternal Order of Police's modern-day legends, Pennsylvania State Lodge President Les Neri. Brother Les is known to be a proficient labor and legislative leader. He demonstrates his ability to think critically, which gives him the advantage when dealing with complex issues. Les is a true, solid and proven leader, not only in the Order but in the community. Here are some of the interesting facts about President Neri.

Les Neri was born and raised in the city of Philadelphia and began his career in law enforcement at the age of 19. He retired from the Tredyffrin Township Police Department in Chester County at the rank of detective. He spent most of his 40 years in law enforcement as a career street cop assigned to patrol and investigations.

While serving the public, Les realized there was an even higher calling — that of protecting the protectors. Through his involvement with his local FOP lodge, he began to assist his brothers and sisters with collective bargaining, pension and grievance issues, gaining a reputation for successful outcomes. Over the past 30 years, Les has participated in hundreds of contract negotiations, arbitrations, grievances, unfair labor practices and discipline cases. Les has also been recognized as an expert witness on police labor matters before the Federal Third Circuit Court.

Les was elected National second vice president at the 2015 Centennial National Conference in Pittsburgh and served in that position for three terms. Brother Les chose to retire from the National Executive Board in 2021 at the Conference in Indianapolis. Les was instrumental in bringing about major changes to the National FOP, most notably the creation of the electronic



monthly *Journal*. His vision and determination resulted in savings of over \$700,000 a year to the National FOP with a timely and expanded content format. The *Journal* is now delivered monthly and is filled with useful information for our members and their families.

In addition to his duties as National second vice president, Les served as the president of the Pennsylvania State Lodge from 2008 until August 2022. This month, he chose to retire as president, which has saddened many brothers and sisters, not only in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, but around the nation as well. He has assured everyone that he will still be involved in helping the Order grow, and newly elected President Joe Reagan will help guide it to the next level. Les has also served as the Pennsylvania State Lodge vice president

and financial secretary, as well as a local lodge president, giving him a total of 28 years of FOP administrative experience.

As a member of the Pennsylvania State Lodge Executive Board, Les has worked hard to achieve legislative victories that have significantly benefited members and their families. The most notable have included 100% killed-in-service pensions, 100% college tuitions for children of officers killed in service, retroactive survivors' pension benefits and retiree cost-of-living increases. Additionally, and most importantly, Les and his board have successfully defeated all legislative attempts

to diminish police pensions and their collective bargaining rights.

Some of President Les Neri's career highlights are as follows:

47 Years of Law Enforcement Experience

- Began law enforcement service at age 19
- Career street cop assigned to patrol and investigations
- Remained rank-and-file member working alongside bargaining unit members every day

37 Years of FOP Labor and Legislative Experience

- Local departmental bargaining unit president
- County FOP labor representative
- Qualified expert witness in police labor matters
- Achieved local and state legislative



- changes including the following:
- 100% killed-in-service pensions
 - 100% college tuition for children of officers killed in service
 - Retroactive survivors' pension benefits
 - Retiree cost-of-living increases
 - Defeated all legislative attempts to diminish police pensions and collective bargaining rights

28 Years of FOP Administrative Experience

- FOP local lodge president: 2 terms
- FOP State Lodge financial secretary: 3 terms
- FOP State Lodge vice president: 2 terms
- FOP State Lodge president: 9 terms
- FOP National second vice president: 3 terms

Visit fop.net/profile/les-neri to watch a video with more detail about Brother Les.

Les mentors and encourages members, especially younger ones, to get involved with the Fraternal Order of Police. He shares his insightfulness, wisdom, experience and political craftsmanship to any who ask. He is truly a “police officer’s police officer” and always has our backs. He has given so much to our great organization. Now, he is looking forward to spending more time with his two granddaughters, Gabriella (3½) and Mary (2). There is no doubt that they are also looking forward to spending more time with “Pop-Pop.” Good luck on your next journey, Brother Les. **FOP**



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

In Memoriam: Louis P. Cannon (July 20, 1950 – June 21, 2022)

MICHAEL F. MURPHY /
DC FOP LODGE #1 PRESIDENT

Louis P. Cannon, or “Lou,” as many called him, led a life of service that started with a tour in the United States Navy from 1970 until 1973. Later in 1973, he began a long tour with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). During his time with MPD, Lou worked as a patrol officer, a tactical officer and a vice officer in the First and Second Districts. In 1983, freshly promoted to the rank of sergeant, he took an assignment in the Third District, where he again worked in various positions. In October 1990, he volunteered and was detailed to MPD’s Rapid Deployment Unit (RDU), where he was affectionately known as the “Little Commander.” Lou loved being part of this unit and often referred to it as one of his great experiences on MPD.

Lou excelled at everything police-related, and his writing skills, knowledge of police procedure, and understanding of the laws of the District of Columbia and the United States made him a first-round pick for many citywide units. To this day, there are still many officers, active and retired, who owe Lou a thank-you for helping them understand their rights as police officers. On many occasions, he helped with his wisdom by writing them out of the trouble that street policing sometimes brings.

As one of the founding members of MPD’s Fraternal Order of Police in Washington, D.C., Lou watched Lodge #1 grow from 3,200 members to one of the largest FOP organizations in the country at more than 10,000 members. He also helped the lodge grow into representing as many as 40-plus different law enforcement agencies at one time or another.

Part of Lou’s legacy is being the longest-serving president in the history of D.C. Lodge #1, lasting 18 years, or nine consecutive terms, in the position. He held several positions on the Board of Directors



and later served as the National trustee, chairman of the National Police Week Committee and chairman of the trustees for D.C. Lodge #1.

Lou worked tirelessly to improve himself, and pushed the membership and the people around him to invest in themselves by improving their knowledge of the FOP and their rights.

After leaving MPD, Lou joined the Library of Congress Police for a short time until a position became available at the Department of the Treasury’s U.S. Mint Police. He rose through the ranks at the U.S. Mint and was appointed to the position of chief. Later in Lou’s career, he became chief of the Federal Census Bureau and later became the chief of D.C.’s Protective Services Department, with responsibility for all city property.

In recent years, he worked for

the U.S. Marshals Service, which is responsible for the security of the U.S. District Court and D.C. Superior Court.

In what spare time Lou had, he traveled the country in many of his positions, providing security expertise as a consultant for those without his skills and knowledge.

Lou was truly loved and will be missed by many who were touched by his wisdom, wit and laughter.

Lou was immediately survived by his wife of 13 years, Bonnie Cannon; his daughters, Jennifer Cannon and Megan Edwards (Jeffrey); his stepsons, Chris Patrick (Sandra) and Matt Patrick (Kara); and his grandchildren, Brennan Patrick, Peyton Patrick, Wyatt Patrick, Hunter Patrick, Tucker Edwards, Harper Edwards, Tinley Edwards, Jameson Patrick and Holden Edwards. **FOP**

DELAWARE

Dewey Beach Police Officer Receives National Honors

On June 17, Dewey Beach Police Officer Jack Kane was recognized with a national award for his bravery and actions during a fire that consumed three local homes in April. He received the American Police Hall of Fame Life Saving Award for bringing credit to himself and his department, saving lives and setting a standard of bravery for all to follow.

Kane was on patrol during the early morning hours of April 16 when he saw smoke in the air and noticed an orange glow coming from a house. After calling the fire department, he ran to the back of the home, where he gained entry and was able to help six people and a dog to safety.

Other than a minor burn Kane sustained to his hand during rescue efforts, no injuries were reported from the fire, which caused damages



Dewey Beach Police Lieutenant Billy Hocker and Chief Sam Mackert presenting Officer Jack Kane with the American Police Hall of Fame Life Saving Award

estimated at more than \$1 million.

Kane has been a full-time officer with the Dewey Beach Police

Department for two years and was a seasonal officer for two years before to that. **FOP**

There Is ALWAYS Another Option

FOP Vetted and Approved Crisis Hotlines



FOP.net/officer-wellness/crisis-hotlines



REMEMBERING A TRUE LEADER

Past National President Gilbert (Gil) G. Gallegos Passes Away

JAMES FLORES / HISTORY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

The Fraternal Order of Police lost a great leader on July 5, 2022. Our friend Gil Gallegos left us much too soon, as he wished to help FOP members across the country for many more years. He lived it, breathed it and hung in there as long as he possibly could. Our brother still had a lot to offer, and continued to be a respected leader long after he became “past president.”

Early Years

Gil was born on December 12, 1943, in the North Valley in Albuquerque to Quirino and Bernadita Gallegos. As a young man, he delivered prescriptions on his bicycle for Duran’s Pharmacy in Old Town. The pharmacy is still in existence today. Gil graduated from Valley High School in 1961 and joined the New Mexico Air National Guard.



Newly elected National Vice President Bernie Teodorski, newly elected President Gil Gallegos and Gil’s campaign manager, James Flores, at the 52nd National FOP Conference in Virginia Beach in 1995. This marked the beginning of Gil’s first term as National president!

Law Enforcement Career

On September 2, 1964, Gil entered the Albuquerque Police Academy, graduating on December 18, 1964. He graduated on a Friday and started work the following Monday. Minimal on-the-job training (OJT) took place during the academy. APD’s post-graduation OJT program at the time consisted of giving you a marked unit and sending you out to your beat to take calls. Gil and his academy classmates worked eight-hour shifts, six days per week. No overtime was paid in those days.

Early in his career, he attended the University of Albuquerque, earning an

associate degree in police science in 1973 and a bachelor’s degree in criminology in 1975. Later in his career, he attended the FBI Academy and other management trainings and seminars.

Officer Gallegos rose through the ranks, eventually retiring as deputy chief in 1988. During his career he worked patrol, investigations and traffic, which was one of his favorite assignments. He was also an instructor at the academy for many years. Being an avid runner, this was right up his alley. He was assigned to the academy as an officer, sergeant and lieutenant. He returned to APD after being appointed to the position of police



Gil was ecstatic as the vote count was read at the 1995 National FOP Conference.



Past National Treasurer Tom Penoza, New Mexico National Trustee James Flores, past National President Chuck Canterbury, past National President Gil Gallegos and past Albuquerque Lodge #1 President Ray Duran at the New Mexico State Conference in Albuquerque in 2003

chief in 2001, retiring again in 2005. As chief, he took care of his troops, and officer safety was always his primary concern. Officers' rights and due process was a close second.

The Strike

A funny thing happened when Gil was a sergeant, although maybe it did not seem so funny at the time. In 1975, APD's uniforms and detectives went on strike. The union's command center was none other than the FOP

Albuquerque Lodge #1. The strike began on July 12 at 1603 hours. Four days later, on July 16, five sergeants joined their brothers and sisters and walked out. One of them was Brother Gil. Eventually, two more sergeants joined the strike. Gil was fired, but he was later rehired as a patrolman. Soon after, he got his stripes back. Although he had a wife and two children to house and feed, he did what he felt he needed to do for the good and welfare of the officers.

That's what you call having a big set of cojones! Ultimately, the union negotiated an 8% across-the-board raise, a 4% step increase and a one-time Christmas Day bonus for 1976 of 6%! If you have your December 2016 issue of the *Journal*, you can read more about "The Strike."

FOP Career

Gil was a lifelong member of Albuquerque Lodge #1, getting sworn in the day he graduated from the academy. He served as New Mexico National trustee for several years and was a lobbyist for the New Mexico State Lodge. He was part of the team that brought 20-year retirements for law enforcement in New Mexico. Gil was then appointed chairman of the National Legislative Committee. He walked the halls of Congress for four years, establishing good working relationships with senators and representatives on both sides of the aisle. He was well respected at the Capitol, which enabled him to accomplish many legislative victories.

With 22 years of FOP experience under his belt, he decided to run for National vice president. In 1987, at the 48th National FOP Conference in Mobile, Alabama, Gil ran for VP on the "Unity Team" ticket. The team also featured Dewey Stokes (president),

Continued on page 30 >



Gil Gallegos and James Flores shortly after Gil's presidential campaign victory in 1995



Brother Gil Gallegos with some of his New Mexico delegates on the last day of the 55th National Conference in Phoenix in 2001. This ended his last term as president.

REMEMBERING A TRUE LEADER

Continued from page 29 >

Ralph Orms (secretary), Bill Nolan (treasurer), Bernie Toedorski (conductor) and George Austin (sergeant at arms). The entire slate was elected. This began an eight-year run for Gil as National VP. Gil supervised New Mexico's Region 1 Drug Task Force while serving as vice president.

"Gil was loyal and worked hard for the FOP as vice president," said past President Dewey Stokes. "FOP was first for Gil. With his support we paved the way to the future for all law enforcement and the Fraternal Order of Police. We all owe Gil's family a big thank-you for sharing him. Gil and I had our disagreements from time to time, but we always remained friends."

In 1995, at the 52nd National FOP Conference in Virginia Beach, Gil ran for and was elected National president as part of the "Solidarity Team." In addition to Gil, this slate consisted of Bernie Toedorski (vice president), Jerry Atnip (secretary), Mel Beverlin (treasurer), Jim Lis (conductor) and Billy Peacock (sergeant at arms). He ran successfully for re-election twice, serving for six years as president. In addition to many other important issues, Gil worked diligently on H.R. 218 (concealed carry), which was eventually signed by President George

W. Bush in 2003. He also worked to get our Public Safety Officers' Benefit (PSOB) increased on a regular basis and was a major player in it becoming law in the first place. The death benefit, which was established at \$50,000 on September 26, 1976, is at \$389,825 today. President Gallegos was also deeply involved with Easter Seals during his time as president.

Gil chose not to run for re-election in 2001 at the National Conference in Phoenix. Even with pressure coming from all directions to do so, Gil would not run, keeping a promise to Steve Young. Gil supported Brother Young in his presidential bid in Phoenix instead.

Gil ran for National executive office seven times, and he was victorious seven times. I am proud to have been his campaign manager for the last six campaigns. I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to travel the country to campaign, raise money and get our message out there. Many FOP members from the great state of New Mexico played a vital role over the years in helping Gil get to a position where he could help FOP members across the country. We knew what we had in Gil, and we wanted everyone else to know, too.

Past National Vice President Bernie Toedorski stated, "Gil embodied all the traits of a great leader. He led by example. He was dedicated to the



President Gil Gallegos participating in a parade during Police Week in Washington, D.C.

people he served, always willing to listen and lend an empathetic ear. All of this he brought with him to the National Fraternal Order of Police."

Later in 2001, Gil was nominated by President George W. Bush to the position of chairman of the U.S. Parole Commission. Before Senate confirmation, Gil was offered the chief's position at the Albuquerque Police Department. He accepted, and led the men and women of APD with the same integrity and loyalty we all knew him for. President Gallegos and President Bush became good friends. When I had the opportunity to spend 90 seconds with President Bush (thanks, Pasco!) at a campaign event in Albuquerque in 2004, he asked about Gil and told me how much he



Newly elected National FOP President Gil Gallegos and Campaign Manager James Flores with the New Mexico delegation in Virginia Beach, 1995

respected him. For me, it didn't get any better than that!

After serving as APD chief, Brother Gil applied for, and was hired as, a National FOP Labor Services representative, which was his last job. He held this position from August 2007 to May 2013. Gil negotiated many contracts and represented many of our members during grievance hearings across the Southwest. Gil became a labor rep after serving as our National president. Again, for Gil, it was all about serving the members.

During his time on the National Executive Board, he was often in conference with President Bill Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, President Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle, along with several attorneys general.

Things about our beloved Gil you may not know:

- He was a member of the Blue Knights Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club.
- He had Dallas Cowboys season tickets.



The late Ray Duran (past Albuquerque Lodge #1 president) with close friend and newly appointed APD Police Chief Gil Gallegos in 2001

- He loved music, especially Spanish, jazz and oldies rock 'n' roll.
- One of his favorite pastimes was going to concerts and visiting other music venues at home or while travelling. Gil and I went to a Santana concert together shortly after he became chief.

Past National Treasurer Tom Penozza said about Gil, "I am honored to have

served on the Board of the National Fraternal Order of Police with Gil for 32 years. Gil was a friend and mentor to many. His calm demeanor was an example we should all follow. I am proud to call Gil my friend."

Gil loved his family and his family's history, and was proud of his North Valley roots. He was thankful to be a New Mexico FOP member, and was proud of all the hard work and sacrifices made by so many members of NM FOP as he rose through the ranks to become our National president. God bless each and every one of you; you know who you are.

New Mexico has suffered a great loss, as has everyone in FOP Nation. Those who knew Gilbert G. Gallegos knew he was a humble man. He had no ego, no personal agenda, and loved each and every one of us.

Gil leaves behind daughter Maria Henderson, son Gilbert Gallegos, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and many other family members and close friends.

Rest in peace, Brother. Your work down here is done. You served with dignity and integrity. Vaya con Dios. **FOP**



President Gil Gallegos with President George W. Bush at the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service on May 15, 2001



Staying Connected With Our Strongest Support

SHERRI MARTIN / DIRECTOR OF WELLNESS

In a recent discussion with an FOP leader who is also a leader in his police agency, he shared that he had witnessed an uptick in his officers struggling with relationship and marital problems, but not in the typical ways you might think. He went on to explain that with staff shortages and problems with recruitment and retention have come greater demands on those who remain: forced overtime, longer-than-anticipated shifts, more time away from home. “They are working so much that they don’t have time to spend with their spouses, and they are growing apart and becoming roommates,” he said.

This leader was concerned about this unanticipated effect of the extra work being piled on our officers, and he was right to be concerned. From previous research conducted by the FOP Division of Wellness Services, we know that officers consistently mark family as their biggest concern and often their strongest source of support when things are tough. When these relationships falter, it may place seemingly unbearable stress on our officers, as they are not only dealing with decreased support with stressors at work, but also bearing the added stressor of separation (physical or emotional) from those they love. In fact, over 50% of law enforcement suicides are presumed to be partially motivated by relational discourse and difficulties (Ivanoff, 1994). While we often talk about officer burnout and compassion fatigue as resulting from overworking our officers, we rarely look closely at the collateral damage — that suffered outside the workplace.

In the field of officer wellness, we have become increasingly aware of the importance of caring and providing services for not only the officer themselves, but their life partners and families as well. Our own organization’s National FOP Auxiliary provides invaluable support to our members, as do the many state and local FOP auxiliaries. Police agencies are also increasingly providing services and support to families of their personnel, encouraging them to band together to provide support for their officers.

While we always encourage our members to nurture relationships with family, with the current state of our profession, struggling with record-low staffing, we know that many times officers find themselves stuck at work, called upon to give more to the agency and hoping that their families will understand. As we continue to support each other, the Division of Wellness Services would like to provide some practical tips for staying connected with those who provide the greatest support during these most difficult of times.

If You Can, Take Your Vacation Time!

There are few things more frustrating or upsetting than making plans and then having them canceled by some force outside your control. (I have experienced this as both an officer and a police spouse!) However, we also all know that one officer who signs up for every overtime shift and never uses their vacation time. For many, it is difficult to take a day off, due to feelings of commitment either to

the agency, to brothers and sisters in blue who are also overworked, or to the families at home we are working to support. However, time is a precious commodity, and we are all entitled to some downtime. Unlike money, once time is spent, you can't make more and you can never get it back. **Spend your time where it counts!**

Share a Family Meal

Stuck at work or constantly working an evening shift so that you are never home for a family meal? Consider bringing the family to you. Have your spouse or family meet you on your meal break. If visiting a restaurant in your community doesn't feel comfortable to you while on duty, find a space at your department where you can share a meal. Most police agencies have kitchens or other areas where officers can take their meal break. Bringing the family "in house" not only gives them the opportunity to share time with you, but it also might be an opportunity for them to learn more about your workplace, feel more comfortable about your safety or make connections with your brothers and sisters in blue (and even their families who are also in for a visit!).

Talk About It

Share your feelings of frustration about long shifts with your family, and encourage them to share theirs with you. This does two things: It lets each of you know that you are not alone, and it reminds each of you that your time together is important and missed. Allow your loved ones to vent about it without interpreting it as an attack on you, and instead remind yourself that they simply miss your presence. Talk about special times that you have shared together, and laugh about special jokes. Recalling the things that

have brought you closer will help you remain close. If you find communication difficult, share this article with your loved ones and let them know that you understand that it isn't easy sometimes. This might be one way to start opening lines of communication.

Be Intentional With Scheduling

Even if plans get shifted at the last moment due to an order-in or an emergency, don't stop making plans. Things that we don't plan are seldom likely to happen, so make plans and write them down. Whether it looks like a weekly calendar with time blocked out for family time or special days marked on a calendar that all can look forward to, **write it down**. Then make sure that everyone involved can see it and be reminded that time together is coming soon. Consider adding detail by specifying what activity you will do, because the more specific a plan, the more likely it is to come to fruition.

Don't Give Up!

Anticipate that plans for time with family may sometimes have to be canceled or postponed. Also know that disappointment and frustration will follow. Then remember that those feelings arise because of love between you and those special to you, hold on to that notion and then use it to fuel determination to keep on planning for the next times together. Like most officers, families of police officers are resilient people, and most would never trade life with their officer for anything. **FOP**

REFERENCE

Ivanoff, A. (1994). *The New York City Police Training Project*. New York: Police Foundation.

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SilverSneakers®, the fitness program that comes with Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Medicare Advantage plans, has several online tools you can use to stay active. They provide education and resources to help you stay safe, fit and healthy, whether you like to go to a fitness center or want to work out at home.

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Editor's Note: The FOP is dedicated to helping all of its members and their families thrive and improve their standard of living. That's why the FOP has teamed up with Aetna to offer four Aetna Medicare Advantage PPO plan options that provide members with comprehensive medical, prescription, hearing and vision benefits. As part of this partnership, Aetna will be sharing helpful information about its plans, wellness-related news and more in each issue of the *FOP Journal*.



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The vision of University of the Cumberlands is to be a university of distinction that encourages professional and intellectual growth in a student-focused community.

University of the Cumberlands is proud to support members and families of the Fraternal Order of Police. We have partnered with the National FOP University to offer members and their families exceptional academic programs that are structured to be some of the most affordable in the nation. FOP members can apply to University of the Cumberlands free of charge.

The University of the Cumberlands, a regionally accredited university, offers online and on-ground associate, bachelor's and master's degrees in criminal justice to criminal justice practitioners and to recent college graduates.

The online Bachelor's in Criminal Justice degree program from University of the Cumberlands can help you prepare for a career in criminal justice or advance your career in the field of criminal justice. Criminal justice courses enable students to communicate and practice effectively on the job with clients

and colleagues so they may pursue lives of responsible service and leadership.

UC's accomplished faculty teach our criminal justice online classes and help you to enhance your understanding of the roles of society and law enforcement in response to unlawful behavior. In these courses, students gain an appreciation of the diversity of humanity and an understanding of how cultural factors impact everyone in the criminal justice system. Students will also strengthen critical-thinking skills by fostering an understanding of criminal conduct and behaviors, and by clarifying personal values related to working with lawbreakers.

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curriculum is planned with an awareness of the common prerequisites and academic preparation needed for students to pursue leadership roles in the field. The online master's degree program builds upon UC's long tradition of community service and our commitment to ethical leadership. The online master's degree program provides opportunities for rural and local criminal justice agency personnel to interact with other professionals employed in criminal justice administration positions throughout the nation, and also allows our students to gain a firsthand perspective on how larger agencies operate, including state and federal authorities. Numerous transfer credit pathways are available for students who possess qualifying prior learning experiences.

The faculty leading our online Master's in Justice Administration degree program have extensive field experience and are aware of the risks and pressures faced by personnel in the field. Many of our online master's faculty currently work in the criminal justice field, and many have also served their country with honor as members of the military. They are committed to working with nontraditional

students in UC's Master's in Justice Administration online degree program by allowing students to work, study and interact with faculty as permitted by the students' professional schedules.

The online Master's in Justice Administration degree offers core areas of study, including but not limited to criminological theory, ethical issues in justice administration, legal issues, human resource management and leadership fundamentals. Upon completing all core requirements, students choose two specialization tracks within their online master's degree program, with options including:

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The commitment of University of the Cumberlands to criminal justice students extends to include students interested in our online graduate-level Criminal Justice Management Certificate and our online Ph.D. in Leadership degree with a concentration in Criminal Justice.

University of the Cumberlands is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate, baccalaureate, master's, education specialist and doctorate degrees. Questions about the accreditation of University of the Cumberlands may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097; by calling (404) 679-4500; or by using information available on SACSCOC's website (www.sacscoc.org).

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The National Fraternal Order of Police University (NFOPU) has successfully paved the way for hundreds of FOP members to pursue higher or continued education. For more information on the NFOPU Consortium, go to fopconnect.com/education-connect/about-the-consortium.



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Top Priority Update: 290+ Co-Sponsors on H.R. 82!



Since the FOP initiated a new, targeted lobbying campaign to push us over 290 co-sponsors on H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act, we added 12 co-sponsors in the month of July! After reaching this mark, Representatives Davis and Spanberger filed a motion with the Office of the Clerk, formally requesting that the bill be placed on the Consensus Calendar pursuant to the rules of the House. Now, in order for the bill to be added to the Consensus Calendar, we must **maintain at least 290 co-sponsors** for a cumulative period of **25 legislative days** — and we are running out of legislative days. According to the sponsor's offices, **if we drop below the 290 threshold, the clock will reset and, if that happens, there won't be enough legislative days remaining to pass the bill.**

We are urging our members to continue to reach out to their representatives. If they are a co-sponsor, thank them! If they are not, ask them to demonstrate their support for law enforcement by cosponsoring H.R. 82. **We need to continue our campaign!**

If we maintain and grow our support, the measure should be added to the calendar and brought to the floor for a vote in late September.

All the information about H.R. 82/S. 1302 is available on the FOP website. Our members can also be directed to the FOP's online Action Center at votervoice.net/FOP/home and votervoice.net/FOP/Campaigns/80564/Respond.

House Passes Two FOP-Backed bills

The House of Representatives passed two bills this month that were supported by the National Fraternal Order of Police:

- H.R. 521, the Fair Return for

Just the Facts:

» The FOP has reached the threshold of 290 co-sponsors to place H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act, on the House Consensus Calendar — but it needs to maintain at least that number of co-sponsors for 25 legislative days to have a chance of passing in this session. All members are urged to reach out to their representatives to encourage support of this bill. The House passed two other FOP-backed bills, the FAIR Retire and Active Shooter Alert acts, and Senate committees favorably reported two more, the EARN and Public Safety Officer Support acts. In addition, the FOP is working to push back on adverse portions of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 as it moves from the House to the Senate.

Employees on Their Initial Retirement Earned (RETIRE) Act

- H.R. 6538, the Active Shooter Alert Act

The Fair RETIRE Act would allow federal law enforcement officers who have been severely injured in the line of duty to maintain their 6(c) early retirement if they take a civil service position after their injury. This bill was passed on a 417–0 vote and was transmitted to the Senate.

The Active Shooter Alert Act would establish a national coordinator within the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to establish and administer an Active Shooter Alert Communications Network. This bill was passed on a 260–169 vote and was transmitted to the Senate.

We are working with the Senate sponsors of both bills to get them to the Senate floor, where we believe they can pass and be sent to the president for his signature.

Senate Committee on Finance Advances FOP-Supported Bill

The Senate Committee on Finance favorably reported the Enhancing American Retirement Now (EARN) Act, which included S. 4312, the Police and

Fire Health Care Protection Act.

This FOP-supported bill would eliminate the requirement that payments be made directly to providers of accident or health plans or qualified long-term care insurance contracts as a condition of eligibility for the tax exclusion of distributions from tax-exempt retirement plans for such health and long-term care insurance.

The FOP will now work to ensure that this bill passes the Senate and that the House version advances through the committee as well.

Legislative Update: H.R. 6943/S. 3635, the Public Safety Officer Support Act

Last month, the Senate Committee on the Judiciary favorably reported S. 3635, the Public Safety Officer Support Act. This bill, which was passed on a unanimous voice vote, recognizes the service-connected nature of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), acute stress disorder and other similar stress disorders that may lead an officer to attempt or commit suicide. The legislation would expand the eligibility of certain officers or their surviving family members for the death and disability

benefits provided by the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) program in cases of service-connected suicide or attempted suicide.

The bill provides that if an officer is diagnosed with acute stress disorder, PTSD or another similar mental health condition and commits or attempts to commit suicide, it is presumed to "constitute personal injury" as defined in the PSOB statute. This would allow the officer or their surviving family to claim the death or disability benefit administered by the PSOB program.

The bill also establishes a similar presumption that any officer "who has contacted or attempted to contact the employee assistance program of the agency or entity that the officer serves, a licensed medical or mental health professional, suicide prevention services, or another mental health assistance service in order to receive help, treatment, or diagnosis" is also eligible to make a PSOB death or disability claim.

Finally, the legislation recognizes the cumulative and corrosive effects of the mental stress suffered by law enforcement and other public safety officers. Just as



an officer may die from a gunshot wound years after being shot, some officers reach a point where they are overcome and consider suicide. To address this, the bill creates the same presumption for any public safety officer who is exposed to a mass casualty, mass death or mass shooting event. Responses to incidents like Sandy Hook, the Pulse nightclub

and the Las Vegas shooting may not have an immediate impact on many officers whose training and mental resiliency allow them to respond to the crisis and, in many cases, cope with their trauma and continue to serve. But some officers — too many — are unable to cope. They

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BLUE VIEW

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Top Priorities in Brief

H.R. 82/S. 1302, the Social Security Fairness Act

House: 292 co-sponsors (205 D, 87 R)

Senate: 40 co-sponsors (34 D, 4 R, 2 I)

Urge Congress to pass it:

<http://tinyurl.com/yc84zf3m>

H.R. 962/S. 1888, the Law Enforcement Officers' Equity Act

House: 103 co-sponsors (78 D, 25 R)

Senate: 4 co-sponsors (3 D, 1 R)

Urge Congress to pass it:

<http://tinyurl.com/37afz34h>

H.R. 3225, the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act

House: 32 co-sponsors (22 D, 10 R)

Urge Congress to pass it:

<http://tinyurl.com/5h6mtmvt>

H.R. 1210/S. 1610, the LEOSA Reform Act

House: 59 co-sponsors (1 D, 58 R)

Senate: 2 co-sponsors (2 R)

Urge Congress to pass it:

<http://tinyurl.com/5e4m94rj>

H.R. 3079/S. 774, the Protect and Serve Act

House: 87 co-sponsors (7 D, 80 R)

Senate: 23 co-sponsors (23 R)

Urge Congress to pass it:

<http://tinyurl.com/mvursja>

To see a full list of legislation supported by the FOP, please visit tinyurl.com/ycy5k5rv. Members should continue to monitor the FOP's social media platforms and our website for the latest legislative news! To send a message to your members of Congress asking them to support FOP priority legislation, visit the FOP Action Center at votervoicenet.com/FOP/home.

WASHINGTON REPORT

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may struggle in silence and not seek the help they need, or develop unhealthy coping mechanisms like substance abuse that accelerate their downward emotional spiral until they reach that dark place and see suicide as a solution to their pain. We need to do everything we can to help these officers — indeed, we have a responsibility to do so. However, on those occasions in which we fail them, we absolutely cannot fail the families they leave behind or fail to help the officer who survives the attempt. They should be eligible to file a claim with the PSOB program, and the bill would make that possible.

The FOP is working with our partners in the Senate to bring the identical House companion bill, H.R. 6943, to the floor under a unanimous consent agreement. We hope to get the bill to the president before the August recess.



Steven M. Dettelbach

Senate Confirms Next Director of Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

The Senate confirmed the nomination of Steven M. Dettelbach to be the next director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

This nomination passed on a 48–46 vote. Dettelbach is the first Senate-confirmed nomination to lead the ATF since 2015. He is the former United States attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, a post he held from 2009 until 2015.

Supreme Court of the United States

The Supreme Court of the United States issued two rulings in June that may impact our members.

New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen held that it is unconstitutional to require individuals to show “proper cause” to be issued a license to carry a concealed firearm outside their home. The 6–3 opinion was written by Justice Clarence Thomas. You can read the opinion at supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/20-843_7j80.pdf.

The second decision, *Vega v. Tekoh*, held that a violation of the *Miranda* rules does not give a cause of action under 42 USC 1983 against a governmental official for violating a person's constitutional civil rights. The 6–3 opinion was written by Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. You can read the opinion at supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/21-499_gfbh.pdf.

Additionally, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson was sworn in to the highest court of the land in July. She was confirmed by the Senate in April on a 53–47 vote. Jackson is replacing Associate Justice Stephen G. Breyer, who has served on the court since 1994.

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023

The House passed H.R. 7900, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023, on a 329–101 vote. This bill authorizes appropriations for the military activities and programs of the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) for fiscal year 2023.

The FOP has been in constant contact during the drafting of this legislation to ensure that our members are not adversely impacted. This includes pushing back against Amendment 361, which would have stopped the 1033 program. The FOP has long supported the 1033 program, which is a surplus equipment program administered by the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and the Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) within the DoD. It is important to understand that equipment received through the 1033 program is demilitarized and repurposed for public safety use. Prior to votes on this amendment, National President Yoes sent out a letter advising of our

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opposition, which can be read at fop.net/letter/fop-strong-opposition-to-amendment-361. The sponsor decided to withdraw his amendment, giving the FOP a victory on this issue.

The FOP was also successful in ensuring the inclusion of an FOP-supported amendment that would direct the DoD to provide standardized credentials to Department law enforcement officers at no cost.

One amendment that we strongly opposed was adopted on a 277–150 vote. House Amendment 107 inserted language from H.R. 1996, the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act, into H.R. 7900. The provision would allow financial institutions to do business with an industry that is trafficking in an illegal substance — primarily, marijuana. Despite opposition from most of the law enforcement community, this amendment has passed the House as part of the NDAA several times in past years. The FOP will be working with our partners to make sure this amendment is struck from the final bill.

Despite this passage, the FOP will continue to push back against this language as the bill moves to the Senate.

Get Engaged!

We encourage all FOP members to regularly check out our social media pages, as the daily posts inform not only our members on the current issues facing law enforcement, but the general public as well. With our social media outreach, we hope to better educate them on the current state of affairs for the brave men and women who suit up and show up every day to serve and protect. We ask every lodge, every member and every citizen who supports law enforcement officers to follow the National FOP on:

- Facebook (@GLFOP)
- Twitter (@GLFOP)
- Instagram (@FOPnational)

Do your part! We need your help — please **share, like** and **comment** on the content that we are posting.

Finally, the **National FOP's Weekly Update** is a valuable tool for members and local lodges to stay informed on the legislation important to law enforcement, and a great way to keep up to date on

what the National FOP is doing for you in Washington. If you have not yet done so, please be sure to sign up for the National FOP's **Washington Watch: Legislative Update**. This one-of-a-kind weekly update is sent out every Friday via email, posted in the NFOP mobile app and shared on our social media platforms. To sign up to receive the update via email, please visit tinyurl.com/24aecm93.

Tune in to the Blue View Podcast!

More than 22 episodes of the FOP's weekly podcast, the *Blue View*, are now available on the FOP's YouTube channel! National President Patrick Yoes hosts the podcast, which has featured guests from Capitol Hill and within the FOP, as well as law enforcement experts and leaders from around the country, to gain better insight into the issues and current events in the law enforcement community. Be sure to check it out!

The *Blue View* podcast can be found on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music and YouTube.

2022 Model Questionnaire Is Now Available!

The Government and Media Affairs Center (GMAC) staff developed a model questionnaire to assist state and local lodges in evaluating federal candidates for the United States Congress in the 2022 election cycle. The questions draw from issues being actively lobbied by the National FOP in Washington, D.C., and include all our top legislative priorities.

It is particularly important for the state and local lodges to endorse candidates who support our top-priority items and to publicly oppose those candidates who do not. The success of the National Legislative Program depends on having an active grassroots base and electing lawmakers who support our pro-law-enforcement agenda.

The PAC Needs Your Support!

The FOP's GMAC is the most reliable, effective and impactful law enforcement advocacy operation in Washington, D.C. When Congress or an administration, regardless of party, is looking to engage meaningfully on criminal justice or law enforcement issues, they seek out the FOP as a partner. We are known and trusted to fight for the interests of our members, which makes the FOP a vital ally on policing and criminal justice issues.

With midterm elections less than three months away, the National Fraternal Order of Police Political Action Committee (NFOP PAC) will play an important role in our advocacy program. By supporting candidates who support our members and our profession, we are effectively representing our members on Capitol Hill. Given the importance of the PAC, it is vital that it is as well-funded as possible. Our PAC is very much depleted from the previous election cycle, and we really need our members to step up and contribute to ensure that the next Congress will continue to have members who will fight for them. One lodge in particular, the Long Beach Police Officers' Association, raises over \$1,000 per month for the PAC. And this is just one lodge! If lodges nationwide were to follow their lead, the NFOP PAC would have the resources it needs to make a nationwide impact.

We are asking all FOP members to find a way to contribute to the National FOP PAC. Our profession depends on having well-informed lawmakers who listen and understand the challenges facing law enforcement today.

We can accept one-time donations, but we encourage members to sign up for recurring monthly contributions using their credit card. This is the most effective and reliable way to contribute.

These contributions need not be for hundreds or thousands of dollars (though these are also very much appreciated), but every dollar helps! If every FOP member gave just \$1, we could raise \$364,000! If 10% of our members gave just \$5 this year, we would raise \$182,000 for the next election cycle. We can and need to do better raising funds for our PAC!

To donate online, please visit nfop-pac.firstresponderprocessing.com. If you would like to donate via check, please make it out to the National Fraternal Order of Police Political Action Committee and mail it to 328 Massachusetts Ave. NE, Washington, D.C., 20002. For inquiries about our effortless payroll deduction program or to sign up for our recurring monthly credit card donations, please contact the GMAC at (202) 547-8189 or email David Taboh at dtaboh@fop.net.

Thank you to all of you who have supported and continue to support our PAC with regular contributions! **FOP**



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What Are Extreme Risk Protection Orders?

In the aftermath of the recent mass shootings at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, and a supermarket in a predominantly Black neighborhood in Buffalo, New York, President Joe Biden signed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act on June 25, 2022. This legislation aims to address gun violence across the country. One aspect of the act provides \$750 million for states to create crisis intervention programs, including mental health courts, drug courts, veterans' courts and extreme risk protection order (ERPO) laws.

ERPO laws, also referred to as “red flag” laws, are preemptive protective orders that authorize the removal of firearms from individuals determined to be at risk of committing gun violence against themselves or others. These laws allow for specific individuals, like law enforcement, family members and sometimes medical professionals, to petition a court to temporarily restrict a person's access to firearms.

Currently, 19 states and the District of Columbia have ERPO laws. While the criteria to petition and issue an ERPO differs from state to state, the overall process is similar nationwide. First, an individual allowed under the law petitions for an ERPO by showing proof that the respondent identified is at an increased risk for violent activity. Second, upon a hearing, a judge decides whether to grant the petition. If an order is issued, the respondent must relinquish any firearms outlined in the order.

The individual who may petition varies from state to state. For example, California allows family and household members, co-workers and school officials to file a petition, and Maryland allows mental health providers to

Just the Facts:

>> Extreme risk protection order (ERPO) laws, also known as “red flag” laws, have been enacted in 19 states and D.C., and increased federal funding will be provided under the new Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. These laws allow individuals such as law enforcement and family members to petition a court to temporarily restrict a person's access to firearms if they are determined to be at risk of committing violence against themselves or others. ERPO laws have been challenged in court and have withstood constitutional tests. Properly implemented and utilized, they may help to prevent suicides and mass shootings, but widespread education for law enforcement and the public is needed to maximize their effectiveness.

submit petitions. Five states, however, limit the category of petitioners to law enforcement only. While the burden of proof for these petitioners also varies state to state, overall, judges look for traits that may indicate that an individual poses imminent danger. Some signs indicating imminent danger include a history of troubling behavior, offhand comments, references to committing a violent act and any recent grievances or stress.

Additionally, an ERPO petition must generally include information regarding the firearms and ammunition believed to be in the respondent's possession. Depending on the circumstances, an officer may personally serve an ERPO and obtain such firearms. If the respondent refuses to relinquish the identified firearms, the court may issue a search warrant. In other instances, the respondent may be required to surrender their firearms to the local law enforcement agency within a specified period of time of being served the order.

In most states, an ERPO lasts between six months and one year, but an ERPO may also be renewed. Generally, to renew an order, the

petitioner must request a hearing and prove that the respondent still poses a risk of harm to the safety of themselves or others by possessing firearms. However, individuals subject to ERPOs may request a hearing to prove they **no longer** pose the risk that initially justified the order. Typically, respondents may request one hearing during the effective period.

ERPO laws have been challenged in court and have withstood such constitutional tests. Individuals have argued that ERPO laws are vague because the laws leave too much discretion to a trial court and law enforcement in determining what constituted the exact nature giving rise to an order. See *Davis v. Gilchrist Cty. Sheriff's Office*, 280 So. 3d 524, 532 (Fla. 1st DCA 2019). Similar arguments focus on the statutes' lack of definitions for key terms like “imminent danger” or “significant danger.” However, these arguments are unavailing to courts. The relevant factors that a judge looks to in determining whether or not to issue an ERPO are enumerated in the statutes. Moreover, the statutes set forth a standard by which law enforcement may commence an ERPO proceeding

and conduct a search, thereby avoiding any arbitrary and discriminatory enforcement. *See Anon. Det. Westchester Cty. Police*, 71 Misc. 3d. 810, (S.C. Westchester Cty. 2019).

Next, individuals have challenged ERPO laws as a violation of the Second Amendment's right to bear arms. However, courts have found that the right to keep and bear arms, like other constitutional rights, is limited in scope and subject to some regulation. In *District of Columbia v. Heller*, the United States Supreme Court expressly recognized that "the right secured by the Second Amendment is not unlimited"; it has never been understood as allowing one "to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose" (*Heller*, 554 U.S. at 626). Indeed, there are already lawful restrictions in place, such as prohibitions on the possession of firearms by felons and the mentally ill, laws forbidding carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings, and laws imposing conditions on the commercial sale of guns (*Id.* at 627, 128 S.Ct. 2783). A court in New York held that its ERPO law "and its restrictions indeed bears a substantial relationship to the government's responsibility of protecting the public at large and

preventing crime and serious injury to others from individuals who, by their conduct, raise serious concerns that, at that moment and for a limited time in the future, they should not be entrusted with a dangerous instrument" (*Anon. Det. Westchester Cty. Police v. A.A.*, 71 Misc. 3d. 810, 144 N.Y.S.3d 809 [N.Y. Sup. Ct. 2021]).

Lastly, individuals contend that ERPO laws are a violation of the Fourth Amendment's protection against unreasonable searches and seizures. Specifically, plaintiffs argue that ERPO statutes circumvent the protections of the Fourth Amendment by "permitting the invasion of an individual's person, property, and home without the prerequisite of probable cause that an illegality actually exists or that respondent actually is in possession of a weapon" (*Anon. Det. Westchester Cty. Police*, 71 Misc. 3d. 810, at 816). However, courts have found that searches conducted pursuant to ERPO statutes can be reasonable. Judges look at the circumstances surrounding the search to determine whether or not there is sufficient proof to establish probable cause to issue an order. Furthermore, in situations where an individual is deemed to pose an extreme risk of substantial harm to self or others, a special needs exception exists to

promote the governmental interest of regulating conduct and access to firearms (*Id.*).

Accordingly, ERPO legislation provides a measure for people close to an individual who may pose a risk of harm to prevent a tragic situation. Specifically, properly implemented and utilized ERPO laws may help to prevent suicides and mass shootings. With the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, states are incentivized to enact these statutes in order to keep weapons out of the hands of individuals who pose a danger to themselves and others. Thus, implementing ERPO laws may be the first step in addressing gun violence. These laws, however, will also require widespread education for law enforcement and the public to maximize their effectiveness. **FOP**

FOP GENERAL COUNSEL

500 South Front Street,
Suite 1200
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: (614) 229-4567
Cell: (614) 581-1125
Email: ljames@cbjlawyers.com,
cgreen@cbjlawyers.com,
mborschke@cbjlawyers.com

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The FOP's Philadelphia Story

FOP Lodge #5: Proud Owners of the "Lodge Mahal"

There is a lot of history in Philadelphia, and a lot of things to see and try. You have the Liberty Bell, Benjamin Franklin's home and the steps leading up to the museum that *Rocky* made famous. Then there's the Eagles, Phillies and 76ers. Also, really good sandwiches can be found on a thousand different street corners. I've eaten many of them.

Well, you'd better include Pennsylvania's fifth chartered lodge, the Philadelphia P.D.'s FOP lodge. It is better known across FOP Nation as "Philly 5." It is home to 14,000 active and retired members. This lodge is political, focused on labor, and doesn't back down from those attempting to intimidate. They take care of their members in every way imaginable, are involved in charitable causes and support pro-law-enforcement initiatives.

Citizens throughout the city know what the FOP is and who the FOP leaders are, while various businesses work hand in hand with the lodge on political and charitable efforts.

The lodge, located at 11630 Caroline Rd., is something to see and can almost be intimidating. Philly 5ers have called it home since 2013. The previous building they called home, located at 1336 Spring Garden St., looks like a 7-Eleven compared to their current crib. It is a lodge every FOP member in the country should see at least once. It has a bar that serves food so you can put the pounds on and a gym so you can take them back off. Previous locations of Philadelphia FOP Lodge #5 were:

- 834 North Broad St.
- 319 Race St.
- 1336 Spring Garden St.



Philadelphia Lodge #5 President John McNesby

Their bar appears to be large enough for the Eagles to hold indoor practice, and the ballroom is three to four times bigger than the bar. Then there are the extra-large meeting rooms, along with conference rooms and offices. We haven't even mentioned the kitchen, which is used to prepare meals for customers in the bar or cater to large groups. The lodge can host multiple events at the same time, and it does so on a regular basis. It also has its own store, called the "Cop Shop." You can buy both FOP and Philadelphia P.D. shirts, hats, jackets and about a thousand other cool things. Detroit's auto industry can learn something from Philly 5's business model.

"I am proud to have been recording/financial secretary for President John McNesby from 2007 to 2016," stated past Lodge Secretary Bob Ballentine. "I appreciated his management style and enjoyed his support in my duties.

"John McNesby made a promise to the membership that he would secure a new headquarters for Lodge 5. The doors to the new Lodge 5 opened early in



One of six charters on display in the conference room

2013. It is efficiently designed, beautiful and a hub of activity since most of the membership is now within 10 miles of the Caroline Road location. Promise made, promise kept."

The Beginning

Philadelphia Lodge #5 was chartered on May 17, 1939. Six physical charters were needed, as there were 550 charter members! Each charter bears the name of National President Ben Perry and National Secretary Peter J. Mcullough. Throughout its existence, the lodge has focused on politics, labor, legislation and all things for the betterment of its members.

These are the past and current presidents of the Philly 5 Lodge in chronological order, since being chartered:

- 1939–1940: Louis Zambino
- 1940–1941: Walter P. Weir
- 1941–1943: John C. Bradley
- 1943–1945: John C. Ashmore



Left: The current lodge location at 11630 Caroline Rd.; right: the previous lodge at 1336 Spring Garden St.

- 1945–1946: Walter Krlovich
- 1946–1952: William Gibbons
- 1952–1954: Albert Brown
- 1954–1956: Albert Baxter
- 1956–1960: John Loughran
- 1960–1964: Maurice J. O’Leary
- 1964–1972: John Harrington
- 1972–1976: Charles Gallagher
- 1976–1978: Thomas McCarey
- 1978–1980: Charles Gallagher
- 1980–1982: Thomas Garvey
- 1982–1988: Robert S. Hurst
- 1988–1990: Richard B. Costello
- 1990–1993: John J. Shaw
- 1993–1994: Michael G. Lutz
- 1994–2002: Richard B. Costello
- 2002–2007: Robert V. Eddis
- 2007–present: John J. McNesby

Several lodge members have served at the national level over the years, including:

- John Harrington, National president, 1965–1975
- John J. Quinn, National secretary, 1946–1965
- James Downs, National conductor, 1985–1987
- Kenneth Rocks, National sergeant at arms/vice president, 2001–2005
- Robert Ballentine, Pennsylvania National trustee, 2001–2003
- Michael Shellenberger, Pennsylvania National trustee, 2011–2013
- Steven Weiler, National second vice president, 2021–present

As a side note, Pennsylvania’s first National trustee was Bernard Richards, of Reading, Pennsylvania. He served from 1949 to 1951. From 1917 to 1949, National trustees were referred to as “Grand trustees.”



Retired Philadelphia P.D. Detective and Lodge #5 member Bob Kane, showing off his lodge



Cop Shop employee Bill Lynch, retired lieutenant of the Philadelphia Highway Patrol. He was also the command officer for the Highway Patrol’s legendary Drill Team.

Also, it should be noted that at one time John Harrington served as president of Philadelphia Lodge #5, Pennsylvania State Lodge president and National president simultaneously. He is the only National president to accomplish this. Posthumously, in 1989, Brother Harrington was presented with the Jack Dudek Member of the Year

award. National President Dewey Stokes and Awards Committee Chairman Pat Stark made the presentation to his daughter, Pat Harrington, at the National FOP Conference in Oklahoma City.

In 1961, the National Conference was held in Philadelphia on August

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FOP HISTORY

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20–24. Jack Dudek, from Cleveland, Ohio, was National president. Philly 5 member John J. Quinn was National secretary. James C. Dougherty was Pennsylvania's National trustee.

John McNesby stated, "Since I became lodge president in 2007, our members now have a great medical plan, no co-payments for major medical. Also, our members have received pay raises of 54% during my tenure. We sued the city of Philadelphia to have the right to have a Political Action Committee (PAC) fund. In addition, now our members can live outside of the city limits. We have the ability to take care of the surviving families of our officers who are killed in the line of duty."

Philly 5 has auxiliary and associate members. Its active membership consists of Philadelphia police officers of all ranks, and it bargains for each rank up to chief inspector. Philadelphia sheriff's deputies are also members. The lodge currently employs over 120 workers and can seat more than 1,000 patrons at one time while utilizing its ballrooms and bar area.

Current Executive Board

- President John McNesby
- Vice Presidents Roosevelt Poplar, John McGrody, Steve Weiler and Nicholas Denofa
- Recording Secretary John Hoyt
- Financial Secretary Mike Trask
- Treasurer William Sierra
- Conductor Sharon Jonas
- Guards Peter Sweryda and Jason Hernandez
- Chaplain Louis Campione

Father Steve

One of the most unique things I have ever seen is that Philly 5 had its own Catholic priest as a chaplain/spiritual advisor. Father Steve Wetzel was affectionately known by all as "Father Steve." He was also a full-time employee of the lodge. He was available 24 hours a day, and was often called upon for injured/wounded police officers, weddings, funerals, and peer and marriage counseling for



A Philly P.D. patrol wagon on display in the lodge's lobby

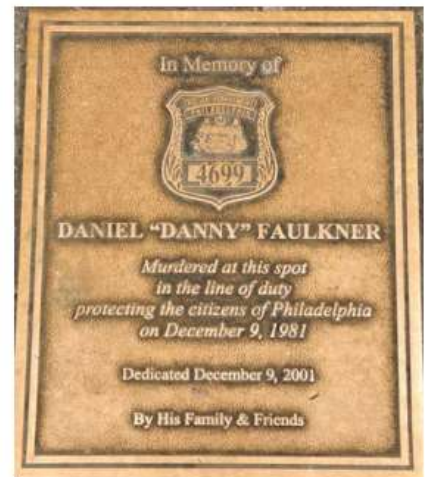


Steve (Father Steve) Wetzel, Lodge #5's spiritual advisor to its members

Lodge #5's active and retired officers. Father Steve was founder of Lodge #5's Michael the Archangel Ministry Program. He was well-respected, deeply loved and considered one of the lodge's most valuable assets. He suffered a stroke and passed away on April 17, 2022. Rest in Peace, Father Steve — we could use more like you.

#4699

Philadelphia Lodge #5 had the unfortunate task of having to deal with the high-profile homicide of Philadelphia Police Officer and Lodge #5 member Danny Faulkner. Officer



A plaque honoring Danny Faulkner, on display at 1243 Locust St.

Faulkner was shot on December 9, 1981, at 1243 Locust (approximately 100 yards east of 13th St.). The shooter, Wesley Cook (aka Mumia Abu-Jamal), was the brother of Mike Cook. Mike was the driver of a car that was pulled over by Faulkner. Faulkner, a 6th District officer, was mortally wounded. Wesley Cook was ultimately convicted and sentenced. This case gained national attention, as Hollywood and other entities came to the defense of Cook and considered him a political prisoner. Nothing could be further from the truth,



New Mexico National Trustee James Flores on the "Rocky steps" at the Philadelphia Museum of Art

of course. This list of degenerates included Ed Asner, Alec Baldwin, Tim Robbins, Susan Sarandon and the owners of Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream, to name a few. These were tough days

for the Faulkner family, members of Lodge #5 and the Philadelphia P.D. as a whole. Badge #4699 will forever live in our memories.

Philadelphia FOP Lodge #5 has a

plethora of history, deep roots in the community and a membership that serves the city of Philadelphia with honor, dedication and loyalty.

I would to thank John McNesby and his staff for their assistance in putting this article together. Secretary John (Santa Fe) Hoyt put the wheels in motion to make this visit possible. Past Lodge Secretary Bob Ballentine provided historical information and much support for this project. And to Idaho National Trustee Brad Landes for showing up and taking these great pictures, thank you for your time and friendship. Last but not least — in fact, he was pretty damn important — is Bob Kane. Brother Kane, a retired Philly P.D. detective, drove us around for several days, took us where we needed to go and was a wealth of information.

James Flores (New Mexico) is the chairman of the National FOP History Committee. Committee members are Dewey Stokes (Ohio), Adolph South (Alabama), Dave Stevens (Florida), Bruce Evartt (Maryland) and Ben Roberts (Texas). FOP

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New Retired Law Enforcement Concealed Carry Legal Defense Coverage

The FOP Legal Defense Plan's Board of Trustees has had numerous requests from current and prospective participants to review broadening coverage under the current HR-218 LEOSA Plan. After diligent review and analysis, the Board voted to make the following changes.

The HR-218 Plan coverage was replaced with the **FOP Retired Law Enforcement Concealed Carry Legal Defense Coverage (CCC)**. The expanded coverage will offer **unlimited** legal defense for civil and criminal claims associated with the legal carrying and/or use of a concealed weapon: All reasonable and necessary legal defense costs are now covered in full when using a plan attorney. This new expanded plan will provide coverage for not only those retirees who were qualified under

LEOSA, but also those retirees who are qualified under their own state laws to carry a concealed weapon. **Coverage does not include claims related specifically to the open carrying of firearms.**

The CCC went into effect on **January 1, 2021**. If you are a current HR-218 retired member, unlimited coverage and the enhanced benefits automatically took effect on January 1, 2021, with no additional cost. Upon renewal of your coverage in 2021, the new annual fee of \$75 will take effect. For all new retired members joining the plan after January 1, 2021, the annual fee is \$75.

If you are an active law enforcement officer covered by the FOP Legal Defense Plan, LEOSA coverage is already included. CCC is for **retired law**

enforcement officers only and separate from the FOP Legal Defense Plan.

The Board is excited to provide yet another excellent benefit for our FOP law enforcement brothers and sisters. In today's unstable times, it is crucial to make sure you are protected.

The Legal Plan values your business and thanks you for your continued support. To enroll, please visit our website at foplegal.com and select Join Now > Retired Law Enforcement Concealed Carry Coverage. Full coverage, eligibility and other exclusions can be found in the Plan Description at foplegal.com, under the About > Library section. If you have questions pertaining to these changes, enrollment or the plan in general, please contact Hylant at (800) 341-6038 or via email at info@foplegal.com. **FOP**



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Warrior PATHH

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Labor Training: Prepare Before the Fight

When it comes to labor, it's not just knowing what to do and say at the bargaining table that matters. Bargaining may happen once over the course of a year or several years, but the armor of labor law knowledge continues to yield benefits year-round. Labor Services understands the importance of this knowledge and always strives to impart its own knowledge and resources to its members. Staffed with nine labor specialists and an associate general counsel, Labor Services travels all over the country in order to better equip the members when it comes to understanding the law as it affects their job in public law enforcement.

There are many ways in which Labor Services offers training, including large-scale annual trainings like the

Just the Facts:

» While bargaining may happen only once every year or several years, knowledge of labor law yields benefits year-round. In addition to large-scale annual trainings, Labor Services offers on-site training for local lodges that can be customized with details about members' specific concerns and the laws that apply to them.

Labor Summit in the winter of every year or Collective Bargaining held in November of various years; however, another way is for Labor Services to come to you. That's right, Labor Services offers on-site training! This tailor-made experience delves into the specific situations and knowledge that are important to your local group of members. We held one of these local trainings this past spring after being

contacted by a local lodge in Nevada. We were able to create a custom training session spanning the course of multiple days that was presented to the members by our associate general counsel.

Topics of many of our on-site trainings include those that are often part of our larger trainings, such as the duty of fair representation, the role of members at the bargaining table, and the general guidelines of how to prepare for and engage in negotiations. However, local trainings allow the members to request specific topics that are of interest or pertinence to their specific lodge. Labor Services is then able to pull applicable state law as well as case law to provide the attendees with a better understanding of their specific labor law issues. We are also able to correlate applicable federal law with local law, which allows the members to see where their state comes down on various rights as they relate to public employment.

We encourage all FOP members to attend as many trainings as available, whether they be local on-site trainings provided by Labor Services or large-scale trainings like those offered at the National Biennial Conference. The best way to be prepared to fight is to prepare **before** the fight! For more information about Labor Services and what we have to offer, contact labor@fop.net. **FOP**

SHARE YOUR STORY!

So many of us learn from the experiences of others, especially others with whom we share things in common. Do you have a story to tell of overcoming adversity in your own life? The National Officer Wellness Committee would like to hear it!

Whether you would just like to share your story privately with peers on the Committee or are willing to share with readers so that all can learn from it and celebrate with you, we want to hear from you! Contact us confidentially at officerwellness@fop.net.



NEW NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE RECRUITMENT BROCHURE

The National FOP Recruitment Committee has designed a new recruitment brochure to aid State and local lodges and individual members in recruiting new members into the FOP. This beautiful color brochure contains various QR codes that let the reader see the FOP website, the history of the FOP, the

Legal Defense Plan, the free college program and much, much more. It also contains a pocket for a membership application, business card or other information to be inserted.

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