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# FOP



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JANUARY 2023

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2023

## OFFICER WELLNESS SUMMIT

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A DANGEROUS  
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PROFESSION

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# Speaking With One United Voice

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

## 2023 Day on the Hill

**B**rothers and sisters, the National FOP needs your help! The new Congress will be sworn in and convene in January, and we will need to up our engagement and work hard to get our anti-crime and officer safety agenda through the 118th Congress. There will be a lot of new faces and major changes in congressional leadership, particularly in the Republican-led House.

The FOP's annual Day on the Hill will be held on February 6-8. This is a unique opportunity to have face-to-face interactions with the members of Congress who represent you in the nation's capital. We need to make sure that our priorities, like

the Social Security Fairness Act, are reintroduced quickly.

To sign up for the 2023 Day on the Hill, please visit [FOP.net/2023-dooh-register](https://fop.net/2023-dooh-register).

## New Law Benefits Severely Injured Officers

The president has signed into law H.R. 521/PL 225, the Fair Return for Employees on Their Initial Retirement Earned (RETIRE) Act. The FOP played a critical role in developing this legislation, which aims to help federal law enforcement officers who are severely injured in the line of duty and, as a result, can no longer serve in law enforcement. Under previous law, these injured officers lost their enhanced law enforcement retirement benefits,

known as 6(c) benefits. This law changes that and allows these officers to serve in another, non-law-enforcement position in the federal government and preserve their 6(c) benefit.

## Victory for Federal DOD Civilian Law Enforcement Officers

The National FOP is proud to share that Congress has sent H.R. 7776, the legislative vehicle for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023, to the president, who is expected to sign it into law. The bill includes a provision developed by the FOP to require all civilian law enforcement officers employed

Continued on page 9 >

# One of the Most Dangerous Years for Law Enforcement

## Press Release: The American Police Officer Is Facing a Heightened Level of Danger

**N**ational Fraternal Order of Police President Patrick Yoes released the following statement regarding the National FOP's recent report on officers shot and killed in the line of duty:

"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 as well as the nationwide crime crisis, which has seen criminals emboldened by the failed policies of pandering prosecutors and cynical politicians. 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, and this year is not far behind.

"With just days remaining in 2022, we've seen **323** officers shot in the line of duty so far this year, up **13%** from 2019 year to date. Of those officers who were shot, **60** were killed by gunfire, up **23%** from 2019 year to date.

"There were **87** ambush-style attacks on law enforcement officers this year, which resulted in **124** officers being shot; **31** of those officers were killed.

"Many will often look at this data and just see numbers. We **must** remember that they represent heroes — fathers, mothers, sons and daughters. The lethality of these attacks would be much greater were it not for dramatic improvements in medical trauma science and anti-ballistic technology.

"It is our sincere hope, as we begin a new year, that the new Congress will act swiftly and pass the Protect and Serve Act to address the national problem of ambushes and unprovoked attacks on our nation's law enforcement officers.

"If these violent criminals are willing to commit brazen acts

Continued on page 10 >

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***Continued from page 8 >*

by the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) to be issued an appropriate law enforcement credential.

When this issue was brought to us by First Federal Fraternal Order of Police Lodge President Daniel Henkel, and echoed by many of our federal DOD officers, we took it to Representative Donald J. Bacon (R-Neb.), who's been a very strong supporter of our nation's law enforcement officers. He immediately realized how important this was for the safety of our officers and made the issue a priority.

At the request of the FOP, Representative Bacon and a bipartisan group of House members wrote to Defense Department Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III, stating in part: "For law enforcement officers not to have the proper credentials clearly identifying them as law enforcement raises numerous issues, but the lack of this identification is a critical threat to the safety of these officers."

He sent that letter a year ago, and when the DOD did not address the issue, Representative Bacon introduced H.R. 8142, a bill requiring the

DOD to provide these credentials. Because of his leadership, a similar provision was included in the Defense Reauthorization Act and will soon be signed into law. We couldn't be more grateful to him.

Finally, I am pleased to report that the omnibus spending bill includes FOP's HELPS provision, which repeals the direct pay requirement for retired public safety officers. This means more

of our members will be able to use the \$3,000 pre-tax benefit for long-term health insurance. You can see the Washington Report on page 30 for more information.

If we are to replicate the success we have had in this Congress, we need to continue to work together and to unleash the huge potential of our grassroots. Start by attending our Day on the Hill and stay engaged! **FOP**



**Rep. Don Bacon** 🇺🇸 🗳️ @RepDonBacon · 27m ...

Thank you to the FOP for bringing this issue to me. I'm glad my bill on it was included in the FY 23 NDAA and passed!



**National Fraternal Order of Police...** 🗳️ · 1h

🇺🇸 **Defense Authorization Bill Goes to the President: FOP's Provision on Law Enforcement Credentials Will Become Law**

Thank you, @RepDonBacon for your tremendous work in getting this critical provision included in the bill.

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the

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We need your support of the National Fraternal Order of Police Political Action Committee (NFOP PAC), which, like our grassroots activism, is an essential part of our National Legislative Program. The NFOP PAC allows us to support candidates who support our members and our profession. As the oldest and largest law enforcement labor organization in the United States, it is crucial we keep our PAC strong, so we can help the candidates who not only support our members but the entire law enforcement community. It is up to us to ensure that they get elected!

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**PRESS RELEASE***Continued from page 8 >*

of violence against the men and women of law enforcement, we can't begin to fathom what heinous acts they are willing to commit against law-abiding citizens. As crime rates continue to rise, more citizens in this country are justifiably living in fear, constantly wondering if they too will become a victim. Law-abiding citizens saw the real-life consequences of what happens when elected officials embrace pro-criminal, revolving-door policies

and make decisions that put the interests of violent offenders ahead of public safety. These decisions — failures to prosecute violent offenders for their crimes or, even worse, releasing repeat offenders arrested for crimes who show a propensity for escalation of violence — make our communities less safe. These rogue prosecutors are putting innocent lives at risk. When there are no consequences for breaking the law, more people will break the law and crime will increase.

"I call on Americans in every community across the country to

join us in taking a stand — to say, 'Enough is enough!' Truthfully, the violence against those sworn to serve and protect is beyond unacceptable; it's a stain on our society, and it must end. It is incumbent upon our elected officials and community leaders to stand up, support our heroes and speak out against the violence against law enforcement officers."

To read the National FOP's recent report on officers shot and killed in the line of duty, please visit [tinyurl.com/yka4txnv](https://tinyurl.com/yka4txnv). The preliminary year-end report will be released in January 2023. **FOP**

## BREAKDOWN OF OFFICERS SHOT BY STATE

Alabama .....	6	Maine .....	0	Oregon .....	2
Alaska .....	3	Maryland .....	8	Pennsylvania .....	14
Arizona .....	21	Massachusetts .....	0	Rhode Island .....	0
Arkansas .....	8	Michigan .....	7	South Carolina .....	3
California .....	15	Minnesota .....	1	South Dakota .....	0
Colorado .....	7	Mississippi .....	6	Tennessee .....	12
Connecticut .....	5	Missouri .....	12	Texas .....	27
Delaware .....	0	Montana .....	1	Utah .....	1
Florida .....	13	Nebraska .....	0	Vermont .....	0
Georgia .....	18	Nevada .....	3	Virginia .....	8
Hawaii .....	0	New Hampshire .....	0	Washington .....	13
Idaho .....	2	New Jersey .....	2	West Virginia .....	4
Illinois .....	14	New Mexico .....	5	Wisconsin .....	6
Indiana .....	4	New York .....	11	Wyoming .....	2
Iowa .....	1	North Carolina .....	16	Washington, D.C. ....	3
Kansas .....	4	North Dakota .....	0	Puerto Rico .....	4
Kentucky .....	16	Ohio .....	4	Guam .....	0
Louisiana .....	2	Oklahoma .....	9	American Samoa .....	0



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# Starting the New Year Strong

// **WRITE TO US!** If you have further questions, contact Jimmy Holderfield at (904) 813-0067, or [jholderfield@fop.net](mailto:jholderfield@fop.net).

**H**appy new year! I hope you and your families had a great holiday season. Winter Storm Elliott played havoc on travel throughout our nation, and God bless each of you who worked during those days and nights keeping the rest of us safe. My wife, Pam, and I planned a family trip with our granddaughters several months ago to visit St. Louis and Branson, Missouri. Being from Florida, the girls had never seen snow, so the plan was to visit the Gateway Arch, learn some great American history and drive to Branson to see some shows. The goal was also to visit the Ozark Mountains and see some snow. Well, that all changed on the morning of December 26, when Southwest Airlines notified me that our travel was canceled. We met the disappointment in stride and came up with an alternative road trip plan. We spent the time together visiting Asheville, North Carolina, and Gatlinburg, Tennessee, instead. We were able to see snow. It was a great Christmas with family.

We have started the new year off with a bang. Michigan State Lodge President Mike Sauger and Michigan Labor Council Director David Willis have chartered a new statewide lodge consisting of over 1,040 new members. The lodge is made up of members from around the state who are a part of the Michigan FOP Labor Council and desire the National FOP Legal Plan. This new lodge is named Automotive Capital Lodge #1. Congratulations to all for your hard work on this great accomplishment.

Alabama State Lodge President Everett Johnson will be reinstating Elmore County Lodge #55 this week. This has been a goal of his for the past

four years. The lodge will start off with approximately 95 members, many of whom will demit from other lodges. Great job, President Johnson and Secretary Ron Ultz.

Your National FOP Membership Office has been working diligently processing per capita, printing membership cards and mailing the cards to the various lodges. We have had to work overtime some evenings and weekends to keep up with the demand. There have been some glitches, such as incorrect reporting on per capita forms from some local and state lodges, one of our card printers going down and the trouble with the mail services, especially during the storm. If you have not yet received your 2023 membership card, be patient — it's on the way. Be reminded, we are processing over 360,000 member cards for 2,308 local lodges.

Allow me to address some requests from members and local lodges I receive each per capita period so that all understand the process. A few locals have sent their per capita directly to the National Secretary's Office for processing. This can't be done. Why? Per capita must first be processed and approved at the state level to ensure the state is receiving its correct per capita payment on the members from the various locals. Individual members request their card be sent directly to them. I have even had the request for overnighting a card. Short answer: **no**. Why? There are several reasons: 1) Many locals pay per capita for their members in advance of receiving payment from the member. The local secretary must keep control of the cards and payments. 2) It creates an increased workload on National staff to find the member's card in the batch

and then individually mail it. 3) It increases the NFOP's mailing costs.

There are better and more efficient processes that we have been exploring to maintain membership data and make per capita payments and card issuance more streamlined. The system is known as Association Management System (AMS). We have reviewed over 30 different vendors during the past three years and have selected the top one, with which we are currently working out the fine-print details. Our aspirational goal is to have the system rolled out by the upcoming National Conference in Las Vegas and fully functional by the first-half per capita in 2024. Our current system (VUE) works but has not been updated in years. The technology today will allow us to integrate better with our local and state lodges; allow members to change their physical address, email address and phone numbers; and enable my office to issue electronic membership cards that you will be able to display from your phone. We will keep you posted on our progress.

Allow me to congratulate the newly elected or re-elected local lodge officers in those lodges that held elections recently. Please take advantage of the various training opportunities offered at your local, state and national levels. We know that some of you, especially lodge secretaries and treasurers, were not necessarily planning on filling that position and you certainly didn't know what was involved. We are here to help. There are no silly questions. Please reach out to past officers who have served in your position, or to your state or national offices. Helping each other is our fundamental goal, since we all succeed together.

Be safe out there, and I look forward to seeing you soon. **FOP**





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# Happy New Year?

// **WRITE TO US!** If you have further questions, contact Keith Turney at [kturney@fop.org](mailto:kturney@fop.org).

**W**e can all ask ourselves what the new year will bring. Continued vilification of our profession? More social unrest at the behest of the next perceived injustice? Battles within our county buildings, city halls and other realms of government to protect our status quo? Perhaps there will be a sensational attack by domestic extremists somewhere within the country. Could the unstable world theater spill over into our national arena, signaling more uncertainty for a society still recovering from past uncertainties?

We are definitely living in uncertain times. The average citizen for sure is

confused by, if not downright afraid of, what the future holds. In an age where information can be accessed at an accelerated rate and of 24-hour news cycles, it's no wonder intelligent people seem to drift in and out of rational thought. While all this uncertainty is occurring, the criminal element is surely taking advantage of it all, isn't it?

There is no arguing that crime is on the rise. There appears to be a clear correlation between the general breakdown of respect for authority and the increasing levels of violent crime across our country. Yet we still have our fair share of deniers out there. There are

still a good number of social activists who require their narrative to continue, or hence they will be unemployed and out of the limelight. So we continue to hear the loose arguments that it is actually authority and its arm of law enforcement that promulgate the high crime we are currently experiencing.

With all this madness around us, we still have brave women and men who go to work as law enforcement professionals day in and day out, oftentimes protecting society from itself. With all the discourse around us, it is easy to become disenchanted. Our heroes are being placed in no-win situations every day. We are increasingly seeing decriminalization of certain crimes in order to lower the boiling point between citizens and the police as yet another mechanism to ward off street confrontations. Of course, there are other elements of society who see these lax enforcement efforts as a slap in the face to their general obedience of the law and authority. And then there are the criminals who are exercising their newfound liberties to take maximum advantage of every situation that is offered them.

As we go into the new year, we can only hope that these tremulous times calm themselves down, if just a little. I assure you that I will make every effort to bring some semblance of order to all this chaos. Let's hope that the ever-swinging pendulum swings itself back into reality for all our sakes. Of extreme importance is your personal safety. Remain vigilant to all the dangers around you and try to reassure those you serve that you are there for them. You may be their only guiding light in this time of uncertainty.

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](https://surveymonkey.com/r/PowerInPeers).





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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

# Brent Jex

**JIMMY HOLDERFIELD / NATIONAL SECRETARY**  
**BRENT JEX / UTAH STATE LODGE PRESIDENT**

Starting the new year off in a positive direction, we are honored to feature the president of the Utah State Lodge, Brent Jex. Brother Jex is an outstanding leader in the FOP with a passion for helping others, especially when it comes to officer wellness. We know you will be inspired by his accomplishments as much as we are, and we are pleased to share his story with you.

Brother Brent retired in 2018 from the West Jordan Police Department, in a suburb of Salt Lake City, as a detective in narcotics. He has continued his service as a reserve officer dealing mostly with peer support. In 1998, he became a member of West Jordan Lodge #8 upon being hired. In 2001, he was elected to the board as the State trustee. He was elected lodge president in 2003 and served until 2009. In 2008, he was elected vice president of the Utah State Lodge and was elected president in 2012, serving in that capacity for the past 10 and a half years.

What President Jex enjoys most about his position is the opportunity of being able to help his brothers and sisters deal with the struggles that many others have been through. He likes being able to help them avoid mistakes that he's made in either leadership positions, his own wellness or family life. He especially enjoys being able to interact with fellow officers around the state and around the country.

He shared with us that he went through his own PTSD bout in 2014, paying for 20 weeks of therapy out of his own pocket because he didn't want his agency to know. He realized there was a deficiency. One of his board members at the time, Clint Bobrowski, had a conversation about starting their own wellness initiative. They had some great ideas and started their foundation. He gives the credit for the success to Clint. They filed for 501(c)(3) status themselves, and it was approved. The Utah FOP Foundation was created. They presented the concept at their 2015 State Conference, and it was unanimously approved. The foundation is largely member-funded. It pays for four visits to one of the pre-vetted therapists for any law enforcement officer in Utah, whether they are an FOP member or not. However, FOP members get additional benefits. Clint and Brent, from the concept, thought it was important they demonstrate to everyone that they are serious about wellness.

The therapists invoice the foundation anonymously for those visits. The foundation pays for most of the visits, and the goal is to pay 100%. Since 2015, over \$100,000 for therapy visits has been paid for LEOs and their spouses. The biggest reward received since the creation of this program is saving officers' lives, families and careers, but there is still much more work to do.



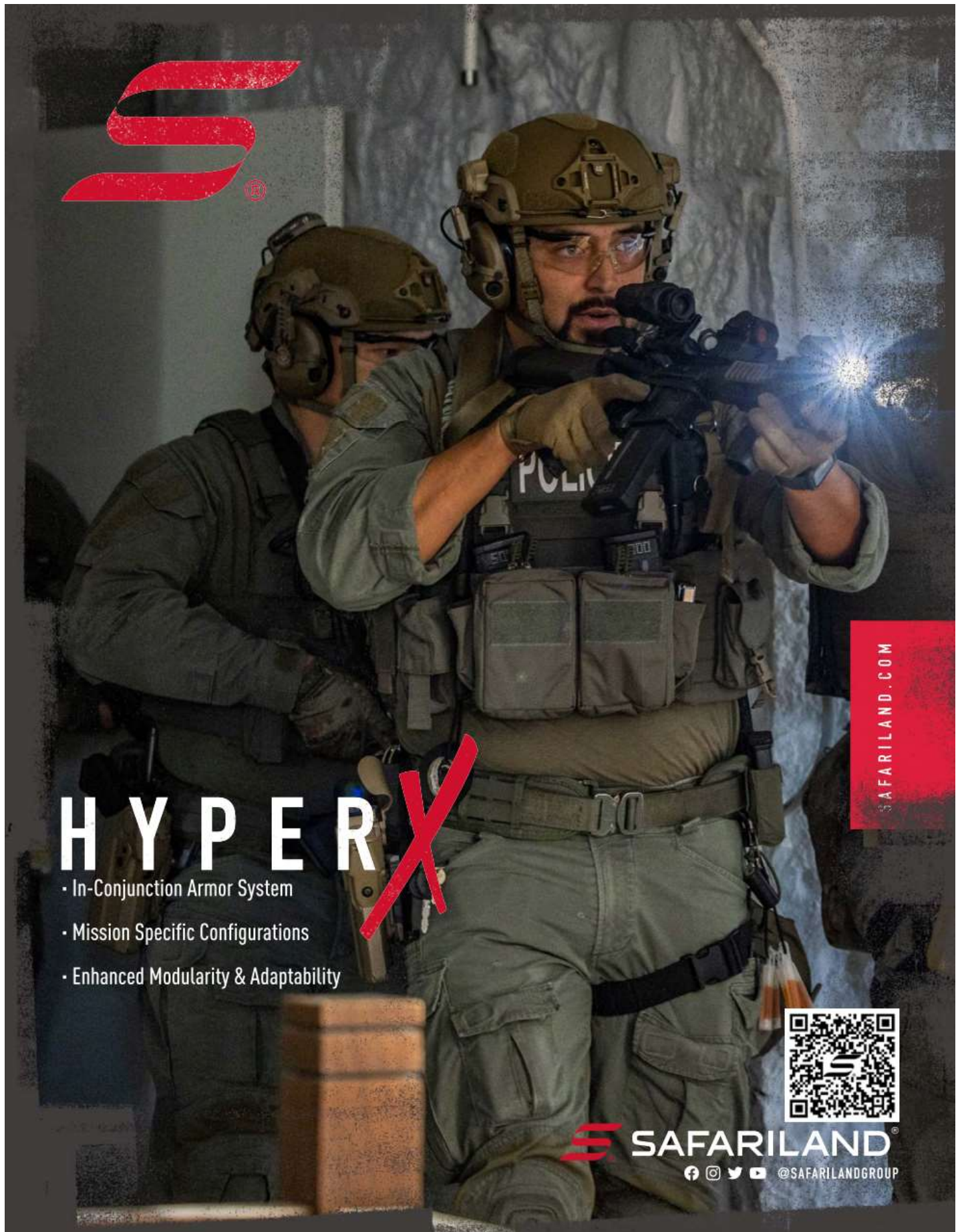
It's a team effort, and it couldn't be done without the support of the State Board and their commitment to wellness. They all share the passion and drive for it, and most have used the therapy services. They strive to get rid of the stigma and change the culture. Brother Jex gives special thanks to the many great chiefs, sheriffs and legislators who are passionate about wellness and changing the culture and stigma as well. He is also thankful to the other states for their influence and help in developing the program.


The Utah State Lodge has a law firm (legal defense plan) dedicated to FOP members. There are eight attorneys who are either active/retired law enforcement or

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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

*Continued from page 16*

prosecutors. All are force science analysts. The firm has handled nearly 400 shootings/critical incidents since 2012. They have made a huge difference when some agencies or district attorneys are looking for their 15 minutes of fame at the expense of an officer's career and reputation. This legal plan originated with this goal in mind: protect the officer. It hasn't always been easy, but it's been worth it.

President Jex stressed how the FOP is important in keeping the balance in our profession. "We are here to be the hammer for our members, ensure due process and help our members succeed in their careers and life. Being the hammer sometimes takes tact, something I've had to learn the hard way."

We asked Brother Brent what's his secret to success, what helps him be effective and what keeps him motivated. He responded, "I've been fortunate to have been able to follow the example and advice of other FOP leaders that have mentored me along the way. The biggest 'secret' is to answer the phone when it rings. The thing that keeps me motivated is seeing the results of the work

we all put in. When our local lodges grow in membership, and our local lodge presidents get more involved, it's exciting. I stay motivated in looking for (and engaging) the person who will replace me and do things for the Order that I can't do. The legend Frank Gale (Colorado) gave me that advice early on. He pointed to a guy he was with (we were at the airport) and told me, 'That's the next president of Colorado.' That was the first time I met Steve Schulz. Frank is one of those leaders who had an early impact on me, along with Pat Yoes and our own Jim Crowley (past National trustee, Utah). Jim was the FOP guy who everyone wanted to be, knowing that we never would be because there is only one Jim Crowley. His passing really impacted all of us, and each day we contemplate if an idea is something Jim would think is in the best interest of the Order. Great leaders there. The list has grown and grown of leaders who I look up to, reach out to and receive great leadership advice from, especially Steve. The Colorado FOP has been a great big brother to us. That's the power of the FOP."

President Jex gave this advice to members wanting to get more involved: "Don't be afraid to step up and say, 'I want to do it.' I think we have too much attitude of 'If

nobody else wants it, I guess I'll do it.' There is some incredible leadership talent in our profession and organization. Fight for it like you would fight for a specialty position in your agency, except serving in the FOP is much more rewarding. The FOP and the profession need you! I spent 15 of my 20 years in specialty task force positions, long goatee, shorts and T-shirt, and I loved every minute of it. Phenomenal memories and experiences. What I have learned in the FOP and been fortunate to be a part of trumps anything I was able to do in those gang, fugitive, narcotic and uniform positions."

When asked if there was anything else he'd like to tell fellow members, Brother Jex replied, "I love the FOP. I've learned from everyone and continue to. I still make plenty of mistakes and continue to be the least educated guy in the room, but it's fun. It's part of our family. My wife has served on the local and state auxiliary boards since their inception (local in 2003 and state in 2015). Our kids are FOP kids (now adults). Our grandson has two retired cops for grandpas and will hear the stories of the FOP. He will learn all the Jim Crowley bear stories and more. Jim was, and still is, a legend. The FOP is family. It's blood." **FOP**





# BENEFITS OF FOP MEMBERSHIP

The National Fraternal Order of Police is the world's largest organization of sworn law enforcement officers, with over 364,000 members in more than 2,200 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 National FOP. 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](http://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 National FOP 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](http://www.fop.net).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

# 2023 Law Enforcement Labor Summit and Legal Seminar



### When

Labor Summit: February 21–22  
Legal Seminar: February 23–24

### Where

Planet Hollywood Las Vegas Resort & Casino  
3667 S. Las Vegas Blvd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89109

### Cost

Labor Summit: \$425  
Legal Seminar: \$595

### Class Registration Deadline

January 31  
Registration confirmation will be sent upon receipt of payment.

### Hotel Information

Room registration deadline: January 27  
Group rate: \$85  
Group code: SMFOP3

*Group code must be used to obtain discount. Tax, additional \$45.95 resort fee and other fees may apply. Contact hotel for more information. The resort fee entitles you to unlimited local calls, admission for two guests (per day) to the Fitness Center and in-room internet access for two devices.*

If you have any questions, please contact Labor Services at (800) 451-2711 or (615) 399-0400 (fax), or contact Stephanie Simpson at [ssimpson@fop.net](mailto:ssimpson@fop.net).



# FOP VETTED AND APPROVED WELLNESS PROVIDERS AND PROGRAMS

## Wellness Facilities

### Chateau Recovery

Midway, UT

[chateaurecovery.com/programs/first-responders](https://chateaurecovery.com/programs/first-responders)

### FHE Health: Shatterproof Program

Deerfield Beach, FL

[fherehab.com/services/first-responders](https://fherehab.com/services/first-responders)

### First Responder Wellness by Simple Recovery

Costa Mesa, CA

[firstresponder-wellness.com](https://firstresponder-wellness.com)

### Harbor of Grace First Responder Program

Havre de Grace, MD

[harborofgracerecovery.com/first-responders](https://harborofgracerecovery.com/first-responders)

### Transformations Treatment Center: Help for Our Heroes Program

Delray Beach, FL

[helpforourheroes.com](https://helpforourheroes.com)

### Warrior's Heart

Bandera, TX

[warriorsheart.com](https://warriorsheart.com)

## Wellness Products

### CordicoShield

[cordico.com/shield](https://cordico.com/shield)

### Sessions First

[sessionsfirst.com](https://sessionsfirst.com)

### Lighthouse Health & Wellness

[lighthousehw.org](https://lighthousehw.org)

### TIAG mResilience

[tiag.net/innovations/mresilience](https://tiag.net/innovations/mresilience)

## Wellness Training Programs

### HEART 9/11 SMART Program

[heart911.org/programs/smart-program](https://heart911.org/programs/smart-program)

### Warrior PATHH

[bouldercrest.org/warrior-pathh](https://bouldercrest.org/warrior-pathh)

## FLORIDA

### Lodges #50 and #3100 Aid in Hurricane Ian Relief

On October 29, 2022, Jim Fogleman Lodge #50 board member Nick Leischen led and escorted one of many Team South Florida relief convoys for first responders to Florida's hurricane-devastated west coast. Also on hand

to assist in the effort was Mike McLaughlin from Lodge #3100, which is made up of retired members from the state of New York who are living in Florida. Team South Florida contacts law enforcement agencies and identifies the officers who lost or suffered

damage to their homes. Once the team determines the officers' needs, donations are collected to help fulfill their wish lists. The goods are then personally delivered directly to the officers. It was a long, hard day, but worth every minute. Great job by all. **FOP**











# BLUE VIEW

## TUNE IN TO THE FOP PODCAST

Listen in every week to hear from law enforcement experts, elected officials and other notable leaders to gain insight into the issues and current events surrounding the law enforcement community.

**Available now on FOP.net, FOP's YouTube channel, Apple, Google, Spotify and Amazon Music.**

# | WELLNESS |



## A PREVIEW OF THE 2023 Officer Wellness Summit

SHERRI MARTIN / DIRECTOR OF WELLNESS

**H**appy new year! The 2023 Wellness Summit is coming soon! This fourth annual such event, scheduled to take place January 30–31 in Nashville, brings another agenda full of nationally known presenters sharing the most current information on officer wellness. The National Officer Wellness Committee convenes each year to plan the agenda, choosing the most current topics for presentations and then hand-selecting experts from the field to appear as presenters. We are more excited than ever about this year's event!

Our 2023 Wellness Summit will kick off each day with an option to join other attendees in getting physically active by participating in meditation, yoga, or a group walk or run. When business starts each day, we will hear from National FOP leaders as well as corporate sponsors who have supported the work of the Officer Wellness Committee in making this event possible.

We are excited to welcome Chief Luther Reynolds of the Charleston, South Carolina, Police Department as a keynote speaker. A few years ago, Chief Reynolds found himself facing

down a life-threatening illness that required that he make difficult choices about how to move forward. His story is one not only of survival, but of continuing to live fully in the face of adversity.

As an organization whose mission is to enhance the lives and working conditions of police officers across this country, we are ever-cognizant of being vigilant about officers' rights on the job. The 2023 Wellness Summit will feature a panel of experts who will discuss current legislation and the profession-wide move toward mandating officers to attend annual or regular visits with a mental health provider. With perspectives from not only legal advocates and labor leaders, but also psychologists experienced in working with police officer clients and police agencies, we will explore best practices for establishing a system of implementing visits with a clinician while keeping officers' rights and privacy intact.

Each day of the Summit, attendees will have over 15 options of seminars to choose from, on topics ranging from sleep and nutrition to financial wellness and more. Our National FOP



Auxiliary will be joining us at the Summit this year to share with attendees all of the new programs for bolstering family wellness that have become a priority for their organization. A panel of handlers will discuss the development of therapy and comfort K-9 programs, and our partners at Concerns of Police Survivors and Survivors of Blue Suicide will discuss recent changes to the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) legislation, which now includes the provision of benefits for qualifying losses of officers who die by suicide. As we hear firsthand from experts in each topic, there is sure to be something for everyone!

We have heard from past Wellness Summit attendees that they have learned a great deal at the Summit by hearing about the experiences of others. Beginning at the 2023 Wellness Summit, each day we will showcase one agency wellness program, giving each an opportunity to share with attendees how their program was instituted and developed. With agency wellness programs becoming more and more common and increased funding becoming available for their development, these sessions serve to inform both

small and large departments and every size in between.

Some of the best ideas for the Wellness Summit come from members of our Officer Wellness Committee! Recognizing from his peer support work that families appreciate time to connect with other law enforcement families, one of our committee members suggested that we implement a place to make that happen at this event. At the 2023 Summit, we will host a Blue Family room, assisted by our National FOP Auxiliary, which will provide not only information on the work of the Auxiliary, but a chance for police family members from all across the country to come together in fellowship.

Finally, we are excited to present two special events at the 2023 Wellness Summit. Past Wellness Summit attendees may recall the FOP's support of the documentary film project, *PTSD911*. The film, produced by Conjo Studios, tells the stories of three first responders and their experiences living with PTSD. We are pleased to provide this special opportunity for attendees to view a special screening of the film. In addition

to the film, we are pleased to have our own National Chaplain Rick Snyder join us to hold a special forum on FOP Chaplaincy. Rick will share information about future developments in FOP Chaplaincy, providing resources and opportunities to get involved.

We look forward to seeing you at the Wellness Summit! We encourage those members who know and work with mental health professionals to let them know about the FOP Wellness Professionals' Forum. This one-day seminar takes place on the day before the Wellness Summit begins, and provides an opportunity for clinicians to come together and learn from other mental health professionals working in the field through a series of seminars, group discussions and networking. Attendees of the Wellness Professionals' Forum receive a discounted rate to attend both events, and we also encourage them to attend the Wellness Summit to learn more about officer wellness and the FOP.

Your National Officer Wellness Committee is excited to be kicking off a new year with a focus on wellness. We look forward to seeing you soon! **FOP**



The banner features a dark blue background with a row of seven white icons at the top: a person running, a person with a briefcase, a heart with a pulse line, three people standing together, a person with a raised fist, a person with a bottle, and a person with a house. Below the icons is the FOP logo, a yellow star with 'FOP' and '1958' inside. To the right of the logo, the text '2023 FOP OFFICER WELLNESS SUMMIT' is written in large, bold, white letters. Below this, the dates 'January 30-31, 2023' and the location 'Nashville, TN' are displayed in white. At the bottom, there is a yellow box with the text 'VISIT FOP.NET/EVENT/WELLNESS-SUMMIT-2023 FOR INFORMATION' in bold, black letters. To the left of this box are three more white icons: a person at a computer, a person with a clock, and a person with a cat.

## NFOPU SPOTLIGHT



# University of Management and Technology



**A**re you looking to get a degree for that next promotion, a job transfer or a career change? Are you looking for a quality yet affordable degree? Are you trying to manage life, work and study? Look no further. The University of Management and Technology has over 25 years of experience in providing 100% online education for over 40 high-quality and affordable degree and certificate programs. Beginning in 1998, we were among the first schools to focus exclusively on online education. We

understand the demands of a working life and the obstacles students face. We are committed to our students and are there for them every step of the way. Over the years, UMT has offered our first responders generous scholarships. We continue that appreciation of first responders by proudly joining the NFOPU Consortium. As an FOP university, we want to help you succeed by offering various benefits to you and your families. Our degree programs are among the most affordable you will encounter.

### FOP member benefits include:

- The normal cost of \$390 per credit is reduced to \$250 per credit.
- UMT provides your textbooks free of charge.
- **No** fees to get started and once enrolled, most fees are waived (e.g., semester registration, change of program, etc.).
- Transfer up to 75% of the required credits for an undergraduate degree or 50% for

*Continued on page 28 >*

FOP JOURNAL // JANUARY 2023



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](https://fopconnect.com/education-connect/about-the-consortium).



Charles Town, WV



South Euclid, OH



Cypress, CA



San Diego, CA



Ashland, OH



Olivet, MI



Cincinnati, OH



Williamsburg, KY



Washington, DC



Rosemont, PA



Cincinnati, OH



Fayette, IA



Montreat, NC



Tiffin, OH



Arlington, VA



Minneapolis, MN



La Jolla, CA



Nashville, TN



Adelphi, MD



Forest City, IA

**NFOPU SPOTLIGHT***Continued from page 26 >*

a graduate degree. Previous college credit and professional training are taken into consideration.

- Benefits are extended to eligible family members.
- Strong personal support — each student is assigned a student advisor who resolves issues, answers questions and provides guidance throughout the UMT learning experience.

**Our flexible and affordable programs are 100% online. Study anywhere, anytime. Just not when you are catching the bad guys, please.**

We are confident in the value we provide you, but don't take our word for it. Here is what our students say about us:

"My experience at UMT has been a wonderful journey. The knowledge and expertise gained through my graduate studies has helped me become a better leader while accomplishing my personal, professional and educational goals." — Bettye Long-Walden, MSM

"I was able to achieve my degree while continuing to work, balance my family life and overcome several challenges. Without UMT and the support of their faculty, my dream and accomplishment would not have been attainable." — Sherry Gaines-Taylor, BBA

"I enjoyed my experience at UMT and the outstanding help that was given by the staff during my journey. There weren't any questions left unanswered, and I never felt neglected." — Quintaria Massey, MSCJ

"UMT set me up for success. It was a challenging but very rewarding experience." — Chandres Bolden, MSCJ

**We Hire the Best Faculty**

UMT CJ/HS faculty have decades of experience in law enforcement. They have held various positions within criminal justice and homeland security, including chief of police, fire chief, special agent and attorney. They have been on the White House advance team and presidential election campaigns. These faculty received extensive police and homeland security training from law enforcement training centers, the National Emergency Training Center and the Department of Homeland Security. They have also earned leadership awards and letter of commendation awards.

Other UMT faculty and staff have extensive backgrounds across the broad spectrum of academic subjects, having management and education experience working with major universities, companies, nonprofits and government, including the White House, Department of Defense, Department of Energy,

Department of State and civilian agencies, as well as large and small businesses and defense contractors.

**About UMT**

The University of Management and Technology is an accredited university located in Arlington, Virginia. Since 1998, UMT has built a strong global higher learning community through its online and distance education. Geographical boundaries do not limit UMT and its students, who reside in 50 states, the District of Columbia, four U.S. territories and 78 countries worldwide. As of October 2022, UMT has provided various levels of education programs to 26,300 students. Of these, 15,540 have earned their degrees from UMT.

UMT is chartered by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and accredited by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC). UMT's degree programs in project management are also accredited by the Global Accreditation Center (GAC) of the Project Management Institute (PMI). UMT is an institutional member of the Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and an Authorized Training Partner of PMI (PMI ATP). With its global outreach, UMT is committed to bringing the best knowledge, practice and professional skills to students everywhere. For additional information, visit [umtweb.edu](http://umtweb.edu). **FOP**

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| + Law enforcement news   | + Legal defense | + Training           |
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| + Member benefits        | + Labor issues  | + And much more!     |





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**New year! New swag!**

[www.thefopstore.com](http://www.thefopstore.com)



# The FOP Needs You in D.C.!

## FOP's Annual Day on the Hill: February 6-8

**T**he new Congress will be sworn in and convene in January, and we are going to need to up our engagement and work hard to get our anti-crime and officer safety agenda through the 118th Congress. There will be a lot of new faces and major changes in congressional leadership, particularly in the House, which will be controlled by Republicans.

The FOP's annual **Day on the Hill** is a unique opportunity to have face-to-face interactions with the members of Congress who represent **you** in the nation's capital. We need to make sure that our priorities — the Social Security Fairness Act, the Protect and Serve Act, and support for local and state law enforcement fighting the national epidemic of violent crime — become **their** priorities as well. Our future success is based on our ability to motivate and mobilize our grassroots to make sure our message gets through. Participation in this event is just a part — but an important part — of the FOP's advocacy strategy. We need our members to build, strengthen and sustain their relationships with their senators and representatives. Members of Congress need to know that FOP members are active voters who will hold them accountable for their actions.

Our event will begin on Monday, February 6, at 3 p.m. with a briefing on our legislative agenda at D.C. Lodge #1, hosted by staff in the National FOP's Government and Media Affairs Center (GMAC) and members of the National Legislative Committee. The GMAC staff will make our Day on the Hill legislative and supporting materials available on the website soon. The briefing will last approximately one hour.

## Just the Facts:

**>>** The FOP is proud to report that several priority bills have advanced in the final days of the 117th Congress, including the Fair RETIRE Act, which was signed into law, and the National Defense Authorization Act and the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act, which are both awaiting the president's signature. In addition, the FOP recently set the dates for the annual Day on the Hill, which will be held on February 6-8. This important event provides members with a unique opportunity to have face-to-face interactions with the members of Congress who represent them in D.C. Register today at **FOP.net/2023-doth-register**.

The next two days will be **your** time to meet with your senators and representatives to educate them about our top priorities.

**Room block:** The National FOP will be organizing a block of rooms at a special rate for these dates. Be sure to register today at **FOP.net/2023-doth-register** and check back on the website for additional information. Don't delay — register today!

## Congress Comes to a Close; New Congress to Be Sworn in on January 3

At this writing, the final hours of the 117th Congress are counting down and the text of the long-awaited omnibus spending bill has been released. While the draft legislation has not yet been voted on in either chamber, it should — barring a very unexpected development — be considered and passed without amendment.

The bill is 4,200 pages long, so it will require some additional analysis by staff, but we can report that the FOP defeated efforts to include the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act. Providing an industry that is distributing a controlled substance with access to our financial institutions, even if it is legal under state law, is not

“SAFE Banking” — it is abetting a federal crime.

We are also pleased to report that the omnibus bill includes a provision that amends the Healthcare Enhancement for Local Public Safety (HELPS) Retirees Act. Under current law, eligible retired public safety officers may use up to \$3,000 per year from their qualified government retirement plan, on a pre-tax basis, to pay for health insurance or long-term-care insurance premiums. However, in order for these officers to get the pre-tax benefit, the money must be paid directly from their pension fund to a health or long-term-care insurance company. This requirement has proved to be unworkable for far too many eligible public safety officers who belong to pension systems that are unable to make these direct payments. Once the omnibus is signed into law, this direct payment requirement will be repealed and officers will be able to make the payment themselves and still receive the pre-tax benefit.

Once all the members are sworn in, the first order of business for the 118th Congress will be the election of the speaker of the House, who is typically the elected leader of the party holding the majority in the House. In this case, that



is Representative Kevin O. McCarthy (R-Calif.). However, several members have indicated they will not vote for him — votes he may not be able to spare because of how narrow the Republican majority is — which complicates the speaker's election and delays the organization of the new Congress.

### FOP Legislation Advances in the Final Days

Despite the hyper-partisanship and political acrimony following the midterm elections, the GMAC staff in D.C. is proud to report that a number of different bills have cleared Congress in these final days and are awaiting presidential action to make them into law.

#### Signed into law:

- **H.R. 521/PL 117-225**, the Fair Return for Employees on Their Initial Retirement Earned (RETIRE) Act: The bill, which was strongly supported by the FOP, will allow federal law enforcement officers who were severely injured in the line of duty and unable to return to duty as a law enforcement officer to maintain their 6(c) early retirement if they take a civil service position in the federal government.

#### Awaiting presidential signature:

- **H.R. 263**, the Big Cat Public Safety Act: This legislation will strengthen existing restrictions on the possession and exhibition of big cats, including restricting direct contact between the public and these animals.
- **H.R. 7776**, the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023: This legislation, which funds the operations of the U.S. Department of Defense for FY2023, also contains a provision that the FOP developed and successfully included in the final bill. The provision, entitled the Department of Defense Law Enforcement Credential Act, directs the secretary of Defense to ensure that the secretary of each military department develops standardized credentials for civilian law enforcement officers employed by the DOD.

- **S. 3846**, the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Reauthorization Act: The bill reauthorizes the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) through 2027.
- **S. 4003**, the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act: The FOP worked particularly hard to get this bill through the House. In November, an effort to suspend the rules and pass the bill came up short. The FOP prevailed on House leadership to bring the bill back to the floor under a rule and it passed on a 264–162 vote. The legislation will establish a new grant program within the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne-JAG), allowing state and local law enforcement agencies access to funding to train officers in de-escalation tactics and alternatives to the use of force.
- **S. 4834**, the Providing Resources, Officers, and Technology to Eradicate Cyber Threats (PROTECT) to Our Children Act: This reauthorizes the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force program, which is a national network

of coordinated task forces representing over 2,000 federal, state and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies that are dedicated to combating child pornography, for two years.

- **S. 5230**, the Help Find the Missing Act: The legislation creates a more complete missing and unidentified persons database by connecting the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) for use by law enforcement and the families of the missing.

### Follow the National FOP!

We need your help to better educate the public on the current environment for the brave men and women of law enforcement. 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, comment and like** the content that we are posting.

Continued on page 32 ➤

## 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](mailto:officerwellness@fop.net).





## Top Priorities in Brief

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

**House:** 305 co-sponsors  
(211 D, 94 R)

**Senate:** 42 co-sponsors  
(36 D, 4 R, 2 I)

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

**House:** 105 co-sponsors (80 D, 25 R)  
**Senate:** 5 co-sponsors (4 D, 1 R)

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

**House:** 35 co-sponsors (25 D, 10 R)

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

**House:** 59 co-sponsors (1 D, 58 R)  
**Senate:** 2 co-sponsors (2 R)

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

**House:** 90 co-sponsors (8 D, 82 R)  
**Senate:** 23 co-sponsors (23 R)

To see a full list of legislation supported by the FOP, please visit [tinyurl.com/ycy5k5rv](https://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 [votervoice.net/FOP/home](https://votervoice.net/FOP/home).

## WASHINGTON REPORT

Continued from page 31 >

### Stay Informed!

The **National FOP's Weekly Update** is a valuable tool for members and local lodges to keep them informed on the legislation important to law enforcement and the latest news from our nation's capital. It is a great way to stay updated 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/yaahrh62](https://tinyurl.com/yaahrh62).

### Tune in to the Blue View Podcast!

More than 35 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.

On one of the recent episodes of the *Blue View*, National President Yoes sits down with Representative Garrett N. Graves (R-La.), who has represented Louisiana's 6th Congressional District in Congress since 2015. As a member of Congress, Representative Graves has been an outspoken advocate for WEP and GPO repeal and a leader on the issue. Be sure to check it out!

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

### 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.

Although the midterm elections are over, the National Fraternal Order of Police Political Action Committee (NFOP PAC) still needs your help! Our PAC plays an important role in our advocacy program and allows the FOP to support candidates who support our members and our profession. Given the importance of the PAC, it is vital that the PAC is as well-funded as possible, but ours is still very much depleted from the 2020 election cycle, which limited our effectiveness in this year's midterm elections. We really need our members to step up and contribute to ensure that our PAC has the ability to support candidates who will fight for our officers and the issues that are important to 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. We can and need to do better raising funds for our PAC!

To donate online, please visit [tinyurl.com/2p8ec7xf](https://tinyurl.com/2p8ec7xf). 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 David Taboh at [dtaboh@fop.net](mailto:dtaboh@fop.net).

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



# 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.



The brochures are sold in lots of 100 for only \$20 with free ground shipping.



Lodges can order this wonderful recruitment tool by contacting the National Secretary's Office via Stephanie Simpson at [ssimpson@fop.net](mailto:ssimpson@fop.net).



# Officers Have the Right to Choose Representation in Internal Investigations

On August 18, 2022, the Supreme Court of Nevada denied a petition seeking to overturn a lower court's decision in favor of Officer Jordan Travers of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD). The lower court denied a motion to intervene and issued a permanent injunction in favor of Travers, granting him the right to choose his own representation in an internal investigation. The matter is precedent-setting. It is the first time a state's highest court has held that officers who paid for benefits from the Fraternal Order of Police Legal Defense Plan (FOP Legal Plan) have the right to select legal representation of their choosing in an internal investigation.

Travers was an officer with the LVMPD. He was not a member of the Las Vegas Police Protective Association (LVPPA), the recognized bargaining agent for nonsupervisory police officers employed by LVMPD. Travers witnessed an officer-involved shooting and was required to appear for an internal investigation regarding the incident. Pursuant to Nevada law, he had the right to choose an attorney to represent him in the investigation. Travers selected an attorney covered by his FOP Legal Plan. LVMPD denied his representation. Travers filed for injunctive relief at the trial court.

The trial court issued a permanent injunction in Travers' favor, meaning he was allowed to select representation pursuant to the FOP Legal Plan. LVPPA sought to intervene in the action, arguing that it was a necessary party to the litigation because it was the recognized bargaining agent. The Supreme Court of Nevada concluded that the district court properly denied LVPPA's motion to intervene on

## Just the Facts:

» In a precedent-setting decision in August 2022, the Supreme Court of Nevada held that a peace officer who is subject to an internal investigation conducted pursuant to Nevada state law has a right to choose their own representatives regardless of the representatives' affiliations. The case was the first time that a state's highest court has held that officers who paid for benefits from the FOP Legal Plan have the right to select legal representation of their choosing in an internal investigation.

procedural grounds. Additionally, the Supreme Court held that a peace officer, such as Travers, who is subject to an internal investigation conducted pursuant to Nevada state law has a right to choose their own representatives regardless of the representatives' affiliations.

**State laws often address how law enforcement officers may be investigated or disciplined by the agencies that employ them.**

In this case, the relevant state laws in the Peace Officer Bill of Rights allows a peace officer who is aggrieved by an action of their employer to seek relief in the district court (NRS 289.120). Specifically, Travers alleged that LVMPD violated his rights under

NRS 289.080(2), which provides that "a peace officer who is a witness in an investigation conducted pursuant to NRS 289.057 may upon request have two representatives of the peace officer's choosing present with the peace officer during an interview relating to the investigation, including, without limitation, a lawyer, a representative of a labor union or another peace officer."

While state law grants LVPPA the exclusive right to represent LVMPD peace officers for purposes of collective bargaining, including negotiating disciplinary procedures, the Peace Officer Bill of Rights also affords separate rights to peace officers. Those rights represent the State Legislature's recognition that peace officers — because of the important role they play in maintaining public safety — deserve additional protections that are unavailable to other public employees.

The Supreme Court of Nevada concluded that state law did not impose any duties on LVPPA with respect to representing peace officers in internal investigations and the right to choose representation belongs to the peace officer. Thus, LVPPA's interest in the matter was not impaired or impeded and they did not have a valid interest that made them a necessary



party to the underlying litigation between Travers and LVMPD.

In sum, state laws often address how law enforcement officers may be investigated, disciplined or otherwise treated by the government agencies that employ them. Many states, like Nevada, have enacted a law enforcement officer bill of rights. It is important to review those rights which may provide an officer with the right to select legal representation of their choosing as provided by the FOP Legal Plan. **FOP**

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## There Is ALWAYS Another Option

FOP Vetted and Approved Crisis Hotlines



[FOP.net/officer-wellness/crisis-hotlines](https://www.fop.net/officer-wellness/crisis-hotlines)



# 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:info@foplegal.com). **FOP**



## FOP LEGAL DEFENSE PLAN

ADMINISTRATIVE ★ CIVIL ★ CRIMINAL

### Protecting Your Future TODAY

Legal defense coverage has become a necessity for law enforcement as the frequency and cost of allegations against peace officers continue to rise. The FOP Legal Plan offers you and your lodge members a very affordable comprehensive plan.

#### FOP LEGAL DEFENSE PLAN PRICING

Full Coverage Group Rate	Full Coverage Individual Rate	Two-Coverage Group Rate	Two-Coverage Individual Rate
\$300	\$310	\$64	\$68
Administrative	Administrative		
Criminal	Criminal	Criminal	Criminal
Civil	Civil	Civil	Civil

For enrollment and marketing information, please call

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