

The Call Box

GAITE RETIRED NEWS

Official Publication of the Retired Seattle Police Officers Association

May 2021 Volume 2, Issue 3

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JOHN PATRICK SULLIVAN

Serial # 2184

Date of Hire: 10-2-61 Academy Class #49 Retired: 7-4-90



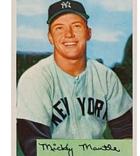


After a little "arm twisting," the humble and incomparable John Patrick Sullivan agreed to be interviewed for this issue of The Call Box.

Q. John, where did you grow up and what did you do before joining SPD?

A. I was born in Newburyport, MA. I came to Seattle when I was 12 and I

never left!



Q. You are a big baseball fan. Growing up, who was your favorite team and favorite player?

A. My favorite team was the Boston Red Sox, but my favorite player was Mickey Mantle.

Q. When you were hired, did you go to the academy right away?

A. I was hired in October, 1962 as a police cadet and went to the academy later.

Q. What was your academy class number and where was the academy held?

A. I was in Class Number #49 and it was held in SPD Headquarters.

Q. Who were some of your academy classmates?

A. Don Marquart, Paul Lewis, Bill Fenkner, Bill Wald, Bruce White and Jan Engle (Judd) were some classmates.



John with Tom Brenton, 1980's

Q. What were some of your assignments and which ones did you enjoy the most?

A. I was in Tactical Squad, Pioneer Square, George Town – Pct. #3 and enjoyed them all.

Q. You worked for many police

chiefs. Who was your favorite and why?

A. Frank Moore. He was homegrown and he was fair and well respected.



Q. Who were some of your partners and some of your supervisors?

A. Some of my partners were Earl Thomas, Hank Everett, Mike Tando, Larry Miller, Ken Baggen, Dick Herron, and Gene Doman. One of my sergeants was Michael O'Mahoney and I worked for Captain Frank Vick. It's hard to remember all the others.

Q. Any funny or memorable calls that you would like to share?

A. Oh, there were numerous exciting moments and just too many to list.

The Call Box



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President's Message

By Jerry Taylor, President, RSPOA



Well, we did it. On April 14th we had our first RSPOA lunch meeting in over a year. It was a great success with 67 folks attending. We really had no idea what type of turnout we might expect. We had a couple of glitches where some of the reservations got lost in spam filters. None the less, we were able to set up a couple of extra tables and there was plenty of food.

One thing I have been reminded of during the pandemic is how hungry people are to connect with the natural world. If we can call an RSPOA meeting part of the natural world this was obviously a good demonstration of that fact. There is something special about meeting with friends and particularly

so after a year of being told you could not do it.

Our post mod

Our next meeting will be at 11:00 on May 12, 2021 and it should be a good one. Our guest speaker will be John Carlson of KVI radio. John is the premiere analyst, political strategist and one of the most successful talk radio hosts in America. He is heard daily on Talk Radio 570 KVI, weekday mornings 6 to 10am.



Plan on coming to this meeting—and all our meetings—to see old friends and get the latest news. Since this renewal of meetings is new, it would be helpful if you would let John Nordlund know you will be coming. (j_kenneth@msn.com or (206) 465-6252) Our meeting room can handle 70

folks but if it looks like a larger turnout, we can get a larger room.

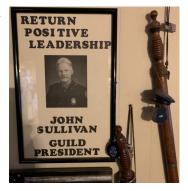
By the time you receive this, the current session of the legislature should be done. It is due to end on April 25th. There was only one bill of any importance, SB 5453. It would have merged LEOFF 1 and TRS 1 with disastrous impact on the funded status of LEOFF 1. We were able to kill the bill and it never got a hearing or any advancement. There was a lot of correspondence about the bill principally because one person was convinced there were nefarious actions planned to push the bill through. So, even though we were assured by numerous legislators that the bill was dead and would not be passed, several folks were alarmed by the theories of this individual.

We were to believe that the legislature would try to use a procedure called NTIB (Necessary To Implement the Budget). That is a ploy where the legislature just puts it into the budget and there are no hearing or opportunities to lobby against it. The problem with that theory is that the NTIB cannot be used where there would be substantial changes to the law. We even reviewed this with our lawyer, Phil Talmadge, who assured us it would not work.

From Page 1,- Sullivan

Q. What got you interested in getting involved with SPOG?

A. The following people got me involved with SPOG: Pat Murphy, Nick Bulpin, Wendell Deboer, Bob Shilling, Ed Striedinger, and Dick Rovig.



Q. You were SPOG President from 1973-1978.

What were some memorable issues that you dealt with at that time?

A. First one was that SPOG members were able to rate Superior Court judge's decisions so that dispositions in the future could be reviewed and become more equitable. The next big issue was that LEOFF 1 Law was enacted.

Q. You hold the distinct privilege of being the only SPOG President who came back and served again almost a decade later in 1986-1987. Tell me about the circumstances that brought you back?

A. I was recruited by other officers to re-run to restore confidence in the Police Guild.

Q. Who was the best mayor that you dealt with and why?

A. Charlie Royer – hands down!
 He was good to deal with on management & labor issues.

Q. In your opinion, what makes a good SPOG president?

A. To have an open mind to new ideas and the skills to present a good public image!

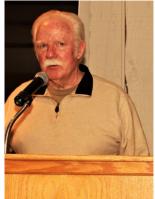
Q. What is the biggest change in policing since you started your career?

A. The modern police department!

Q. What did you do when you retired?

A. Played golf and did the Route 66 with a good friend.

Q. Looking back over your career, is there anything you would have done differently?





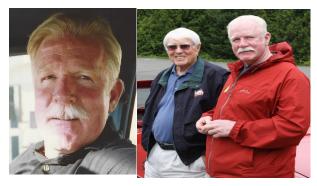
John enjoys an ice cream on his final day at SPD!

A. I might have reconsidered my decision to not take promotion tests BUT I thoroughly ENJOYED being a street cop!!

Q. What do you miss most about being on SPD?

A. The daily association with SPD officers.

Q. Thank you John Patrick Sullivan for this interview and all that you have done for officers and their families over the years!



Las Vegas Golf Joh Trip

John with Pat Murphy, 2010



John and Tawnya Lord



Wearing the Green at the Old Blue Clan, 2012!

Retired Banquet, 2019

FROM THE PENSION OFFICE

- 1. Shortly LEOFF 1 and pre LEOFF retirees and active officers will be receiving mailings regarding the upcoming Pension Board election for one of the elected trustees.
- 2. The LEOFF 1 COLA of 1.9% will be on the April DRS check. Remember, as the state check increases, the city check for pre LEOFF qualified retirees is reduced the same amount. The two checks' total remain the same.
- 3. Seventy attendees made it to the first RSPOA monthly meeting in over a year. Cloyd Steiger was the speaker. He gave an interesting preview of his third in progress book about serial murders in Seattle.



- 4. May's RSPOA meeting will be on the 12th at the Nile. The guess speaker is KVI's talk show host John Carlson
- 5. No progress to report for either SPMA or SPOG negotiation. Both contracts are open.
- 6. There are still a few outstanding Medicare reimbursement requests. If yours is one, please send it in to the Pension Office.
- 7. Not all retirees are golfing or mowing their lawns. For example, Gail Richardson #2344, is volunteering his time at the Hydro Plane Race Boat Museum located at 5917 S. 196thh St. in Kent. He is restoring old unlimited hydro's. The boats are completely refurbished from the sponson up including the old reciprocal air craft engines. One of the hydro's he worked on is the 1972 Atlas Van Line (AKA The Blue Blaster) that Bill Munsey was killed in while competing down in Mexico during the 1980's.



LAST RING



Robert "Bob" Condit #2851 passed away on March 2, 2021 at the age of 79. Bob was born in Honolulu, Hawaii and his date of birth was two months after the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. He joined the department for the first time on February 13, 1968 and after one day of orientation found out that he was drafted, so he resigned. After two years in the Army, he returned to the department. Bob worked patrol his entire career, mainly in the north precinct. One incident that truly troubled him over the years occurred in the mid-1970s. He on-viewed a traffic violation committed by the serial killer Ted Bundy. At this time, no one was aware of Bundy's murderous behavior. Bob wrote him a ticket. Bob always wondered if he had known who Bundy was, or would turn out to be, and had legal grounds to search the car, maybe the murders could have been interrupted early. In the 1990's Bob drove the wagon and the new mobile precinct. Bob became the second watch clerk during his closing years on the job. Bob retired after 34 years for service, on July 21, 2005. During his career he was known for his great sense of humor and congeniality. For the first 10 years of retirement Bob and Diane lived in Bellingham. In late 2015, they moved back to Seattle to be close to their five adult children, two daughters, Megan and Jennifer and three sons, Brian, Bradley and Michael. There will not be a memorial service.

Jack Stanton #1565, retired Seattle Police Patrolman passed away on March 1, 2021 at the age of 90. There will not be any service. Jack joined the department in May 1954 at the age of 24. His starting pay was \$1.86 per hour. He always worked the night shift in order to moonlight and later, to start his own business. In 1960, he married Dorie. They were together for 44 years. They had two sons, Jack Junior and John. Jack got tired of working off duty at various security jobs and started his own business spraying an asphalt emulsion on concrete foundations to waterproof them. The company was called Stanton Spray. Jack and Dorie ran it for 33 years. In the mid-1990's, they retired to become snowbirds. They lived six months in Yuma, Arizona and six months in Woodinville. They did this until Dorie passed away in 2004. A few years later Jack moved from Woodinville to Lacey, Washington. Jack continued to snowbird to Yuma. Jack remarried and he and his wife, Sherry, eventually decided in 2016 to live full-time in Yuma. Jack will be missed; he was known



LAST RING



as a jokester and comedian. He resolved calls by making everyone laugh!

Manny Washington #4078 retired Seattle Police Detective passed away on April 5, 2021 at the age of 74. Manny was born and raised in Slidell, Louisiana. After school, to help out the family, he worked in a bakery. When he graduated, he married his high school sweetheart, Audrienna. Manny landed a job with Boeing and moved to Seattle. He coached junior football on the side. Eventually he left Boeing and went to Garfield High as the Dean of Students and was the football and track coach. About that time, several East Precinct officers including, Dave Orange and Dwayne Coverson, encouraged Manny to become a police officer. He joined the department on December 10, 1976. All the young people referred to him as Mr. Washington while he worked the East Precinct. In the early 1980's Manny teamed up with Al Williams #4071, working plainclothes. Due to the great work they accomplished, Manny was assigned to the guard detail to protect the lone survivor of the Wah Mee Massacre. After the trial, he was recruited to the original gang unit to work for Dave Orange. Two years later, Manny moved to Narcotics. There he took a new Detective, Mike Ciesynski #4749, under his wing. Next, he was transferred to a multiagency task force. Around this time John Foley #1247 left the department, so the off-duty job of working the Sonics bench became open. Manny got it and worked it for years. He helped many charity organizations get autographs of Sonic memorabilia for their auctions. Manny's last assignment was working for his old friend and fishing buddy, Dave Orange, in the Fugitive Unit. Manny and Dave Murray #3811 worked together for six years. After 30 years of service, Manny retired on January 19, 2007. Manny and Audrienna moved to Ocean Shores so he could salt water and freshwater (duck lake) fish. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Audrienna, three sons, Nelson, Aaron, and Rodney and numerous grandchildren. At the family's request, due to Covid, there will be a private family funeral service. Eventually, there will be a Celebration of Life that all can attend at a later date. We will keep you updated.

Marcus L. Taylor #3655, retired Seattle Police Officer, passed away on March 19, 2021 at the age of 82. Prior to being hired by SPD, Mark served in the Air National Guard for 11 years. Mark was hired on December 2, 1971 and retired on December 27, 1983. There are no services planned at this time.

Surviving Spouses

Charlene M. Grayson, surviving spouse of retired Assistant Chief Dave Grayson #1814, passed away on February 14, 2021 at 85 years of age. Their last surviving son advises us there will be no service.

Milly J. Dick, a 24-year domestic partner of retired Homicide Detective Phil Allen #3244, passed away on February 12, 2021 at the age of 78. There will be no services at this time.

Jennie Wubbens, surviving spouse of retired deceased Major Marv Wubbens #1041, passed away on March 13, 2021 at the age of 100. She was just nine days shy of her 101st birthday. There will be no services.

Marie Franzen, surviving spouse of retired deceased Patrol Officer Robert Franzen #3088, passed away on March 8, 2021 at the age of 73. There will be no services.

(For more detailed information on each person in the Last Ring, please go to www.rspoa.org)



From Page 2-Taylor

The one individual who continued to push the theory was actually in the meeting with Talmadge, but continued to write as though it could happen.

The bottom line is that if it were to happen, we would have no choice but to sue and are prepared to do so. I still argue that the bill is dead. Unfortunately, the bill also had a provision to enhance the LEOFF 2 pension using some \$300 million they have set aside for enhancements. It would not have helped already retired LEOFF 2 members, but would probably have passed as a stand-alone bill. I believe it was included to entice the LEOFF 2 labor groups to support the bill so they could pass the merger.

Such is the nature of the legislature and the reason we need to stay ever vigilant.

NEXT RSPOA MEETING WEDNESDAY, May 12th 11am

At the Nile Country Club RESERVE YOUR SPOT BY CONTACTING JOHN NORDLUND AT

j_kenneth@msn.com or (206) 465-6252.



From the Police Museum

By Officer Jim Ritter, SPD Retired, #4710, President: Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum

Augmenting the Force



Since its inception, Seattle's police force has never been large enough to handle all of the challenges that history had presented it with. In order to keep up with demands, the city authorized the use of "Specials" to provide security for banks during the Gold Rush, patrol, and perform whatever other duties the city deemed relevant.

Throughout the first half of the 1900's, Seattle's exploding population, increasing vulnerability to a growing criminal population, labor strikes, wartime challenges and civil unrest taxed the SPD beyond its limits and required additional staffing. The "Specials" were soon augmented by the city adding separate Auxil-

iary and Emergency Police units.

Unfortunately, the rapid hiring of personnel required to fill hundreds of positions without background checks or training often resulted in highly controversial incidents involving these entities.

Adding to the problems were Seattle's politicians, who often utilized the Emergency Police (that were controlled by the Mayor) for questionable political purposes resulting in increasing complaints of excessive force against a variety of targets. The reputations of these special units soon devolved into the perception that they were nothing more than "hired muscle" used to suppress anything that conflicted with select political agendas.

By the mid-1950's all of the special units were collectively disbanded and consolidated into the newly formed Seattle Police Reserve. With increased scrutiny in hiring & training, the new members of the Reserve soon became an invaluable addition to the SPD.

If you have any historical information and/or artifacts you would like to contribute to the Police Museum's efforts in preserving SPD history, please contact me: 2jamesSritter@gmail.com/ 206-949-9143

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

If you would like to be featured in a future WATN article send an email to richO@rspoa.org

Michael J. Crist Serial #3389 Academy Class: 64

Date of Hire: 4-10-70, Date of Retirement: 4-13-95

What were some of your memorable SPD assignments and why?



I had a great ending to my career working in the Harbor Unit. I learned a lot and later got the opportunity to teach new candidates. I had many "memorable" diving assignments and Seafair was always a kick. As much a I enjoyed working on the water, Patrol was my true love. I had three stints on the streets and loved them all. Once again, I had the opportunity to teach and being an FTO was very rewarding. I spent four years working in the Seattle Center detail and in addition to working the grounds, I was the Explorer Advisor-more teaching! Many hours working concerts at the Coliseum and athletic events at the Kingdome.

What do you miss most about SPD?

Like most retirees, I miss the "brotherhood." On duty and off, you could pretty much count on everyone with a badge. I rode motorcycles all over the country and got to meet cops from agencies coast to coast. I still play golf with active and retired officers in the Seattle Police Golf Association. I'm proud to have been a member for 50 years!

LIFE AFTER SPD:

What did you do, where do you live?

I'm happy to say that until March 2020, I have been employed at several different jobs including: Marina management at Elliot Bay Marina, private polygraph examiner for "Ball and Gillespie Polygraph and interim security manager at North Seattle Community College. In addition, I worked at numerous golf courses including Harbor Point, Camaloch, Twin Rivers, and at PGA West in La Quinta, CA. After working almost continuously since my retirement, I decided being employed since I was 13 was probably enough.

Hobbies and Activities?



I have been an active boater since the early 70's, but in 1994 I bought a 49 ft. Hatteras Trawler and moved aboard. I lived on the water for 20 years and in the summer, I enjoyed taking the dinghy to work at the Harbor Station. In 1999 I took my boat, "La Paz" out of Puget Sound and south to San Francisco and then on to San Diego. When the hurricane season ended in November, my crew (Nick Bulpin and a couple of friends) and I headed south. I cruised around the Sea of Cortez and south as far as Ixtapa/

Zihuatanejo. I spent ten months cruising and

hanging out and arrived back home on July 4, 2000. In 2004 I married Terri MacMillan. We lived on Camano Island, in Edmonds and we now reside in Steilacoom. We also spend winters at our condo in La Quinta, California. Having been a bachelor for most of my career, Terri has added a lot to my life. My stepson Brian and his wife Ashley and their two kids (Avery and Evan), as well as many cousins, in-laws, nieces, nephews and friends. I never realized how busy I could be.

John Patrick Sullivan, SPD #2184

By Dick Rovig, Former Vice President RSPOA

(Adapted from a January 2015 Guardian Back in the Day column)

When former SPOG President, Ron Smith, asked me to write an article about the background and whereabouts of memorable retired SPD officers, the first person to come to mind was John Patrick Sullivan who retired in 1990. To me, John was the epitome of the street cop, but the impact he had on the rank and file of the department during his career is even more than that.

The Street

John was born and raised in Boston and with his family moved to Seattle in 1954. After graduating from West Seattle High School, Sully started his SPD career as a Police Cadet in 1962 and was commissioned in 1967. Apart from a three-year stint in the Tac Squad he spent his career in patrol, including ten years walking a beat in Pioneer Square and the Pike Place Market where he was assigned when he retired (wearing a 1910 era SPD uniform during the summer months).

The Guild

Besides his duties on the street, John became very active within the Guild. He was appointed to the Board in the late '60's, becoming Vice President not long after that. When President Lenny O'Neil resigned for health reasons, Sullivan took over and was reelected to two more terms. During that tenure he was involved in two wage negotiations and served admirably. He was persuaded in 1986 to run again for President and won overwhelmingly. Alas, he had to resign after suffering a heart attack the next year. All this time he also worked the street. (Guild President was not a full-time position at that time).

The Pension Office

John was still walking that beat when he retired from SPD to take the position of Assistant Pension Board Secretary. In that position, John Patrick was exemplary in providing valuable services and advice to LEOFF 1 officers both active and retired. He also made himself available to active LEOFF 2 officers who needed assistance. Sully retired from the Pension Office in the 2000's so he could enjoy full retirement.

More

Well, that dry little commentary comes nowhere close to fully describing the man. Obviously, he is Irish, really Irish. On a trip to the Auld Sod, he actually kissed the Blarney Stone! That heritage might account for his skill as an orator. I think he has visited more retired officers in hospitals and rest homes and eulogized those who have passed away more than any other guy I know. He still fulfills the task of reading of the names of

those who have passed during the previous year at the Retired Officers Banquet. John married Marty Lockwood, former head of the SPD Identification Bureau. Between the two of them



they have five children and 10 grandchildren. They have split their time between Woodinville and Green Valley AZ.

Even now, John is still serving. He is a Retired Seattle Police Officers Association Board member.

Old Woody

A little-known piece of national sports history: according to the Seattle Times, in 1955, the

newspaper was the local sponsor of a national baseball skills contest informally known as "Old Woody." Old Woody referred to a wooden frame of the strike zone that formed the center and was contested on playgrounds throughout the city.



Youngsters had to throw three strikes into Old Woody's strike zone before they registered four balls, the walk resulting in elimination. The kid throwing the most strikeouts was the winner. John, after qualifying for the Seattle finals with five strikeouts at High Point Playfield, pitched 27 strikeouts at Lower Woodland to qualify for the national finals at the Major-League All-Star Game in Milwaukee. Well, John and his dad went to Milwaukee and guess what? Sullivan threw another perfect game to win the National Old Woody title as well as getting to meet Mickey Mantle, among others. Space precludes relating more of Johns' accomplishments, except to add he was a hell of a jock and golfer during his SPD career, and oh yes, he collects and owns Buicks (he's at that age now).

...and now

He's a little slowed up, but still attends RSPOA board meetings and offers his insight into the issues that confront our organization today.

Thanks, John P. for your invaluable role as RSPOA representative, your institutional memory, sage advice and loyalty.

FROM THE CALL BOX ARCHIVES OCTOBER 1964

SPAA NEWS by m. carlsen

Golf Division had their last tournament at Foster Golf Course on October 1st. At this writing it looks like Cadet John Sullivan walked off with both the Vosper Trophy and the Rix Trophy. On Sunday, October 4th, the Spokane Police were hosts to our Seattle Police golfers. Clyde Morrison reports the weather was wonderful, and after the Seattle Police won the match 17 points to 13, they were entertained at a banquet that evening. Those who made the trip were Jay Brozo vich, Bob Hanson, Jack Rinker, C. Lindblom, Clyde Morrison, Bob Dodge, Dick Rovig, Bob Lee, Bill Smith and Bruce Smith, most of whom were accompanied by their wives. We'll be looking forward to entertaining the Spokane delegate next year.



In 2006, SPOG honored former Presidents with a plaque unveiled in the office. (L-R) Ed Striedinger, Bob Shilling, Mike Edwards, Ken Jakobsen, Dick Rovig, Wayne Larkin, Pat Murphy, John P Sullivan.

SPOG PRESIDENTS

Fred Keenan	1952 – 1966
Wayne Larkin	1966 – 1968
Patrick Murphy	1968 – 1970
George Berger	1970-1972
Lenny O'Neil	1972 - 1973
John P. Sullivan	1973 – 1978
Bob Moffet	1978 – 1979
Mike Patrick	1979 - 1980
Doug Dills	1980 - 1982
Dick Rovig	1982 – 1984
Bill Conn	1984 – 1986
John P. Sullivan	1986 -1987
Bob Shilling	1987 – 1990
Ed Striedinger	1990 – 1994
Ken Jakobsen	1994 – 1996
Mike Edwards	1996 – 2002
Ken Saucier	2002 - 2004
Kevin Haistings	2004 -2006
Richard O'Neill	2006 - 2014
Ron Smith	2014 - 2016
Kevin Stuckey	2016 - 2020
Mike Solan	2020 – Present

A FUNNY GOLF STORY ABOUT JOHN PATRICK SULLIVAN

Submitted by Dan Oliver (Retired SPD Captain)

John Foley #1247 was a former pro golfer and set the course record at Jefferson that lasted about 40 years. He was considered the department's premier golfer and everyone wanted to golf with him. In the early 1960s he allowed a young cadet (John Patrick) to join him for a round. John Patrick showed up a little late wearing Levi's and tennis shoes, which irritated Foley. Then, to add insult to injury, John Patrick beat Foley. Foley huffed, "it's bad enough to lose but to a guy that doesn't even own golf shoes!"

Traffic Flagging

A message to our retired officers who are flagging traffic: The Laborer's Union, Local 242, who represents civilian flaggers is going around to construction sites telling contractors they cannot use retired officers for flagging. This is probably happening because the bill in Olympia allowing civilian flaggers in intersections was defeated. Uniformed police officers (UPO's) are not flaggers. State law says that only UPO can direct traffic in or within 75 feet of a signalized intersection. WAC defines a UPO as an "Active or retired commissioned law enforcement officer." The labor union cannot countermand or supersede state law and has no authority to make any demands to contractors. Contact retired SPD, Raleigh Evans, for more information.

He can be contacted at: rjevans@seafinest.com.

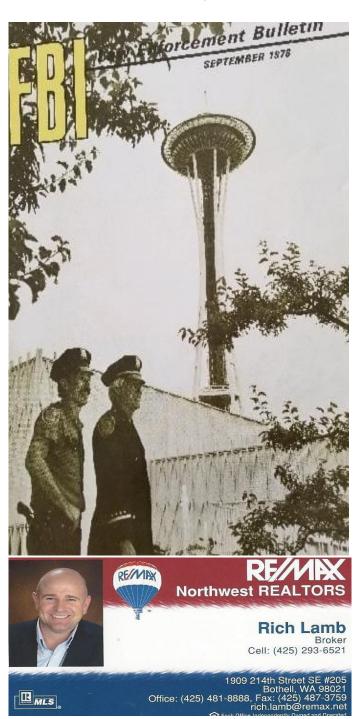
London Lawyer and Irish Garda

A London lawyer travelling through Dublin runs a stop sign and gets pulled over by an Irish Garda. He thinks that he is smarter than the cop because he is a London lawyer and is certain that he has a better education than any paddy cop. He decides to prove this to himself and have some fun at the Garda's expense!! Irish Garda says, "License and registration, please." London Lawyer says, "What for?" Irish Garda replies, "You didn't come to a complete stop at the stop sign." London Lawyer says, "I slowed down, and no one was coming." Irish Garda says, "You still didn't come to a complete stop. License and registration, please." London Lawyer says, "What's the difference?" Irish Garda says, "The difference is, you have to come to complete stop, that's the law. License and registration, please!" London Lawyer says, "If you can show me the legal difference between 'slow down' and 'stop', I'll give you my license and registration and you give me the ticket. If not, you let me go and don't give me the ticket." Irish Garda says, "Sounds fair. Exit your vehicle, sir." The London Lawyer exits his vehicle. The Irish Garda takes out his baton and starts beating the lawyer with it and says, "Do you want me to stop, or just slow down?"

PICTURE QUIZ

Do you know who these SPD officers are on the cover of FBI magazine, 1978?

(Answer at the bottom, turn the page upside down to read it)



PICTURE QUIZ ANSWER HERE!

Officer Dan Beste and Lt. Pat Murphy



Fallen SPD Officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the months of April and May.



APRIL

Thomas L. Roberts 4-10-1898

Dale Eggers 4-23-1985

MAY

Fred Ivey 5-10-1928 Robert D. Ward 5-15-1969 Kenneth L. Davis 5-11-1995



Editor's Corner

By Rich O'Neill SPD Retired

It was a real pleasure and honor to feature John Patrick Sullivan in this edition of The Call Box as I have always looked up to him as a mentor and true leader. I have often said that the job of being the Guild President is, by far, the hardest job on the department. You have to represent the interests of



over 1200 officers, negotiate labor contracts, deal with the media and be on call 24/7 for the next crisis that will flare up. That is why it is so incredible that John Patrick Sullivan served as SPOG President in the 1970's and then was called upon almost ten years later to lead the organization. When I was first elected in 2006, one of the first things I did was seek out the former Presidents to pick their brains for information. I'm a believer that "history repeats itself" and I knew I needed guidance. To ignore the advice of those who previously did the job is naive and foolish. The one who I spoke to most often was John Patrick Sullivan. His advice was always "spot on" and reassuring. John knew how important it was to defend the officers while still maintaining good relationships with city hall. He understood that a president's most important job is to negotiate good contracts for the officers and then to defend that contract when it is violated. John not only did that during his time as President, but he stood up for countless officers against undue criticisms. He saved many careers during his time! John was also an example of a true leader. He is living proof that one does not have to attain rank to be a leader! As proof of that, I always noticed that when he attends a Retired Officer's Banquet or luncheon, there is usually a crowd of peo-



ple waiting to speak to him and to shake his hand. When I was sworn in as SPOG president, I was honored to have John Patrick Sullivan swear me in. I will forever be indebted to him for his example and advice when I was SPOG President! In my opinion, he is very simply, the Best Guild President of All-Time!

RSPOA

C/O Nick Bulpin

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