



# The Call Box



Official Publication of the Retired Seattle Police Officers Association

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## MAJOR JOE TOLLIVER #1901 Hired: 1-3-59 Class #39 Retired: 9-30-91



**Q. Joe, where did you grow up and what did you do before joining the SPD?**

I grew up in South Central Texas (Bryan) where I attended segregated school (s); graduated high school at age 16 and later from college at age 20. I was a Sociology major in college

where I landed an athletic scholarship and played basketball. I expected to enter a teaching/coaching career. In high school, I participated in four sports and played trumpet in the school band. After graduating from college (May 1952), I relocated to the Seattle area, where family members resided, and searched for a better job. I worked at Boeing for eight and one-half days and later moved to Bremerton to take employment at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. At the shipyard I made thirteen cents more per hour than Boeing was paying and I spent a third of the time in transit to/from the job. In 1953, I entered the military (U.S. Army); basic training at Ft Ord, CA and later deployed overseas at Salzburg, Austria. Upon separation from the military, I returned to Bremerton (PSNS) where I was re-employed. I took several courses (including typing) at the local college and later enrolled at UW



to take Washington State history, in preparation for a teaching certificate in this state.

**Q. What made you want to be a police officer?**

In December 1957, I read an article in a Seattle newspaper regarding SPD hiring new officers. Having an interest in working with “people,” I applied and took the written exam along with 400 other applicants. I placed 26th overall and was subsequently hired on January 3, 1959 – as all non-residents were last to be hired.

**Q. When you were hired, did you go to the academy right away? Where was your academy held and who were some of your classmates?**

It was fortunate for me that I went directly into the training academy (Class #39) which was located on the 3rd floor of the old Public Safety Building. I was the only African American in my class along with two females, Beryl Thompson & Donna Brazel. Other classmates included E.I. George, Ron Noble, Bob Wegner, Dave Doering, and other names that currently escape me.

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

After thirteen weeks at the academy, I worked 1st watch downtown – morning shift (6-2 days) and weekends as Patrol Clerk and part of the “hole crew” with NICK CARNAVALE. Sgt Jim Ramon was the shift Sergeant who took me under his wing. Before I was permanently assigned a patrol district, I would work 2 days on Magnolia; 2 days on Queen Anne and 2 days in East Central. My first time on Magnolia was the day I went to patrol it. Some of my most memorable events occurred while in Patrol – one being my responding to a call of a child choking (Madison Park

(Continued on Page 3)

# The Call Box



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## President's Message

By Jerry Taylor, President, RSPOA



There is a bit of a lead time in writing articles for the Call Box, so it is best to make certain you are signed up for our emails as well. This is particularly important because we are in the middle of a legislative session with two bills that impact our membership. By the time you receive this, you should know the results and, hopefully, you will all be anticipating a significant lump sum pay-

ment as a benefit enhancement to your LEOFF 1 and 2 pensions. If the bills pass, each pension beneficiary will receive in January 2023 a lump sum payment equal to \$100 per month of service. There are some other items in the bills, but this is the most significant so far as RSPOA members are concerned. We will be publishing emails with details as the bills pass through the legislature. What we have learned through this process is that it is important for RSPOA to be political. We have almost always been so. The LEOFF pension is a product of that activism. At times, it seems we need to be even more active. You can help. Make it a point to call or write to your Senators and Representatives. If you are out of state, look up who represented your Washington address. If you are in Washington, call your legislators and meet them for coffee—try to develop rapport so that you can communicate directly with them when important issues come to the fore. If you think they can be helpful, send them a donation and make sure they know you are with the RSPOA (no donations while they are in session.) We will try to keep everyone up to date on issues and urge you to take part in expressing your position to the legislators. When we fail to directly involve ourselves, we get bad laws.

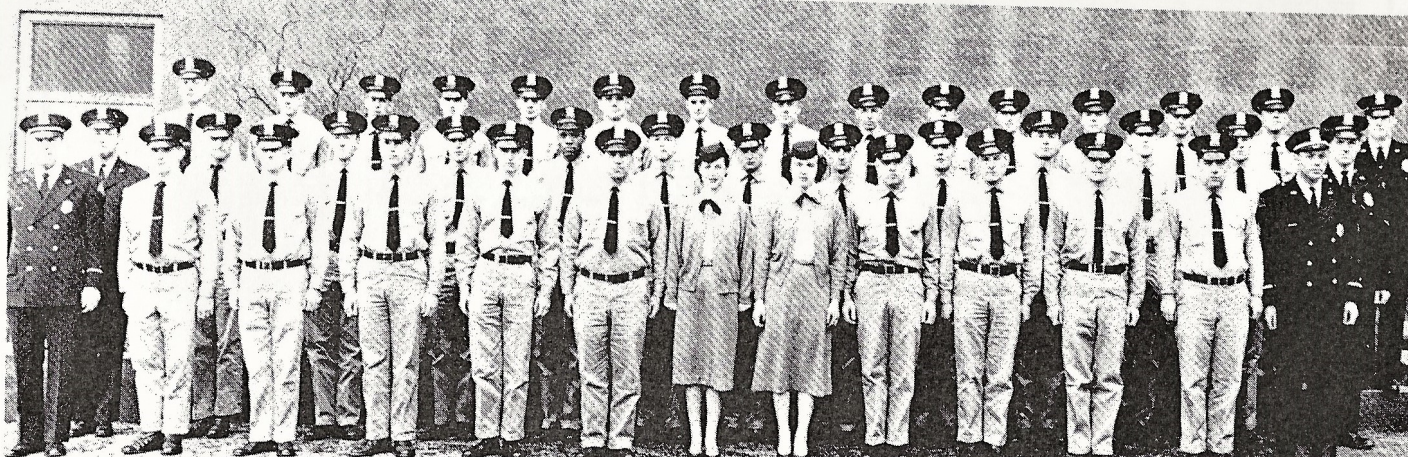
We are happy to announce that **Brandi Kruse** has been scheduled to speak our or April 13th meeting. Plan to attend and let Nick Bulpin ([nickb@rspoa.org](mailto:nickb@rspoa.org)) know so we can be sure to have enough space and food for all. Brandi is a journalist that reports the honest facts, not fake news. Something journalists don't often do today.

The selection of speakers for our meeting is always a challenge. We are looking for people who have information that is interesting and useful to our members. With all the turmoil in the Department, it is harder to find people available but active Seattle Police Officers continue to do some amazing things and make good speakers. If you have any suggestions for speakers—someone you would like to see, let us know. Stay safe and enjoy your retirement.

Try to visit our website from time to time. We add stuff all the time and have links to photos of all the Retired Officers Banquets and many other events. We are starting to add links to all of the old Guardian articles as well—they are fun to read.

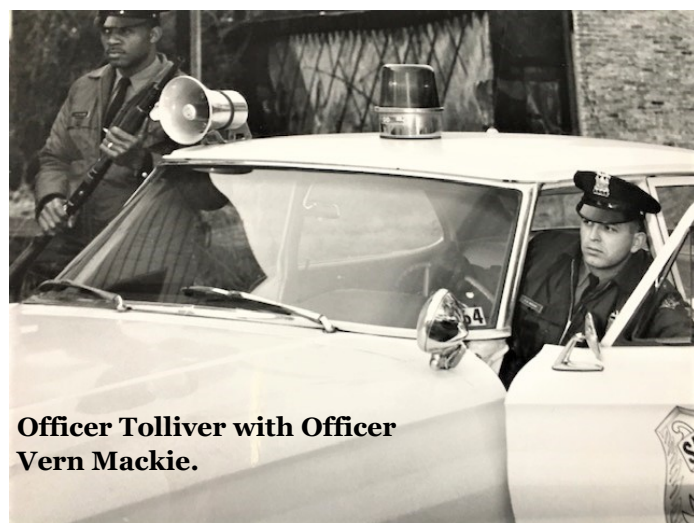
Class Thirty-Nine

*First row:* Lt. P. C. Leland (Director), E. Bisson, C. Hendrickson, R. Stallman, R. Andersen, F. Espinoza, D. Brazel, B. Thompson, T. Burns, J. Sanford, W. Stewart, C. Kennon, Sgt. D. Phillips. *Second row:* J. Farrell, D. Doering, W. Dutcher, W. Hingtgen, J. Tolliver, B. Baughman, J. Tershin, K. Devaney, F. Jones, R. Wegner, T. Caldwell, C. Parkes, H. Schneider. *Third row:* R. Ottersen, G. Sorensen, J. Cordas, R. Trebon, C. Scheuffele, J. Seil, A. George, C. Lambert, D. Cameron, L. Coney, R. Johnson, G. Miller, R. Noble, J. Ehli, R. Carroll.



area). I arrived before the aid car and was able to dislodge an object from his throat and received the heartfelt thanks from the distraught parent. In the mid-60's, I was assigned to the original Community Relations Unit, working directly out of Chief Ramon's office. Under the car (call) numbering system, I (and my subsequent partners) was Car-#6. At that time, the Mayor's car was Car-#10. Can you imagine patrol cars for the whole city being on one radio frequency? Often times it was chaotic, but you always knew what was going on all over the city. I spent eight years as a Narc – working at the local, regional levels and on federal teams.. There are too many harrowing tales to relate at this time, but I must name several of my old partners – Ron Sprinkle and Paul Eblin. As I began to climb the promotional ladder, I remembered the survival tactics shared by my early mentors, Walt Lawson

and Milton Price. I quickly identified some of the tactics used by the department to cull the ranks of the “unwanted.” I think today, if still practiced, they are referred to as “integrity tests.” I realize that policing has evolved since my early days in patrol. If I were forced to choose a favorite era in my career, I would have to revert to PATROL. There is nothing that rivals Patrol and one's interaction with people. I lived in the community that I policed and knew most of the people I saw and likewise they knew me. As a manager, I soon learned that I did not have to know all the elements of the task, but to surround myself with competent subordinates and support their efforts in completing the job.



**Officer Tolliver with Officer Vern Mackie.**

**Q. You worked for many police chiefs. Who was your favorite?** I did see several Chiefs of Police during my career and got along well with the first and last ones, Frank Ramon & Pat Fitzsimons. I was lucky enough to be available to do some of the things they wanted to try and felt I was successful in accomplishing same. Preparation and hard work has a tendency to enhance one's luck.

**Q. What have you been up to since your retirement?** Since my retirement, I have enjoyed traveling, playing golf and frankly, at times, doing nothing. My wife, Iva, of 65+ years and I have watched our two granddaughters grow up and launch their careers. We have three children living in the area (West Seattle, Bellevue, Redmond) and have relocated to South Seattle where I now still

# FROM THE PENSION OFFICE

1. If you missed Jerry Taylor's emails about the benefit enhancement legislation, here is a brief summary:
2. Both SB 5652 for LEOFF 2 and SB 5791 for LEOFF 1 passed out of the Senate. SB 5652 has a companion House Bill #1701 which passed in the House during early February. The LEOFF 1 enhancement effort is in the lobbying stage in the House. For more and latest information go [www.rspoa.org](http://www.rspoa.org)
3. Still no word about SPOG negotiations.
4. SPMA negotiations appear to be in the final stages.
5. The LEOFF 1 April COLA has not been published yet.
6. The annual reporting packets will be mailed out in the last week of February.



## Last Ring



**Jim Muir #3567**, retired Seattle Police Officer & Diver, passed away on September 28, 2021 at the age of 74.

He was born in Seattle and his father, Harry, was a City Transit Operator. Jim grew up in the Woodlawn North neighborhood, not far from the Harbor station. He attended Lincoln High. After graduating in 1966, he joined the Air Force serving in Thailand and Vietnam as an aircraft mechanic. After his three-year enlistment, he returned to Seattle and worked various jobs for the next two years. In 1971 he applied to the Seattle Police Department.

On April 21, 1971, Jim was hired as a Patrolman. His first posting was Georgetown working with Kerry Guynn #3019. Several months later, he attended Academy Class 69. After his year of probation was up, Jim married Colleen. Jim was assigned to Wallingford. He stayed in the North Precinct until 1990. While there he worked Boy sector for Jerry Taylor #2533. Jim's squad mates were Jerry Beam #2542, Dan Beste #3295 and Mike



## Last Ring



Christ #3389. Golden Gardens had long been a gathering place for drag racing, so Jim and his partner Roger Myers #2804 were assigned to stop the street racing. It took them five months to end the racing by checking each street rod's equipment, i.e. mufflers, vehicle's street clearance, windshield visibility, etc. If the equipment did not pass, the car was impounded for safety reasons. Racing at Golden Gardens went away and did not come back.

Jim and Colleen bought a house on Magnolia where they lived for several years. Later, they bought a lot on Magnolia and built a new home. He could build or repair anything. In 1975, he joined the "Blue Knights" and over the next fifteen years he rode throughout the country coast to coast. In 1990, Jim transferred to the DWI squad to work for J.J. Hill #2143. Two years later, Jerry Taylor recruited Jim to Harbor to back fill for the retiring boat maintenance officer, Nick Bulpin #2185. So Jim worked maintenance, drove boats and was a diver for the next fifteen years. He was a very calm and cool boat operator. During one windstorm on Lake Washington, he and his partner Phil Allen #3244, had to rescue a sailboarder who was trapped up against the I-90 bridge. He was hanging on for dear life. It was tricky maneuvering, but Jim got the boat next to the sailboarder without crushing him and also avoided slamming the boat against the bridge supports, so Phil could drag the victim onboard. As they began to leave, the sailboarder begged them to retrieve his sailboard which was 100 yards away, bouncing in the chop. Without getting upset with this stupid windsurfer, Jim again fought the wind, the chop and the bridge to retrieve the board.

Jim finished building his home on Magnolia, rebuilt Beemer's dad's classic Ford Bronco and also restored his own 1968 Camaro. He was an avid saltwater fisherman and was always working on his fishing boats.

He retired in 2007 after thirty-six years of service, but he was not going into retirement. He now went to work as a civilian at Harbor, maintaining the equipment for another eight years. When he finally quit working, he and Colleen stayed home. Jim became the neighborhood handyman. Per Jim's request there are no services.



## Last Ring



**Mike Germann #2714**, retired Seattle Police Captain and retired Executive Secretary of the Seattle Police Relief and Pension Fund, passed away on December 12, 2021, at the age of 79.

Mike was born in Seattle and raised in Kirkland, where he attended Lake Washington High, graduating in 1960. In 1962, he enlisted in the Marines for four years. He served in Vietnam. When his tour was up, he returned to Seattle and applied to the Seattle Police Department.

Mike was hired on June 20, 1967, working patrol for three months before attending Academy Class 53. He worked prowler cars in East Central with several of his future academy mates before they all were trained. They were: Larry Farrar #2360, Erling Buttedahl #2704 and Joe Nicholas #2683 (they continued to work together after the academy). During class breaks Joe introduced Mike to a civilian employee, Maryann, who worked in Crime Analysis. They were married right after his academy graduation. He spent two years in patrol, then transferred to Juvenile for a few days, before being loaned to Robbery for six months. In mid-1970, he landed his permanent assignment in Vice. This was about the same time his daughter, Julie, was born (August 4, 1970). The next year, one of his old patrol partners, Buttedahl, was involved in a shooting that generated publicity and later a high-profile assault arrest. The Department was going through a rough public relations period with the riots and the grand juries, so it was contemplating involuntarily separating Erling. Both Joe Nicholas and Mike went to bat for Erling with Chief Tielsch. Their input convinced the Chief of Police that the dismissal action was inappropriate, so he stopped it. Mike had a sense of justice and a heart for fair play. After a year and six months in Vice, he transferred to the sex crime unit for eight months. Then, he was assigned to training for a year as a Basic Instructor. On September 14, 1976, he was promoted to sergeant and assigned to Georgetown, 3rd watch, for the next two years. Then, he was transferred to Narcotics for another two years. During these years Mike went to college, earning an A.A. Degree in Police Science, a B.A. in Public Administration and a Master's Degree.

Chief Fitzsimmons, in early 1980, noticed that Mike passed the lieutenant's exam. The Chief thought, with Mike's strong investigative background, he would be a

good candidate to work IIS before being promoted. He was in IIS one year before being promoted on April Fool's Day 1981 and assigned as the Illness Lieutenant in Personnel for the next year. On April 7, 1982, he was assigned to 2nd watch North and then 3rd watch for almost eighteen months. Here his reputation of supporting his people grew. One day, the precinct Crime Prevention Specialist got an unexpected phone call from her doctor informing her that the x-ray discovered what appear to be a suspicious tumor. This caused her to tear up. When Mike saw her distress and was informed why she was distraught, he insisted she go to the doctor's office immediately. He drove her there and waited in the parking lot until the appointment was over. Then he took her to Baskin & Robins for an ice cream cone, saying he always did this for his daughter.

On October 26, 1983, he became the Bomb Squad lieutenant. He was one of the last lieutenants trained to go down range to disarm a suspect device. He was also elected president of the Seattle Police Management Association at this time. On December 5, 1986, Mike made Captain and was assigned to Training for almost two and a half years. Then, he was assigned to the Metropolitan section until he retired on December 11, 1992. While in Metro, he was instrumental in establishing the Department's Chaplain Association, which he felt the Department's personnel needed on a 24/7 basis. While organizing the Chaplain Association structure, one of his subordinates was having a difficult financial time. Mike immediately gave the subordinate a \$1,500 bridge loan with the stipulation to make payments as able – no rush and no interest.

The reason Mike retired was that the Chair of the Pension Board, George Benson, appointed Mike to succeed Dave Grayson #1814 as the Executive Secretary of the Pension Office. Mike held this position for eighteen years, overseeing many changes that improved the members' benefits. He retired from the Pension Office in 2010.

Mike had many interests: making wine, making homemade pesto from his own home-grown basil, picking mushrooms, skiing, fishing, gardening, snorkeling, camping and model railroading. The attributes that marked his life was his sense of honor and compassion. His word was his bond! He volunteered at the Kenmore food bank for years, helping the needy. Mike is survived by his wife of 53 years, Maryann, daughter Julie, two granddaughters Madison Ann and Cassidy Ann and grandson Mike Roland.



# Last Ring



**Dan Love #5051**, Seattle Police Officer, passed away on July 18, 2021, at the age of 61.

**Loren "LD" Grumbly #5140**, Seattle Police Officer, passed away on December 23, 2021, at the age of 66.

**Kyle Squires #7437**, Seattle Police Officer, passed away at the end of 2021.

**WIDOWS:**

**Colleen Boyer**, surviving spouse of deceased retired Seattle Police Detective Jerry Boyer #1422, passed away on October 31, 2021, at the age of 86.

**Georgiana Groves**, surviving spouse of deceased retired Seattle Police Patrolman Robert Groves #763, passed away on December 4, 2021, at the age of 97.

**Betty Schneider**, surviving spouse of deceased retired Seattle Police Major Harry Schneider #1430, passed away on December 8, 2021, at the age of 85.

**Helen Hansen-Holme**, surviving spouse of deceased retired Seattle Police Sergeant Harry Hansen #1801, passed away on December 15, 2021, at the age of 89.

**WIFE:**

**Jamie Henderson**, wife of 38 years to retired Seattle Police Officer Marv Henderson #4221, passed away on February 6, 2022, at the age of 67.

**FRIEND:**

**Dave Hines #6038R**, a former Seattle Police Reserve, who became a regular officer at the Port of Seattle, passed away on September 29, 2021, at the age of 74.



**Fallen SPD Officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the months of February and March**

**FEBRUARY**

Judson P. Davis	2/23/1911
Fred D. Carr	2/25/1973

**MARCH**

Charles O. Legate	3/17/1922
Olof F. Wilson	3/31/1935
Frank Hardy	3/12/1954
John E. Bartlett	3/9/1968
Gary Lindell	3/13/2002
Jackson V. Lone	3/16/2005

*And Until We Meet Again, May God Hold You in The Palm Of His Hand.*



(From Tolliver, Page 3)

meet with other retired SPD officers for coffee every Wednesday for the last 20+ years.

**Q. What do you miss about SPD since retiring?** As with most retirees, I miss the people I worked with (even those I avoided) and the direct positive impact I had on their lives.

**Q. Any advice for a young person considering a career in policing?** I would encourage anyone to take a hard look at law enforcement as a career – but, make sure it is for the right reason. It 's not an easy life, but a rewarding one that I would readily recommend to anyone interested in providing service to their community



Chief Fitzsimons & wife, Olga. Major Tolliver & his wife, Eva



(R-L) Major Tolliver, Faye Brooks (A/C KCSO) Cynthia Hobbs (SPD Civilian) Lt. Ron Sylve, Sgt. Patty Hayes, Capt. Toni Malliet, and Capt. Tom Byers.

## RSPOA CALENDAR

Monthly Meeting    March 9, 11:30    Nile

Monthly Meeting    April 13, 11:30    Nile

(April Guest Speaker is Brandi Kruse. Call to reserve your spot as there will be a large crowd. Let Nick Bulpin know so he can order enough food.)

RAP meets every Thursday at The Nile, 11am

Come on out and enjoy a nice lunch and see old friends at the events at The Nile!



Ava Sundstrom & George Johnson



Myrle Carner & John Gray

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



**Paul Pendergrass #4942 Hired: 8/1985, Retired: 4/2015**  
**Laury Pendergrass #5313 Hired: 11/1988, Retired 6/2015**

### Q. WHAT WERE SOME OF YOUR MEMORABLE SPD ASSIGNMENTS AND WHY?

**PAUL:** East Precinct in the '80's was incredible! I was fortunate enough to work with some hard chargers at a time when officers had support, encouragement and were expected to go fight crime. There is nothing like police work when you have a support system, instead of getting hammered for an honest mistake. Of course, the most memorable part of working patrol was meeting my wife! (Affectionately known as the new girl) Working in the traffic enforcement section (T-6 squad) was a dream job. There is nothing like being assigned your own car (or motor) and working the whole city. From enforcement to special events, it was a nonstop rollercoaster ride, working with fantastic officers. Another benefit to working parades, fun runs, sports etc., is that you get to see people having fun. That is not often the case in patrol. Promoting to Sgt. was my most favorite job on the dept. The last 1/2 of my career was spent in the North precinct on 2nd and 3rd watches. I was spoiled by amazing officers and a supportive chain of command. Most people promote to take care of their officers, but my officers also took great care of me.

**LAURY:** My favorite assignment was patrol and being an FTO. I loved working with our newest officers and assisting them with learning the ins and outs of patrol work. I met and worked with so many wonderful officers and each one brought knowledge with them that helped me too. I am still in touch with many of my former student officers and have a multitude of lifelong friendships that I cherish. My greatest joy was watching them flourish in their career or advance and promote as the years went on. I will always carry the memories from all the adventures of being an FTO. I enjoyed driving the ALPR (Automated License Plate Reader) car. It did the job of another officer reading hundreds of plates every minute. I found so many stolen cars without even trying and a lot of cars with the wrong plates on them. Plus that car, with all those cameras on top, was a conversation starter with people on the street. I used to joke that it looked like the Ghost Busters car. I joined the SPD Pipes and Drum band at its inception. And even though I do not play an instrument (I carry the banner during parades) I am proud to be a part of the band. The work and dedication of the band members is amazing and I am happy to continue to be a part of the band in retirement. But the most memorable thing was meeting my incredible husband. He was my rock when things at work went badly. Without him, it would not have been the same.

### WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST ABOUT SPD?

**PAUL:** It's amazing how fast an entire career of 3 decades zips right by. By far, the incredible men and women I was blessed to meet and work with is what I miss most. I miss watching the bright-eyed new officers



**Tom 6 Squad with Air Force One!**

**(L-R) Mike Korner, Paul, Randy Robinson & Bill Alcayaga**



**Laury on patrol!**



showing up at the precinct and wondering if I looked like that when I was a rookie. When I first retired, I felt disconnected from the group. Working during an era when officers were supported inside and outside the department was a blessing, that is sorely missed. I don't honestly know that I would miss the career, if I had to work with today's lack of support for law enforcement. I hope that pendulum swings back.

**LAURY:** I miss the camaraderie and the people. We were a family and we watched each other's backs. I miss coffee with my squad and choir practices. I miss the squad parties and learning what my squad mates were actually like, away from the work setting. I miss the challenge of a really difficult investigation and writing it up, in such a way, that I could easily recall the event later if needed for trial. And I miss little kids coming up to me at a parade or other event and looking at me like I was a superhero. Those moments always made all the bad parts of the job worth it. I also miss being a proud Seattle Police Officer. The sense of duty and accomplishment are all but gone from what was once a noble career. I am still proud of the hard work officers do each and every shift. I only hope that they will be appreciated again by those they serve and protect.

### **LIFE AFTER SPD:**

#### **WHAT DID YOU DO, WHERE DO YOU LIVE?**

**PAUL:** We sold our Maple Valley house and moved to Cle Elum. What a great community with very nice people and a slower pace. Most surprising, is how busy retirement is. We volunteer, work at our church and take part in our HOA board when we're not spending time playing with grand youngin's! If you don't have grandchildren yet, you're in for a real treat! They are the best kept secret ever. I'm trying to think hard about something I don't like about retirement, but I'm drawing a blank.

**LAURY:** My husband and I moved across the mountains to the Cle Elum area, where we built our retirement home. We are in a very rural setting on a small lake in a beautiful area. We both do a ton of volunteer work with our HOA and at our church. We enjoy having our kids and grandkids out to swim and fish in the summers and play in the snow in the winters. We love to cruise and will continue to do so once it is safe again. We love every minute of every day out here and all the wonderful neighbors and friends we have met since moving here.

#### **HOBBIES AND ACTIVITIES?**

**PAUL:** When you live on a stocked lake, fishing is literally right out your back door. Vegetable gardening takes work, but it is very rewarding. I'm enjoying using my new Yoder smoker. It's a charcoal / wood smoker, low and slow- no hurry with that brisket! I enjoy astronomy, using my telescope and learning space, which teaches you how small we really are in the grand scheme of things. We snowshoe in the winter and bike ride or walk trails in the summer. I enjoy tinkering in my shop working on this or that. Date night with my lovely bride! (Never stop dating your spouse) Our vacation of choice is taking cruises, although Covid has put a damper on that for now. We are looking forward to getting back to that as soon as possible.

**LAURY:** Paul and I love to grow our own food and cook up some amazing meals together. We have a ginormous deck overlooking our little lake and there is nothing better than sitting out there with a fresh made cocktail, enjoying the view and smelling something amazing on the BBQ. We hike, swim, fish, snowshoe in the winter, boating in the summer, bike riding, gardening, cooking and traveling. We love having friends and family visit us and enjoy the beauty of nature while making memories.



**Laury with Pipes & Drums & Paul in Washington, D.C.**



## From the Police Museum

By Officer Jim Ritter, SPD Retired,  
#4710,



### The Old Bertillon System

The taking of Bertillon's anthropometric measurements was a lengthy operation, requiring high skills and patience. Yet this practice, more tedious than fingerprinting, was held not to constitute a violation of constitutional privileges and due process of law.

In the old illustration above:

1. Height measurement, standing.

2. Reach, fingertip to fingertip.  
3. Height measurement, seated, from base of spine to top of head.

4, 5, 6. Head measurements, length and width, length of right ear, width of face across cheek bones.

7. Length of left foot.

8. Length of left middle and little fingers.

9. Length of left forearm.

Sheriff & Police Reporter—March-May, 1964

Criminal Identification in Seattle has changed significantly over the past 120 years. One example, is that of the old Bertillon Measuring System that police began using in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century as a new, yet imperfect, method for identifying crooks.

This diagram demonstrates the labor-intensive process of using a variety of tools to verify physical characteristic during an era where police often did not have a photograph to put on wanted posters and used a suspect's Bertillon measurements to suffice. The inaccuracy of this process resulted from people's body measurements changing as they grew.

*If you have any historic police documents, photographs, or artifacts you would like to share with the police museum, please contact me at [jamesSritter@gmail.com](mailto:jamesSritter@gmail.com), or at #206-949-9143.*

## War Stories

By SPD Retired Detective Cloyd Steiger, #4313

On a Tuesday, April of 2006, my squad worked nightshift in Homicide. The main phone line into the office rang, just before 8:30 that evening.

"Homicide," I said, answering the phone.

"Hi Homicide, Radio here," the operator replied. "We have an officer-involved shooting at Broadway and East John. They're requesting that you respond." "We're on the way," I said.

We gathered our things in the Homicide office on the seventh floor of police headquarters downtown and headed to the car deck to respond.

My partner, Jason Kasner, and I pulled up to the chaotic scene. Several police cars parked in the street, their red and blue lights flashing, yellow crime scene tape blocked East John Street, east of Broadway. The body of a young white male lay on the sidewalk, his shirt removed, EKG stickers placed on his bare chest by medics before they pronounced him dead. I approached a patrol sergeant. "We received a call from that phonebooth," he said, pointing to a nearby payphone. "The caller said a male told him he would shoot the first police officer he saw.

"Officers arrived and saw the suspect standing on the sidewalk. They approached him, and he pulled a revolver and pointed it at them. They fired and hit him. His gun is over there," he said, pointing to a revolver on the sidewalk behind the deceased suspect.

I walked over to the weapon. I shined my flashlight on it and noticed an anomaly. There was something in the cylinder gap between the cylinder and the grip. I knelt to get a closer look.

From my position on my knees, I realized that it was a bullet, presumably fired by one of the officers. It had gone into the opening in the cylinder and struck a round that had been loaded there, sending it back to the rear of the gun. It was very significant and unequivocal evidence that the suspect's gun had been pointed at the officers when they fired. It was physically impossible for the bullet to enter the cylinder, if that wasn't the case. The show, Mythbusters, did a segment on this shooting several months later. They had the situation all screwed up. They had the officers armed with the revolver and the suspect with the semiautomatic pistol, opposite reality. They had the round entering an empty chamber, not one loaded with a live round, which had been the case. They concluded that this could have happened. I know it could have. I was there!

# Editor's Corner

By Rich O'Neill, SPD Retired #4451

What do notorious murderers Ted Bundy, Randy Kraft (Southern California Strangler), William Suff (12 counts of murder in California) and Timothy McVeigh (Oklahoma City Bomber) all have in common? These criminals were all caught as a result of a traffic stop! Many reading this can also remember many criminals in Seattle who were caught from a simple traffic stop. May 15, 1989, SPD Motor Officer, Mark Sigfrinius #2832, made a "routine traffic stop" for speeding. Mark did not know that the driver was a fugitive, wanted for murder out of New Mexico. Mark suffered a catastrophic injury when the murderer shot him, but the fugitive was caught the same day and brought to justice. So, I need to rant about the latest asinine and reckless policy coming out of SPD.

In May 2021, Lisa Judge, the Inspector General who oversees SPD, wrote a letter calling for a new policy to eliminate traffic stops for low level traffic violations. She said, "for the safety of both officers and the public and for racial fairness." She called the stops a "significant infringement on civil liberty." Now Ms. Judge has no authority to implement policy. She merely makes recommendations. In January of this year, Interim Chief Adrian Diaz issued a policy restricting SPD officers from making stops for certain traffic violations. In a letter he wrote to Ms. Judge he said, "you and your team have proven to be engaged **thought partners** in how to improve public safety in Seattle with focus on equity and effectiveness." "Improve" public safety, is he joking?

I spent many years in traffic as an officer and a sergeant. This is not only political correctness run amuck, but it is downright dangerous and reckless. Where are the statistics to support the allegation that stops violate "racial fairness" and civil liberty? Keep in mind, every traffic stop is recorded with video evidence. There are no more "verbal warnings" as every stop generates a paper trail. If true, there should clearly be evidence! The SPD command has also eliminated the DUI squad, who searched the city each night for impaired drivers. SPD has also eliminated the traffic enforcement squads, who were the only squads who focused on school zone enforcement. School kids are now on their own. The motorcycle unit has dwindled down to just a handful of officers. Organized street racing is rampant. If your car is Hit & Run there is no detective follow-up on your case. And oh yes, if the violator chooses not to stop for the flashing police lights, the officers may not pursue.

Seattle needs to stop the social experiments and return to law and order. I will end with this quote from the North Carolina Governors Highway Safety Program, "The bottom line is that while a lot of people are not happy with officers enforcing traffic laws, they are the most visible and obvious signs of an active and efficient police force." Sadly, this policy demonstrates that Seattle is more interested in social experiments than in public safety.

## RSPOA February Meeting

Photos by John Nordlund



Lynnwood Municipal Court Judge Valerie Bouffiou gave an entertaining talk on court proceedings.




Jerry Taylor with Joe Bouffiou and his daughter-in-law, Judge Valerie Bouffiou.

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