



THE EPITAPH



Serving the law enforcement community of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina & Northern Summit Counties

VOL 7, NO 1 • April 2024



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Joe Mannion | President / Member of the GCPOMS Executive Board / Board of Directors

Welcome to the GCPOMS *The Epitaph*, the official publication for the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society®.

When you visit our Memorial Service this May you will notice a difference to the Memorial site. Trees that used to surround the Memorial and Huntington Park had to be removed due to heavy damage from the tornado that came through the park last June. The removal of these trees has opened up the area around the Memorial which is more visible now for you all to see.

On May 17, 2024 will be our 39th year remembering those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice protecting us and their communities of northeast Ohio. We have pledged to “Keep the Promise to Never Forget” and continue to keep that promise. At this year’s Memorial Service, we will be honoring two Officers who made the ultimate sacrifice. Their Line of Duty Deaths occurred some time ago, and were recently discovered that their names had not been on our Memorial. GCPOMS is inviting everyone to the Memorial Service and join us in honoring Deputy David C. Willis E.O.W. 10/18/1960, Cuyahoga County Sheriff’s Department and Constable Franklin Stone, E.O.W. 6/04/1881, Oberlin Police Department. Members of their families will be there as their names will be forever memorialized on our Memorial walls along with 192 other Fallen Officers.

On November 14, 2023 I was honored to present to Alaina Hagans, Surviving daughter of Detective Robert James Clark III, Cleveland Division of Police, E.O.W. July 1, 1998 a Survivors presentation piece. This piece is given to the Surviving families during our police Memorial service in May. Alaina was 6 years old when her father was tragically killed in the Line of Duty. I want to thank the Cleveland 1st District Commander, now Deputy Chief, Jarod Schlacht and Patrol Officer Kerry Adams for arranging this presentation. After Alaina was presented with the Memorial Society plaque, we toured the locker room of the 1st district and viewed the locker that Alaina’s father was assigned. The locker remains the same as it was on the day her father was killed. It is a remembrance at the 1st district that their fellow Brother in Blue will never be forgotten. It should also be noted that the lockers of Patrol Officer David Fahey E.O.W. January 24, 2017 and Patrol Officer Jonathan “AJ” Schroeder E.O.W. August 31, 2006 remain as they were when they paid the ultimate sacrifice.

I would like to thank all who attend and sponsors who donated the wonderful prizes to our 3rd annual Reverse Raffle this past February. The event was held at Woodside Event Center in Broadview Heights. Hope to see all of you and more at next year’s raffle.

If you are a regular visitor to our Facebook page you have noticed that we are now remembering and honoring our Fallen Officers on their End of Watch date.



Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society

Keeping Our Promise to Never Forget Our Fallen Heroes

I am grateful for the positive response we have been receiving due to these remembrances. Please check our Facebook page to view.

The Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial will begin Police Week in Cleveland starting with the Grave Marker placements on Saturday May 11, 2024. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Sgt. John Dean at jtdean@policememorialsociety.org. Our Candle Light Vigil will take place at the GCPOMS Memorial on Monday evening, May 13th at 7:45 pm. Our Memorial Parade and Memorial Service will take place on Friday, May 17th. The parade will start at 10:30 am ending at the Memorial site with our Memorial Service beginning at 11:30 am. Our Police Week will end with the Cleveland International Tattoo, held at the Cleveland Public Hall on Saturday, May 18, 2024. Please go to our website www.HonorOurFallen.us or GCPOMS.org for a schedule of events.

In closing, I asked that all you try to make one of our Memorial events and especially our Memorial Service. I am looking forward to seeing and meeting you.

Stay safe and healthy,
Joe Mannion, President





THE PROMISE TO NEVER FORGET OUR FALLEN HEROES

Mary A. Lentz | Survivor / Editor of The Epitaph

Marshal Harvey A. Yoder of the Bay Village Police Department, who was hired as the first full-time Marshal on June 12, 1920, at the age of 45, was killed in the Line of Duty on July 25, 1925. Marshal Yoder began his law enforcement career in 1918 and used the motorcycle to enforce traffic laws. He had suffered prior injuries while riding the police motorcycle, but it was a new 1925 Ford Roadster Runabout that took his life while test-driving it on duty to determine its potential as a police vehicle. Marshal Yoder was driving the Roadster south on Dover Center Road when the Lake Shore Electric Limited Car was crossing Dover Road on a private right of way. He was thrown from the Roadster and was killed instantly. The track shuttled residents between Cleveland-Toledo-Detroit between 1901 and 1938.



Marshal Yoder's parents were Myra L. Osborn and Reuben Yoder. Marshal Yoder was survived by his mother, who resided in Bay Village. He was mourned by the entire Village he served as a law enforcement Officer for seven years. Bay Village Council directed that an enlarged photo of Marshal Yoder be displayed in City Hall, and that photo continues to be displayed in the lobby of the Bay Village Police Department. In 2006, the Harvey Yoder Parkway was named in his memory. The Parkway runs westward from Cahoon Road toward the Bay Village Police Station in Cahoon Park.



The 1925 Ford Model T Roadster Runabout was the pride of the Ford Company. It had a soft top, split horizontal wind-shield, headlights shaped like a pair of lanterns, wooden spoke wheels, a 4-cycle engine, and a 2-speed transmission which was controlled with three front pedals. The car could cruise without the driver having to press any of the pedals, and it had no clutch pedal. One could wonder that test-driving the vehicle for the first time would be a challenge.

Bay Village was founded in 1903. Until 1941 the chief law enforcement officer was the Marshal. Following Marshal Yoder was Deputy John P. Eaton who was appointed July 27, 1925 following Marshal Yoder's death. He became Chief in 1941 after being elected to 8 consecutive terms as Marshal, along with two full-time officers. Today, the BVPD, which has a long history of community service has twenty-five full-time sworn police officers and eight support personnel under the leadership of Chief Robert Gillespie.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sincere appreciation is extended to BVPD Chief Robert Gillespie for his research and assistance in preparing this tribute and also to Eric Eakin of the Bay Village Historical Society who provided information for this tribute to Marshal Yoder.





TWO NAMES TO BE ADDED TO THE GREATER CLEVELAND PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL

Cuyahoga County Deputy David C. Willis

At about 4:50 am on the morning of October 18, 1960, Cuyahoga County Deputy David C. Willis was walking to his car that was parked on West 2nd Street adjacent to 75 Public Square in downtown Cleveland when he was confronted by his killer attempting to steal the Deputy's vehicle. A woman had informed a police car that was passing by that she heard an exchange of gunfire in the area where Willis had parked his car. The Officers responded and found Deputy Willis face down in the street, with a small caliber pistol clutched in his right hand. Several other people in the vicinity advised they

heard tires screeching and observed a young male run away and disappear behind the Old Stone Church. Deputy Willis was transported to St. Vincent Charity hospital where he passed. Deputy Willis died of a gunshot wound to the chest. Two days later the Deputy's car was located on E.31st Street in Cleveland. It was later discovered that the gun Willis was holding when he was found in the street had been fired, indicating that Deputy Willis had taken police action to stop the carjacking of his vehicle. Deputy Willis was 31 years old and had been a Deputy for 5 years. To this date no one has been arrested for his death.

Oberlin Constable Frank Stone

Oberlin Constable Frank Stone succumbed to a gunshot wound sustained on May 12th, 1881, at approximately 7 pm after a foot pursuit of a suspect whom he was attempting to arrest. The suspect's father and brother interfered with the arrest. The suspect had initially cooperated with Constable Stone and agreed to accompany him to the police station, but then hesitated as they passed a blacksmith shop where his father and brother were working.

The family members exited the shop and attacked Constable Stone, allowing the brother to escape. Constable Stone swore out warrants for the father and brother and then attempted to serve them the following day. As he attempted to arrest the brother, the man fled on foot with Constable Stone firing at him as he ran on foot. One of the rounds wounded the man, who

ran to his home at 26 Mechanic Street (modern day Locust Street). As Constable Stone reached the home the man's father stood in the doorway and shot him in the chest with a rifle, causing a serious wound. Constable Stone was taken to his home where he remained until passing away on June 5, 1881.

The man who shot Constable Stone was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison. He was pardoned in 1891 due to his old age and frail condition.

May the Willis and Stone families and all Surviving families, find comfort in the wonderful memories they have of their loved ones, who have given up so much, while protecting us.

PROUD TO SERVE AND PROTECT: FALLEN HERO SAVES LIFE OF RESIDENT

Lester G. Peterman, the Chief of Police for the Bentleyville Police Department since 1954, died in the Line of Duty on February 10, 1964 while responding to an emergency call to one of the residents in Bentleyville. Chief Peterman took a tank of oxygen with him, since the resident had suffered a heart attack. He applied a face mask to the resident and restored him to consciousness. The Chief then walked into the kitchen of the home and told the man's wife that he thought he was going to black out and slumped on the floor. The wife of the resuscitated male rushed outside to direct the emergency medical responders inside the home where they found the previously stricken resident applying oxygen to Chief Peterman. Efforts to revive the Chief were unsuccessful. Chief Peterman had previously served as an Inspector for the U.S. Treasury Department for eleven years.



Prior to the Chief's death in the Line of Duty, his wife Helen passed away, and one week before his death, his mother passed away. His parents preceded him in death. Chief Peterman was survived by his son Robert, his sister Mrs. Helen Emma Mahoney, and two grandchildren.

The Village of Bentleyville was incorporated in 1929. Originally, it was a part of the Connecticut Western Reserve. The first settlers built a home in 1831 and started a town and manufacturing center along the Chagrin River and current Miles and River Roads. In 1833 ten settlers invested in the Aurora Land Company and established another community called Griffithsbury near what is now the Bentleyville Village Hall. In 1836, a store and post office were added to the Village.

In 1929 residents decided to leave Chagrin Falls and formed the Village of Bentleyville. The South Chagrin Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks System occupies 540 acres in Bentleyville.

The Bentleyville Police Department Officers include two Sergeants who also serve as a Juvenile Diversion Officer and a Firearms Instructor, Seven Patrol Officers, two Detectives, and an Administrative Assistant supervised by Chief Gabe Barone.





THE
EPITAPH



P.O. Box 6207
Cleveland, OH 44101

Mary A. Lentz | Survivor / Editor of The Epitaph
www.HonorOurFallen.us



POLICE WEEK MAY 11-18, 2024



- Saturday, May 11** Grave Marker Event | 8:00 am | Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial® | Lakeside Ave & W 3rd St
- Monday, May 13** Candlelight Vigil | 7:45 pm | Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial®
- Thursday, May 16** Hero's Welcome | 8:00 pm - 12:00 am | CPPA Hall | West 58th Street
- Friday, May 17** Parade | 10:30 am | Lakeside Ave & East 12th St | Continuing along Lakeside Ave to the GCPOM®
Memorial Service | Encouraged to gather at the GCPOM® | immediately following the parade
- Saturday, May 18** Police Patch Collectors Show | 10:00 am - 3:00 pm | Double Tree Hotel | 1111 Lakeside Ave
Cleveland International Tattoo® | Cleveland Public Hall | 500 Lakeside Ave E, 44114 | 7:00 pm

www.gcpoms.org | www.policememorialsociety.org

Copyright © 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 by the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, copied, transcribed, or otherwise distributed in any form, format, or by any means without the prior expressed written permission of the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society, the copyright owner. Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society, P.O. Box 6207, Cleveland, Ohio 44101 | Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society is a non-profit, charitable 501(c)(3) volunteer-based organization. Your donation is tax deductible.

"Keeping the Promise to Never Forget our Fallen Heroes"®