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THE HEAT
SWEEPSTAKES**

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On the cover: Nashville's Lower Broadway entertainment district is renowned for its culture, commerce and great music scene. Photo by Denis Tangney Jr./istockphoto.com.

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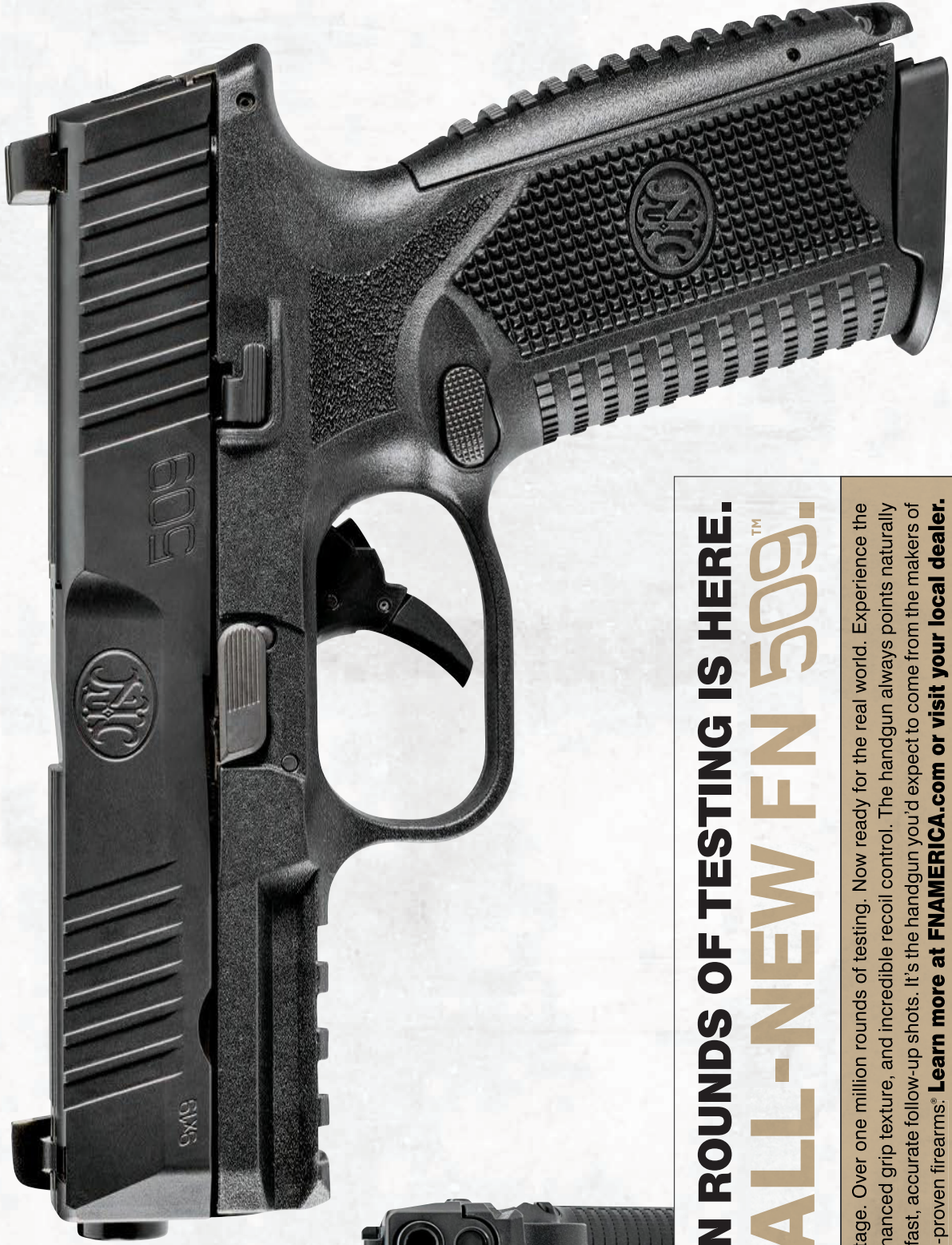
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National Executive Board Meets With President Trump



// **WRITE TO US!** If you have further questions, contact Chuck Canterbury at fopchuck@outlook.com.

In the last *Journal*, I discussed the FOP's endorsement of Donald Trump and his victory. On March 28, the National Executive Board and the presidents of Chicago Lodge #7 and Philadelphia Lodge #5 were invited to a listening session with the president.

Vice President Mike Pence and Attorney General Jeff Sessions attended the meeting at their request and were a welcome part of a very good session where the president asked questions, listened to the FOP on some of our major issues and committed his support for law enforcement. The president was engaged, and one of his first questions was inquiring about the well-being of the two officers who had been shot the day before in Miami-Dade County. He was glad to hear both officers would survive, and he expressed his concern over the uptick in ambush-style shootings. He stated that he wanted to reduce the violence against police officers.

As stated, an invitation was also extended to Chicago Lodge #7 President Dean Angelo

and Philadelphia Lodge #5 President John McNesby. The administration was very interested in the increases of violent crime in our major cities, and the administration also wanted to discuss the DOJ response to the pattern and practice investigations. Jim Pasco attended with the Board and contributed based on his knowledge of our legislative agenda. The White House often seeks Jim's insight because of his extensive knowledge of the criminal justice system, and we are proud of the relationship he has built with the new administration.

This meeting allowed our Chicago lodge to bring matters that affect their rank-and-file officers directly to the president and the attorney general. The attorney general and the president talked about helping the police department and working together to reduce crime. President Angelo expressed concerns over current city leadership and offered to provide feedback to the DOJ for their review. He outlined the need for better

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Grand Lodge Fraternal Order of Police National Headquarters

701 Marriott Drive Nashville, TN 37214
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 Phone (615) 399-0900
 Fax (615) 399-0400
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www.fop.net

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Legislative Efforts to Address PTSD



// **WRITE TO US!** If you have further questions, contact Jay McDonald at jmcdonald@fopohio.org.

Brothers and Sisters, PTSD is an issue of utmost importance to the leadership of the Fraternal Order of Police. It is an issue that is literally killing our members. We must do more for those who are impacted by this on-the-job injury.

First, some good news out of Colorado. In late April, the FOP's PTSD coverage bill passed the Colorado Senate unamended and was sent to the governor for his signature. Congratulations to the Colorado FOP. They worked hard on the bill and launched a last-minute outreach campaign when concerns arose that the bill might face Senate amendments.

Sadly, the struggle continues elsewhere. In South Carolina, a bill introduced in the Legislature was held up by opposition from public employers and business groups. In fact, Robert Croom from the South Carolina Association of Counties said, "There is zero way to diagnose, from an objective viewpoint, most of these mental conditions." He continued, "There's no blood test, no MRI. There's just no way to run a test that says yes, in fact, there is this issue or that issue. It's purely a counseling function."

In Ohio, the Senate has passed PTSD coverage three times. The House refuses to even hold a hearing on the bill. Powerful pro-business groups oppose the bill, but police officers across the state and some commonsense legislators continue to push the issue. The most recent bill introduced requires an offset and treats PTSD differently than all other injuries, which we believe is important to putting the issue in its proper perspective.

Help might come from the federal level, where a bipartisan bill has been introduced by Indiana Senators Joe Donnelly and Todd Young to support mental health services for law enforcement. It would allow states to use federal grant

money for peer-mentoring pilot programs and would direct government agencies to consult on mental health best practices that might be adopted at the state and local level.

The federal bill is a start. We are thankful for the work done by Danny Overley, Indiana FOP National Trustee and Chairman of the Officer Wellness Committee, for his work in getting this bill moving.

Here's the bottom line: If an officer who breaks his leg carrying an injured child to safety can get workers' compensation, an officer should have access to needed mental health services if that same

child dies a painful death in the officer's arms and the officer isn't otherwise injured. Both scenarios result in debilitation. In both situations, we owe it to the first responder to provide help.

If you have a story you're willing to share from your own experiences, we would love to hear about it. This is a difficult issue, but it's one that requires our vigilance and attention across the country.

Please be safe! Please wear your vests and your seat belts. Please watch out for each other. Please pray for the fallen. **FOP**

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Our National Day of Remembrance



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

Attending the National Peace Officers' Memorial Services in Washington, D.C., is an emotional event. It is underpinned by tens of thousands of police officers in dress uniforms standing at attention to honor those men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

This event is no small undertaking, requiring a small army of dedicated volunteers and supporters to pull off what has become the keystone event of Police Week.

As FOP members, it is paramount that we understand the origins of Peace Officers Memorial Day. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy recognized the need for a day of remembrance for fallen LEOs and signed a proclamation designating May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day.

This date has considerable significance for FOP members. On May 14, 1915, much to the chagrin of their police chief, the first FOP meeting took place when brave Pittsburgh police officers dared to gather to discuss their deplorable working conditions. The very next day, Pittsburgh Mayor Joe Armstrong officially recognized the FOP and ordered the outraged police chief to stand down. This allowed officers to bring their concerns to the city council, thus giving the officers a united voice for the very first time. On this date, May 15, 1915, the Fraternal Order of Police was born and is a proud tradition that flourishes a century later.

Is President Kennedy's declaration of May 15 as the official Peace Officers Memorial Day a coincidence? Hardly. The FOP has been a driving force in law enforcement advocacy ever since that first meeting in 1915, and as a united and powerful voice, we were recommending a national day of remembrance.

The very first National Peace Officers' Memorial Service took place in 1982, as the FOP held its gathering in Senate Park.



In attendance were approximately 120 survivors and supporters of law enforcement. A Boy Scout troop on a field trip to the capital that day doubled the attendance when they saw the gathering and joined in.

Decades later, this event, during what is commonly known as National Police

THIS EVENT IS NO SMALL UNDERTAKING, REQUIRING A SMALL ARMY OF DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS TO PULL OFF.

Week, attracts 25,000 to 40,000 attendees each year. Agencies from all corners of America as well as from throughout the world converge on the nation's capital to remember, honor and celebrate the lives of our fallen.

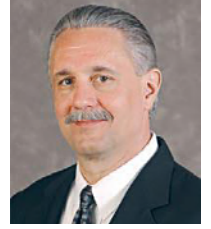
Last year, long overdue, 84 fallen officers who succumbed to 9/11-related

illnesses were honored. Sadly, many more will follow in the coming years. The volume of names added this year alone has nearly doubled the cost of our services, causing a tremendous financial strain on the National FOP Foundation.

As a proud FOP member, can you imagine a day when the FOP would not be able to hold National Peace Officers' Memorial Services during Police Week? Me neither! Recognizing the rising cost of hosting this event and the uncertainty of corporate sponsorship, your National Board of Trustees is proposing a Constitution and By-law change for a \$1 per capita increase. The full \$1 will be dedicated to the National FOP Foundation, which funds the National Peace Officers' Memorial Services, disaster relief, education and charitable efforts.

I join my fellow Board members in encouraging you to support this By-law change during our Biennial Conference in Nashville this August. It is our responsibility and obligation to ensure that the sacrifices of our fallen are never forgotten. Stay safe! **FOP**

Working Through Tough Times Together



// **WRITE TO US!** If you have further questions, contact Tom Penozza at tomfop@aol.com.

I have written many articles over the past years on how to handle your lodge finances. In these articles, I offer some insight and suggestions in dealing with various issues you face as treasurers. If you are a newly or recently elected treasurer, I encourage you to get on the Grand Lodge website and look at past issues of the *FOP Journal* for these articles. If you have trouble locating these articles, contact me and I can send them out to you.

These hard economic times have affected us all, both personally and professionally. We continue to be attacked by the very government leaders we serve. All over the country, they are trying to blame their financial troubles on public employees. They want to focus on the amount of money needed to fund our health care and pensions as being the source of these problems. However, it was their very own mismanagement that caused many of

the financial troubles we are experiencing. They were perfectly content during the years in which our pension funds were returning double-digit earnings to turn a blind eye toward their financial responsibility to properly pay their fair share into these funds, as we continued to pay our share. Then, when the stock market crashed, they wanted to blame the unfunded liability on the high cost of the retirement benefit instead of their mismanagement. In times like these, it is important that we respond in unison. These politicians are misinforming the public, and we need to get the truth out. This is going to take a lot of work and money. Many local and state lodges are raising dues so that they can fight to keep their members' hard-earned wages and benefits. Our resources will be stretched thin, so it is even more important that each lodge handles its finances properly.

But now, on top of these financial issues, we are often villainized for doing our jobs. Public opinion is often against us following an incident because of misinformation being spread through the press. In many cases, we are reluctant to respond until an investigation is completed. The National FOP has signed a contract with a public relations firm that can help us develop strategies to use with the press when an incident occurs and to help us improve our image. You will be hearing more about this soon.

One of my goals as your National FOP treasurer has been to keep you informed and help you get the information you need to properly run your lodge and represent your members. I am always willing to discuss any financial issues that may be troubling you and work with you to solve these issues. We must stand and work together in these hard economic times. **FOP**



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// **WRITE TO US!** If you have further questions, contact Les Neri at lneri@pafop.com.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
 On average, most working police officers are participating in a defined benefit pension system. We also know that most police officers are not participating in the Social Security system because governmental employers opted out of that system years ago. However, with defined benefit police pension systems and post-retirement medical benefits under constant attack, it has become increasingly important for our members to save additional funds for retirement.

One of the best tax-advantaged ways for our members to save additional funds for retirement is to participate in a supplemental

457 deferred compensation plan. A 457 plan will provide the following:

- Flexible income to supplement your fixed pension
- A convenient, tax-advantaged way to save for retirement
- Tax-advantaged growth
- A safety net for your spouse as a pension beneficiary

Your payroll-deducted retirement contribution goes into your 457 plan before Uncle Sam hits you for the taxes and it grows, tax deferred, until you take the funds out when you retire. A Roth after-tax option might also be available in employers' 457 plans. If your department is not paying into Social Security,

you should seriously consider putting funds into a 457 plan. Most 457 plans do not have a minimum contribution amount, and you could start with as little as \$10 a payday. The maximum contribution is \$18,000 for this calendar year if you are under the age of 50 and \$24,000 if you are 50 or older.

One of the advantages of a 457 plan over an IRA or 401(k) plan is the ability to take funds out once you retire **without a 10% penalty prior to the age of 59 1/2**. If you have a deferred retirement option plan (DROP) at your official retirement date, the assets can be transferred into your 457 plan without penalty or taxes due. If you leave one department to go to another, you can roll your funds into the 457 plan with your new employer.

A 457 plan gives you the flexibility to supplement your fixed monthly pension income many different ways. You can take funds out monthly and only pay the taxes on the monthly distribution as your lump sum continues to grow tax deferred, or you could take a distribution out at any time in retirement. This can help pay for your post-retirement medical coverage or just serve as another way to supplement your retirement benefit to improve your quality of life into your later years. If something untimely were to happen to you prior to your spouse in retirement, the 457 plan can help your spouse offset the lower monthly pension they may receive after your death.


If your agency already provides a 457 plan, I strongly encourage all members to take full advantage of it. If your agency does not provide the option of a 457 plan, it can do so at little to no cost, which makes these plans very attractive for employers to provide.

As always, please make sure that you speak with your local FOP lawyer and/or accountant for more detailed information on the terms of your specific 457 plan or

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Promises Are Made, but Few Are Kept



// **WRITE TO US!** If you have further questions, contact Roger Mayberry at bear1233@aol.com.

I have talked about this more than once: We need to hold all of our elected officials accountable for promises they make while running for office. They all run on a platform of “I am pro-police and pro-public safety” and proclaim they will see that there is more training, better equipment, and on and on. Like the old campaign promises of “a chicken in every pot,” all those promises will be soon be forgotten or broken. Let’s not forget that they will also support more officers and new hires for the departments we work at. Add to this the role of the reporters, never forget about social media, and we have a mixture of toxic soup. Even with a 74% approval rating from the public, the 26% who eat the toxic

soup keep getting stronger and louder to the point that it’s all we hear about.

Chiefs’ positions are more political than ever. Three- to four-year contracts have not helped job security for the top-level positions. Want to keep your job, Chief? You’ve got to go along with the program. The good thing is, most are still honest, hardworking men and women who want to do the right thing.

These things have played a role in what we must do to protect our members, as we work toward keeping what we have in place now and look for ideas outside the box to get the tools needed for policing in today’s times. We must keep up with the times and not

get lost in the past, because the past is not working as well as it used to. Increasing our benefits and pay, and improving our working conditions must still be at the top of our list, as well as manpower, training, promotions, equipment and hiring.

We are still facing an uphill battle to get back to where we were. I am proud to be able to help work on the issues facing us and will always keep my promise to work for the membership.

As I write this, National Police Week is coming up, when we will honor the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice. We must never forget them or their families.

Be safe and God bless. **FOP**

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 Amir Abdul-Khaliq
 Lorne Ahrens
 Stacey Baumgartner
 Endy Ekpanya
 David Hofer
 Mari Johnson
 Michael Krol
 Kenneth Maltby
 Benjamin Marconi
 Calvin McCullers Jr.
 Jeffrey Nichols

David Ortiz
 Robert Ransom
 Justin Scherlen
 Michael Smith
 Kenneth Starrs
 Brent Thompson
 Patricio Zamarripa
 Marco Zarate

UTAH
 Douglas Barney II
 Cody Brotherson
 Eric Ellsworth

VIRGINIA
 Chad Dermyer
 Ashley Guindon
 Harvey Snook

WASHINGTON
 R. Jake Gutierrez III

WEST VIRGINIA
 Eugene Crum*
 Joseph Portaro

WISCONSIN
 Dan Glaze Jr.
 Adam Hartwig
 Michael Ventura

FEDERAL
 Manuel Alvarez
 Jose Barraza
 Brian Beliso
 Patrick Carothers
 Steven Carr*
 William Craig*
 David Gomez
 Jerry Jobe*
 J. Scott McGuire
 Robert Roth*
 Kcey Ruiz*
 Nathan Sartain*
 Javier Vega Jr.*
 Paul Wilson*
 Wesley Yoo*

GUAM
 Luis Melendez-Maldonado

PUERTO RICO
 Edwin Pabon-Robles
 Waldemar Rivera-Santiago
 Victor Rosado-Rosa

* The officer's death occurred in a previous year but was determined to be a line-of-duty death in 2016.





Tune in to where to go and what's happening in Music City during the 63rd Biennial FOP Conference

This summer, members will attend the Biennial Conference in the FOP's home city, Nashville. Of course, Nashville is Music City to legions of country music fans because it's home to the Grand Ole Opry, "country's most famous stage." They flock there to see their favorite performers, but music isn't the only attraction in the Tennessee city.

"It's a unique town. We're looking forward to everyone coming to Nashville and enjoying what we have to offer," says Johnny Crumby, president of the Tennessee State FOP Lodge and member of Andrew Jackson Lodge #5.

The local lodge is hosting the 63rd Biennial FOP Conference from August 27 to 31 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville. Organizers have assembled a comprehensive collection of seminars and presentations. Additionally, attendees can peruse the products showcased by hundreds of exhibitors. Of course,

there'll be plenty of downtime to explore and experience the local sights, sounds and flavors, starting with a concert for FOP members and their families.

"We'll provide what we consider is a 'Welcome to Nashville' concert. There's also the Grand Ole Opry on Wednesday night, which is a typical Opry show, but this week will be our show," says Crumby. "While country music is a big draw, there are plenty of things for everybody to do. Nashville is a hot spot for everybody to visit."

To find out which spots to add to your must-see list, check out the following Nashville guide.

MUSIC NOTES

Saturdays at the **Grand Ole Opry** are a must. Country music royalty including Loretta Lynn, Marty Robbins, Dolly Parton and Willie Nelson, as well as modern artists like Kellie Pickler, Brad Paisley, Dierks Bentley and Jason Aldean, have all performed for the world's longest-running

radio show from the stage of the 4,400-seat theater.

If you prefer a more intimate setting, Nashville's honky-tonk scene will be music to your ears. From 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m., there's always someone playing a tune in one of the more than 100 clubs or small concert halls, especially on lower Broadway in downtown, which has been dubbed the honky-tonk highway. Also, head to the **Bluebird Cafe**, one of the most renowned listening rooms in Nashville. The venue has hosted countless upcoming singers and songwriters. To map out which clubs will showcase your favorite type of music, download the Nashville Live Music Guide, a free app.

No pilgrimage to Nashville would be complete without touring the **Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum**. View photographs and vintage video as well as listening to recordings documenting the genre's history, then head around the corner to the **Johnny Cash Museum**. Named by *Forbes* magazine as one of the top five must-see sights in Music City, the museum features personal items of both Johnny and June Carter Cash as well as costumes and props from the Academy Award-winning biopic *Walk the Line*.



The intimate Bluebird Cafe has been the launching pad for many music careers.



The good times roll at B.B. King's Blues Club.



Johnny Cash Museum



Fort Negley



Grand Ole Opry



Belle Meade Plantation

Country isn't the only music played in the city. Blues fans will want to drop in at **B.B. King's Blues Club** or the **Bourbon Street Blues and Boogie Bar**. Or plan ahead and purchase tickets to hear blues icon Buddy Guy perform at the **Nashville Symphony** on August 27.

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Nashville's story extends beyond its musical influence. In fact, signs of its historical impact are on display throughout city neighborhoods. History buffs should book a day to visit the **Hermitage Mansion**, home of President Andrew Jackson, where they can get a glimpse of Jackson's original belongings.

Belle Meade Plantation is another historical home worth seeing. During its heyday, it was a preeminent thoroughbred stud farm. The Greek Revival mansion is open for traditional tours; adults can also enjoy a food-and-wine pairings option, or there's an interactive treasure hunt for the kids.

The Nashville area played a strategic role in the Civil War. **Fort Negley**, the largest inland military post built during the conflict, now serves as a city park, with a visitors' center, self-guided walking tours and interactive exhibits.

FAMILY FUN

If you're in the mood to let loose with the family, cool off at **Nashville Shores** waterpark. Slide down rides like the Big Kahuna or kick back on the Castaway Creek Lazy River. Kids can splash around in the Wacky or Lily Pad Pools.

After drying off, head to the **Adventure Science Center** with its hands-on exhibits: Experience 1/6 gravity in the Moonwalker, examine tiny elements of the nano world or pilot an aircraft through the simulated skies on Blue Max.

A trip to the **Nashville Zoo** invites humans to get up close to some of the facility's most popular creatures. The

spider monkey exhibit, which opened in April, provides guests a treetop view of this active species. After observing the animal inhabitants, children can run wild on the 66,000-square-foot jungle gym.

Sports fans have scored because the **Nashville Sounds**, the Triple-A affiliate of Major League Baseball's Oakland Athletics, are scheduled for home games throughout the Conference. There's even a fireworks show planned for the game on August 31. If you and the family prefer football, check in with the **Tennessee Titans** for practices open to the public as well as preseason home games — including August 27, when the Titans will be hosting the Chicago Bears, with kickoff scheduled at noon.

NASHVILLE NATURE

If you crave a dose of fresh air and sunshine after attending the information-packed seminars, a short drive brings you to **J. Percy Priest Lake**. The 42-mile-long lake is a local favorite for swimming and canoeing. Individuals with an adventurous spirit can take flight with **Defiance Flyboard** at Percy Priest Lake, Tim's Ford Lake, Center Hill Lake or Dale Hollow Lake.

Pedal power is a fun way to get around town, explore shops or venture off-street on more than 80 miles of paved greenway trails. **Nashville B-cycle** rents bikes from 33 stations throughout the city, so you can pick up and drop off where it's convenient for you. Memberships are available by the day or week for visitors.

NIBBLES AND DRINKS

Of course, a trip to Nashville wouldn't be complete without a taste of Southern cooking. Hot chicken is on many restaurant menus. Legend has it a wronged girlfriend waged revenge on a lover by spiking his fried chicken with an extra generous dose of

pepper. Turns out, her boyfriend liked the heat, and it's now a favorite among residents.

Nashville is home to some famous eateries. **Loveless Cafe**, for example, has been feeding travelers for more than 65 years. Among the traditional comfort food staples are Annie Loveless's biscuits, still prepared according to her original recipe.



Loveless Cafe

Craft brewing is booming in Nashville. Several brews are sold in local restaurants and bars, and many breweries offer tours. But since you're already in the area, drive to the **Jack Daniel's Distillery** in nearby Lynchburg to witness the whiskey-making process. Daily tours offer different views into the company's history and how its famous spirit is concocted.

HOST LODGE HOSPITALITY

After putting in more than six years of planning, the Andrew Jackson Lodge #5 is excited to welcome National FOP members to their hometown for this year's Conference.

"We want you to see the sights and have a good time," says Crumby. "You'll definitely enjoy our Southern hospitality." **FOP**

For information on all of the locations and activities listed here and more, visit





63RD NATIONAL FOP CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION

AUGUST 27–31, 2017



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

REGISTRATION

Saturday, August 26 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 Sunday, August 27 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 Monday, August 28 7 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Tuesday, August 29 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 Wednesday, August 30 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 Thursday, August 31 8 a.m. until 30 minutes after last name is called

EXPO

Sunday, August 27 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.
 Monday, August 28 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
 Tuesday, August 29 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

EXPO VENDORS

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 5.11 Tactical | European American Armory | John Cipolla Insurance | NLEOMF — Officer Safety and Wellness | Tiffin University |
| 911MEDIA | Fiber Brokers International | Juniper Systems Inc. | North American Rescue LLC | Trident University |
| American Addiction Centers | Five O Gear | Kent State University | Northcentral University | Troy Industries |
| American Income Life | FOP GiveBack | Law Enforcement Torch Run | Optotrafic LLC | Uber Technologies |
| American Military University | The George Washington University | LeadsOnline | Otto Trading Inc. | Union University |
| Autism FYI.Org | Glock Inc. | Leatherman-Neal LLC | PA FOP Lodge #5 | Unions-America.com Inc. |
| Billy Graham Evangelistic Association | Grand Lodge FOP Auxiliary | Liberty Art Works | Powertac Lights Inc. | United for Blue |
| Blue Rage Inc./The Cop Shop | HAIX North America | Liberty Mutual Insurance | Powerhouse Gaming Inc. | University of San Diego |
| Brodin Studios Inc. | Heroes Vacation Club | Lifelock, Product of Symantec | Public Safety Outreach LLC | Upper Iowa University |
| California Casualty Management Company | Hometown Guardians | Livengrin Foundation | Raptor Technologies | United Parcel Service |
| California University of Pennsylvania | Horace Small/Timberland PRO Valor | MassMutual Financial Group | RaSport Inc. | U.S. Customs and Border Protection |
| Captured Moments Art | HURST Jaws of Life | National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators | Resilite Sports Products Inc. | USDOJ—COPS |
| Columbia Southern University | Hylant Group | National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health | Sassetti | USDOJ—MLARS |
| Concerns of Police Survivors | Infinite Trading Inc. | National Insurance Crime Bureau | Serve & Protect | Utility Inc. |
| DataSource Mobility | Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries Inc. | National Law Enforcement Cancer Support Foundation | SF&C Insurance Associates | Vigilant Solutions |
| Dell EMC | International Conference of Police Chaplains Inc. | National Police Credit Union | Sig Sauer | Visit Indy |
| Easterseals | International Police Association U.S. Section | New Equity Productions Inc. | Smith & Wesson | Waldorf University |
| Enovative Technologies | | NLEOMF | State Farm/Canary | WatchGuard Video |
| | | | Streamlight Inc. | |
| | | | SymbolArts | |



HOST LODGE #5 SPECIAL EVENT SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

Welcome to Nashville: Party in the Yard

Everyone is welcome for a great night of music! We will be hosting a drink garden and the best Nashville food trucks just a short walk from the Gaylord Opryland Hotel at the Marshalling Yard. Musical performers will include Diamond Rio, Redhead Express, Branch & Dean and many others.

MONDAY, AUGUST 28

Night Out in Nashville Bash: Tour Downtown Nashville

This event includes roundtrip transportation to downtown Nashville, where you can visit the honky-tonks, museums and hundreds of restaurants.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29

Meet the Candidates: Hospitality Night

Visit all the candidates' hospitality rooms. You will have the opportunity to speak with those asking for your vote!

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30

Grand Ole Opry: Private Performance

Nothing says "Nashville" more than the Grand Ole Opry. The stars will be out as we host a Nashville tradition with surprise performers and guests. Don't miss out on this memorable night!

ENTERTAINMENT PACKAGES

Conference entertainment package (for FOP members) includes the following items for only \$125:

- Conference bag
- Welcome to Nashville concert
- 2017 Conference T-shirt
- Nashville Conference challenge coin
- 2017 Conference guitar pin
- Roundtrip transportation to downtown Nashville
- Four daily giveaway tickets*. Daily ticket drawings include two \$500 Marriott gift cards, two FOP limited edition Gibson guitars and four \$250 First Tactical gift cards.
- Grand Ole Opry private performance tickets

Family member entertainment package (must be purchased with a regular package) for \$60:

- Welcome to Nashville concert
- Roundtrip transportation to downtown Nashville
- Grand Ole Opry private performance tickets

* *The first 2,000 Conference entertainment packages purchased will include **10** daily drawing tickets.*

Visit www.fop2017.com to purchase entertainment packages online and for additional information on hotel accommodations and transportation.

BRAVE THE HEAT

LIGHTWEIGHT APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES TO KEEP YOU COOL WHEN TEMPERATURES SOAR

Summer days are an invitation to enjoy the great outdoors, but when the sun's rays crank up the heat, it can make for a miserable time on patrol. The last thing you need is to be weighed down or for your uniform to trap the heat. These selected duty apparel products feature breathable fabrics, allow for ease of movement and are ready to endure a lot of wear and tear.

First Tactical

RIDGELINE CARBON FIELD WATCH

Time on Your Side

A duty watch doesn't have to add bulk to what you already wear on the job. The Ridgeline Carbon Field Watch by First Tactical is made with a lightweight carbon resin PA housing; the medium-sized face and 12.5mm thickness further streamline its appearance. Although crafted for tactical purposes with its durable webbing band and Super-LumiNova hands, stylistically, the watch blends in with casual wear as well as with any uniform. MSRP \$169.99.



Reebok and Warson Brands

SUBLITE CUSHION TACTICAL *Fancy Footwork*



Police work is tough on the body, so the creators of the new Reebok Sublite Cushion Tactical Boot, licensed by Warson Brands, have calculated for the type of stress law enforcement professionals put on their feet. A MemoryTech footbed conforms around the foot for an individualized fit, while the Sublite foam midsole technology minimizes the boots' weight. The heel and toe have rubber pads for stopping/starting power and a slip-resistant outsole maintains a grip on wet surfaces. The boot also protects the wearer against electrical hazards. MSRP \$113 to \$148.



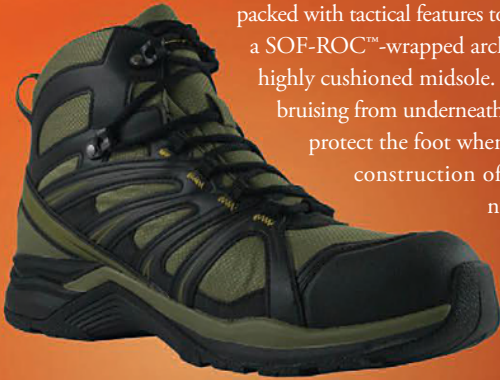
Enter for a chance to WIN!
See page 4 for more info

Altama

ABOUTTABAD TRAIL MID WP

Ready to Run

These rugged, quick-adjusting Altama Abouttabad Trail Runners are packed with tactical features to protect you in action, including a SOF-ROC™-wrapped arch, Panama Sole technology and highly cushioned midsole. The Rock 'n' Roll Plate™ prevents bruising from underneath, while the molded rubber toe helps protect the foot when kicking. Waterproof membrane construction of microfiber polyurethane and nylon mesh laminate maximizes breathability and airflow. Available in coyote (tan), hunter green, gray, black and brown, as well as a low-cut (non-waterproof) style. MSRP \$149.99.



Dickies



WOMEN'S TACTICAL STRETCH RIPSTOP PANTS

Form and Function

Constructed out of flexible, comfortable fabric, Dickies' Women's Tactical Stretch Ripstop Pants accommodate a police officer's needs, such as a covert handcuff pocket at the center waist, an L-shaped front pocket for knife clips, plus a cellphone pocket and inset back pocket. The cargo pocket even has a built-in mag pouch. Available in black, desert sand and midnight, the pants come in a men's cut, too. Dickies also makes the Short Sleeve Ventilated Ripstop Tactical Shirt to complete your professional look. MSRP \$58.99.



BLACKHAWK!

PURSUIT SHORT

Practically Perfect

The Pursuit Short by Blackhawk! boasts large cargo pockets in addition to standard trouser pockets, so you can skip the long pants without giving up storage for accessories. Badges can be placed on the wide front belt loops. Other design elements include an action waistband that moves with the wearer to prevent binding, plus ripstop fabric treated with Teflon Shield to repel oil, water and most stains. MSRP \$64.99 (28"-42" waist) or \$69.99 (44"-54" waist).



Tru-Spec

24-7 XPEDITION PANTS

Gotta Vent

These Xpedition Pants are the newest design in Tru-Spec's 24-7 Series and have many elements to prevent the fatiguing effects of summer heat. Dual mesh zippered vents on each thigh and calf encourage a cooling airflow. Other functional favorites include one back pocket with an accessible flap and the other with a secured zipper closure, as well as boot hooks and strap adjustments with snaps on the ankle cuffs. Available in various colors. MSRP \$117.95 or \$154.95 (multi-cam/coyote color). **FOP**



Propper

WOMEN'S SUMMERWEIGHT TACTICAL SHIRT

Cool It Now

Female officers will value the practical characteristics of the Women's Summerweight Tactical Shirt by Propper. It's cut from a lightweight fabric that's been coated with a UPF 50 layer to protect against damaging sun exposure. Additionally, the shoulders are vented in back for extra airflow. Tactical highlights include a side-access chest pocket with hook-and-loop closure. MSRP \$44.99 (short sleeve) or \$49.99 (long sleeve).



For more duty apparel options, go to:



ADVANCED ALTERNATIVES

Technology continues to elevate the arsenal of less-lethal options

When tension with suspects or crowds escalates, police officers rely on their training and choice of weapons to safely defuse the situation. It's under such circumstances that less-lethal weapons and munitions become a critical and effective tool. In today's environment, agencies are revising use-of-force policies to discourage deadly force and cities are seeing large-scale public protests that require a significant police presence. Alternative weapons empower law enforcement professionals to exert authority while simultaneously minimizing the risk of injury to other parties. Here is an overview of some of the latest offerings, as manufacturers continue to upgrade and expand the capabilities and applications of less-lethal products.



PEPPERBALL

TCP

NEAR OR FAR

The new PepperBall TCP is a compact launcher that enables users to cover various distances. A familiar, pistol-like design relies on CO2 or nitrogen cartridges within the magazine to send PepperBalls accurately up to 65 feet. Load in the new PepperBall VXR shaped projectiles, and you can increase the reach up to 150 feet. This semi-auto less-lethal pistol conveniently fits on a duty belt or attaches to any MOLLE platform. MSRP \$449.

KIMBER AMERICA

PEPPERBLASTER II

STREAMLINED DEPLOYMENT

The PepperBlaster II by Kimber America is an upgraded version of its popular pepper spray launcher. This newer model's patented jet projector technology enables shooters to fire off not one, but two continuous streams of highly effective pepper spray up to 13 feet. Even better, the technology is not affected by cold, heat, wind or direction, and the spray travels at 112 mph. MSRP \$39.95.

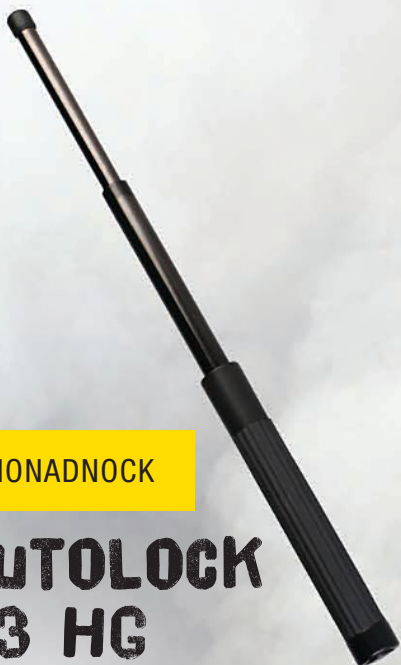


MISSION LESS LETHAL TECHNOLOGIES

MISSION SAFE MUNITIONS

SITUATION-SPECIFIC

Mission Less Lethal Technologies devises less-lethal products that address multiple scenarios. Mission Safe Munitions payloads include OC, CS, PAVA, blends and specialty projectiles that permit users to choose what application works best. For example, use it to make a high kinetic impact, safely break glass from a distance or even leave a strategic marking. MSRP varies per product.



MONADNOCK

AUTOLOCK X3 HG EXPANDABLE BATON

READILY RELIABLE

Monadnock, a brand of The Safariland Group, revealed its new AutoLock X3 HG Expandable Baton at the SHOT Show in February. Although smaller in size — the open length is 19.75 inches and closed length is 8.75 inches — the shaft has a larger diameter, which offers more surface contact area. Also enhancing performance is the updated cam and stainless steel ball-bearing design for reliable locking. The Super Grip handle is wrapped in a Santoprene material, while the integrated nose cap allows for smooth holstering. MSRP \$196.



SABRE

CROSSFIRE TECHNOLOGY GEL DELIVERY

KEEPS FIRING

The SABRE Crossfire Technology Gel Delivery offers operators nearly universal application with deployment from multiple directions and angles. The flip-top firing mechanism enables quick access, and the product withstands high temperatures and hydrostatic pressure. The gel is a water-soluble capsiem oleoresin with ultraviolet marking dye. MSRP \$15 per unit.



AMTEC LESS-LETHAL SYSTEMS

TRMR-LE TACTICAL TRAINING DEVICE

TARGETED TECH

AMTEC Less-Lethal Systems' TRMR-LE Tactical Training Device is a reloadable, non-lethal training grenade. Sturdy construction and easy-to-understand instructions make this an invaluable tool. Capable of up to 250 uses before replacement, the TRMR-LE is effective as a stun mechanism or a dispersal unit for irritants. The twist-to-arm system prevents accidental discharge. MSRP \$250. **FOP**

For more less-lethal products, visit  [FOPConnect.com](https://www.fopconnect.com)

FOP-Supported Bills Power Through Committee; All Top Priorities Now Introduced



At this writing, the 115th Congress has just returned from the Easter recess and has returned to work. At the top of its agenda is legislation to fund the federal government for the remainder of FY2017. That said, FOP priorities are moving through committee, meaning that they could be considered on the floor later this year.

FOP's Top Priorities Introduced in Both House and Senate

The Social Security Fairness Act has now been introduced as H.R. 1205 in the House and S. 915 in the Senate. These two bills would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) in current Social Security law.

The FOP maintains that this is an issue of fairness. When the WEP was enacted in 1983, its stated purpose was to remove a “windfall” for persons who spent some time in jobs not covered by Social Security (like public employees) and who also worked other jobs where they paid Social Security taxes long enough to qualify for retirement benefits. This provision has created a very real inequity for many public employees — particularly police officers — who retire earlier than other government employees to begin second careers that require them to pay into the Social Security system. Law enforcement officers who had second careers face as much as a 60% cut to their Social Security benefits. This is a reduction of a benefit to which they are entitled because they paid into the system, not an adjustment for a windfall.

Similarly, the GPO offsets the Social Security benefit to which a spouse or widow(er) is entitled by two-thirds of the monthly amount of any government pension that they might receive. For example, the widow of a retired law enforcement

Just the Facts:

» The 115th Congress will be considering bills long fought for by the FOP regarding Social Security fairness for law enforcement officers as well as equity for federal officers. Five law-enforcement-related bills have passed the House Judiciary Committee, PSOB reform has passed the Senate Judiciary Committee, and the Law Enforcement Officers Mental Health and Wellness Act has been introduced.

officer who collected a government pension of \$1,200 would be entitled to \$800, which is greater than the spouse's benefit of \$600, thus making her unable to collect it. If the spouse's benefit was \$900, she would collect only \$100, because \$800 would be “offset” by her government pension. Again, the FOP believes this is a matter of fairness and that the offset scheme currently in place penalizes those employees (or their survivors) least able to afford it. Law enforcement officers are especially affected because, like many public employees, they are not part of the Social Security system.

We urge all of our members to contact their representative and ask them to co-sponsor H.R. 1205, and contact both of their senators and urge them to co-sponsor S. 915.

The Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act has also been introduced in both the House and the Senate. The House bill number is H.R. 964, and the Senate companion bill is S. 424. Both pieces of legislation would expand the definition of “law enforcement officer” for salary and retirement benefits to include all federal law enforcement officers.

Due to their high level of training and the dangerous nature of their profession, Congress rightfully determined that federal law enforcement officers should receive enhanced salary and retirement benefits compared to other federal

employees. However, federal law enforcement officers classified as GS-0083 police officers were not initially covered. Over time, Congress has partially corrected this injustice by granting GS-0083 officers in some agencies law enforcement officer (LEO) status for salary and retirement benefits, but today nearly 30,000 of these dedicated federal law enforcement officers do not receive these benefits. Congress has even granted LEO status to air traffic controllers and many employees of the Bureau of Prisons (such as cooks), whose primary duties are not related to law enforcement.

These dedicated men and women put their lives on the line as law enforcement officers for different agencies, including the Department of Defense (DoD) and Armed Services, Veterans Affairs (VA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Postal Police, Federal Protective Service (FPS), National Institutes of Health (NIH), U.S. Mint, and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP). They serve as our federal government's first responders, are asked to face the same hazards as their state and local counterparts and, when one of them falls in the line of duty, their names are added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Through regulatory authority, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has promulgated that the definition of a law enforcement officer for salary and pay

benefits does not include “an employee whose primary duties involve maintaining law and order, protecting life and property, guarding against or inspecting violations of law, or investigating persons who are suspect or convicted of offenses against the criminal laws of the United States.” These officers may achieve LEO status by appealing to the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) or the OPM, but since 2000, the OPM and the MSPB, with the backing of U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, have made it extremely difficult for these officers to gain LEO status through judicial review.

Since the OPM will not amend its outdated LEO definition and the judicial review process has failed, the best remedy to this injustice is legislation amending the U.S. Code to grant all GS-0083 officers LEO status. H.R. 964, the Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act, would provide these brave federal officers with 6(c) benefits and the ability to retire after 20 years of service at the age of 50, or after 25 years of service at any age.

Congress should pass this legislation and recognize that these GS-0083 officers are as highly trained as their colleagues with LEO status. Many attend the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and their jobs are no less dangerous. These officers have been seriously injured and even killed in the line of duty. Criminals who assault civilian law enforcement officers do not discriminate based on their salary and retirement status and neither should this nation, which is greatly served by their dedication and sacrifice.

Ultimately, granting these law enforcement officers the retirement and salary benefits they deserve will save taxpayers money. The increased cost would be more than offset by the savings in training, because recruitment and retention are problems federal law enforcement agencies face.

We urge our members to contact their representatives and senators and ask them to support H.R. 964 and S. 424.

House Judiciary Committee Moves FOP-Backed Bills

Immediately after the Easter recess, the Committee on the Judiciary in the House considered and passed the following pieces of legislation.

Continued on page 24 >

PRODUCT SHOWCASE



Streamlight® Stinger LED HL®

Streamlight's signature rechargeable flashlight just got brighter, producing 800 lumens! The updated lights now come with USB-compatible smart chargers, giving you faster charging and more flexibility. Don't need new chargers? The Stinger LED HL will fit into *any* existing Stinger charge bracket, making upgrading your duty light a breeze. The beam is specially designed to shine over 1,000 feet while also producing bright peripheral light. Order yours today from BrightGuy, a flashlight provider in the law enforcement community for over 18 years. Visit www.BrightGuy.com today and get **10% off** your first order with promo code **FOP17** at checkout (limited-time offer).



Fox Tactical Over The Headrest Tactical-To Bag

Fox Tactical's Over The Headrest Tactical Go-To Bag offers a wide variety of options when it comes to organizing essential gear for on-the-go action. Available in three colors and featuring side hook-and-loop pockets with modular attachment points, three front accessory pockets and a concealed carry pocket, this is one of the most versatile bags in our lineup. For more info, go to shop.foxoutdoor.com.



DeSantis Gunhide Raptor

DeSantis Gunhide's new Raptor, style 146 is a high ride OWB/IWB Kydex-thermoformed holster. It is preformed with a curved back with most of the detailed molding on the outer portion. This adds to both comfort and concealability. The Raptor comes with belt loops for up to 1 3/4" and IWB soft polymer straps. This also features a trigger guard detent and a rear sweat guard. MSRP \$79.99. For more information, go to www.desantisholster.com or www.holster.com.



StrongArm

Arm yourself with StrongArm from HURST Jaws of Life, a portable, powerful multi-tool that cuts, lifts and spreads, replacing a number of single-purpose hand tools for police and SWAT teams. Compact and lightweight with a Li-Ion rechargeable battery, StrongArm easily and quietly breaches doors, pries open car doors and cuts 3/8" rebar, Grade 43 chain and 2" x 4" wood. Designed to be carried in one hand, it's available in black to fade into the night; when light is needed, its Picatinny accessory rail allows for the addition of a flashlight. Learn more at www.jawsoflife.com.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Continued from page 23 >

- H.R. 115, the Thin Blue Line Act, which would increase the penalty for offenders who kill or attempt to kill law enforcement or other public safety officers
- H.R. 510, the Rapid DNA Act, which would implement the use of Rapid DNA instruments to inform decisions about pretrial release or detention and their conditions, to solve and prevent violent crimes and other crimes, and to exonerate the innocent and prevent DNA analysis backlogs
- H.R. 613, the Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati Correctional Officer Self-Protection Act, which would direct the Bureau of Prisons to make secure firearms storage areas accessible to employees at all of its facilities
- H.R. 1039, the Probation Officer Protection Act, which would amend Section 3606 of Title 18, United States Code, to grant probation officers authority to arrest

hostile third parties who obstruct or impede a probation officer in the performance of official duties

- H.R. 1892, the Honoring Hometown Heroes Act, which would amend the U.S. flag code to allow state governors to order that the U.S. flag be flown at half-staff in the event of a line-of-duty death of a law enforcement or other public safety officer

These five bills are now pending on the House floor and action on these bills is possible during National Police Week.

Senate Committee Passes PSOB Reform Bill; Regulations Still Pending

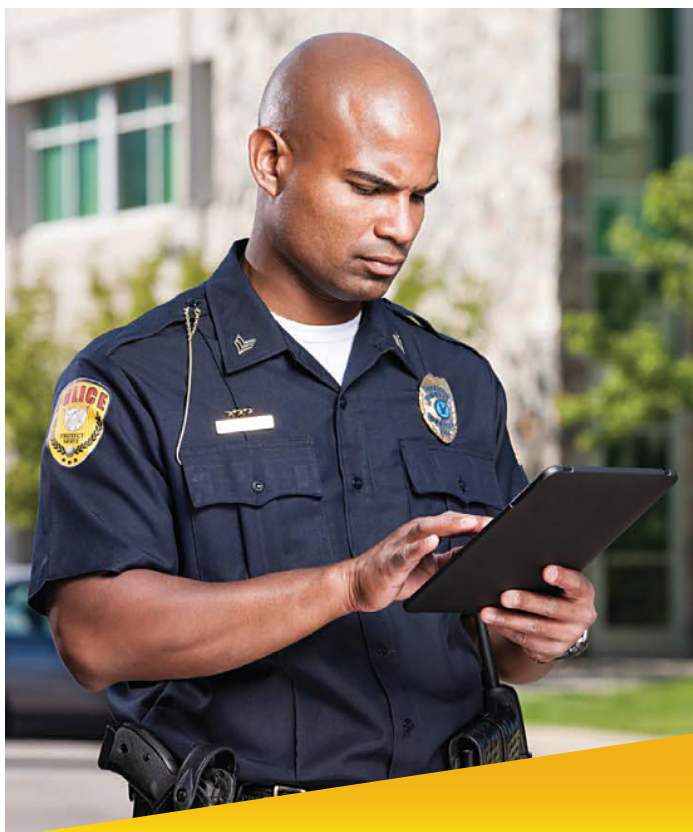
The Senate Committee on the Judiciary has been focused almost exclusively on the consideration of nominations to the U.S. Supreme Court and top posts in the U.S. Department of Justice. The committee, however, did hold one markup to consider legislation — specifically S. 419, the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Improvements Act.

The PSOB program is severely backlogged and has been in considerable

disarray since its regulatory changes were implemented nearly a decade ago. Several attorneys general have attempted to address the shortcomings of the program to no avail, and the FOP has urged Congress to act. This legislation, which passed the Senate last year, will provide much-needed transparency and accountability. It also makes improvements to the claims process — improvements that should be applied immediately to address the unacceptable claims backlog as well as future claims. The FOP is particularly supportive of the provision that will allow the U.S. Justice Department to potentially adopt standards developed by other federal agencies.

Similarly, the FOP supports the provision that requires that when making determinations on PSOB claims, the program is to give substantial weight to the evidence and findings of fact presented by a public agency. In this case, too, we believe that this provision should be interpreted and applied broadly.

In addition, changes to the implementing regulations approved at the end of last year under the previous administration remain under review. The FOP continues to be in close contact with the



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Justice Department and the White House on this issue.

FOP's Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act Introduced

Late last year, staff in the office of Senator Joseph S. Donnelly, Sr. (D-Ind.), reached out to the National FOP legislative staff in an effort to draft legislation that would address the mental health needs of law enforcement officers. The FOP, working with the offices of Senator Donnelly and Todd Young (R-Ind.) in the Senate and Representatives Susan Brooks (R-Ind.) and Valdez Demings (D-Fla.) in the House, crafted S. 867/H.R. 2228, the Law Enforcement Officers Mental Health and Wellness Act.

The bill directs the U.S. attorney general to identify existing mental health and wellness programs, especially those administered by the U.S. Departments of Defense, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, and Veterans Affairs, and then develop model policies that could be adopted by state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies. It also authorizes the establishment of pilot peer-mentoring programs using federal grants.

This is a challenging time for law enforcement officers, who find themselves increasingly targeted for violence, not in furtherance of any crime, but simply for the uniform they wear. They must exercise an elevated sense of vigilance as they go about their sworn duties, which takes a toll on their mental and physical health. Throughout the years, we have made great strides in physically protecting our officers, but we can and should do more to protect their mental health as well.

Support the PAC

The National Fraternal Order of Police Political Action Committee (NFOP PAC) is an essential part of our Legislative Office in Washington, D.C. The NFOP PAC is the most effective way possible to represent our members on Capitol Hill. It is critical that we help elect candidates who support not only our members, but the entire law enforcement community.

Our challenge to you is to have each and every FOP member in your department, lodge and state commit \$5 a month to the NFOP PAC. This \$5 is an investment in your future, the future of law enforcement and the future of the Fraternal Order of Police.

To donate, please make a check out to the National Fraternal Order of Police Political Action Committee and mail it to 328 Massachusetts Ave. NE, Washington, D.C., 20002.


New Staff in the National Legislative Office

We are pleased to announce that Scott Marks, a graduate of Sam Houston State University in Texas, has joined the National Legislative Office as a legislative liaison. Scott will administer the NFOP PAC in addition to being part of the legislative advocacy team. Welcome aboard, Scott!

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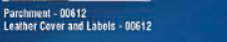
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Plan for Peace of Mind

In today's 24/7 world, it seems that there is very little time to pause and ponder about the future. Yet this is something that we all need to do in order make sure that our families are protected.

Planning for one's estate is not limited to the wealthy. Estate planning is much more than the distribution of one's assets. It covers the appointment of an executor (an individual named in the will to administer one's estate), the appointment of a guardian (individual[s] who will take care of minor children if both parents are deceased) or the appointment of a trusted individual who will make financial and/or health care decisions for us if needed. Identifying who these people are among our circle of family and friends has nothing to do with the balance in our bank accounts or the value of our home.

The following are the basic five documents recommended for a family's protection:

Last will and testament: The will lays out how assets are to be distributed upon death. The will becomes increasingly important in instances when there is a second marriage. Typically, the wills of married individuals mirror each other: The husband gives 100% to the wife and the wife gives 100% to the husband. What if both the husband and wife have children from prior marriages? A determination needs to be made as to how assets are going to be divided among the surviving spouse, children from a prior marriage and children from the current marriage. If an individual died without a will, the succession laws of the state of residence will dictate how the assets are going to be distributed among the surviving spouse and all the children.

For individuals with minor children, the will provides for the appointment of guardians as stated above.

Financial power of attorney: In the event we suffer from any temporary or

Just the Facts:

» Planning one's estate is not limited to the wealthy. It is something that everyone needs to do to ensure that their families are protected and that one's wishes at the end of life are carried out. Set up basic instruments like wills, trusts and powers of attorney today so you don't have to worry about tomorrow.

permanent disability during our lifetime, it is important to have appointed another person who will act on our behalf before we become incapacitated. Otherwise, a full-blown guardianship proceeding in probate court would have to be instituted to appoint a guardian for us.

Health care power of attorney: If we become too incapacitated to make health care decisions for ourselves, we need another person to do so on our behalf. Similar to a financial power of attorney, we need to appoint an individual(s) who can make health care decisions for us in the event that we lose such ability. As with the financial power of attorney, having a health care power of attorney would prevent the need for a guardianship proceeding in probate court.

Living will: The living will goes hand in hand with the health care power of attorney. If, for example, it is our desire to not be kept alive by artificial means in the event that we are in a permanently unconscious state, we need to express it in writing. If we feel strongly that we do not want to be kept alive by being hooked up to a machine, we need to let our family members know our intention.

Trust: The establishment of an unfunded trust during our lifetime is important for individuals with minor children. If something were to happen to both parents at the same time, all the assets of the couple (house, bank accounts, retirement accounts, brokerage accounts and

other assets) will be held for the minor children under supervision of the probate court until the child reaches age 18. Creating a trust will allow us to pick the individuals who will manage all of our assets and make distributions accordingly to our children.

We all purchase insurance for our homes and cars on an annual basis. We pay the premiums but hope to not collect on the policy. Estate planning is somewhat similar, except we do intend to collect once at some point in the future. The problem is, we do not know if the future is tomorrow or decades from tomorrow. By having an estate plan, we are ensuring that our assets will be managed and distributed according to our plan. By having an estate plan, we are ensuring that we will have an individual step into our shoes if we become incapacitated. By having an estate plan, we are buying a peace of mind today so that we do not have to worry about tomorrow.

Eileen Bower is the associate general counsel for the FOP. She can be reached at (614) 229-4502 or ebower@cbjlawyers.com.

This material has been prepared for informational purposes only, and is not intended to provide nor should be relied on for legal advice. You should consult your own legal advisor before engaging in any estate planning. FOP

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 6 >

training, more boots on the ground and a city that supports real crime-reduction programs. He highlighted poor equipment and limited training opportunities as major issues.

The Philadelphia Police Department had requested a review by the DOJ, but it did not end in any findings that would require a consent decree. The attorney general is very interested in this because he feels that taking over local police departments is not effective, and he agreed with the FOP that collaborative agreements are far more effective in making real changes, as problems are usually caused by systemic bad management.

In the meeting, we also discussed the role of state and local law enforcement in fighting terrorism, and the fact that there is a severe shortage of boots on the ground. This led to discussion on retaining and recruiting. The administration is interested in finding ways to assist state and local agencies in this area.

It appears that the administration agrees that reducing standards is not the answer to the recruitment problems. The FOP recommended tuition reimbursement, as well as

measures that were present in previous LEAA programs to help retain officers. We emphasized that retaining qualified officers is directly tied to pay and benefits, as well as receiving support from politicians.

We also discussed issues involving pensions and health care, and asked them to make sure we are at the table on these issues. We expressed that these issues are hurting recruitment and retention. Health care must be a priority in keeping officers with their agencies.

We affirmed our support for eliminating the Cadillac tax, and explained that our retirees are being priced out of health care and needed assistance. We discussed the opioid epidemic and offered our expertise to serve on any federal commissions or task forces to reduce this scourge in America.

We also discussed sanctuary cities, advising the president that as an organization we support the administration's position but are concerned about losing federal grant funds to assist state and local law enforcement agencies, noting that only the citizens suffer if these funds are withheld. We stressed that criminal aliens must be the priority of ICE and that officers need support from the administration, as many of our jurisdictions

are prohibiting officers from assisting federal agencies.

We ended our meeting by discussing the need to expand federal hate crime legislation and reduce violence against police. The president's executive order created an advisory group on reducing violence, and we have asked to have a seat at that table as well.

Other priority issues, like the changes imposed by the Obama administration on equipment programs like the 1033 Program, were not addressed at this meeting due to time constraints; all, however, are continually discussed with the administration by the National Legislative Office staff and have been discussed with the attorney general. **FOP**

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 10 >

how to proceed with acquiring one from your local agency. Additionally, as this is an employer-sponsored deferred compensation plan, it can only be offered to the active employees of your agencies.

Be safe, my Brothers and Sisters, and I look forward to being with you all at our Conference in Nashville. **FOP**

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Auxiliary Efforts to Address Law Enforcement Family Issues



We are excited to be attending the Grand Lodge Auxiliary's 38th Biennial Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, in August. The Auxiliary will be addressing issues affecting and of concern to the families of today's FOP members. While many subjects and matters concerning law enforcement families are the same as those of officers who served 30, 20 or even just 10 years ago, today's law enforcement families are facing topics and matters that have not presented themselves in the past. Those are the issues that the Auxiliary needs to address and work toward, to provide avenues of assistance for FOP families. Matters of importance to an officer are matters of importance to his or her family.

The delegates to the Auxiliary Conference will be given informative presentations designed with emphasis on auxiliary offices, from subordinate to state to national, in an effort to provide the leaders and future leaders of the Auxiliary with instruction and insight. A presentation for auxiliaries that have been in existence

for less than three years will be available to assist them with questions and issues they may have regarding their auxiliary.

The Auxiliary Expo booth will feature many of our projects and programs, and I hope you will be able to visit the booth to learn more about the Auxiliary. The Tennessee Auxiliary delegation is responsible for the Expo booth, and it will be manned by delegates from various states during the Expo hours of operation.

The evening events organized by our hosts, the Andrew Jackson Lodge #5 in Nashville, are planned to provide us an opportunity to relax and enjoy their city. I am looking forward to seeing many of the sights in Music City.

The Grand Lodge Auxiliary, initiated by the Auxiliary's National Peace Officers' Memorial Service Committee, continues to offer the beautiful challenge coin depicting a replica of the Medal of Valor on the front and U.S. Capitol on the back, which is presented to the families of our fallen heroes at the Memorial Service. Sales of these striking coins have allowed the Auxiliary to make donations to the Fraternal Order of Police Foundation. At this year's Conference, the Grand Lodge Auxiliary will again present the Foundation with a very nice contribution.

The Auxiliary *Informer* is the monthly electronic newsletter of the Grand Lodge Auxiliary, keeping members advised of the progress of national programs as well as events happening in state and subordinate auxiliaries nationwide. Articles welcoming newly formed auxiliaries and articles from local auxiliaries sharing their latest successful membership projects are published to provide other auxiliaries with new ideas. The National Auxiliary promotes our ways-and-means projects and committee-sponsored raffles, while state and local auxiliaries advertise their fundraisers inviting nationwide member participation. The *Informer* is designed to equip our members with up-to-date reports from the Grand Lodge Auxiliary, and news of events and projects of other auxiliaries and their members. If you would like to receive this monthly electronic publication, please contact *Informer* editor Susan Vargo at auxinformer@gmail.com, providing your name and lodge or auxiliary affiliation.

The Auxiliary is ready to work for you and eager to talk with you regarding the many ways an auxiliary can assist your lodge. While at the National Conference in Nashville, stop by our Expo booth, visit our meeting room or talk with an Auxiliary member to learn more about what we do. We are here for you and will continue our efforts to support law enforcement and their families. We want to assure the FOP and their families that we will "Never Let Them Walk Alone." **FOP**

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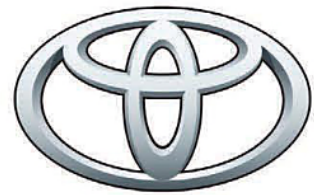
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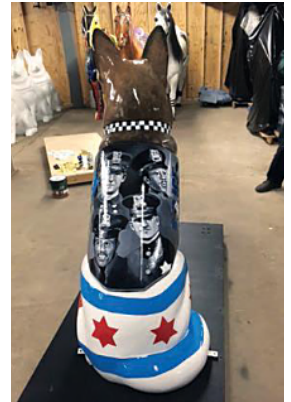
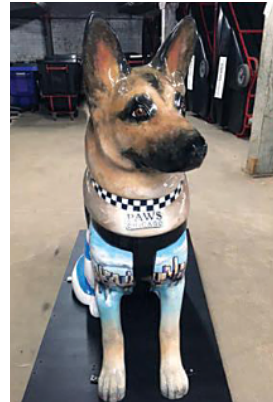
In Chicago, a small but mighty foundation works diligently to raise funds for the families of police officers killed or injured in the line of duty and to build bridges between citizens, business leaders and police. One way it accomplishes this difficult task is through art.

Early in 2004, former Chicago Police Superintendent Phil Cline started the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation for the purpose of building a memorial park to honor Chicago's fallen and their families. Then, Cline's agenda became the "mission beyond the memorial." Today, the foundation works to meet the various needs of the families of catastrophically injured and fallen police officers. To date, the foundation has awarded families more than \$8 million to cover costs from schools and medical expenses to sports activities, helping to add a sense of ease and normalcy to their daily lives.

As a fundraising initiative, the group created the Horses of Honor public art installation. For two summers, larger-than-life, beautifully painted fiberglass police horses lined Chicago's famous Magnificent Mile, attracting positive attention to the foundation's cause. The group raised more than \$800,000 from the campaign. In 2015, the band Chicago sponsored a horse painted by Officer Peter Bucks and held a press conference to auction off the much-loved horses.

Now, the foundation has launched the Chicago K9s for Cops public art campaign. This initiative is in partnership with PAWS Chicago, a no-kill animal shelter. Part of the proceeds will benefit Chicago's K9 officers through the purchase of more animals and canine police vests.

These statues are fashioned after traditional German shepherd canine officers and, like the figures in the Horses of Honor



campaign, will be painted by artists. Businesses and individuals will sponsor the artwork, and the Chicago K9s will guard the Magnificent Mile from end to end starting July 23 through Labor Day.

This year, America's police officers and their families are invited to celebrate their fellow officers and the foundation in

THE K9S WILL GUARD THE MAGNIFICENT MILE FROM END TO END STARTING JULY 23 THROUGH LABOR DAY. AMERICA'S POLICE OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE THEIR FELLOW OFFICERS IN CHICAGO.

Chicago — all FOP families are welcome. Deep discounts at participating hotels and restaurants are available. Officers from various parts of the country have already registered. Other activities for police officers and their families are also being planned. Learn more about how you can help your agency's officers at www.ChicagoK9s.com. **FOP**



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Come out to visit

Chicago's K9s for Cops

The Chicago Police Memorial Foundation invites America's police officers and their families to celebrate their fellow officers and the foundation in Chicago—all FOP families are invited.

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