



The Call Box



Official Publication of the Retired Seattle Police Officers Association

July 2021 Volume 2, Issue 4

MARK SIGFRINIUS

A HERO AND INSPIRATION TO ALL!
SERIAL # 2832 ACADEMY CLASS # 61



Q. Mark, where were you born, where did you grow up and what did you do before joining SPD?

I was born in Grand Rapids, Minnesota and we lived in an apartment above my uncle's bar. I remember taking a bath in a huge claw foot tub and using a squirt gun to shoot an occasional cockroach off the edge. My father was an iron ore miner for eight years after his tour of duty in the Marines in the South Pacific. He saw a job application for Boeing workers in the newspaper and borrowed \$112 from my uncle to fly to Seattle for the interview. We moved to Burien two weeks later and he worked at Boeing until his death from cancer in 1968.

Q. When did you know that you wanted to be a police officer?

In junior high school there was a project we had to do about what kind of occupation we would be interested in trying and my first thought was that I wanted to be a State Patrolman. I have absolutely no idea where that came from. I attended Glacier High School and after graduating and taking a year off traveling in Scotland, Wales and England, I attended Highline College and received a degree in Police Science. In 1967, the college class was informed that Seattle was hiring police cadets. The basics were 5' 8" tall and 145 pounds. I had one month to gain just 5 pounds. I ate everything that was classified as food and weighed exactly 145 with one pound of change in my pocket. I was hired at a full time salary of \$510 a month, which was 10 dollars a month more than a Washington State Trooper! I loved the cadet program because transferring every six months gave a great overview of the entire department. I spent 18 months as a cadet and then took the officer's test when I reached 21.

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

My academy class number was 61! We moved around a lot. I think we started out at the Providence facility, then moved to the upper room of the south precinct. It was miserably hot and at the end of Boeing field with planes taking off every 10 seconds. We then went to Glacier High School and if I'm not mistaken, moved to the new State facility in Des Moines for completion.



Class Sixty-One

First row: Sgt. Sorensen, T. D. Augerson, G. C. Krueger, R. E. Lutz, S. D. McDonald, R. G. Vegas, E. L. Shreve, D. D. Scoville, D. R. Stokke, D. P. Kelly, D. A. DeLorm, J. M. Ragsdale, Fred D. Miller, J. E. Georgich, D. M. Matthews. Second row: J. G. Wilson, J. W. Forbes, J. L. Cvar, W. R. Fox, D. E. Harper, M. R. Henning, D. G. Millard, J. R. Carlson, R. E. Hybak, E. J. Fjersstad, R. K. Murphy, James Taylor, E. H. Joiner, L. D. Johnson. Top row: R. Stulevich, J. R. Johnson, L. F. Baylor, R. Japar, J. N. Hugg, B. L. Carter, L. C. Harvey, D. Ballard, B. B. Feldman, R. A. Davis, S. L. Stokke, M. D. Boyce, R. G. Schlicht, R. C. Nelson, M. C. Sigfrinius. Not pictured: F. T. Walker.

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The Call Box



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President's Message

By Jerry Taylor, President, RSPOA



Everyone seems to enjoy the chance to meet with friends we have not seen in over a year. Eric Sano will be our guest speaker in July.

The last session of the legislature finally came to an end. It was not a good session for the police as some very restrictive bills were passed. I am amazed that anyone would go to work with the new rules just put in place.

For retired officers there was one bill that impacted both LEOFF 1 and LEOFF 2 pension plans. It was SB 5453 and was yet another attempt to merge LEOFF 1 with the Teachers Retirement System Plan 1 (TRS 1). For LEOFF 2 it would have increased the pension by allowing an increase of the multiplier from 2% to 2 1/2% for a ten-year period using funds in that system that had been isolated for benefit enhancement. Retired LEOFF 2 members would not have received the enhancement. Thankfully, SB 5453 died in committee.

LEOFF 2 benefits should have been addressed in a stand-alone bill. It probably would have passed.

The primary goal was to take the approximately \$1.66 billion in the LEOFF 1 surplus and use it to reduce the deficit in TRS 1. It would have reduced the LEOFF 1 funding from 141% to 93%. Remember that the money is not real dollars. It is based on the projected future earning, experience factors, mortality, etc., it is not tucked away in a vault someplace.

The current market value of the LEOFF I Retirement Fund is \$6,005,425,373. To determine if the fund is fully funded, you would deduct today's projected pension liability from the market value to determine our true current funding level. That number changes all the time.

The interest in merging the LEOFF I with the TERS 1 Fund may have been reduced by the windfall of funds coming from increased revenue reports and grants from the federal government. It was reported that the State would receive approximately \$1.2 billion in increased revenue and two federal grants, one for \$1.2 billion and one designated for schools at \$1.2 billion. The budget passed includes an \$800-million contribution to the TERS 1 Fund. Some of that money will not be transferred until 2024 when the State receives the final federal grant monies.

We have been advised that there were over four hundred responses to legislators in opposition to SB 5453. A large number from RSPOA and RFFOW members. Lobbying efforts involved contact the State Actuary's office for current information regarding the LEOFF 1 Fund and contacting each member of the Senate Ways and Means Committee as well as other influential legislators by phone or email.

Everyone owes a debt of gratitude to Dick Warbrouck, the president of the Retired Fire Fighters. Over the past twenty years he has served as their lobbyist. Every major improvement to the LEOFF 1 system was spearheaded by Dick. He is leaving his president position but hopes to continue as a lobbyist for his organization.



RSPOA May Meeting

From Page 1,- Sigfrinius

Q. Once out of the academy, what was your first assignment?

My first assignment as a cadet was at the Wallingford precinct. I had no idea where that was located. I got close but had to stop at a gas station in uniform and ask the attendant where I was going. Should have seen him smile. Now there's a cop who knows where he's going! My first assignment after the academy was "the hole" at the Public Safety Building. I first answered the rotary telephone, which was a disaster. For two days I answered about 100 questions not knowing the answer to any inquiry. Then they put me with John Sullivan walking the First Avenue Pike Place Market for a week. Learned a lot from John. Somehow, an opening occurred at the North precinct and I was gone. There was no academy class until there was about 30 people. I was off on patrol from Harry Hanson's squad with a badge, a gun and a ticket book. Radio kept calling 2 Boy 2 and the dumb officer never answered. I thought I was 2 Boy 5. There wasn't a 2 Boy 5 that day. I didn't get one call until I returned to the precinct for gas. It was a momentous first day on patrol.

Q. Who was some of your partners and some of your sergeants?

The north precinct (largest police precinct in the U. S.) had a lot of one man cars so partners were scarce. Dick King and I were partners for a while and we handled most of the family fights. After some time, when radio would give us an address we knew who the callers were and who was beating up on whom. We also had numerous space cadets who were not picked up by the mother ship that required some inventive "aluminum foil" tricks.

Q. Who was your favorite Police Chief and why?

For some time we had so many chiefs it was like the Dating Game. Chief Tielsch was impressive. We were booking someone into the jail when he was present. Some officers brought up a suspect who had injured an officer during a fight. He was escorted up the elevator standing up. The Chief told the officers to take him back down stairs and to return him in an appropriate manner, because he didn't like offenders beating up on his boys. There were other great Chiefs including Frank Moore.

Q. Tell us about some funny calls or memorable arrests?

I stopped Judge Towne for going through a red light. His wife was giving him the old elbow treatment cause she knew it. When I found out it was the judge of municipal court, he insisted on a ticket. I told him that I couldn't find a pen and three other excuses. I let him go. The next defendant in court I had didn't have a chance. I also got to stop my mother-in-law when she didn't like me especially when she actually thought I was going to write her a citation. If looks could kill I would have never made it back to the patrol car. Eventually, she laughed but it took 20 years. I arrested a guy for murder in the Laurelhurst area at a pub where some idiot lost a game of pool so he shot the other guy in the face. Suspect apparently had a temper. We were told by a certain captain that he wanted to see more tickets written by us patrol officers. So, I wrote a citation on Mayor Uhlman's limo which was parked across the sidewalk. I also called for a tow truck. I really didn't know it was the mayor's car until I was summoned back to see the captain several hours later. The captain was having a temporary stroke. He tried to have me transferred, but Lt.

Noreen Skagen said that wasn't going to happen after she called her husband Roy who was the Assistant Chief at the time.

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

After about 12 years in patrol I heard there was an opening in the radio room. I really I enjoyed the change and all the wonderful people that answered the 911 calls. I then learned the dispatching agenda. On our breaks we would use the gym to shoot baskets. I have a witness that I shot 66 free throws in a row. Then after five years an opening in traffic came along. Our group was the first DWI (not DUI) squad under the infamous Sgt. J. J. Hill. We had a great squad of crazy guys including John Guich, Mike Petras, Jerry Harris and some guy named "Richard O something" who eventually was the Police Guild president. It was an excellent assignment with a ton of court time and lots of great stories that would now get everyone fired I'm sure.

Then it was off to my last assign-



DWI Squad: Mark, Mike Petras, Rich O'Neill, Jerry Harris & Sgt. Keith Stringfellow

ment on motorcycles. The Kawasaki 1000's were a great bike. Tommy Knight was right. God made street

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From Sigfrinius– Page 3

overpasses for guys who needed to change into rain gear with the typical Seattle weather. Just loved to ride and get paid for it too.

Q. Can you tell us about May 15, 1989? What were the circumstances that led up to that terrible incident?

It was a gorgeous sunny day and I was up on Fremont Ave. writing my last ticket of the day to an older Oldsmobile doing 45 in a 30 zone. Now how was I to know the driver had spent time in prison in Cuba for murder. President Peanut Carter just let a boatload of scum bags into our country without any supervision. Free as a bird Pedro was a drug dealer who murdered his suppliers rather than pay. He had killed a guy in Tacoma and a guy in downtown Seattle. Most likely thinking I knew of his actions, Pedro thought he was headed for the slammer, so when I approached the car he leaned out and shot me in the chest with a .38 revolver. The bullet bounced around, ending up exactly vertical in my spine. What a dope! Didn't he see I had a citation book and was just going to write a stupid citation? Well he did end up in the Crossbar Hotel anyway.

Q. Can you tell us about the long recovery and rehabilitation period, PT, etc.

Praise God for a cancelled fire department call and the SFD personnel and the staff at Harborview hospital and K-9 dog Chase and lots of citizens and other police

officers who helped out that day. My chances of survival were not good and by the time they were through fixing all the holes I had drained 10 bags of blood and was in ICU for just about two weeks. Morphine causes wild dreams. After two weeks of liquid food the best thing I ever tasted was half of an orange popsicle. I was shipped up to Providence Hospital in Everett and spent three months in rehabilitation with the most wonderful people. It took just about a year and a half before I was really stabilized and feeling good. Of course, without friends and family I would have never survived.



Mark receives Medal of Honor 2002.

Q. The Rescue 911 TV Show with William Shatner featured your incident. Tell us how that came about?

Apparently the producers of the series contacted the police guild and I was compelled to participate, so I could get my 15 minutes of national & international fame.

Q. Did the show accurately capture the details of the incident and were you pleased with it?

The Rescue 911 show did a terrific job in the reenactment of the events of that day. I was truly impressed in the authenticity they created. (Show can still be found on You Tube. (Search Rescue 911 Seattle Cop Down)

Q. You eventually moved to Eastern Washington and became Mayor of Goldendale. Tell us what got you interested in politics and being Mayor?

I was in the Kiwanis Club as President when the citizens garnered a petition to change the form of government from an administrator/mayor to a strong mayor scenario. I really was not interested because I hate politics (Greek for blood sucking bugs). I thought that a small conservative city in Eastern



Mayor Mark hard at work!

Washington would never elect a guy from Seattle running against a former mayor who was a good guy. Surprise is an inadequate word to describe the outcome. The citizens voted for me in a non close race and they also replaced 6 of the 7 city council persons. We put a great team together and brought in 22 million dollars worth of grants that pulled the city out of the dark ages. 12 years was enough and there was very little politics involved. I am now a county commissioner for our hospital district.

Q. What are some of your hobbies and things you enjoy doing?

If I have a hobby it would be motorcycle riding. Reading would be on the list and working with our dogs. I'm not sure who is the pet...me or them.



Q. Tell us about your family and what they are up to?

Priscilla is a gardener with a large green thumb. I just supervise and say "yes dear." My son Matt and his family live up in Priest River, Idaho. He has been working for the same company for over 33 years. Aerojet is a company that makes composite airplane floats. Their best year was 2020 so I guess people with a lot of money decided to spend it while lounging around a swimming pool. Three grandkids who are great.

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

I really miss the daily interaction with the other officers and civilian employees. I miss the beautiful summer weather and riding the police motorcycles. I guess I just miss the good old days, like every other old retired officer.

Q. When you see the current way some Seattle politicians talk about the police, what are your thoughts?

Of course, Seattle has always been slightly liberal in nature but everybody got along with good conversations. All I hear now is hate, rights, democratic socialism (fake name for Communism)



and complete contempt for police officers. Many officers are leaving for other cities because of complete stupidity from the local and federal government. The basic fabric of the country (families, honesty and love for each other) is under assault from radicals who need to be transported by the mother ship to another galaxy.

Q. Your courage and determination are an inspiration to so many. What got you through the most challenging times?

My family, friends and my faith got me through some really tough times. Not only at the beginning of being a paraplegic, but including numerous medical challenges in the last six months.



The LEOFF1 people, including the pension board, have been tremendous. One 3 day operation, several years ago, ended up with 35 days in a hospital due to medical injustice and 3 months in person rehab recovery. Total bill ran over \$1.5 million. It's no wonder that many deaths are due to medical malpractice. Life is good. Never Give Up!



Mark with Mike Petras on the course.



Mark on a trip with the Blue Knights



Dick Hybak, Elmer Johnston and Mark enjoy some fun on the golf course, early 90's.

FROM THE PENSION OFFICE

1. Since the Pension Office was put on remote staffing an additional fax number (206)470-6900 was installed that sends your fax directly to the office's computers. Please use this fax line for quicker service.
2. Several of our members' phones/computers were hacked. So if you get a message from one of our retirees inquiring about your Amazon account ignore it.
3. The July COLA for widows covered by RCW 41.26.250 will be 2%. The increase will appear at the end of that month.
4. The election for one of the Pension Board positions was held in the month of June 2021. The result will be published in July.
5. We are hoping for a Retired Officers Banquet in the fall. The location and other details will be sent when available.
6. The RAP Picnic will be at the NILE on Thursday, August 19th. It will be outside at the picnic area.
7. No information about SPOG negotiations. The Guild is 6 months without a contract.
8. The SPMA is in mediation. This is next step when the two parties are unable to settle so a third party is called in to help them. SPMA is 18 months without a contract.



A large crowd enjoyed guest speaker John Carlson at the RSPOA May meeting at the Nile.



Last Ring



Bill Green #2236, Retired Seattle Police Sergeant passed away on April 28th, 2021 at the age of 83. He was born and raised in the southern Puget Sound area. His family eventually settled in Seattle and Bill attended Seattle Prep where he played football. He attended Seattle University. During this time, he met his wife Barbara and they married on June 6th, 1959. Bill and his brother Don started the Green Brothers Trucking Company. Business was good so Bill worked there even after joining the SPD. Bill was hired on March 3rd, 1962. He was assigned to Patrol for four years. In May of 1966 he transferred to Traffic, riding solos for the next five years. He became a member of the Drill Team and he rode in many parades. In 1971, Bill went back to patrol but was promoted within a few months and was assigned to traffic as an enforcement car sergeant. He spent the next 13 years in enforcement (4 wheels). During the years he was in traffic, Bill worked all of the major events including Seafair and the Goodwill Games. He enjoyed taking his squads out to fish on his 22-foot Chris Craft. He loved the outdoors, snow skiing, water skiing and camping. He also loved to coach sports. He and Dale Schenck #2137 and Pat Murphy #1652 coached the department's Bantam football teams in the late 60s. Bill also coached Univac Baseball in North King County with Dale Schenck and he was an assistant coach at Blanchet High and Shorecrest High. Bill retired on September 11th, 1992 with 30 years of service. He was no couch potato. He was a coach. So, he applied to be a full-time football coach at Shorecrest. Dale Schenck encouraged Bill to start golfing. Bill became very active at RAP. He was served as Vice President in 2015 and in 2018. He was President in 2016 and 2019 through March of 2021. Everyone enjoyed the unorthodox way he ran the meetings.

Bill is survived by his wife, of almost 62 years, Barbara, four adult children Debbie, Kathy, Terry and Jon and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Pat Munter #2638, Retired Seattle Police Major passed away on May 3, 2021 at the age of 77. Pat was raised in the South Park neighborhood. He attended Sacred Heart School where he was classmates with Al O'Brien #2720. Pat attended Blanchet High School where he played football and ran track and he graduated in 1961.



Last Ring



He first attended College in Oregon then transferred back to the University of Washington in his sophomore year and he was a walk-on for Husky football. Pat was hired by SPD in 1966 and worked patrol for three months before attending Academy Class 52. While in the Academy, he attended the UW night classes to finish up his degree. One of Pat's academy mates was Dean Quall #2609. After leaving the academy, they teamed up to work Queen Anne for the next two years. Pat was assigned as an academy instructor and a detective. He earned his law degree from UPS and was promoted to Sergeant. In 1978, Pat was promoted to Lieutenant. One of his assignments was aide to Chief of Police, Pat Fitzsimons. In 1983, Pat was promoted to Captain and assigned to Vice, Burglary & Theft and IIS. In 1992, he was promoted to Major, overseeing Vice and Narcotics. Approximately three years later he retired with 27 1/2 years of service. He was the highest-ranking member of Class 52. In 2002, Pat married Joan. They knew each other from high school. Pat was very active in RSPOA. He rewrote its by-laws that are in effect to this date. He took up golf to fill his time and even got his old partner Dean to take up the game. Pat remained active with the Native American Cultural Center at Fort Lawton. Pat is survived by his wife of 19 years Joan, his sister's Lucille Gibbs and Karen Hiltbruner.

Mark Bisson #5080, Retired Seattle police patrol officer passed away on April 22, 2021 at the age of 57. Mark was born and raised in Spokane Washington. He attended Ferris High, participating in basketball and track. The Clarkston- Lewiston metro area hired him as a 19-year-old traffic officer, riding solos. He worked there until SPD hired him on December 2, 1986 and was immediately sent to the academy. Mark took up golf at the urging of one of his FTO's, Steve Jarvis #2688. Mark went on to be a division one golfer in the Golf Association. Mark liked patrol and he stayed in the West Precinct his entire career. Mark retired on June 29, 2011. He moved to Tucson, Arizona to be able to golf more. When not golfing, he started a hobby of buying old motorcycles online to restore and then sell. He was always a Gonzaga basketball fan. On February 24, 2017 he married his wife, Andrea and relocated to Tampa, Florida. In February of this year, Mark began a fight for his life. Unfortunately, the odds were against

him. He passed away peacefully two months later in the home of his dreams.

Bill Kirk #3358, retired Seattle police patrolman passed away on May 8th at the age of 82. Bill was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona and he attended high school in Oregon where he played basketball and baseball. In 1956, Bill joined the Marine Corps. In 1962, while stationed at the Bremerton Naval Ship Yard, he met his wife, Esther. They were married one year later. He played baseball for his unit. Bill also served in San Diego and was a Drill Instructor. He served in Vietnam and left the Marines after 14 years of service, switching to the Army Reserves.

In April 1970 Bill was hired by SPD. He worked in the original Georgetown Precinct and later in the current South Precinct building. He was partnered with Mark Gilbert #2919. Bill walked a beat in David Sector and his partner was Bob Lisoski #2817. Bill raised horses and grew hay so he started a hay handling business. His wife Esther started a cleaning business in Midway. Bill played softball for the Seattle Blues (Department team). In 1983, Bill transferred to Communications. He worked radio for three years then back to Patrol for his final five years. During his career Bill had the distinction of working for Bill Kramer #2170 at every rank the chief had attained. In retirement, Bill worked his small farm. His wife Esther passed away in May 2016. Bill is survived by his wife of four years Karen, and his three daughter's Donna, Debbie and Diane, and his son David.

Surviving Spouses:

Irene Jackson, Survivor of Deceased Officer Robert Jackson #2057, passed away on April 26, 2021 at 89 years of age.

Rebecca MacPherson, survivor of deceased Patrol Officer William MacPherson #2203, passed away on May 15, 2021 at the age of 84.

Please go to www.rspoa.org for more detailed obituaries for all those featured in the Last Ring.

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

WAR STORIES

By Cloyd Steiger,
SPD Retired Detective, #4313

In early 1980 after the police academy and my FTO period, I received my first regular assignment: Robert Sector, 3rd watch out of Georgetown. The first couple weeks, I worked a two-officer car with great guys like Harry James and Kenny Baggen before being assigned to a one man car. Besides attending a couple of baseball games with my dad at Sicks Stadium when I was a kid, I'd never been to Rainier Valley. I was utterly lost. I had a map and a Sheppard Street Guide. When I got a call, I'd stop and find it on the map and try to see what route I would take there. I was doing that one evening, stopped in a parking lot of a gas station. A car pulled up to me with a man and his wife inside. "Excuse me, officer," the man said. "Can you tell me how to get to (insert a location)?" "I'm sorry," I said. "I just started working in this area. I have no idea."

Later that night, officers were dispatched to a Domestic Disturbance in Holly Park. A few minutes later, I heard them put out a call for help. I could barely find my way up and down Rainier Avenue, much less Holly Park. I jumped on Empire Way South (now Martin Luther King Way) and headed south. I saw red and blue lights about a mile ahead on Empire. I tore southbound at a high rate of speed until I got close enough to that car to follow it to the scene. When I arrived, one of the apartments was completely engulfed in flames. There were two officers in the front yard covered in soot coughing. One of them was K.C. Smith. I think the other was Mike Broyles. The suspect argued with his girlfriend then left. He returned with gasoline and poured it in the mail slot, along with a lit match. There were several kids inside. K.C. and the other officers tried to save them, but the flames were too intense. They all died.

Welcome to Seattle P.D.



From the Police Museum


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




This 1955 photo from inside a Seattle patrol car is the first evidence of when police radar was used. What is shown in this photo is the speed meter (mounted above) combined with a large printer mounted below the meter. Although considered cumbersome by today's standards, this device was certainly futuristic for its time.

Unlike the streamline models of today, early police radars required a significant amount of space, both inside and outside the patrol car. What is not shown is the enormous wooden tripod that supported the actual radar antenna that was on the ground five feet from the patrol car. The tripod was connected by several electronic cables to the car's power supply and a transmission cable would send the radar readings to the internal meter and printer. Once a motorist was recorded speeding, a chase car would stop the violator.

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





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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Richard ‘Dick’ Belshay Serial # 4167

Academy Class #103

Date of Hire: 9-29-78 Date of Retirement: 12-31-12

What were some of your memorable SPD assignments and why?



I was blessed with a well-rounded career that included some really great assignments. Patrol and Canine put me right on top of all the action as it was happening. The excitement of the in-progress calls, and the knowledge that I was helping people was what the job was all about. I was a sergeant in SWAT back in the day when it was politically correct to call it the Emergency Response Team (ERT). I received the best tactical training possible as we spent months doing full time training in preparation for the 1990 Goodwill Games. During the Games, we staged with KCSO SWAT at Boeing Field, and I ended up logging 40 thrilling hours flying around the King, Pierce and Snohomish County Region in military helicopters. My dream job was riding a police motorcycle. I didn't get there until I was a lieutenant, which in hindsight was probably a good thing safety-wise. I was a lot older and smarter by then (some may want to debate this), with 17 years of police experience under my belt. The 2 weeks of basic motorcycle training was some of the finest, most intense, strenuous and valuable training I ever received from the police department. I enjoyed being a member of the Drill Team. During the drill season I always made it a priority to watch the team do their practices on the top level of the parking garage at the Seattle Center. At one of the practices, they were short riders, so by default they drafted me to fill in. Up to this point all I had ever done was watch, so my heart was pounding, and I was scared spitless as I mounted my motorcycle and got in line to attempt my first drill! I made it through the practice without any mishaps, and when I got home that day I burst through the door and yelled, "You're not going to believe what I did today!" Later that drill season I got to perform in the Magnolia Kiddies Parade, my one and only parade as a rider. Thank God I made it through that parade without crashing into anyone or anything, but what a memory! Traffic was my forte, and I spent one third of my 34 year career there. The icing on the cake was being assigned as the captain of the entire Traffic Section for the final two years of my career. On my last working day just about the entire Section turned out to bid me farewell (some called it a celebration). Several of the motorcycle and traffic officers gave me an escort from Park 90/5 to my house in Puyallup; an honor in today's world that would probably lead to some form of departmental disciplinary action for misuse of time and resources. The weather was terrible, and it rained the entire 30+ mile trip home. I was terrified that one of the riders would be injured trying to get me home, and how that "training exercise" might be explained to the chief. As my escort slowly pulled away from the building, there was a line of at least twenty officers and PEO's standing at attention on the curb. My last memory of that day was Will Witt, the last officer in that long line, who rendered me the most rigid, professional and perfect hand salute as rain steadily dripped off his uniform and the bill of his 8-point hat.

What do you miss most about SPD?

I can only answer this question like everyone else does...the people! This past "Summer of Love" I watched with disbelief and disappointment as Seattle's mayor gave the order to abandon the East Precinct to the whims of thugs. I saw the lunacy of the current city council as they began to systematically dismantle and destroy their police department by succumbing to the hatred, and the ridiculous and unfounded complaints of a vocal small group. The dangerous precedent set by Seattle's poor leadership has left me wondering if the sane-thinking people of Seattle realize the true value and dedication of the rank-and-file officers who protect their city. I pray daily for the future of the Seattle Police Department, as well

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as for the morale and safety of its' officers. Law enforcement has always been, and will continue to be, an honorable profession.

LIFE AFTER SPD:

What did you do, where do you live?

I'm a farm boy from Puyallup, although there isn't much farmland left anymore. After I first retired, I took a 5-year parttime job as one of three adult playground supervisors at a Catholic School in Tacoma for K-8 students, where my grandsons attended. My police training barely prepared me for the daily rigors I faced on the playground. Just like law enforcement, every day was a new adventure; hurt feelings, petty arguments, bullying, minor injuries requiring the magic of a Band-Aid, everything is possible on a playground. At the end of one particularly rough middle school recess I told my two work partners that I would rather get in a shootout with three bank robbers than do another middle school recess. They thought I was joking. In truth, the playground was a rewarding experience just about every day. I quickly discovered the value of my mere presence to impressionable kids who were clearly starved for the attention of an adult as they performed gymnastics on the monkey bars, scored a touchdown, or shared a drawing they had made in their art class. From the looks on their faces I knew that my simple, but kind words of encouragement made their day, and mine too!



Class #103 Front (L-R) Dave Murray, Tag Gleason, Dan Boardley, Gary Farris, Rosa Melendez. Back (L-R) Tac Sgt. Mike Mahoney, Alex Stephen, Don Wirth, Richard Belshay, Tac Officer Larry Inman, Lt. Mike Brasfield.

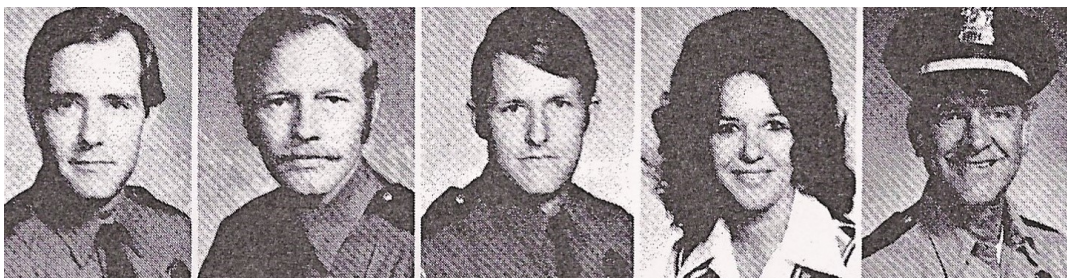
Hobbies and Activities?



I am truly retired now, and have taken up building birdhouses. Not just any old birdhouses, but church birdhouses. Each one is a single hole house made for barn swallows and sparrows. The face of each house is made of a combination of small stones at the base, various sizes and colors of stained glass, and a 2 1/2 inch button inscribed with various scripture verses. The crowning touch is a small wooden cross attached to the peak of the roof. I don't sell these houses; I give them away and consider this effort a ministry for God. So if anyone would like one, send your favorite scripture verse and contact info to richardbelshay6009@msn.com and I will build you a birdhouse.

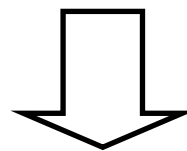
PICTURE QUIZ

Do you know these SPD employees from the 1977 yearbook? The answer is to the right and upside down. Hint: It is alphabetical from the "S" page.



PICTURE QUIZ

ANSWER



L-R, Terry Shipp, Mike Shoddy, Mark Sigrinius, Arla Simon, Morrie Skaret



Fallen SPD Officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the months of June and July.

JUNE

William H. Cunliffe	6-17-1911
James M. Forbes	6-21-1974
James H. St. Delore	6-21-1974
Antonio Terry	6-14-1994
Alexandra Harris	6-13-2021

JULY

Enoch E. Breece	7-31-1902
Henry L. Harris	7-04-1911
John F. Weedin	7-24-1916
Robert R. Wiley	7-30-1916
Amos J. Cormer	7-05-1924
Harry W. Vosper	7-21-1949
James C. Brizendine	7-21-1955

RSPOA CALENDAR

Meeting	July 14	11:30	Nile
Meeting	August 11	11:30	Nile
Banquet	Date ?	????	????

RAP meets every Thursday at The Nile at 11am.

Editor's Corner

**By Rich O'Neill #4451
SPD Retired**

As this issue of The Call Box goes to print, all in the Seattle P.D. family are devastated by the Line of Duty Death of Officer Alexandra "Lexi" Harris. Officer Harris was a five-year veteran who had just finished her shift on June 13. She stopped on the freeway to assist at a major 10 car collision. Tragically, Officer Harris was struck by another vehicle and killed. Officer Harris was described as a "Wonder Woman" and an outstanding officer. Her selfless actions demonstrate her willingness to try and help others, even if it meant putting herself in harm's way. We will have more information in future issues of The Call Box. May she rest in peace!

In this issue we feature Officer Mark Sigfrinius and his incredible story of courage and perseverance after being shot on duty and paralyzed in 1989. I was working traffic enforcement that day in the North Precinct. I heard a strange voice on the police radio as a citizen stopped and used Mark's motorcycle radio to ask for help. Myself, along with every car in the city, rushed to the scene just off NW Leary Way. A group of citizens pointed down a street and there I found the abandoned suspect vehicle, with the car doors standing open. A K-9 was called and shortly thereafter the suspects were captured hiding in some brush in a residential neighborhood. The suspects were wanted for Murder. Mark was unaware of that when he stopped them for speeding. He battled through incredible pain and rehabilitation. His story was featured on the William Shatner TV Show, Rescue 911. (Still available on You Tube). Mark's traffic stop that day, as horrible as it turned out for him, got murder suspects off the streets. Once again, selfless courage and heroism by a Seattle Police Officer! I thoroughly enjoyed interviewing him and despite all that he has been through, he maintains his great sense of humor and faith! He is an inspiration.


Myself and many others are hoping we will gather for the Retired Officer's Banquet this year. We will send out information as soon as it is finalized.

Until, next time, be safe and as Mark said in his interview, "Never Give Up!"


RSPOA

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Mike Burns
MLO - 320428
Retired SPD Officer, SPF Board Member
Crime Stoppers Law Enforcement Liaison

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