

Volume 41-Number 4 July-August 2023 Issue Number 95

# Stars Shine Brightly At 2023 National Police Collectors Show



The 2023 display contest winners (left to right): Larry Brown, "Best of Show-Vehicle;" Mike McCarthy, "Best of Show-Overall." Phil Colonnelli, "Best Patch;" Andrew Thompson, "Best Educational," Doug Brimmer, CLEHS "Police Historian of the Year" and Don Magruder, "Best Badge." *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

San Bernardino welcomed the hobby's 37th annual convention as top collectors, vintage law enforcement vehicles and Hollywood celebrities starred in California's fourth National Police Collectors Show. The 279-table sellout attracted hobbyists from throughout the United States, Canada and even Japan.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. — The stars twinkled brightly at the 37th Annual National Police Collectors Show on June 1, 2 and 3 in San Bernardino, Calif., not only from Hollywood but the hobby as well.

While Hollywood was well represented by such notables as Larry Wilcox and Robert Pine of *CHiPS*, Mark Hall-Patton of *Pawn Stars* and Ryan Cassidy of *The Facts of Life*, big league collectors Mike McCarthy, Phil Colonnelli, Don Magruder and Andrew Thompson were winners in one of the largest and highest quality display contests ever.

Dennis Houser and the San Bernardino Police Historical Society took center stage, bringing the National Show to Southern California for the fourth time and the first since 2017. Despite no previous show experience, Houser and his team produced an outstanding, thoroughly enjoyable three-day event.

Held at the National Orange Show Event Center in the shadows of the picturesque San Bernardino Mountains, the National was a 279-table sellout and attracted hobbyists from throughout the United States, as well as Canada and Japan. It was the first NPCS sellout in several years.

"We're very pleased. The show was everything we wanted and then some. We're really proud of it. I've gotten a lot of very positive feedback from all over the country. It was great to have the National in California," said Houser, who chairs the historical society he



Robert Pine (left) and Larry Wilcox (right), stars of the ever-popular '70s and '80s police drama *CHiPS*, attended both days that the National Show was open to the public. They signed autographs and posed for countless pictures. The *CHiPS* booth was among the busiest at the show. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

founded.

In addition to the historic display contest, San Bernardino also offered a wide variety of vintage Southern California law enforcement vehicles, as well as personal appearances by Wilcox and Pine, who starred on the popular drama about the California Highway Patrol from 1977 to 1983, static display of a state of the art San Bernardino County Sheriffs Department helicopter and three full days non-stop buying, selling and trading.

It was also the second National held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, leaving Sunday as a travel day, which was much appreciated by most out of town collectors.

"We wanted to make this an event, not just a badge and patch show, so we brought in the celebrities, the cars and the helicopter to give visitors even more reasons to attend. It was a big success in every way," Houser said.

The National served as a major fundraiser for the historical society, a non-profit organization. Houser reported the show generated a profit of about \$5000 which was donated to the society to advance its goal of preserving city police history and further develop its museum at police headquarters.

Other participating law enforcement historical organizations were from San Bernardino County, Fresno County, Chula Vista, Long Beach, San Diego, Los Angeles Police Department William H. Parker Foundation, Los Angeles City Fire Museum, California Law Enforcement Historical Society and Phoenix, Ariz. CLEHS President Gary Hoving traveled 250 miles to transport the new look mobile California Police Museum to the event.

The City of San Bernardino, San Bernardino Police Department and San Bernardino County Sheriffs Department were also active participants. City Council member Damon L. Alexander, a retired federal law enforcement officer, helped open the show on Friday morning and officially welcomed the National to his city. Sheriff Shannon D. Dicus authorized the helicopter to spend the entire day on Saturday. Dozens of SBPD and SBSD uniformed officers attended, helped provide security and, of course, see the exhibits and grab a few patches or challenge coins along the way.

Exhibitor setup took place all day Thursday. The tables were arranged in rectangular groups that Houser called pods and were decorated with very patriotic alternating red, white and blue cloth covers. The vehicles, including the massive mobile museum, maneuvered



The 1950 Ford four-door exhibited by the San Bernardino County Sheriffs Historical Association won "Best of Show" among vehicles at the National Show. Larry Brown, an SBSD retiree, headed a committee that purchased and restored the historic patrol unit and accepted the trophy. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Mike McCarthy specializes in the San Francisco Police Department. His incredible, all inclusive collection won "Best of Show-Overall" in San Bernardino. His exhibit featured badges, patches, signs, uniforms and historic photographs. His father was an SFPD officer. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





“Best of Show-Overall” winner Mike McCarthy collects anything and everything from the San Francisco Police Department, the older the better. He has been in the hobby for more than 40 years. His father, John McCarthy, graduated from the SFPD Academy in 1946. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

### 2023 National Show ...Continued

easily into the hall through garage doors in the rear.  
A stirring opening ceremony officially kicked off the event on Friday morning. It featured Los Angeles Police Emerald Society Pipe Major Cliff Armas, a retired LAPD officer, who played *The Star Spangled Banner* and other patriotic songs beautifully on his bagpipes, and the presentation of colors by the San Bernardino Police Department Color Guard. Councilman Alexander led the Pledge of Allegiance.



San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Deputy Lauren Abernathy serves as a tactical flight officer on the Aviation Unit. She poses with the agency’s latest helicopter, a state of the art \$6 million Air Bus H125, one of six in the unit. Pilot Doug Brimmer landed on a parking lot by the hall. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

The National was open to the public from 9 am to 6 pm on Friday and 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday. There was 8 am tableholder setup both days.  
The San Bernardino Police Officers Association and the Riverside County Sheriffs Association set up their food trucks and grills outside the hall and offered absolutely awesome BBQ lunches with all the trimmings at very reasonable prices on Friday and Saturday. The food was absolutely delicious.

A complete sellout San Bernardino was a table sellout. It was the first sellout and the largest number of tables for the National Show in several years.  
“We were able to accommodate everyone who wanted a table. It was a tight fit, but we found enough room and squeezed in a few latecomers. We got it done. No one was turned away, which was our intent,” Houser said.

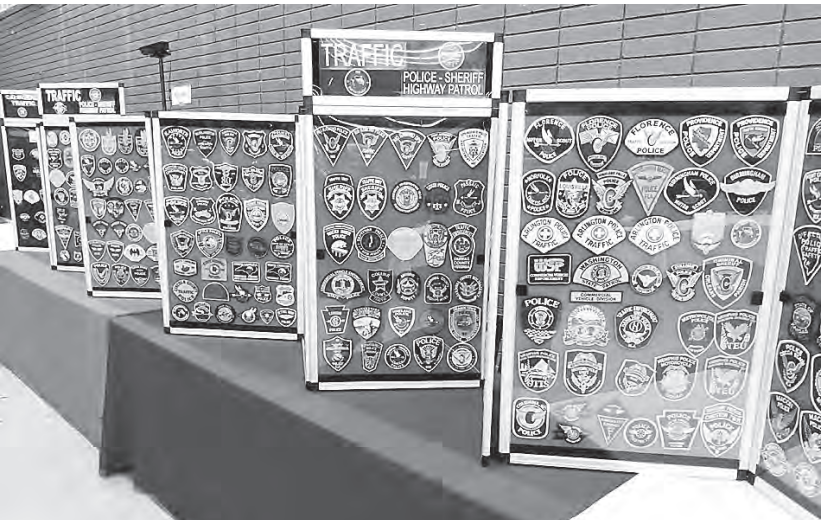


Mike McCarthy is shown with his beautifully restored 1986 San Francisco Police Department trike ridden by a helmeted patrol officer in full uniform. These vehicles were popular in San Francisco and several other agencies, particularly the Chicago Police Department. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



The Long Beach Police Historical Society brought their gleaming black and white 1974 Dodge Coronet that patrolled city streets from 1974 to 1976. It was purchased by the Command Officers Association and restored. It now belongs to the LBPD Historical Society. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Registered tableholders were Rob Kohstedt, Kristopher Lewis, Jim Signorelli, Dave Urso, Michael Morgan, *Police Collectors News*, Gary Schott, Brad Darling, Andrew Thompson, Doug Brimmer, San Bernardino Police Historical Society, Bill Palmmini, Glenn Hughes, Bill Hedges, Fred Yorsch, Alex Bielawski, Rob Cook, Stephen Mizroch, Bill Swank, George Stumpf, Jake Bushey, Phoenix Police Museum (Bryan Richards), Marty Cassidy, John McCarthy, Mike Lucas, David Almeida, Raymond Meyer, R. Tod Ruse, Tracy Styles, Chris Gilbert, Dan Gold, Tony Aleria, Bruce Davisson, Pat Znajda, William Tully, Stephen Lyons, Sandra Jamison, Randy Grago, Jeff Peeler, Art Sinai, Roy Johnson, Arnold Wong, Marcel Jojola, Dennis Daniels, Robert Bund, John Jagers, Jeremiah Henderich, Art Fox, Frances Lam, Hal Fowler, Ken Toler, Mike DeVilbiss, Pete Arellano, LAPD Chief William H. Parker Foundation (Chris Carson), Chris Hoyer, Scott Boren, Nick Kanaya, Greg Gilstrap, Jarod Nunes, R.C. Yoshioika, David Hume, Matt Hutchens, John and Kim Beck, Jesse



Ask the average collector how many traffic unit patches are worn in the USA. It’s a safe bet the answer won’t be 1048, which is how many “Best Patch” display winner Phil Colonnelli has in his incredible collection. (That’s not counting 200 or so from foreign nations!) *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Cardenas, Scott Peterson, Jim Hardy, Roger Francisco, Jess Tovar, Jim Karas, Don Karas, Gary Gaffney, Miguel Ramirez, Ryder Lusk, Thomas Frayeh, Dan Grule, Ron Burkey, Ronnie Jackson, Keith Lanning, Chris Ward, Alesandra Ward, Lei Geiger-Whitfield, Robert Harms, Rachel Canning, Chuck Borra, Riverside County Sheriff LEAPS, Larry Brown, Chip Greiner, Al Mize, Carol Lynch, Jim Casey, Budd Johnson, Chula Vista Police Historical Society, Mike Gwaltney, Gonzo Gonzales, Joseph Seitz, Max Schad, Andrew Lindsay, Gary Hoving, Paul Dahlen, Craig Bauer, Xavier Dugardyn, Don Williams, Steve Didway, Frank Banuleos, Brian Smith, Ed Kalinowski, Darryl Lindsay, Jim Clark, Don Magruder, Mike Leeper, Harry Schugart, Damir Krdzalic, Peter Harris, Robert Tanaka, Art Pegg, Chris and Cade Barker, Fresno County Law Enforcement Historical Society, Russ Snow, Benny Cruz, San Bernardino Police Historical Society, Gary Goltz, Mike Terry, Lisa Sanders, Los Angeles City Fire Museum, Richard Stewart, James Claflin, Richard Magyar,



Led by Los Angeles Police Emerald Society Pipe Major Cliff Armas playing the national anthem, the San Bernardino Police Department Color Guard presented the colors during a stirring patriotic ceremony that opened the National Show on Friday, June 2. It was awesome kickoff. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





Phil Colonnelli devoted most of his long and distinguished Inglewood Police Department career to traffic enforcement, so it's no surprise that he also owns a restored traffic unit! The black and white is a 1976 Plymouth Belvidere. It features a speed detection radar set. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Chris Villegas, Jay D'Angelo, Mike McCarthy, Pete Belos, David DeSoucy, Ed Godfrey, Stan Berry, Tom Long, Phil Colonnelli, Los Angeles Police Museum, Tom Englemann, Keith Bushey, Andrew Castro, Mark Pyne and Nathan Semel. According to Houser, the estimated non-tableholder attendance was between 400 and 450, including many visitors and local public safety personnel. "We didn't charge admission because we wanted people to come in and see our hobby. It reflects what we do as police officers," he said.

**Cars steal the show** Many of the brightest National Show stars had two or four wheels. How they twinkled, sparkled and shined under the bright lights of the massive convention center! It was a vintage vehicle enthusiast's and photographer's dream come true. San Bernardino joined a handful of Nationals with a public safety vehicle show inside the

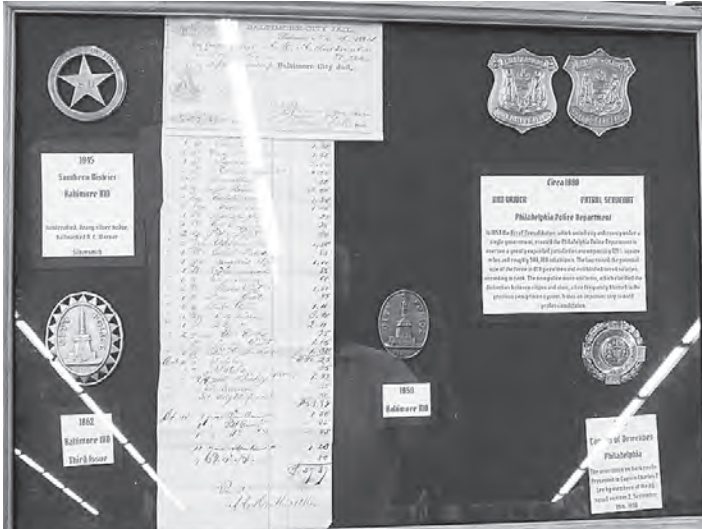


"Best Badge" display contest winner Don Magruder featured his incredible collection of pre-1900 law enforcement agency badges, "Taking A Trip Back In Time." Like all of the displays in San Bernardino, the Magruder exhibit has to be seen in person to be fully appreciated. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

same hall as the tables. "We distributed the vehicles throughout the hall so everyone had to walk through the table aisles to see them, rather than park them all together. It worked out really well because everyone had to go through the entire show to see them. We did it on purpose. It gave us a nice balance between exhibitor tables and cars. Again, it worked out really well," Houser said. Larry Brown accepted the "Best of Show-Vehicle" on behalf of the San Bernardino County Sheriffs Department Historical Society for the organization's fully restored and painstakingly recreated black 1950 Ford four door patrol unit with a large gold-colored, star-shaped door decal and a "SHERIFF" sticker on the trunk lid. Brown was among five members of a committee that worked tirelessly to recreate the 1950 Ford, a patrol unit used by SBSD 73 years ago. Collectors Jim Munding and Doug Brimmer were other members. The group paid for the vehicle and restoration entirely



Dennis Houser (left), host of the National Police Collectors Show, introduced San Bernardino City Council member Damon Alexander (right), a retired federal law enforcement officer, who recited the Pledge of Allegiance to help open the show, then officially welcomed collectors. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Don Magruder accents his pre-1900 badge collection with documentation, such as dates of use, badge sequence numbers (first issue, second issue, etc.), photographs and even newspaper clippings or department records. He won the "Best Badge" display award. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

through donations from local businesses and private contributions. "It didn't look anything like this when we started working on it. It was pretty rough. The car is special because it was our first marked unit. Also, it was the first year Ford came out with a police package car," Brown said. The car has a 225 cubic inch V-8 engine capable of 95 horsepower and a three-speed manual transmission. Interestingly, the committee's research showed the original 1950 Fords were equipped not with a shotgun mounted next to the radio, but a Thompson sub-machine gun instead. "They didn't have shotguns in the cars. They carried the Thompsons for more firepower. There were a lot of gangsters out here. They didn't want to be outgunned," Brown said.



"Best Educational Display" winner at the National was Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department collector Andrew Thompson, a retired deputy. He has assembled an incredible collection of LASD badges, emblems, uniforms, equipment, headgear and artifacts. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Although the department still has some of the original 22 Thompson 1948 model machine guns that it got from the federal government after World War II, the historical society was unable to get permission from the county to put a real one in the car. So, they settled on a very authentic-looking replica to show in the dash-mounted gun rack. The society also brought a white 1963 Chevrolet Custom van still used by San Gorgonio Search and Rescue, mostly on mountain S&R missions. It has a red roof-mounted lightbar and plain markings. Not many 60-year old public safety vehicles are still in use! A fabulous fully-restored 1939 Mercury Model 99A (also known as a Mercury Eight) four door marked patrol car came from the Riverside County Sheriffs Department. It was the agency's first two-way radio-equipped patrol car and has dual spotlights (driver side red,



This dress uniform came from the Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department Mounted Posse and can be found in Andrew Thompson's award-winning collection. He has done a great job researching and documenting most of the hundreds of artifacts in his exhibit. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





California Law Enforcement Historical Society President Gary Hoving (left) presents Doug Brimmer (right) with the 2023 California “Police Historian of the Year” award at the National Show. Brimmer is active in the San Bernardino County Sheriffs Department Historical Association. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

## 2023 National Show ...Continued

passenger side white), a front fender-mounted siren and opposite-facing so-called suicide doors.

According to the agency, the car was a milestone for RCSD because it was their first Mercury patrol unit. The cars were purchased for about \$1000 each, which made them less expensive than the Ford DeLuxe and Mercury Zephyr, two other common patrol cars of the era. The Mercurys have 239 cubic inch Ford flat head V-8 engines capable of 95 horsepower.

Sheriff Carl Rayburn chose the new Mercury because he wanted the more rigid frame and longer wheelbase it offered. It was also cost effective. He was able to save the



Mike Lucas (left) and Bryan Richards (right) won the bid to host the 2025 National Show in Phoenix, Ariz., the site of the 2013 show. Although details were few, Lucas hosted the previous National, while Richards is active in the Phoenix Police Historical Society. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

taxpayers more than \$100 per car by buying the Mercury Eights. There was a really nice black and white 1974 Dodge Coronet four door marked patrol car featured by the Long Beach Police Historical Society. It has red roof-mounted emergency lights and dual spotlights. “89” (the unit number) is shown on the roof in large gold numerals bordered in black.

This car saw service in Long Beach from 1974 to 1976. It was sold at a police auction in ‘76 and purchased by the Long Beach Police Command Officers Association in 1995. It took five years, but the LBPCCA was able to completely restore it. The historical society acquired the car in 2000. It is driven in parades and displayed at special events.



Damir Krdzalic promoted the upcoming 2024 National Police Collectors Show at the San Bernardino National. He announced that the show Web site, NPCSUSA.Com, is now live and can be used to make table reservations, book hotel rooms and learn about Dubuque, Iowa. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Los Angeles Police Sergeant Chris Carson represented the LAPD Chief William H. Parker Foundation in San Bernardino. He brought their 1951 Ford Custom Deluxe black and white. The foundation raises funds to benefit LAPD with training and equipment opportunities. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Sergeant Chris Carson represented the Los Angeles Police Department Chief William H. Parker Foundation and brought their beautiful 1951 Ford Custom Deluxe black and white with traditional LAPD markings. The car is kept at the LAPD Academy and driven by LAPD officers for special events throughout the city. He said it attracts attention everywhere it goes.

“We have the car because it was in service during Chief Parker’s years in office [1950 to 1966] and fits into his era. It’s a great way to remember a great chief and all he did for the department. It’s also a great public relations tool,” Sergeant Carson said.

The foundation was created after Chief Parker’s untimely death in 1966 and raises money to fund training and equipment for the LAPD through donations and sponsorships. “We fund a lot of the things the city won’t pay for. It really helps out the department,” he said.



Co-hosts Peter Harris (left) and Damir Krdzalic (center) outlined plans for the 2024 National Show during a presentation in San Bernardino. Nicki Brus (right) represented the Dubuque convention and visitors bureau, Visit QC (Quad Cities), and promoted the area. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Sergeant Carson is 26-year LAPD veteran who works in the Harbor Division. The Los Angeles City Fire Museum operated by the LAFD Historical Society put one of their fully marked four-wheel drive red and gold brush fire trucks on display. The society has two museums in restored old fire stations, one in Hollywood and the other in San Pedro. Both are “must sees” for fire buffs.

San Bernardino PD displayed their beautifully preserved 1965 Ford Custom black and white patrol unit with a colorful star-shaped door decal and red overhead emergency lights and dual spotlights. It was in 1965 when the badge-like decal was introduced. They have a picture of Chief Mel Owens pointing to the new star on the front doors.

The oldest car in San Bernardino was a unique 1927 Ford Model “T” Roadster hot rod brought in by the Chula Vista Police Historical Foundation. The black car with white doors has police markings. However, it was never actually an official vehicle.

“We confiscated the Roadster from a drug dealer that we busted in 1993. The department decided rather than sell the car, we’d keep it for PR [public relations] purposes,” Rey Franco, a retired officer and foundation board member, said.



Longtime Los Angeles law enforcement collector Ed Godfrey had one of the most impressive exhibits at the National Show. He featured period-correct Sheriffs Department and Police Department uniforms on freestanding mannequins, as well as an LAPD traffic motorcycle. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





The new look mobile California Law Enforcement Historical Society mobile California Police Museum was a big hit in San Bernardino. CLEHS members and visitors marveled at the stunning new graphics. President Gary Hoving said CLEHS chose a patriotic theme. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

The Roadster needed a lot of engine and restoration work, so the PD contacted the Automotive Class at Montgomery High School and asked they become involved in the project. "The kids jumped at the chance, especially because they got to work on a classic hot rod. It became a learning experience for them. They did a beautiful job for us," said Glenn Issaks, foundation board member and Chula Vista Police Museum curator.

After countless hours of work and a ton of dedication, the high school students rebuilt the engine and outfitted the car with black and white paint, decals, lights and even a siren. The Chula Vista Police hot rod has won awards at several classic car shows. It is now maintained by the foundation.

There were equally impressive privately-owned fully restored Southern California patrol cars on display as well:

Jay D'Angelo, a retired Pasadena police officer and vintage car aficionado, exhibited two beauties, a 1966 Dodge Coronet Deluxe and a 1973 Plymouth Satellite station wagon. Both are black and whites and authentically marked.

The Coronet represents the Pasadena Police Department. It has special meaning to D'Angelo because these cars were in service when he joined the agency in December 1967. It is a true police package car with a 318 cubic inch engine capable of 230 horsepower. A year later, PPD went to all-white patrol cars. (It has since gone back to black and white.)

D'Angelo shows a collection of his career memorabilia inside the car whenever it is displayed, including an old traffic citation book, a 1966 "hot sheet" listing stolen or wanted vehicles, an old traffic code book and his personal baton.

He also showed photos of his original eagle-topped policeman badge from 1967 and his last badge before retirement, a black and gold oval in the rank of lieutenant.

The station wagon replicates the LAPD vehicle driven by Sergeant "Mac" McDonald, portrayed by the late William Boyett, on *Adam 12*, the iconic 1965 to 1975 television series that also starred Martin Milner and Kent McCord as patrol officers. The series is still in syndication and has an avid following.

Ed Godfrey, the longtime Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department and Southern California collector, exhibited his 1946 LAPD Harley-Davidson Traffic Unit motorcycle. It has a "LOS ANGELES/ POLICE/ 46" fender sign and a mannequin outfitted with a period-correct motorcycle traffic officer rider wearing a full LAPD uniform complete with black high top leather boots.

Display contest winner Mike McCarthy featured his beautifully restored 1986 San Francisco Police Department black and white motor trike. The collector was joined in the restoration by Scott Welch and Robert Deo. It, too, has a uniformed motor officer riding it.

From Phil Colonnelli, another award winner, came a handsome 1967 Plymouth Belvedere from the Inglewood Police Department. "Unit 67" is a black and white Outfitted as a traffic car, it has a rear-facing radar unit behind the driver, red spotlight and push bumper. A citation book lies on the dash. Now retired, Colonnelli worked traffic enforcement for IPD for many years.

Other notable show vehicles were:

...a 1978 Chevrolet Nova black and white from the Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department restored by Sergeant Bill Saunders. It was an actual patrol unit that was in service from September 1978 to April 1983. (The county bought 446 of these heavy duty Novas for \$5165.76 each back then!) Saunders' car has been featured on Jay Leno's popular classic car television series.

...a brown 1975 Chevrolet Nova unmarked detective car owned by Lisa Saunders.



Glenn Issaks (left) and Rey Franco (right) represented the Chula Vista Police Historical Foundation in San Bernardino. The retired CVPD officers parked their way cool 1927 Ford Model "T" Roadster under the Police History Way sign and promoted Chula Vista PD. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Bill Hedges, 80, has been collecting California law enforcement badges for nearly 60 years and was among the San Bernardino tableholders. The long retired California police officer is on his way out of the hobby and liquidating his collection of thousands of badges. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

PC NEWS

2392 USH 12  
BALDWIN, WI 54002  
USA

Since  
1982

PC NEWS

Mike R. Bondarenko  
Editor and Publisher

Police Collectors News

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*Police Collectors News* (USPS 001759) (ISSN 1071-1724) is published bimonthly for \$26 for two years (12 issues) by the Police Insignia Collectors Association (PICA) doing business as Police Collectors News, 2392 USH 12, Baldwin WI 54002-7000. Periodical postage paid at Baldwin, Wis.

POSTMASTER Send address changes to *Police Collectors News*, 2392 USH 12, Baldwin WI 54002-7000.

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER Mike R. Bondarenko  
ADVERTISING AND CIRCULATION MANAGER Paula J. Bondarenko  
PHOTOGRAPHS AND PRODUCTION John Schieffer  
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*Police Collectors News* merged with the Law Enforcement Badge and Patch Collectors Society (LEBPCS) on June 1, 1985.

*Police Collectors News* merged with the Police Insignia Collectors Association (PICA) on January 1, 1992.

*Police Collectors News* merged with Casey's Police Guide on September 1, 1998.  
*PCNEWS* has been published continuously since 1982.

**Subscription Rates** \$26 for two years (12 issues) periodical class mail in the USA. \$50 for two years periodical class mail in Canada and Mexico. \$100 for two years (12 issues) airmail delivery worldwide. Only US funds can be accepted for subscriptions. Subscriptions must be paid in advance.

Subscribers are responsible for notifying us of address changes. We do not remail copies sent to an expired address.

In the United States, first class mail delivery is available for an additional \$20 for two years (12 issues). A two-year subscription (12 issues) by first class mail is \$46. Priority Mail is available. A two-year (12 issues) subscription by Priority Mail is \$100. It is possible to upgrade an existing subscription to first class or Priority Mail. It is not necessary to wait until renewal. Please contact the Circulation Manager for details.

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**Publication Dates** *PCNEWS* is published bimonthly in January, March, May, July, September and November. Please contact our office for advertising deadlines and printing dates.

*PCNEWS* is printed by Publishers Printing Service, Inc. in Amery, Wis.





CHiPS stars Larry Wilcox and Robert Pine were busy signing autographs and posing for pictures in their booth at the National Show. (Left to right) Steve Didway, Pat Znajda, Gary Schott, Rachel Canning and Kathe Strong await their turns to meet the affable actors. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

## 2023 National Show ...Continued

...a classic 1955 Buick Century two-door black and white outfitted in the livery of the California Highway Patrol as driven by Broderick Crawford in the popular 1950s TV series *Highway Patrol*. It is owned by Gary Goltz. (You can read all about it on Goltz's Web site, GarysBuick.Com. There are videos of the car participating in various events and Goltz being interviewed about it.)

...Dan Gold displayed his 1960's Plymouth Satellite in the livery of the Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department. The black and white has push bumpers, dual spotlights and a two-way radio whip antenna.

The only vehicle that didn't make it inside the hall was the SBSD helicopter, a brand new, state of the art \$6 million Air Bus H125 A-Star flown by collector Doug Brimmer, a CLEHS member and helicopter pilot for the department. He landed it in a parking lot outside the hall on Saturday morning. The chopper was on display all day and attracted a lot of attention.

The helicopter is one of six H125 A-Stars operated by the Aviation Unit, which is headquartered at the city airport.

"We work around the clock. We support our ground units and assist every other law enforcement agency in the county. We do search and rescue. We're eyes in the sky. We're always busy," Deputy Lauren Abernathy said. She accompanied Pilot Brimmer as the tactical flight officer and is second generation San Bernardino County law enforcement. Deputy Abernathy knows retired Phoenix PD pilot and Arizona collector Al Nordeen. "Everybody knows Al. He's a legend in the helicopter community out here," she said.

The duo sold Aviation Unit t-shirts and beautiful helicopter-shaped challenge coins. The coins represent all three styles of chopper currently flown by SBSD, the six H125s, four Bells and one Eurocopter AS350 B-3. It also has fixed wing aircraft.

The Aviation Unit was founded in 1972.

Brimmer was honored at the show by the California Law Enforcement Historical Society as the 2023 CLEHS California "Police Historian of the Year." The presentation was made by President Gary Hoving before the late Saturday afternoon awards ceremony. He was honored for his dedication to preserving California law enforcement history, as well as his service to the society where he on the board of directors.

**McCarthy takes "Best of Show"** The prestigious "Best of Show-Overall" award at the National Police Collectors Show is our hobby's highest honor. Since the show had a Hollywood theme this year, it can best be described as our equivalent to winning an Oscar.

The high honor went to San Francisco Police Department collector and historian Mike McCarthy. His world class, museum-quality SFPD exhibit, which covered every inch of five tables, has to be seen to be believed. There is nothing else like it. It is an experience more than it is a display.

The other awards honored equally impressive collections built over many years by veteran collectors.

Longtime California hobbyist Phil Colonnelli went home with the trophy for "Best Patch Display" for his exhibit, "Traffic Cops: Centurions of the Pavement." He featured his massive collection of traffic enforcement-related insignia from California, throughout the United States and even overseas.

Thirty-six freestanding frames showed emblems from state police/highway patrols, counties, municipal police and other agencies involved in traffic enforcement, which was Colonnelli's passion during his long career with Inglewood PD. The unique collection features hundreds of emblems, mostly from traffic-related special units. There were 1048 USA and 120 foreign patches in the exhibit.



Retired Pasadena police officer Jay D'Angelo, an old car buff, brought his retired Pasadena Police Department and Los Angeles Police Department patrol cars, a 1966 Dodge Coronet (front) and 1973 Plymouth Satellite station wagon (back). Both are very impressive. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

"Best Badge Display" was captured Iowa collector Don Magruder for his incredible collection of pre-1900 law enforcement agency badges, "Taking A Trip Back In Time." The nine case 177 badge exhibit featured many extremely rare first and second issues from major cities and other prominent law enforcement agencies.

Magruder skillfully provides documentation for each badge, including historic photographs of officers wearing most of them, as well as department information.

"Back Through Time" also must be seen to be fully appreciated. It wowed the judges.

Andrew Thomson specializes in his former agency, the Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department, and brought a massive exhibit of his specialty showing badges, emblems, uniforms, headgear, artifacts, memorabilia, equipment, photographs and much, much more. He won "Best Educational Display."

The judges were impressed at how Thompson documents his various exhibits with large placards explaining their significance or detailing the unit or ranks represented, such as the Sheriff's Emergency Reserve, Sheriff's Mounted Posse and several others. His exhibit was really not a display as much as it was a LASD history lesson.

San Bernardino brought out many other incredible collections. While many were from California, which is certainly understandable, other states and agencies were also well represented.

Among the finest were:

...Ed Godfrey brought his Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department and Los Angeles Police Department uniforms collection displayed on 21 life-like mannequins. Every uniform is period-correct with proper headgear and footwear, as well as badges, emblems and duty gear. He also showed emblems and other artifacts.

...Stan Berry's unreal "Orange County Law Enforcement" exhibit featured badges, patches, uniforms, equipment, artifacts and even prerecorded videos and police radio transmissions. He specializes in not only the county but every police department in the county. It was truly an Orange County law enforcement museum.

...Calaveras County Sheriff's Captain Chris Villegas specializes in his department and has amassed an awesome collection that encompassed three tables. A highlight is the personal badge of Sheriff Ben Thorn, who captured the notorious outlaw known as "Black Bart."

...Ronnie Jackson outdid himself with a fabulous badge exhibit, "Oklahoma Law Enforcement of the Past." He filled six large frames with historic badges from the Sooner State, including many rarities from the late 1800s and early 1900's.

...Mike DeVilbiss collects anything and everything from the Sacramento County Sheriffs Department. He had another world class display of badges, patches, restraints, photographs and much more. He also featured municipal police departments in the county.

...George Stumpf and Budd Johnson are the undisputed deans of the United States Marshals Service historic badge collectors and thrilled collectors and visitors alike with their extremely impressive exhibits of historic stars and shields, as well as other artifacts and memorabilia. Both are retired deputy United States marshals.

...R. Tod Ruse came through with a unique exhibit dedicated to his specialty, the San Joaquin County Sheriffs Department, as well as the California Fish and Game and San Francisco Port Police and Airport Police.

...Thomas Frayen has been collecting and researching the history of his agency, the LaVerne Police Department, all the way back its origin. He has been collecting LVPD since 2010 and has amassed a very impressive collection with many historic badges.

...Jess Tovar featured a beautifully framed and exhibited collection from the Stanislaus County Sheriffs Department where he serves as a deputy sheriff. He showed the agency's recent shoulder patch style change, which comes in about 20 versions for deputies and special units.

...CLEHS President Gary Hoving had an awesome exhibit of law enforcement insignia from San Luis Obispo County where he once served as the undersheriff. He brought collections from the Sheriffs Department, as well as the PDs in Redlands, San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles, Pismo Beach, Grover City, Atascadero, Morro Bay and Arroyo Grande.

...Chris and Cade Barker journeyed from Portland, Ore. to feature their awesome Portland Police Department and Oregon law enforcement agency collections. Their "Rose City" exhibits are second to none.

...Matt Bray represented the Fresno County Law Enforcement Historical Society and brought a multi-table exhibit of patches, badges, photographs, artifacts, memorabilia, uniforms and even sheriff campaign signs from the county and municipal agencies in the county. It was all things Fresno County.

...Gary Gaffney showed bomb squad and explosive ordinance emblems. He also promoted the book that he and Tom Rees wrote on EOD insignia.

The display contest was judged by a distinguished panel of three Southern California law enforcement administrators, Colton Police Chief Henry Dominguez, Riverside Police Chief Larry Gonzalez and San Bernardino County Assistant Fire Chief Mark Serna, all non collectors. They faced a daunting task!

*Police Collectors News* will feature informative, highly detailed and profusely illustrated features on the winning displays, as well as the other exhibits, beginning in the September-October edition.

There will be stories on a recent historic badge find by Arizona hobbyist Scott Boren, a rare Mississippi county sheriff's badge returned to the agency by legendary badge collector Keith Bushey and much more National Show coverage.



Retired Los Angeles police Officer Cliff Armas took up playing the bagpipes late in life and is now the pipes major for the Los Angeles Police Emerald Society. He performed amazing renditions of the national anthem and other patriotic songs during the opening ceremony. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



**Arizona in 2025** The National Show will return to Phoenix, Ariz. for the second time in 2025. Bryan Richards of the Phoenix Police Museum and veteran collector Mike Lucas, who helped host the 2013 Arizona National, won the bid to host the show.

“Our museum and the board of directors will be heavily involved in planning and operating the show. We’re really excited about getting a chance to host the National. We’ll do everything we can to make Phoenix a positive experience for everyone,” Richards said.

Lucas is a longtime Arizona collector and veteran show host. “We’ve talked about bringing the show back to Arizona for a while. When we got here, we found out no one was bidding for 2025, so we got together and decided to make a bid,” he said.

The show will probably be at a major hotel and conference center large enough to accommodate between 250 to 275 tables. However, the time of year, as well as hotel and table prices, has not been determined.

The hosts stressed during their presentation to tableholders that the show will not be held during the Major League Baseball spring training season in February and March when prices are the highest of the year in the Valley of the Sun.

Lucas and Richards said hotels, car rentals and flights are the lowest after the winter “snow bird” and spring training seasons end and northerners who descend on Arizona to escape the winter or cheer on their favorite baseball team go home.

“I’ve got a couple nice places in mind. I’ll contact them and see what they have to offer. Bryan has some contacts, too, so between all of us, we’ll find a good venue like we did in 2013. We’ll definitely keep it affordable,” Lucas said.

May is a good possibility. The first two Nationals were held in May in California and New Jersey.

Tableholders accepted the Phoenix bid by acclamation.

No other cities made bids.

Arizona has a large collector base and a strong insignia show track record. It hosted very popular and well-attended swap meets in Phoenix and Tucson for man years beginnin in the early 1980s, including the National ten years ago. Sadly, both local shows went defunct after the hosts retired. No new collectors have come forward to take them over.

**Stars came out** Wilcox and Pine spent six hours at the show on both Friday and Saturday signing autographs, getting their pictures taken and chatting with *CHiPS* fans old and new. They were very well received. Their booth was busy all day both days.

“We don’t why, but the show is still pretty popular. We’ve done a lot of events like this because we keep getting asked for personal appearances. Remember, we went off the air in 1983, for goodness sake!” Wilcox said. The former actor now owns and operates a successful computer software consulting business.

Pine, too, expressed surprise over the ongoing popularity of *CHiPS*. The show centered around the lives and careers of the officers at a California Highway Patrol station in Los Angeles, primarily motor officers Wilcox and Erik Estrada. He played their sergeant.

“Both of us have moved on with our lives, but we keep getting asked about *CHiPS*. Of course, it’s flattering, and we appreciate it a lot,” he said.

Asked about his partner on the show, Estrada, who played Officer Frank Poncharello, Wilcox said, “He decided to put *CHiPS* in the rear view mirror. That’s about it.”

The co-stars covered their table with color and black and white 8x10 photographs of them wearing CHP uniforms, riding their Kawasakis or acting in scenes from the show, which was on television from 1977 to 1983 but remains in syndication. They had *CHiPS* memorabilia for sale.

Like *Dragnet*, *Adam 12* and other police dramas of the era, *CHiPS* has a cult-like following of devoted fans, particularly among law enforcement officers and especially motor officers.

“Wilcox and Pine were absolutely great to work with. Very, very nice guys. They like hanging out with cops, especially older guys like us who remember the show. They told us they’d come back any time if we ever asked them to do another event,” Houser said.

Mark Hall-Patton is nationally known and easily recognized personality for his ongoing role on *Pawn Stars*. The former Las Vegas museum curator is a serious badge collector and has become a regular at California shows.

He takes an eclectic approach to our hobby. “I like badges with unusual titles, like ‘Church Usher,’ ‘Dogcatcher,’ ‘Librarian,” that sort of thing. I love the police and sheriff badges, of course, but I’m more into the weird stuff,” he said.

Known for his signature white wide brimmed hat, red shirt and black pants, Hall-Patton often poses for photos and signs autographs for his many fans.

Keith Bushey invited Ryan Cassidy to attend the National. He is a friend of the Bushey family and a fellow badge collector.

“Not too many people know that he didn’t want to get into show business like his mother and brothers. He started out wanting to be in law enforcement. That’s how I got to know him. I wish he would gone on to become a cop. He would’ve been a good one,” Bushey said.

Cassidy mother, Shirley Jones, is best known for her starring role in the popular ‘70s sitcom, *The Partridge Family*, where she played the widowed mother of five children trying hard to make it big in the music business.

The popular series ran on ABC from 1970 to 1974. In addition to the television show,



Bill Palmmini has been collecting California law enforcement insignia since 1972! He retired from law enforcement in 2021 after 54 years on the job, all in California. Palmmini portrayed Elvis Presley on teenage traffic safety videos and concerts for the government for ten years. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

the Partridge Family had several Top 40 singles and albums. Her sons David Cassidy and Shaun Cassidy became teen idols.

“My half brother, David, was lead singer on the show. I just wasn’t into it at the time. I wanted to go down a different path. I didn’t become involved,” Cassidy said.

Nevertheless, eventually, Hollywood beckoned and Ryan appeared on several music videos and television programs, such as *The Facts of Life* (1979), *The Centurions* (1989) and *Jesse Hawkes* (1989).

Today, Cassidy does studio art and set production work, although he has appeared in several stage productions and recently produced an independent film.

He has written an autobiography, *James Cagney Was My Babysitter*, and revealed he is an avid Hollywood, World War II and Titanic memorabilia collector.

Cassidy posed for photographs with several collectors.

**Houser summarizes National** Houser offered a show summary with his final thoughts on the 2023 National Show:

“Well, the show has been over for a week, and I am still getting emails and comments regarding the show; that it was a great event, that our show came through with an excellent presentation and a perfect venue.

“Just so many positive comments about everything from the table cloth choices to the vehicle displays to how great it was to have the San Bernardino POA and Riverside County Sheriffs Association providing BBQ. But, by far, there were great comments about our special guests, Larry Wilcox and Robert Pine.

“It would have never been a success though without great support from our sponsors; Alan Conrad at the National Orange Show, who bent over backwards to make sure we had everything we needed; the support of the San Bernardino Police Department; the San Bernardino County Sheriffs Department for providing an airship for display on Saturday, and in particular Gary Hoving of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society, who provided us with the guidance we needed to get through the legalities.

“But most of all, we could have never pulled it off with the people behind the scenes, especially my wife Nancy, our best friends Mike and Myrna Thomas, SBPHS Board Member Sharon Crawford, San Bernardino Police Reserve Office Carl Devlin and Los Angeles City Fire Museum Board Member Dave Steinitz, who jumped in at the last minute and helped get the room squared away and ready for the opening. I’m sure there are there other people and organizations I’m leaving out, but everyone of them contributed to what I’m sure must be one of the best National Shows to date.

“This year’s show proved to be an experiment of sorts in that we held it for two complete days on Friday and Saturday instead of Saturday and Sunday. The reason for that was that at past Saturday and Sunday shows, we found tableholders would leave early or not show up at all on Sunday to begin their travel back home. We wanted everyone to benefit from full attendance on both days, yet have a full travel day on Sunday. We still had walk-in traffic as late as 4 pm on Saturday.

“We also experimented with the placement of the display vehicles. From past shows we found that vehicles are usually either placed outside the event or bunched together in a corner of the venue. This tends to have walk-in traffic walk right past the display tables and straight to the vehicles. By placing them inside and distributing them throughout the event, walk-ins could not help but look at the displays while moving from vehicle to vehicle, thus increasing amount of potential selling opportunities for tableholders.

“Our special guests, Wilcox and Pine, were a tremendous hit. Having spoken to them since the show, they have said that this was an amazing event, and they are so glad they



Larry Brown pointed out when the San Bernardino County Sheriffs Department debuted 1950 Fords, they weren’t equipped with shotguns. Instead, the agency mounted Thompson sub-machine guns like this replica in the weapons rack. The car won “Best of Show-Vehicle.” *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Randy Grago (left) and Mark Bray (right) are among California’s most accomplished and knowledgable law enforcement insignia collectors. Grago does the popular “Patchbook University” Web site. Bray specializes in Fresno County sheriff and police departments. *Contributed photograph*



# 2023 National Show ...Continued

attended it.

“Speaking of guests, between doing announcements and giving away some great raffle and 50-50 drawing prizes, I was able to mingle around the room, interact with tableholders and walk-ins a bit, but most of all, the best was reconnecting with some friends and, even better, making some new ones.

“Preparation for this show took a full two years and included traveling up and down the state, working local civic events and going as far as Gatlinburg, Tenn. to promote it, sell tables and raise money. But, most of all, we are all honored to hold the show in San Bernardino for the first time and the first time it was held in California since 2017.

“So, this brings the 2023 National Police Collectors Show in San Bernardino, Calif. to a close. I'd like to sign off with the way we close all of our Instagram posts by saying, ‘KEX-310 Clear.’

“Thanks for all your support *PCNEWS*.”

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (2392 USH 12, Baldwin WI 54002) pcnews@baldwin-telecom.net

# Swap Meet Calendar

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SPECIAL – These are the latest police insignia show and swap meet announcements. Collectors interested in attending these events should contact the sponsors at the addresses or telephone numbers listed for additional information, such as driving directions, table availability, hotel or motel accommodations, handicapped accessibility, parking or possible last-minute changes and/or cancellations.

Show sponsors provide “Swap Meet Calendar” listings. We are not responsible for changes after we go to press, nor are we liable for errors or omissions.

These announcements are published at no cost to show sponsors. However, hosts are requested to cooperate in our effort to obtain a follow-up story as soon as possible after each show.

## Columbus, O.

The 2023 Columbus, O. Public Safety Collectors Show will be Sat., July 29 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Marriott Hotel, 5605 Blazer Pkwy., Dublin, O. Bill Swank, Guy Forberger, Bruce Muraco and JJ Mead will host it.

Admission is \$5. Children 16 and under are admitted free.

All 108 display tables have been sold. The hosts are maintaining a waiting list in the event of cancellations. Please email or call Bill Swank to be added to the list. The hall will open at 8 am for exhibitor setup only.

Displays are encouraged. Awards will be present for the best exhibits. The judges will be a panel of Columbus area law enforcement administrators.

This show is a fundraiser for the Columbus Division of Police Junior Public Safety Cadets (Explorers). Cadets will be available to assist exhibitors with display setup and take down. They will also handle admissions and sell door prize raffle tickets. Door prize donations are welcome. Please contact the hosts for information. Last year, the show raised nearly \$1000 for the cadet program.

This show is again expected to attract a large walk-in crowd. However, it is open only to active or honorably retired first responders with identification and known civilian collectors.

Discount lodging of \$122 per night is available at the Marriott. Please make reservations as soon as possible at Marriott.Com or by calling the hotel on (614) 791-1000. Please mention the show to qualify for the discount. The four-star full service hotel offers free parking, a bar and restaurant, indoor pool and excellent amenities. The restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

For additional information or to get on the waiting list, contact Swank on (614) 638-7245 or email bill319cmh@gmail.com.

## San Luis Obispo, Calif.

The 2023 San Luis Obispo Police Memorabilia Show will be Sat., July 29 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Veterans Hall, 801 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, Calif. The show is sponsored and hosted by the California Law Enforcement Historical Society.

Admission is free.

All 55 tables have been sold.

Awards will be presented for the “Best Patch Display,” “Best Badge Display,” “Best Historical Display,” “Best Educational Display” and “Best of Show.”

For late show updates, please see the CLEHS Web site, CalPoliceHistory.Com, or the Friends of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society Facebook page.

## Bloomington, Ind.

The 2023 “Central Indiana” Law Enforcement Collectors Show will be Sat., Aug. 5 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Monroe County Fairgrounds Community Building, 5700 W. Airport Rd., Bloomington, Ind. Kyle Landgrebe will host it.

Admission is free.

Tables are \$25 each. Exhibitor setup will be Fri., Aug. 4 from 5 to 7 pm or 8:30 am to 9 am on Saturday.

Parking is free.

Food and drinks will be available.

There are hotels close to the show venue.

For table reservations and general information, please contact Kyle Landgrebe at kc9agm@gmail.com or (812) 360-7641.

## Davenport, Iowa

The Quad Cities Police Collector Show will be Sat., Sept. 16 from 8:30 am to 3 pm at

the Mississippi Valley Fair, Keppy Hall, 2815 Locust St., Davenport. Ia. Damir Krdzalic will host it.

Sixty-five tables are available for \$25 each. Payment can be made by check, Pay Pal Friends and Family or Venmo. Early reservations are recommended. Table setup will begin at 7:45 am.

There will be awards for “Best Badge Display,” “Best Patch Display,” “Best Overall Display” and “Best Historical Display” and a patch drop box.

Lunch is available at the fairgrounds concessions stand.

Camping is available at the site.

Area information can be found at the Web site, MyFair.Com/Area-Information.

There is no host hotel, but there are numerous hotels within easy driving distance.

Quad Cities was an active show from 2005 to 2007. Davenport will be the site of the 2024 National Police Collectors Show.

Table payments can be mailed to Damir Krdzalic, 4620 E. 53rd St.-Ste. 200, Davenport IA 52807. His email is dkrdzalic@aol.com.

## Orleans, Ont.

The Canadian Police and Peace Officers Memorial Trade Show will be Sat., Sept. 23 from 9 am to 2 pm at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 632, 800 Taylor Creek, Orleans, Ont. Bob Pyefinch of the Canadian Police Insignia Collectors Association will host it. This is a new location for the show.

Admission is \$2.

Tables are \$12 each and must be reserved in advance. There are 30 rectangular tables. Additional tables will be round. Setup begins at 8 am.

The Legion bar and food service will open at 11 am.

Orleans is located in Ottawa, the site of the Canadian Police and Peace Officers Memorial Commemoration hosted by the Canadian Police and Peace Officers Memorial and the Canadian Police Association, which will take place on Sun., Sept. 24. It has been held annually for 45 years and is highlighted by a memorial service and ceremonial parade on Parliament Hill honoring officers who have perished in the line of duty. It attracts hundreds of law enforcement officers from throughout Canada and beyond. In addition, there are social events, including a run, golf outing and other events.

Make table reservations by emailing Pyefinch on pyefinch@sympatico.ca.

## Williamstown, N.J.

The Second Annual “South Jersey” Police Collectors Show will be Sun., Sept. 24 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Williamstown Veterans of Foreign Wars, 1940 N. Black Horse Pike, Williamstown, N.J. Mike Matkowsky and Thomas Accoglio will host it.

Admission is \$5.

Fifty tables are available for \$40. The hall will opens for exhibitor setup at 8 am.

There will be a patch drop box raffle.

The show is a fundraiser for the Gloucester County Sheriff K9 and the Monroe Township Police Unity Tour.

For more information, send email to: SouthJerseyPoliceCollectors@gmail.com.

For table reservations, contact Matkowsky on (856) 404-2294 or michaelmatkowsky@aol.com or Accoglio on (609) 685-2846.

## Dorchester, Mass.

The Second Annual “Metropolitan Boston” Police Collectors Show will be Sun., Oct. 1 from 9 am to 2 pm at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 103 Hall, 256 Freeport St., Dorchester, Mass. Brian Dunn is the host. Please note this a new location for the show.

Admission is \$10.

Tables are available for \$45 each until September 11. Tables are \$50 after September 11. The hall opens at 8 am for exhibitor setup.

The union hall is larger than the previous venue and can accommodate more tables. It also has more room for displays, which are highly encouraged. Food and refreshments will be available onsite. There is plenty of free parking.

Displays will be presented for best badge, patch and overall displays.

For table reservations or additional information, reach out to Dunn on msp1697@hotmail.com.

## Ripon, Calif.

The 2023 Ripon Public Safety Collectors Show will be Sat., Oct. 7 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Ripon Community Center, 334 Fourth St., Ripon, Calif.

The show is a fundraiser for the California Law Enforcement Historical Society (CLEHS), Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS) and the Ripon VIPS. It is sponsored by CLEHS and hosted by Gary Hoving, Mike McCarthy and Scott Welch.

Free admission.

There are 50 eight-foot by 36 inch table tables available for \$40 each. Reserve your table early as the show sells out every year.

To reserve a table and make payment online, go to the CLEHS Web site, CalPoliceHistory.Com and then click on this show’s tab on the right side of the home page.

If you wish to make payment by check, please contact President Gary Hoving, CLEHS, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875, (805) 441-4936 or email him through the CLEHS Web site.

## Brentwood, Md.

The next Maryland Police Collectors Extravaganza will be Sat., Oct. 14 from 10 am to 2 pm at a new location, the Brentwood Volunteer Fire Department, 3716 Rhode Island Ave., Brentwood, Md. Andy Ferraro will host it.

Admission for collectors is \$3. Spouses, children and companions are admitted free.

Eighty-five round and square tables are available for \$20. Round tables will be placed against the walls. Square tables will be arranged in the center. The hall will open for exhibitor setup at 7 am.

Displays are encouraged. An award will be presented for the “Best of Show“ display.

The show will be in the fire hall banquet room on the second floor. An elevator is available. Food and beverages will be served at the hall. There is free parking.

The new location is three minutes from the District of Columbia line. There are about ten hotels available to out-of-town collectors only nine minutes away from Route 495 on Baltimore Avenue in College Park.

Please make table reservations by sending a check or money order to Andy Ferraro, PO Box 1, Brentwood MD 20722.

For additional information, please contact the host on (240) 723-0507.

## Altona, Man.

The 2023 Altona Police and Fire Insignia Show will be Sun., Oct. 15 from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm at the W.C. Miller Collegiate School, 181 Sixth St. SE, Altona, Man. Mike Turnbull



For further information, contact the hosts:  
Turnbull on (204) 324-4539 or meturn@mts.net  
Defer on (204) 304-0858 or dan.defer@altona.ca.

## Rosemount, Minn.

The Second Annual Rosemount Police Department “Pink Patch Project” Collectors Show will be Sat., Oct. 21 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Rosemount Community Center, 13885 S. Robert Trail, Rosemount, Minn. Jeremiah Simonson will host it.  
Admission is \$5. Please use the east doors, then proceed downstairs to the gymnasium.  
Twenty eight-foot tables are available for \$10 each. Tableholder set up will begin at 8 am. Please use the west doors for unloading and loading.  
All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society.  
Pink patch agencies are invited to sell their pink patches.  
Contact the host for reservations by emailing jeremiah.simonson@rosemountmn.gov.

## Fairfax. Va.

The 2023 Fairfax Regional Badge and Patch Show will be Sat., Nov. 11 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Fairfax County Police Association Hall, 5625 Revercomb Court, Fairfax, Va. Virginia’s longest-running show will be hosted by Bill Steinkuller and Kent Jefferies in memory of the late Larry Wilkins.  
This show is a benefit for the Fairfax County Police Public Safety Cadets and the Fairfax County Police Association.  
Admission is \$5. Spouses and children are admitted free. Admission is restricted to current or former public safety personnel and known collectors. IDs will be checked at the entrance.  
Sixty eight-foot tables are available for \$20 each. The fee includes admission for the tableholder and one designated table assistant. Tableholder setup begins at 8 am. Tables are designated “first-come, first-served” with payment in advance.  
For table reservations, make checks payable to the Public Safety Cadets and mail to Public Safety Cadets, 50 Catoctin Circle NE-Suite 325, Leesburg VA 20176-3124.  
The hall features plenty of free parking with easy access, Food and drink will be available for purchase.  
There are numerous hotels and restaurants close to the show.  
A “Best of Show” trophy will be awarded. A “Judge’s Award” will also be presented.  
The location is just outside of Washington, D.C. Commemorate Veteran’s Day in our nation’s capital and explore the famous museums, The White House, United States Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery and the Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials. Tour FBI Headquarters exhibits, the National Law Enforcement Museum and Memorial, DEA Museum, International Spy Museum, National Museum of Crime and Punishment and others available by prior arrangement.  
A guided tour of the Fairfax County Public Safety HQ featuring historic displays with lots of badges, patches and uniforms is planned for the afternoon before the show.  
For further information or questions, email the hosts at fcpashow@aol.com.

## Tulsa, Okla.

The Third Annual Northeast Oklahoma Law Enforcement Collectors Show will be Sat., Nov. 11 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Will Rogers United Methodist Church gymnasium, 1138 S. Yale Ave., Tulsa, Okla. Gregory Scott Hannaford will host it.  
Admission is free.  
Exhibitor tables are \$25 each and must be paid for in advance to secure a spot.  
The annual Wanenmacher’s Tulsa Arms Show, one of the largest in the world with 4200 exhibitors, will take place during the show weekend. The hall is only one and one-half miles from the gun show, which attracts thousands of firearms enthusiasts from throughout the United States, including hundreds of .law enforcement officers.  
To reserve tables or for more information, contact Hannaford in (918) 805-1186 (voice or text).

## Robbinsville, N.J.

The 32nd Annual “Central Jersey” Police and Fire Collectors Swap Meet will be Sun., Nov. 19 from 8 am to 1 pm at the Robbinsville Senior Center, 1117 Rte. 130, Robbinsville, N.J. Dom Botteri will host it.  
Admission is \$5. Wives, girlfriends and children are admitted free.  
Tables are \$25 each and includes one admission. The hall will open for exhibitors at 7 am.  
There will be a patch drop and displays are encouraged.  
Food will be available.  
Insignia reproductions available for sale or trade must be marked as such. Contact the show host with any questions or for additional information regarding this policy.  
Proceeds will benefit the Robbinsville Food Pantry.  
For table reservations, directions or additional information, contact Dom Botteri at (609) 571-8201 (voice or text) or email ltd104@aol.com.

## Stevensville, Md.

The 2023 Maryland “Eastern Shore” Police Memorabilia Show will be Sat., Dec. 2 from 9 am to 3 pm at the American Legion Post 278, 800 Romancoke Road, Stevensville, Md. Tyler Argubright will host it.  
Admission is \$5 per person. Children are admitted free.  
All 55 tables have been sold in advance to collectors from all over the country.  
There will be patch and challenge coin drops, raffles and a cash bar.  
For additional information, please join the Facebook group, Maryland Eastern Shore Police Memorabilia Show 2023.

## Claremont, Calif.

The 42nd Annual “The Porky Show” will be Sat., Jan. 20, 2024 from 8 am to 3 pm at Taylor Hall, 1775 N. Indian Hill Blvd., Claremont, Calif. Nick Cardaras and Dennis Smith will host California’s longest-running patch, badge and police collectibles swap meet.  
This show is a benefit for the Claremont Police Explorers.  
Admission is \$5.  
All 102 tables have been sold in advance.  
There will be a display contest.

Food and beverages will be available.  
The Double Tree Hotel, 555 W. Foothill Blvd., which is across the street from Taylor Hall, is offering a special room rate of \$129 a night. Their regular room rates are \$239 to \$309 a night. Make reservations directly with the hotel on (909) 445-1824 or use the link on the Web site, ThePorkyShow.Com. Reservations must be made by December 28, 2023 to receive the discounted hotel room price.  
For additional information, email the hosts:  
Nick Cardaras nick@theporkyshow.com  
Dennis Smith dennis@theporkyshow.com

## Roseville, Calif.

The 28th Annual Doug Messer “49’er” Public Safety and Military Collectors Show will be Sat., Feb. 24, 2024 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Roseville Veterans Memorial Hall, 110 Park Dr., Roseville, Calif. The hosts are Mike Lynch and Brian Smith.  
This show is named in memory of Doug Messer, one of the original hosts, who passed away in October 2009.  
Admission is free.  
Forty-eight eight-foot tables are available for \$40 each. Display only tables are \$20 each. Early reservations are recommended as this show sells out every year. Tableholders only setup begins at 8 am.  
There will be awards for the best four displays.  
American Legion Post 109 Boy Scout Troop 11 will offer food and beverages for sale.  
This show is a fundraiser for the Ranger Foundation, the California Law Enforcement Historical Society, American Legion Alyn W. Butler Post 169 Boy Scout Troop 11 and American Legion Alyn W. Butler Post 169.  
Table reservations can be made online at CalBadgeShows.Com. Collectors who wish to pay by mail can send a check to Mike Lynch, PO Box 3212, Bowman CA 95604-3212. His telephone number is (530) 613-4732.

## Griffith, Ind.

The Second Annual “Northwest Indiana” Police Collectors Show will be Sat., Mar. 16 from 9 am 2 pm (CST) at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1400 South Broad St., Griffin, Ind. The hosts are Pete Belos and Dan Bukala.  
Free admission. Admission is restricted to active or retired police and fire personnel and known collectors only. The hosts reserve the right to deny admission or check identification.  
Sixty eight-foot tables are available for \$25 each. Please mail checks or money orders to Pete Belos, 1100 Perthshire Lane, Dyer IN 46311.  
Displays are encouraged.  
There are numerous restaurants. hotels and other amenities in the area.  
This is a not for profit show. Table feels defray the cost of the facility, refreshments and table rental.  
Contact either host for additional information, directions and hotel information:  
Belos (708) 646-2837  
Bukala (text only) (219) 775-1886.

## Gettysburg, Penna.

The First Annual “Mason Dixon” Police and Fire Patch and Memorabilia Show will be held on Sat., June 29 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Gettysburg Fire Department, 35 N. Stratton St., Gettysburg, Penna. It will be hosted by Adam Reid and Lou McAlexander.  
Admission is \$5 for adults. Children are admitted free. Early admission at 8 am is \$10.  
Fifty-five tables are available for \$35 each. The hall will open at 7 am for exhibitor setup.  
The show is located downtown within walking distance from everything. There is free parking. Nearby lodging and food is easily accessible. A food truck will be on site.  
For table reservations, email masondixonpatchshow@gmail.com.  
The show has a Facebook page, Gettysburg PA Mason Dixon Patch Show.

## National Police Collectors Show

The 2024 National Police Collectors Show will be Fri., July 12, Sat., July 13 and Sun., July 14 at the Adler Theater and River Center, 126 E. Third St., Davenport, Iowa. It will be hosted by Damir Krdzalic and Peter Harris. Jake Bushey and Darren Nozaki are supporting hosts. (Don Magruder is no longer a host.)  
The hobby’s 38th annual convention will begin on Fri., July 12 with table setup from 9 am to 5 pm. There will be a tableholder meeting from 5:15 to 5:45 pm. It will be followed by a tableholder reception from 6 to 8 pm.  
The show will be open to the public from 9 am to 6 pm on Sat., July 13 and 9 am to 3:30 pm on Sun., July 14. Tableholders only will be admitted for setup beginning at 8 am both days. Display awards will be presented at 2 pm on Sunday.  
Admission is \$5. A three-day VIP Pass is available for \$40. A limited number of these passes are available and can be purchased through the show Web site.  
Tables are \$75 each and can be purchased through the show Web site.  
The show Web site is www.npcsusa.com.  
The primary host hotel is the Double Tree by Hilton, which is connected to the 32,400 square foot River Center by a skywalk. It is offering a special discount room rate of \$129 per night. Parking is an additional \$10 per day. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel on (563) 322-2200 after July 10. Please mention the group code NPC to qualify for the special rate.  
The secondary hotel is the historic, luxurious Hotel Blackhawk, a classic Four Diamond property, which has welcomed presidents and other dignitaries from around the world. It is offering a special discount room rate of \$169 per night. Parking is an additional \$12 per night. Rooms may be booked now through the show Web site.  
Both hotels are connected to the River Center by covered skywalks.  
Collectors are urged by Visit Quad Cities, the local convention and visitors bureau, to consider a family vacation in the area. The discount rates at both hotels are available for four days before and two days after the National. There are a wide variety of family activities and attractions in the area. Please see VisitQuadCities.Com for complete information on Quad Cities vacations.  
The closest air transportation is Quad Cities International Airport, which is 15 minutes from the show site in Moline, Ill. It is serviced by Delta, American, United and Allegiant Airlines. Neither host hotel offers airport shuttles.  
Eastern Iowa Airport is 90 minutes away in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. It is serviced by Allegiant, American, Delta, Frontier and United.  
O’Hare International Airport is three hours away in Chicago where nearly every major national or international carrier has flights.  
The hosts are working on possible group tours of selected local attractions.  
Show questions can be directed to the hosts through the Web site under the “CONTACT



## 2023 National Show ...Continued

US” tab on the home page.  
Police Collectors News will offer a detailed preview of the hotels, local attractions and additional vacation information in our November-December edition, which debuts on November 3.

### “Vacation Capital” Show Canceled

The 2023 “Vacation Capital” Police Collectors Show in Orlando, Fla. has been canceled, according to co-host Doug Sarubbi. The announcement was made on June 21. The show had been scheduled for September 2.

Sarubbi cited significant cost increases implemented by the Rosen Plaza Hotel as the reason for cancellation. The hotel has served as the permanent show venue since its third year. “Vacation Capital” celebrated its 20th anniversary last year.

“They raised the costs for renting the hall and tables to more than we could afford. They also increased the room rate, and they charge \$15 a day for parking now. They’ve never charged us for parking before. We tried to negotiate with them, but they wouldn’t do anything for us,” Sarubbi said.

Sarubbi and fellow co-hosts Ron Bartholome and John Holmes explored other potential venues but were unable to secure one remaining available this year at a reasonable cost.

“We also contacted John Radcliffe [host of the Gulf Coast show] and looked at putting on a joint fall show with him. But, that fell through because the church [where he has his show] had no open dates in September or October. Every weekend is booked,” Sarubbi said.

“Vacation Capital” will return in 2024. The show is traditionally held the Saturday before Labor Day. However, the venue has not been determined.

The show began in 2002 at the Quality Inn on International Drive with 35 tables the first year and 50 table the second year. It moved to the Rosen Plaza with 75 tables the third year.

### West Virginia Show Called Off

The first “Tri-State” Collectors Show in Weirton, W. Va. scheduled for Sunday, September 10 will not take place. Host Anthony Moores canceled the show on June 21 due to the lack of tableholder response.

“Unfortunately, I am forced to cancel the show. I have not gained enough interest and will lose too much money hosting it on my own for maybe ten people to come,” he said.

“Tri-State” would have been a rare West Virginia show, even though Weirton is only 35 minutes from Pittsburgh, which has traditionally been a popular location for numerous western Pennsylvania swap meets hosted most recently by John Radcliffe.

Moores, a police officer in nearby Toronto, O., said he may try another West Virginia show in the future.

### Palmetto State Show Canceled

The first Palmetto State Police Collectors Show was canceled, co-host Russ Penka announced. The show had been scheduled for May 20 in Bluffton, S.C. but was scratched on May 5.

“Ultimately the cancellation was result of not just low but almost no table sales,” Penka said. “We sold one table immediately, then nothing.”

Penka and the Palmetto State sponsor, the South Carolina Retired Law Enforcement Officers Association, decided to cancel due to the lack of tableholders.

“I advertised on Facebook, in PCNEWS and at four shows, Riverdale, Md., Laplata, Md., Hasbrouck Heights, N.J. and North North Myrtle Beach, S.C. I did as much as I could,” he said.

Penka believes conflicts with the Cleveland show on May 20 and impending pre-Memorial Day high school and college graduations contributed to the lack of pre-show table sales.

Penka posted a cancellation notice on numerous hobby-related Facebook pages. “We didn’t want anyone to come in when there was no show,” he said

The association still wants to host a South Carolina show. However, no arrangements have been made. An autumn date is a possibility.

**Badge Thief Arrested** A Greensboro, S.C. man faces a bevy of federal charges following his arrest for stealing a United States Capitol Police badge, uniform jacket, ball cap and other gear during the January 6, 2021 riot at the United States Capitol. Darrell Neely, 52, was arrested at a motel last October 31 after months on the run as a wanted fugitive. Neely is also charged with the theft of four commemorative china plates from the Capitol. He bragged on social media that he had taken the badge, jacket and hat from a Capitol Police officer.

**NYPD Going Hybrid** The New York Police Department fleet is going hybrid. As the agency retires its traditional gas-powered sedan-based fleet, the NYPD is switching to alternative fuel sport utility vehicles, mostly Ford Explorers. Deputy Commissioner Robert Martinez of the Support Services Bureau said the country’s largest police department is also extensively testing all-electric vehicles. “Years ago, we had only rear-wheel drive sedans, but now we’re going with hybrids and testing all-electric vehicles for patrol duty,” he said.

**Welcome Officer Znajda** Felicia Znajda, daughter of longtime state police and highway patrol insignia collector Pat Znajda, has succeeded her father as a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources conservation officer. One of Pat Znajda’s final acts as Northwest Region captain was to pin her grandfather, Ted Znajda’s, historic badge onto her uniform during her swearing in ceremony late last year. She was supposed to receive badge number “671.” However, her father arranged for her to wear her grandfather’s badge, number “86,” which he wore from 1959 until his 1989 retirement.

**Chauvin Badge Destroyed** Minneapolis, Minn. Police Chief Brian O’Hara has vowed to destroy the badge worn by disgraced former officer Derek Chauvin. Chauvin was convicted of second degree murder in the death of George Floyd in 2020 and was sentenced to 21 years. “The Minneapolis police has a tradition of recycling badge numbers no longer worn by a current officer. This badge, betrayed and so egregiously dishonored, will be destroyed and the badge number permanently removed our rosters so that no future Minneapolis police officers will ever wear it,” Chief O’Hara said. The badge number is 1087.



Thousands of law enforcement officers from all over the world gathered in Washington, D.C. for National Police Week from May 9 to 15. On Saturday night the officers paid tribute to our fallen during the solemn annual Candlelight Vigil. They honored 556 officers added to the Wall. *Contributed photograph*

## Collectors Gather For Police Week In Washington, D.C.

Many leading law enforcement insignia collectors gathered in Washington, D.C. for National Police Week events at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and National Law Enforcement Museum. Insignia trading was extremely popular during the week long event May 9 through 15.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. – “My experience during Police Week is always one of sadness and happiness. Sad because we are there to remember the ones who didn’t make it. Happy to see our friends we haven’t seen in over a year,” said Tyler Argubright, a Maryland sheriff’s deputy.

Argubright was among a large contingent of prominent law enforcement insignia collectors who journeyed to Washington, D.C. for National Police Week May 9 to 15. This year, 556 names were added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Judiciary Square, including many who died on duty in the past but were not remembered on the Memorial Wall until now.

The 35th annual commemoration in the nation’s Capital honors the memories of fallen officers and the sacrifices of their survivor families. It attracts thousands of law enforcement officers from all 50 states and as far away as Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico and beyond. Officers traveled from Australia, Canada, Germany, Israel and from throughout the United Kingdom.

Among other well-known collectors who also attended were Jim Clark, Vinnie Turocy, Richard Kramer, Julio Martinez, Damir Krdzalic, Bill Swank and Daniel Sollitti. There were others.

“I’ve been going every year since the ‘90s. I am an ambassador for the Wall and very honored to serve. If we don’t honor our fallen, then who will?” said Swank, a federal law enforcement officer and well-known Ohio collector and Columbus show host.

“The Memorial has so many different meanings. It honors our fallen. It celebrates their lives. It inspires us. It brings us all together. The only bad thing is that we have to keep adding names every year,” he said.

Argubright called Police Week a poignant reminder of all we do as law enforcement



Ohio collector and show host Bill Swank (right) met Polk County, Fla. Sheriff Grady Judd, who has been in the office since 2005. He has worked for Polk County SO since 1972. Sheriff Judd was among thousands of law enforcement officers who participated in Police Week. *Contributed photograph*





Daniel Sollitti (center), Jersey City, N.J. deputy police chief and Julio “Ricky Ricardo” Martinez (right), a retired NYC police officer, pose on The Mall not far from The White House and Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Wall. On the right is Rich Yoditsky, Hudson County SO. *Contributed photograph*

officers. “It is a fresh jump start on my batteries, especially nowadays when being in law enforcement is so exhausting. Being around so many officers gives me that energy, reminding me why I do what I do,” he said.

Argubright and Swank added that insignia and uniform trading has always been an important and very popular feature at all Police Week events. It goes on everywhere throughout the week. The vast majority of the traders are collectors who never attend shows or otherwise seek out insignia.

“A lot of officers only collect that week. But, they treasure the patches, badges, challenge coins or whatever they else they swapped with fellow officers. They are lifelong mementos, keepsakes of a week that showed us we belong to something larger than our agencies,” Swank explained.

He went home with two large bags stuffed full of insignia from all over. “No one turns down anyone asking for a trade. A lot of guys simply give away their patches or coins. Even if you didn’t bring anything to trade, you’ll go home with something. That’s just the way it is,” he said.

“I also enjoy trading patches or challenge coins during Police Week. It’s nice to make connections and talk about our history. Also, working for a company that makes coins and patches allows me to connect with new departments,” Argubright said. He works for Copper Gear, a Maryland-based insignia business.

As an ambassador, Swank often escorts survivors who do not have department escorts during the annual Memorial Service, which is traditionally held on Monday, National Police Memorial Day. The day was proclaimed by President John F. Kennedy in 1962.

Survivors are also honored at the solemn Candlelight Vigil, which was held on Saturday, May 13 beginning at eight o’clock. An estimated 30,000 law enforcement officers and civilian supporters participated in the event this year.

“I can’t describe what it was like to look around and see thousands of uniformed officers holding candles as far back as the eye could see. It gave me chills. I was never prouder of my profession,” Swank said.

Other popular events were Police Unity Tour Arrival Ceremony, the annual Steve Young National Honor Guard Competition and Pipe Band Competition, a police vehicle exhibit around the United States Capitol Reflection Pool, the annual Emerald Society Pipe Band Memorial March and Service, and Tent City sponsored by the Washington, D.C. chapter of the Fraternal Order of Police.

Hundreds of fellow officers and family members placed memorial items and mementos in front of the Wall to honor fallen officers throughout the week. Seen were dozens of photographs, flowers, teddy bears, badges, patches, bottles of an officer’s favorite libation, caps and hats and even a patrol car door! Each captured the memories of departed officers from their loved ones and fellow officers left behind.

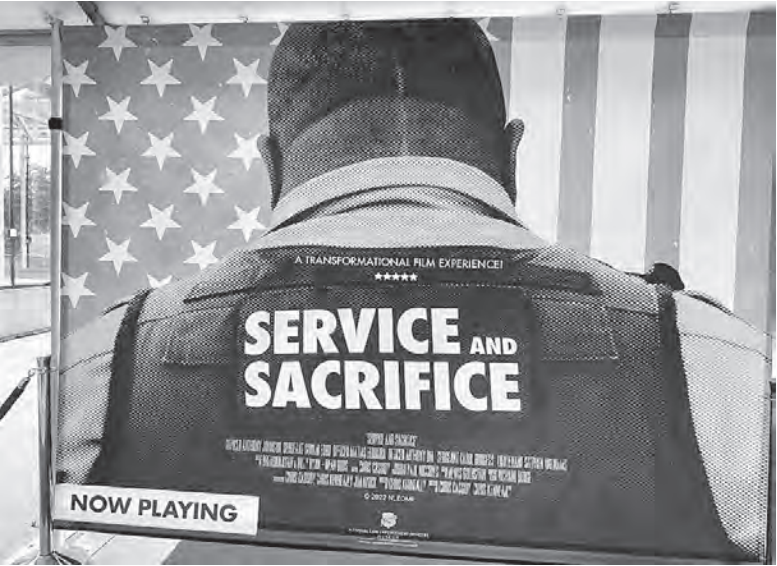
**Collectors were everywhere** The FOP Tent City was open from 11 am to midnight on Saturday, May 13 and Sunday, May 14. It is an extremely popular social event with music, food and a massive bar.

Tent City has been a staple of D.C. Lodge No. 1 since 1989. It has grown from 400 people the first year to an event for thousands. The lodge is one of the nation’s largest with members from 114 law enforcement agencies, as well as hundreds of civilian supporters.

There were dozens of vendors offering all manner of law enforcement collectibles, souvenirs, mementos and swag. Everything from custom-designed agency clothing, hats and glassware to challenge coins, patches, pins and commemorative badges.



Tyler Argubright’s backpack was no doubt loaded with lots of patches and challenge coins for trading as he represented Copper Gear, a fast-growing Maryland insignia production business, during National Law Enforcement Week in Washington, D.C. He hosts a Maryland show. *Contributed photograph*



*Service And Sacrifice* is an excellent documentary about police officers now showing at the National Law Enforcement Museum. The film shows police officers are human beings with loved ones, likes and dislikes and live just like everyone else. It also shows on duty deaths. *Contributed photograph*

Lodge No. 1 featured colorful challenge coins honoring the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, the FOP Auxiliary and Women in Law Enforcement (a badge and coin set). FOP Commemorative Jack Daniels Whiskey bottles were back by popular demand.

Several leading insignia manufacturers and designers offered their wares and services. Among the most popular trading and socializing venues were a couple of popular D.C. cop bars which both go all out for Police Week, including Kelly’s Irish Channel. Bagpipers played in front of Kelly’s most days and the bar was even more jam-packed than usual.

**Museum open all week** The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Museum was open all week and hosted several events. Officers in uniform or with identification were admitted free.

A beautifully-produced 30-minute film played continuously in the museum theater, *Service and Sacrifice*. It was produced by the museum and shows police officers having a positive impact on people from all walks of life. The documentary emphasizes that police officers are not bulletproof, Superman or Wonder Woman. They are human beings.

“It came out in May 2022. It really grabs your attention. I mentored one of the officers in the film, Anthony Johnson, with Columbus PD. He was kind of my protege, and I’m shown with him,” Swank said.

He also met the family of Officer Anthony Dia of Toledo PD, who was killed on duty and featured in the film. He was killed on July 4, 2020 after responding to a report of a disorderly customer at a Home Depot store. However, he did not work with him.

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# Patch Collector Kaitlin Leising Killed On Duty

Saint Croix County, Wis. Deputy Sheriff Kaitlin Leising was shot and killed by a drunk driving suspect on May 6. She was an avid police patch collector. Deputy Leising served as a deputy sheriff in South Dakota and Wisconsin.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

HUDSON, Wis. – Saint Croix County, Wis. Deputy Sheriff Kaitlin Leising, 29, a dedicated law enforcement patch collector, was shot and killed on duty while attempting to apprehend a suspected drunk driver early Saturday evening May 6.

Deputy Leising had responded to a call of a vehicle that had driven off a state highway into a ditch near Glenwood City in far eastern Saint Croix County. While she was speaking with the driver about field sobriety testing, he suddenly drew a concealed handgun and shot her. She was dead on arrival at a local hospital.

The killer fled the scene. He ran into nearby woods and committed suicide while being by pursued by other officers. He was a multiple convicted felon in Minnesota and had recently been released from prison on parole. He had violated his parole by being in Wisconsin and drinking in a nearby rural Dunn County tavern.

“Katie loved collecting police patches. She got them from all over and had them up in her house. She had a lot of fun doing it. She was always asking for patches,” a close friend said.

Deputy Leising joined the Sheriffs Office in early 2022 after serving as a Pennington County, S.D. deputy sheriff for two years. Her spouse works for the National Park Service.

An estimated 1500 law enforcement officers from as far away as New York and Texas and civilian supporters attended her funeral at the high school in Hudson, the only local facility large enough to accommodate the event.

A seemingly endless patrol car procession returned her body to a local mortuary after the funeral stretched for more than 20 miles. Hundreds of United States and Thin Blue Line flag-waving citizens lined the route waving flags and applauding, many in tears.

A patch collection basket was placed near entrance to the high school gymnasium so law enforcement officers could leave emblems from their agencies. The patches were donated to her grateful family.

Sheriff Scott Knudson praised Deputy Leising’s infectious smile and positive “can do” attitude. “If you were having a bad day, just run into Katie. You wouldn’t have a bad day anymore,” he told hundreds of mourners inside the gym.

Pennington County Sheriff Brian Mueller said his agency was heartbroken to learn of her death. “Everyone called her ‘Bug’ because she was small but feisty. She was a great deputy. We were all sorry when she left our department. She was very well liked in the





Jonny Castro, a Philadelphia police officer, created this incredible life like portrait of Saint Croix County Deputy Sheriff Kaitlin Leising for donation to her family. As the owner of Jonny Castro Art, he donates portraits to the families of slain law enforcement officers. *Jonny Castro Art photograph*

Patch Collector Killed ...Continued

community she worked in," he said.

The popular deputy was the first law enforcement officer killed on duty in Saint County, which has a population of 90,000, since 1955 when two local officers were shot trying to apprehend a fleeing bank robber.

Deputy Leising is survived by her spouse and three-month old son, as well as her family in South Dakota.

She was the second police insignia collector shot and killed on duty in 2023. Hermann, Mo. Police Chief Mason Griffith lost his life on March 12 when he was fatally wounded by a man with gun wanted on local warrants.

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More than 1500 law enforcement officers from as far away as Texas and New York and civilians attended the funeral for Saint Croix County Deputy Sheriff Kaitlin Leising on May 12. She was shot and killed on May 6. Deputy Leising was first county deputy killed on duty since 1955. *Contributed photograph*



A Saint Croix County Sheriffs Office patrol vehicle was parked outside the County Government Center in Hudson the morning after the fatal shooting of Deputy Katie Leising and throughout the week before her funeral. It was adorned with flowers, wreaths, police teddy bears and balloons placed by residents who stopped to pay their respects to the fallen hero. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Glenn Hughes (left), a retired United States Air Force officer, accepts a display contest award from co-host Clay Lowing (right) at the 2023 Southeast Ohio Collectors Show. Hughes was among 21 tableholders from five states, Ohio, Florida, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Maryland. *Contributed photograph*

Southeast Ohio Collectors Show Honors Hobbyists

Longtime hobbyists Glenn Hughes and Jim Shattuck were honored at the 2023 Southeast Ohio Collectors Show in Athens on April 29. Hughes and Shattuck won awards for the best displays at the 21-table event that attracted collectors from five states as far away as Florida and Maryland.

By Clay Lowing, Guest Writer

ATHENS, O. – Andy Watson and I hosted the 2023 Southeast Ohio Collectors Show at the Athens Community Center in Athens. O. on April 29.

This year had a smaller turnout than previous years, but there was still plenty of trading and deal-making among the attendees.

We had 21 tables this year.

Ohio tableholders were Glenn Hughes, Bert Duvarney, Ed Sachs, Andy Watson, Clay Lowing, Guy Forberger, Bruce Muraco, Tony Gorsek, Charles Kneipp, Randy Adams and Bill Swank.

Dave Fox traveled from Florida to take a table, as did Ken Lucas from Maryland. So did Dave Hume and Jim Shattuck of Kentucky.

Pennsylvania's tableholder was Max Ballard.

I was pleased to present awards to Glenn Hughes and Jim Shattuck for the best displays.

Hughes brought an exceptional exhibit from the New York Police Department which included vintage photos and badges.

Shattuck featured his Christmas-themed patch display. Christmas patches have become very popular in the last few years.

CLAY LOWING (cll237@gmail.com)

Andy Watson and Clay Lowing have not yet announced the date for their 2024 show. However, they have decided it will be an annual event. The event gives Southeast Ohio an insignia show. Other Ohio shows are held in Cleveland (north) and Columbus (central). EDITOR



Ohio hobbyist Glenn Hughes was honored for his fine collection of historic photographs, postcards and badges from the New York Police Department. He is a dedicated law enforcement historian and specializes in old postcards and photographs. Hughes was an award winner. *Contributed photograph*





Southeast Ohio Collectors Show co-host Clay Lowing (left) presents a display award to longtime Kentucky collector Jim Shattuck (right). Shattuck featured his latest specialty, law enforcement emblems with Christmas themes. These colorful patches have become very popular. *Contributed photograph*



Jim Shattuck has a nice collection of Christmas-themed law enforcement emblems from across the country. Some agencies wear them, while others sell them to help fund holiday-related programs, such as Shop With A Cop and others. He has about 50 of these patches in his collection. *Contributed photograph*

# United States Marshals Museum Will Open July 1

It's been a 16-year \$50 million effort, but the official United States Marshals Museum on the banks of the Arkansas River in historic Fort Smith will open on July 1. Workers put the finishing touches on five exhibit galleries throughout late spring and early summer. "We're ready to open the doors," officials said.

Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

FORT SMITH, Ark. – The long-anticipated opening of the United States Marshals Museum in Fort Smith, Ark. will take place on July 1. The official announcement was made by museum board Chairman Douglas Babb on May 1.



Workers install one of the interactive exhibits in the "Modern Marshals" gallery at the United States Marshals Museum in Fort Smith, Ark. These exhibits will show the wide variety of duties and responsibilities performed by marshals and their deputies. *USMS Museum photograph*



"Frontier Marshals" is another of five galleries at the United States Marshals Service Museum. Workers are shown putting the finishing touches on the entrance to the gallery. Among the features will be a saloon in which the bartender talks about outlaws and lawmen. *USMS Museum photograph*

"To say we are excited is a vast understatement. It's truly gratifying to see the work of so many different people who have dedicated their time and resources to see this effort come to fruition. This will be a jewel for Fort Smith, the state of Arkansas and the country," Babb said.

Ticket prices, memberships and programming information will be announced soon. The opening culminates more than 16 years of fundraising, design, construction and installation.

In 2007, after a vigorous selection process, the Marshals Service chose Fort Smith as the permanent home for its official national museum. Since then, a diverse group of volunteers, staff, community leaders and elected officials from throughout Arkansas worked alongside the USMS to build a world-class facility on the banks of the Arkansas River.

Although construction of the 53,000-square foot museum was completed in early 2020, finishing the interior and creating the exhibits was delayed by a late budget shortfall and then the pandemic.

The museum building features a unique exterior in a modified star-shaped design signifying the star badge worn by courageous U.S. marshals and their deputies. Inside, five immersive galleries educate guests about the critical, ever-evolving role the USMS has played in upholding the rule of law. Galleries include "To Be A Marshal," "The Campfire: Stories Under the Stars," Frontier Marshals," "A Changing Nation" and "Modern Marshals."

In addition, the National Learning Center will combine the museum experience with educational programming focused on the Constitution, the rule of law and civic literacy. It will engage local and national audiences using a variety of resources.

Guests will also have the opportunity to pay tribute to the more than 350 marshals and deputy marshals killed in the line of duty since 1789 by visiting the Samuel M. Sicard Hall of Fame.

"Now it's time to welcome the world through our doors," President and CEO Benjamin Johnson said.

**Fever pitch construction** Contractors labored at a fever pitch throughout April, May and June to finish all five exhibit galleries in time for opening day. "There still might be a few things that need to be adjusted after we open, but they'll be minimal and should not detract from the overall experience," Johnson said.

Construction is complete on an authentic courthouse facade at which visitors will have an interactive experience to learn about the United States Constitution.

The "Campfire: Stories Under the Stars" gallery has been built into a replica of a rocky ledge upon which four marshals from different eras talk to each other about their experiences.

This gallery also depicts an Old West saloon. Visitors will enter through swinging doors and listen to the bartender tell stories about outlaws and lawmen.

USMS historical memorabilia, including badges, emblems and equipment, will be featured. Veteran local collector Tony Perrin served as an advisor on these displays and others.

Overall, the exhibits cost \$7.8 million and will be featured throughout 18,000 square feet of exhibit space.

Johnson said the museum still needs to raise about \$3.5 million to complete its \$50 million capital campaign. However, the shortfall will not delay the opening.

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## Insignia Control Legislation Fails In Maryland Committee

ANNAPOLIS, Md. – Tough proposed law enforcement insignia control legislation failed to advance out of a Maryland House of Representatives committee as the current legislative session ended.

The bill was proposed by the Maryland State Police in the aftermath of recent controversies over unauthorized production and distribution of challenge coins by current and former employees. It would have severely restricted insignia possession and sales or trades without departmental authorization.

"Our Senate passed the bill 132 to 0, also known as rubber stamping, and sent it over to our House, but it never made it out of the Judicial Committee and died," said veteran Maryland collector Bob Speed of Monkton.

A committee spokesperson told PCNEWS the legislation was not scheduled for a hearing before the session ended. He explained it would have to be reintroduced in the next legislative session to be considered again. He had no information on whether it would be reintroduced. He said it would up to the bill sponsors to decide.

"We hope the guys making the derogatory insignia will move on, as it's casting a bad light on legitimate collectors who have been collecting and displaying police insignia for decades," Speed said.

Courtesy of Bob Speed and Maryland Senate Judicial Committee

**Tyler Argubright Honored** The National Law Enforcement Museum honored Maryland collector and show host Tyler Argubright as its "Volunteer of the Month" in February. A school resource officer in Queen Anne's County, Argubright collects Maryland insignia and hosts the annual "Eastern Shore" show. He is a third generation law enforcement officer. "I'm grateful for my opportunity to volunteer at the museum and be part of the Law Enforcement Memorial," Argubright said.





Phil and Donna Bailey have hosted the Edmonton Area Emergency Services Swap Meet since it originated at downtown police headquarters many years ago. Now retired from the Edmonton Police Service, Bailey specializes in insignia from the maritime provinces. *Phil Bailey photograph*

# Edmonton Area Emergency Service Show Successful

Longtime Edmonton show host Phil Bailey welcomed 50 collectors from western Canada to his 20-table 2023 swap meet at the Royal Canadian Legion in suburban Saint Albert on May 13. Bailey deemed the popular, well-attended event another success.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

EDMONTON, Alta. – A show doesn’t have to be large to be good. Sometimes, a small show with top quality tableholders and serious veteran hobbyists triumphs over a large show with lot of tables and collectors.

Such was the 2023 Edmonton Area Emergency Services Swap Meet on May 13 in Edmonton, Alta. Host Phil Bailey, one of the deans of the Canadian hobby, welcomed a respectable turnout of 50 dedicated hobbyists to the Royal Canadian Legion in suburban Saint Albert. Twenty tables were rented.

“The show was a success again this year,” Bailey said. “A lot of collectibles changed hands and very positive feedback was received.”

The host is a retired Edmonton Police Service supervisor and very active in the Canadian Section of the International Police Association. He also owns Crest Corp, an insignia design and production business.

Many of western Canada’s leading hobbyists journeyed to Edmonton, including tableholders Phil and Donna Bailey, Matt Plamondon, Chris King, Julian Veuger, Steve Schmidt and son, Hiliary Bouzek, Dave and Linda Black, Shawn Baker, Jordan Hill, Connor Erickson, Dave Goodkey, Jim Kusnick, Jason Hiscock and Gary Hubka.

Kusnick, a retired Winnipeg Police Service officer, came from British Columbia. He was the only out of province visitor. Alberta hobbyists traveled from as far north of Fort McMurray and as far south as Calgary and Drumheller.

Alberta Sheriff Bouzek featured a wide variety of displays from his outstanding collection. He is one of Canada’s most dedicated commercial motor vehicle enforcement collectors.

Baker, a Strathcona County peace officer, liquidated the emblem and badge collector of a deceased colleague during the show. The collection attracted a great deal of attention from eager hobbyists.

Bailey reported there was no talk at the show about Alberta agencies changing insignia from the Queen’s Crown to the King’s Crown in the aftermath of the death of Queen Elizabeth and the ascension to the throne by King Charles III. It had been predicted there would be a massive effort to update insignia, but it has not happened as yet.

“I see Craig Boan posted a couple Manitoba changes on a Facebook page. However,



The 2023 Edmonton Area Emergency Services Swap Meet was held on May 13 at the Royal Canadian Legion hall in suburban Saint Albert, Alta. Fifty collectors, mostly from Alberta, attended the 9 am to 2 pm event. Twenty tables were rented and featured quality collectibles. *Phil Bailey photograph*



Jordan Hill (left), an Alberta Sheriff, had a friend staff his table while he hunted for treasures. He brought badges, patches and challenge coins. Alberta Sheriffs are responsible for law courts, communications, surveillance, traffic, and fish and wildlife. *Phil Bailey photograph*



Alberta Sheriff Hiliary Bouzek (left) featured a variety of framed exhibits from his extensive collection. He has one of Canada’s finest collections of commercial motor vehicle enforcement insignia, one of the primary duties of his department. Connor Erickson is on the right. *Phil Bailey photograph*

I have heard nothing around here,” he said. Many Canadian agencies have moved away from traditional crown-topped insignia to more colorful custom designs with no royal symbolism, particularly in the last five to ten years.

The 2024 Edmonton show has already been scheduled. It will be held on Saturday, May 11, once again at the Royal Canadian Legion in Saint Albert. Contact host Bailey for additional information on crestcorp@shaw.ca.

Edmonton and Calgary are the leading Alberta shows. The 2023 Calgary show will be held on Sunday, October 1 at the Cuff ‘N Billy Club, the traditional location at the Calgary Police Association. Many collectors at Edmonton will journey to Calgary.

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Blair and Lisa Howatt (right), a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, traveled from Fort McMurray, Alta. for the Edmonton swap meet. It was their first Alberta show. The collector on the left was not identified. Host Phil Bailey welcomed 50 Canadian hobbyists. *Phil Bailey photograph*





Keri Griess shows the hat badge that a Caltrans worker recently found near the site of where her late husband, California Highway Patrol Motor Officer Kirk Griess, was killed on duty five years ago. She described the badge as priceless and "near and dear" to her heart. *Contributed photograph*

## Missing Badge Finally Returned To CHP Widow

When California Highway Patrol Motor Officer Kirk Griess was struck and killed by a distracted driver during a traffic stop, his helmet badge was lost. Recently, the missing shield was found near the crash scene and returned to his widow, Keri Griess.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

FAIRFIELD, Calif. – A lost hat badge that belonged to a California Highway Patrol motor officer killed in the line of duty five years ago has been found and returned to his widow.

On August 10, 2018 at 9 am, Officer Kirk Griess and a civilian he had stopped for a traffic violation on Interstate 80 in Fairfield died when their vehicles were struck by a distracted motorist. The violent collision killed both Officer Griess and the motorist he had stopped.

When he fell to the pavement after being struck, the badge on Officer Griess's helmet came off. Responding officers were able to recover his helmet but were unable to find the winged wheel hat badge despite an exhaustive search.

In early January, an unnamed Caltrans worker helping repair recent storm damage along I-80 saw something shiny in a roadside water puddle. The worker thought it was a bottle opener and picked up. He realized immediately that he had found a CHP badge and turned it in to the agency.

A few days later, Captain Mike Lehman, commander of the Solano and Napa CHP branches, contacted Keri Griess, the fallen officer's widow, and told her that he husband's missing badge had been found. She had previously been given his helmet.

Overjoyed, Ms. Griess met Captain Lehman in his office and was presented with the shield, which she described as priceless.

"I was given something very near and dear to my heart," she said. "I cried all the way home."

Captain Lehman said the gold winged wheel badge is the crown jewel of a motor officer's uniform, "They have to earn that helmet and badge and are very proud of it. It's very special."

Mrs. Griess speculated the badge probably got lodged in the dirt after her husband was struck.

"I'm just thankful for the life that the CHP gave us. All these years he was part of something so good," she said.

Officer Griess had been on the motors team for more than ten years. He was slated to retire in 2022.

The Griess' had been married for 26 years when he was killed. They had three children. She said while she and the family has healed, her husband will never be forgotten.

Now, she finally has his badge to remember him by.

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Keri Griess (left), widow of the late California Highway Patrol Motor Officer Kirk Griess (right), reflected on his career and the recent discovery of his hat badge, which had been missing for five years. The helmet he was wearing when he was killed is shown in the foreground. *Contributed photograph*



Ezra Strout, a Kentucky state trooper who specializes in Kentucky State Police artifacts and memorabilia, had one of the best displays at the Southgate, Ky. show. He featured some of his incredible badge collection. Host John Christmann praised all the exhibitors. *Contributed photograph*

## Northern Kentucky-Cincinnati Show Is Back In Action

John Christmann hosted the latest version of the popular Northern Kentucky-Greater Cincinnati Police Collectors Show on April 8 in Southgate, Ky. He welcomed about 150 collectors from seven states to a 52-table sellout show.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

SOUTHGATE, Ky. – The late Pat Olvey would have had one of those big grins on his face, like the one he always had when he found a badge he needed for his collection.

No doubt the longtime co-host of the long-running former Northern Kentucky-Greater Cincinnati Police Collectors Show would have been very pleased that the show has returned with a new host.



Lexington, Ky. collector Dave Hume, who said John Christmann "knocked it out of the park for a first show," showed some of his fine collection of badges in Southgate. The retired police officer has a variety of interests, including the Saint Louis, Mo. Police Department. *Contributed photograph*



Jim Karas (back to camera) talks badges with Robert Terry, a Lexington, Ky. police officer and badge and patch collector, at the Northern Kentucky-Greater Cincinnati show on April 8. About 150 collectors from at least seven states attended the resurrected show. *Contributed photograph*





Representatives of the Greater Cincinnati Police Museum were among the 52 tableholders at the first Southgate, Ky. show on April 8. They offered a wide variety of museum gift shop collectibles, as well as other Greater Cincinnati law enforcement collectibles on their tables. *Contributed photograph*

## Southgate Show Debuts ...Continued

John Christmann very successfully resurrected the popular swap meet, now held in Southgate, Ky., on April 8. About 150 collectors turned out for the 52 table sellout at the Southgate Community Center. The show had been dormant since the 2020 pandemic and Olvey's tragic death as a result of COVID.

"It was excellent. It was a great show. A lot of nice comments. A lot of well known collectors and plenty of newcomers," said Christmann, who serves as chief of police in Southgate, a city of 3650 in Campbell County, Ky.

Among the tableholders were Mike Chowning (Florida), Tom Herring (Michigan), Todd Hansen (Michigan), Dave Hume, Mike Creamer (Ohio), Damir Krdzalic (Iowa), Willie Herald (Illinois), Roger McLean (Illinois), David King, Glenn Hughes (Ohio), Ed Sachs (Ohio), Dean Cameron (Michigan), Tony Gorsek (Ohio), Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society, Alan Levy (Indiana), Steve Curry, Phil Lind (Ohio), Bill Burks (Georgia), Ezra Strout, Randy Adams, Ralph Terry, Mike Leeper (Indiana) and Christmann, among others.

The show featured several excellent displays, including Kentucky State Police badges by Strout, Kentucky and other badges by Hume, Indianapolis badges by Leeper and Kentucky patches by Christmann. Although there was no display contest, the host plans to present four awards next year, Best of Show, Best Patch, Best Badge and Best Specialty.

"I wanted to see how the show was received first, so I didn't have awards this time. We'll have them next year," Christmann said.

Southgate attracted an impressive turnout of newcomers who hadn't attended previous Cincinnati area shows, which is good news for the hobby. He said the fledgling collectors were eager to add to their collections.

Christmann said the 2024 show will be held the same weekend in early April.

"I don't want to step on anyone's toes by having a show the same weekend as another one. I think our date fits pretty well into the schedule. It's a good time for a Kentucky show," he explained.

Collectors had high praise for the revitalized event.

"John knocked it out of the park for a first show, and you can quote me," Hume said. "He did a great job. It was just a great show."

Strout, a Kentucky state trooper who specializes in his agency, called it a "very good day" and said he was able to find a few things to his collection.

"It was real good. There was a lot of good stuff on the tables, especially badges," Herald said. "It's nice that this show is back on the calendar."

Christmann added, "I hosted the first shows in this area at Northern Kentucky University back in the '90s, if anyone remembers them. I decided it was time for this one to make a comeback, so that's why I went ahead with it."

Judging by the table sell out response and the excellent turnout, collectors agreed!

**Greater Cincinnati Police Museum** Collectors who attend the 2024 Southgate show will be only ten minutes away from the Greater Cincinnati Police Museum operated by the Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society, which formed in 1998.

The museum is located on the second floor of a historic building at 308 Reading Road in Cincinnati and open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm. The telephone number is (503) 300-3664.

Adult admission is \$8. Seniors get in for \$7. Children ages 7 to 17 are \$6. Children under six are admitted free.

The museum opened in 2006 and offers about 10,000 artifacts. It is a regional repository representing the histories of more than 100 township, county, state and federal agencies in eight counties of the Greater Cincinnati area in southeastern Indiana, northern Kentucky and southern Ohio.



Damir Krdzalic (standing, facing camera) checks out some collectibles at one of the 52 tables at the revived Northern Kentucky-Greater Cincinnati Police Collectors Show in Southgate, Ky. He is one of the co-hosts of the upcoming 2024 National Show in Iowa. *Contributed photograph*

Documentation of more than 200 line of duty deaths in the Greater Cincinnati area can be found at the museum. Many previously unknown deaths have been discovered by volunteer researchers at the museum over the years. A Wall of Honor commemorates the memories of these fallen heroes.

The museum has a gift shop offering a wide variety of collectibles, clothing and swag. Additional visitor information is available on the official museum Web site, Police-Museum.Org, including how to obtain a parking pass for free on street parking in front of the building.

Why not round up a few local collectors, pack them in the car and take in the museum before the attending the 2024 show? Should be another good one!

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Donna Nelson, 76, who worked for *Police Collectors News* for 26 years as circulation manager, died unexpectedly on June 13. "Mom hated to have her picture taken, but we managed to get this one," her daughter, Amanda Holmberg, said. She retired from *PCNEWS* in 2020. *Contributed photograph*

# Longtime PCNEWS Employee Donna Nelson Dead At 76

Donna K. Nelson worked for *Police Collectors News* as administrative assistant and circulation manager for more than a quarter century. She died unexpectedly on June 13 at age 76. Nelson befriended collectors around the world during her many years answering the office telephone and handling subscriptions and advertising.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

WILSON, Wis. – Donna K. Nelson, longtime administrative assistant at *Police Collectors News*, died unexpectedly on June 13. She was 76.

Nelson worked for the newspaper for 26 years from 1994 until her retirement in 2020 during the COVID epidemic. She was primarily responsible for managing our circulation and handling mailing on press days.

"Donna's official title was circulation manager, but since this is such a small office, she did pretty much anything and everything else, too," Editor and Publisher Mike R. Bondarenko said. "She was voice of *PCNEWS* over the telephone and dealt with hundreds of callers from around the world each year."

Although Nelson had recent health issues, her sudden death came as a shock to the Bondarenkos and her many collector friends, who she continued to communicate with through Facebook following her retirement from the newspaper.

"We found out about her death from collector friend Rich Pontes while we were in Branson, Mo. for the Heart of the Ozarks Show. He had seen a posting from her daughter on Facebook the morning after she died and called to let us know," Bondarenko said.

Nelson and Bondarenko got to know each when they served together on the local school board. When our first employee resigned to take a full-time job with the United States Postal Service in early 1994, Bondarenko let it be known in the community that he was looking for an administrative assistant. Nelson applied and was hired, primarily for her excellent customer service skills and strong work ethic.

"Donna knew nothing about the newspaper business, having worked for Northern Pacific Railroad in Saint Paul, Minn. where she was a secretary-typist, and later at a local convenience store. She said she'd like to give the newspaper a try. The 'try' lasted 26 years," Bondarenko recalled.

"She wanted to work closer to home, so she left the railroad and took the C-store job. But, she missed working in an office. Soon, she knew more about Postal Service regulations governing mailing publications than most USPS employees."

Although Nelson was not a collector and had no connection to law enforcement or public safety, she was fascinated by the hobby and often marveled at the dedication shown by collectors.

She accompanied Bondarenko to the National Police Collectors Show in Marlborough, Mass. in 1995 and thoroughly enjoyed the event, even though she had never flown before and was terrified before, and especially during, the flights to Boston and the return!

She helped *PCNEWS* host a remarkably successful local show in Baldwin, Wis. in 2000 and even put on a small one of her own the following year.

"Mom was an outgoing social butterfly, always finding a face that she knew in the community wherever she went," her daughter, Amanda Holmberg, said. "She cherished watching her grandchildren play ball and using their help to collect her beloved Tootsie Rolls at parades."

Much to Bondarenko's chagrin, Nelson was a huge country music fan. "She always switched the office radio from my easy listening station to her country station, so there was an ongoing, never-ending battle for musical supremacy whenever we were both in the office at the same time. I would walk in and turn off the country. She'd walk over to the radio and turn it back on. She finally outsmarted me and brought her own radio!" he said.



Nelson's husband of 53 years, Robert, was a draftsman and designer for a refrigeration manufacturer and preceded her in death in November 2022. She also recently lost her son-in-law, Amanda's husband, who also died suddenly.

A memorial service was held on June 22 in Baldwin.

"Donna will always be remembered, not only by Paula and I for her dedication to the newspaper, but also for her loyalty and friendship. She is very sorely missed," Bondarenko said.

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# Cleveland Police Collectors Show Makes Comeback

The Cleveland Police Collectors Show is back! New host Tony Gorsek welcomed 122 collectors and 37 tableholders and assistants to the comeback show on May 20 during Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Commemoration Week.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

CLEVELAND, O. – Cleveland is back!

The city on the south shore of Lake Erie, which hosted the 2014 National Police Collectors Show, now has a true collectors' show all its own once again, thanks to the dedication of Tony Gorsek, who also hosted the memorable National nine years ago.

"I'm from Cleveland. I retired from the Police Department. It really hurt me to see the show deteriorate to what it was a year ago," Gorsek said. "I felt I had to step up and get it going again. We need a show here, so it was a matter of picking up the pieces."



Tony Gorsek (left) brought back the Cleveland Police Collectors Show, hosted by the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society, at the Double Tree Downtown Lakeside hotel on May 20. He welcomed tableholders from five states. Steve Petro (right) came in from New York. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

And pick up the pieces he did. In fact, he put the pieces back together!

Gorsek welcomed 122 visitors and 37 tableholders and assistants from as far away as Kentucky, New York, Tennessee and Wisconsin to the downtown Double Tree Downtown Lakeside Hotel, which has served as the show venue for many years, back to the days when it was the Holiday Inn Lakeside.

"I was really, really happy with how the show went. I got a lot of nice comments from tableholders and walk-ins, who came in from all over," Gorsek. "It met my expectations for this year, but I want this show to grow next year."

The swap meet was among closing events of the annual week long Greater Cleveland



Donna Komidar, widow of the late collector William "Larry" Komidar, paid tribute to her husband at the Cleveland show. She offered the remainder of his patch and scale model law enforcement vehicle collection for sale. Komidar was also an accomplished modeler. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



William "Larry" Komidar, 76, died in 2022. He spent 36 years with the Cleveland Police Department. Komidar was an patch and scale model vehicle collector. He also headed the CPD Police Explorer post for many years. He was a former Cleveland Officer of the Year. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Peace Officers Memorial Commemoration hosted by the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society (GCPOMS). The event honors the memories of fallen law enforcement officers.

The Double Tree serves as official headquarters for all GCPOMS events, including the reverent Candlelight Vigil, the solemn Memorial Service, the not to be missed Commemoration Parade and the Tattoo, a musical tribute to our fallen brothers and sisters featuring law enforcement pipes and drums corps from the United States and Canada.



Although Dean Cameron specializes in Michigan county sheriff and police department emblems, especially from Detroit, he offered a massive variety of other patches for sale or trade on his tables. Like Tony Gorsek, no \$10, \$20, \$30, etc. patches could be found on his tables. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Hundreds of people lined Lakeside Avenue for the Commemoration Parade as it made its way toward the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial. The annual parade features law enforcement vehicles from all over the Cleveland area as well as marching officers and police survivors.

The pomp and pageantry of the Tattoo is unrivaled as law enforcement pipes and drum corps paid tribute to our fallen. It attracted hundreds of officers and civilians alike and is always a sellout. This year, there was also a bring down the house performance by the United States Marine Corps New Orleans Jazz Band.

"GCPOMS is a great group. They support the show 100 percent. The only reason the show went downhill the last few years was because they didn't have anyone who is a collector to host it. It got as small as seven tables last year, mostly clothing vendors, so it lost its good reputation as a collectors' show," Gorsek said.

He said a last minute cancellation allowed him to accommodate all those who wanted



Merry Christmas to all! Kentucky collector Jim Shattuck, who is originally from Cleveland Heights, featured his Christmas-themed patches from all over the country. He wisely restricts his Christmas patch collection to department issues only, not fantasies made to make money. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





(Left) The Lea County, N.M. Sheriffs Office, which was among the first agencies to adopt a Christmas theme patch in 2018 or 2019, is a Jim Shattuck favorite. (Right) The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Vice Unit emblem is another favorite. It won't be a kid's or parent's favorite! *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Cleveland Show ...Continued

tables. "It was fortunate because I would have had to put three tables in the hall outside the show. It worked out just fine," he explained.

Gorsek can expand the hall to accommodate as many as 60-plus tables next year if there is sufficient interest. He once hosted a 77 table regional show in Cleveland before the National, so he is no stranger to bigger shows.

"I picked up more than 400 patches for my collection, so it was a good day. I'm having a lot of fun going through all of them," he said.

The 2024 Cleveland show will again be held in conjunction with GCPOMS events during Commemoration Week. Early table reservations and hotel reservations (\$127 a night for a three-star property) are recommended.



Cleveland Police Explorer Post No. 7 was well represented at the GCPOMS show. Advisors and Explorers sold everything from candy bars, patches and coins to teddy bears, miniature cars and toys to raise funds for their post. CPD Explorers attend a ten-week academy. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

The Double Tree has an attached parking ramp, restaurant, coffee shop and a bar. There are literally dozens of other restaurants, bars and entertainment venues within walking distance.

GCPOMS volunteers driving clean, comfortable vans donated by local car dealers for the week provide free shuttle service to and from the airport for out of town collectors and their families.

Free transportation extends to anywhere in the Greater Cleveland area for the week. As one volunteer driver, a retired police officer, said, "Just tell us where you want to go. We'll get you there and back. No problem."

**Tableholders welcomed** Gorsek welcomed 20 tableholders who rented 37 tables. Most tableholders had assistants.



Kentucky collector John Christmann, who hosted the North Kentucky and Cincinnati area show in April, featured a beautifully-presented display of Ohio and Kentucky patches, including a large specialty collection from the Bluegrass State. He is the Southgate, My. police chief. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



John Christmann's large Ohio and Kentucky patch collection attracted a lot of attention from walk-ins at the GCPOMS show in Cleveland on May 20. Here a father and daughter team check out some of his Kentucky emblems. The massive exhibit filled an entire corner of the hall. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Ohioans with exhibits or collectibles for sale or trade were Bob Bevec, Roy Cavan, Joel Edelstein, Anthony Gorsek, Donna Komidar, Anthony Lint, Raymond O'Connor, Sandy Philips, Tom Ross, Donna Schmook, Jennifer Scolario and Dennis Svozil.

Mike R. Bondarenko, Wisconsin; Dean Cameron, Michigan; Louie Marron, Illinois; John Homa, Tennessee and Steve Petro, New York represented their states.

John Christmann and Jim Shattuck came in from Kentucky.

Ms. Schmook, whose father was a Cleveland police officer, contacted Gorsek afterward to praise the show.

"Thank you. Yes, it was awesome. I sold all the books I brought with me. And, I talked with a few guys who knew and worked with my Dad. That was nice. Even made a few connections to continue with my Dad's books and help my Mom financially. It was a fun experience," she wrote. All of her books were Cleveland police-related.

**William "Larry" Komidar remembered** Donna Komidar, the widow of longtime Cleveland police officer and collector William "Larry" Komidar, who died on April 6, 2022, paid tribute to her late husband. He was 76 and died at home following an extended illness.

Ms. Komidar brought a commemorative banner and sold patches and vintage scale model police cars, mostly from the 1960s, '70s and '80s that her husband had collected. Viewing them brought back nostalgic thoughts of being on patrol for many CPD retirees who recalled driving these cars on duty.

"Larry was a Cleveland officer for 36 years and retired in 2006. He was U.S. Army veteran. He was a very active member of the Memorial Society and headed the CPD Police Explorer Post for many years," she said.

"My husband really enjoyed this hobby. He loved the patches, but his real passion was the model cars. He spent a lot of time building and painting them. He always showed them off to anyone who came over," Ms. Komidar said.

Komidar was particularly proud of his work with the Explorers over the years. Under his leadership, the group became very active and participated at CPD functions throughout the city, mostly working security, directing traffic and maintaining fixed posts.

Twelve of his former Explorers attended his funeral service last year.

Ms. Komidar recalled how the Explorers were working security at the Tattoo during Peace Officers Commemoration Week one year and helped her trick her husband into going backstage, ostensibly to help quell a disturbance.

"One of them told him they needed help, so he went back there to see what was going on. When he came back out, he was totally surprised when they presented him with the CPD Officer of the Year Award. It came as a total shock to him," she said.

"I knew about it because they contacted me ahead of time to get a picture of him for the award. But, I never said a word about it. It was the biggest shock of his whole career."

**Petro assesses hobby** Steve Petro, one of the leading collectors of federal law



Cleveland police Sergeant Tom Ross sold challenge coins honoring the memory of Officer Shane Bartek, who was killed in the Fourth District on December 31, 2021 when his car was carjacked. He was shot in the back. Coin sales will go toward a memorial. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



enforcement emblems and author of the iconic reference book, *The Encyclopedia of U.S. Federal Patches*, offered high praise for host Tony Gorsek and an impromptu state of the hobby assessment.

"I'm thrilled that Tony has reborn the dormant Cleveland show. He's done a great job with it. It definitely needed some TLC, but he's brought it back to its potential. This city has a strong police community and has hosted a lot of great shows. All they needed was someone to run it who knows what he's doing. Tony certainly has filled the bill. He even arranged for free parking for us. He thought of everything," Petro said.

Petro added GCPOMS puts on a great event with the goal of honoring fallen law enforcement officers from throughout the area. "Outside of Washington, D.C., this is probably the best police commemoration event in the country. It lasts a whole week. There is something for everybody, but the theme is always to honor officers killed on duty. It's very impressive. Cleveland goes all out for us," he said.

The longtime collector, who is a retired United States Secret Service special agent, said federal insignia collecting has changed dramatically in recent years.

"Challenge coins have taken over. They are red hot now. Patches and badges not so much. I've seen it at the shows, mostly recently at New York-New Jersey. Coins were everywhere. Hardly anyone was interested in federal patches or badges," Petro said.

Petro admitted the challenge coin craze has surprised him. "I never thought it would get this big, but it has. I always felt patches and badge collectors would dominate the hobby, but now more and more federal collectors are going to coins and not collecting patches or badges," he said.

There are no new federal patch collectors, he said. He still has some federal emblems from his collection for sale, but there have been no takers. He thought the emblems would sell quickly.

Petro said a vendor in the Philippines is cranking out thousands of federal patch reproductions and selling them worldwide. "It's ruining what's left of the federal patch hobby. No one knows what's real any more. All their patches are fakes."

Nevertheless, Petro plans to publish an update to the encyclopedia. It will show more than 2000 patches not depicted in the original volume, which shows 30,800 emblems. He hopes it will debut within a year.

The electronic book remains available on Amazon for \$49.99. It is an absolute must for all federal emblem hobbyists.

**Merry Christmas all!** Veteran federal and military law enforcement collector Jim Shattuck loves Christmas. It's his favorite holiday, so when law enforcement agencies began adopting Christmas theme patches a few years ago, he jumped on the sleigh and began collecting them.

"They're kind of neat patches. I love Christmas, so they fit right in for me," he said of the colorful collection.

Shattuck brought two large freestanding frames showing about 40 Christmas patches from across the country, including several major cities. He is missing ten patches he knows about but hasn't found yet.

"I only collect the real ones. I get mine direct from the departments. They sell them to raise money for programs like Shop With A Cop, Make a Wish and so on. I don't buy the ones entrepreneurs sell on their own just to make money," Shattuck said.

Shattuck pointed out three of his favorites, Lea County, N.M., Roswell, N.M. and Las Vegas Vice Squad.

He likes Lea County because it was among the first to come out in 2018 or 2019. It shows Santa riding his sleigh past a lighted Christmas tree and an oil derrick.

Roswell is in keeping with the alien theme of their standard issue. It shows a green bug-eyed alien wearing a red and white stocking hat and waving to us Earthlings.

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Vice Squad depicts Santa spanking a scantily dressed prostitute over this knee, not exactly one to put under the tree for the children, but no one can deny it certainly sends a message!

He also has a Christmas theme from Vermont that symbolizes the Jewish December holiday, Hanukkah.

Shattuck hopes commercialism doesn't ruin Christmas theme collecting. "It started with good intentions to raise money for good causes," he said. "Now, there are a few entrepreneurs who are making fantastic profits selling them on their own for \$15 or \$20 each or even higher."

Shattuck hopes Cleveland PD will do a Christmas patch. The collector is originally from Cleveland Heights and collected Cleveland and Cuyahoga County patches as a kid.

"I had almost everything. I put them on corkboards in my bedroom. I sold them off few years ago. I did keep the ones that mean the most to me," he said.

**Top quality fundraisers** Gorsek described Cleveland as perhaps the most eclectic show in the hobby. "We've got everything on the tables here. Badges, patches and coins



Veteran Ohio hobbyist Joel Edelstein still photographs law enforcement vehicles, like he has for many years, but has switched his primary interest to challenge coins. He started by collecting patches. Edelstein spent more than 40 years in Ohio law enforcement. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Roy Cavan is an accomplished law enforcement vehicle modeler and brought some of his creations to the GCPOMS show. He enjoys building them from blank kits and painting his vehicles in the proper color scheme with the correct emergency gear when he can get it. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

to clothing, souvenirs and what not. This is a lot more than just a badge and patch show," said.

Friends of the CPD Mounted Police brought a unit challenge coin and a variety of clothing with the unit logo on it. The civilian organization raises funds to help defray some of the costs of maintaining the horses, such as feed, hay and veterinary care.

Founded in 1911, the Mounted Police presently has eight horse and officer teams whose day-to-day duties are mostly picturesque and ceremonial. However, as part of the Traffic Department, mounted officers are most often heavily involved in crowd control for parades, street fairs, sporting events and other events that draw large crowds.

Cleveland police Sergeant Tom Ross and his wife head up the Officer Shane Bartek Memorial Fund and sold challenge coins to raise money. The coins cost \$10 each.

"We're raising money to build a new memorial post at the Fourth District Police Memorial at the corner of McKinley and Rocky River Drive. We've run out of room on the posts, so we need a new one to honor Officer Bartek. We want to do it right," Ross said.

He explained that while he didn't know Officer Bartek personally, he worked in the Fourth District, the same one he works in. "I've been a Cleveland cop for 24 years. This memorial means the world to me. If we don't do it, who will? The city won't contribute anything toward it," he said.

Officer Bartek was off-duty on December 31, 2021 and in his personal vehicle when a person tried to carjack him. He fought back but the perpetrator shot him in the back as they struggled. He was the last CPD officer to die on duty.

The Cleveland Police Explorers sold a variety of collectibles and gifts to raise money for their post to help cover costs. They offered everything from stuffed police dogs to candy bars and Post No. 7 patches, all at very reasonable prices.

According one of the post advisors, Explorers have to pass a ten week academy for basic training, then meet weekly to develop advanced skills. They often work crowd control at special events, as well as other perform duties.

Members of the Cleveland Police Athletic League (PAL) had a table offering CPD Fourth District challenge coins to raise money for a new roof on the gymnasium used for PAL activities in the district. It was manned by two officers who volunteer their time to work with young athletes enrolled in the PAL program.

"The gym needs a new roof. No one will pay for it, so we are paying for it on our own. We're selling our Fourth District coin to raise money for the roof. We're doing it for the kids," said one officer.

Volunteers from the Cleveland Police Museum gift shop were on hand selling a wide variety of CPD-related clothing and caps, including tees, sweatshirts and polo shirts.

**Cleveland table talk** ...John Christmann, host of the Northern Kentucky-Cincinnati



(Top) Here is Roy Cavan's creation of a 2022 Ford Explorer patrol unit from the Ohio State Highway Patrol with the familiar winged wheel door decal. (Bottom) This is Cavan's 2022 Police Explorer canine unit from the Cleveland Police Department. He also showed others. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*









(Left) Actors who have portrayed Sheriff Buford Pusser in movies wore this replica of his official badge. He served from 1964 to 1970. (Right) Sheriff Pusser poses in front of his McNairy County Sheriff's Department patrol car in the 1960s. He rarely wore a uniform or carried a gun. *Matt Wyrick photograph*

century, along with its predecessors the NWMP and RNWMP, and many images portraying Mounties have graced everything from brick-a-brak to toothpick holders to t-shirts. I don't know the legal status of all these manufactured items and the RCMP pursues legal action of trademark infringement, unless items are distasteful or bring the force into disrepute, but I do know that there are items on the market that do have the RCMP's legal stamp of approval and are marketed in this regard. I trust that other readers of *PCNEWS* may have already responded, but the above is hopefully of some usefulness. A neat patch but certainly unofficial. DEAN MARIO (PO Box 342- Station Main, Saskatoon SK S7K 3L3, Canada)

### Buford Pusser Badges Acquired

Over the years I became an avid collector of law enforcement patches, badges, uniforms and history. I have had the privilege of acquiring some really old, neat things. Recently, I was made aware of a Buford Pusser collection being sold. There were quite a bit of old and neat items bought by collectors worldwide. Everything from photographs to license plates to watches and signs. However, I was only able to afford a couple things from that collection. I present to you the real and authentic Pusser badge collection, as well as the original badge that was authorized to be worn by the actors who played Pusser in the original *Walking Tall* movies. The two added patches are not from the original collection, but generic patches worn by McNairy County in the late 1960s and early 1970s until they went to the county-shaped tan and green patch in the mid to late 1970s. MATT WYRICK (7620 Bursleson Road, Knoxville TN 37920)

*Matt Wyrick is a dedicated Tennessee law enforcement insignia collector. He showed segments of his collection at the recent National Police Collectors Show in Gatlinburg, Tenn. EDITOR*

### Brown Honors Police Commissioner

John H. Overall was born in Saint Charles County, Mo. in 1845 and died in New York in 1909. In 1889, he was appointed by the Honorable David H. Francis, then elected governor of the state of Missouri to accept the presidency of the Police Board of Saint Louis. He held this position for four years and distinguished himself as an upright and efficient officer, maintaining a high standard of discipline in the force. His badge was made of coin silver and has a T-bar clasp. Retired Baltimore police Sergeant Robert Fischer gave me this badge 20 years ago. Special thanks to Lisa Fazsl-Riley for her assistance in locating a photo. DAVID W. BROWN (6308 S. Hunters Trail, Springfield MO 65810)

### Australians Bid Holden Adieu

Greetings from Down Under from a *PCNEWS* fan and collector of Australian and New Zealand police items. I thought readers interested in police car history would be interested to know that one of the longtime workhorse patrol cars in Australia and New Zealand, the Australian-made Holden Commodore, is no longer being built, like the Ford Crown Victoria in the USA, and is being retired by many departments. Just like the Crown Victoria, which ended production in 2011 and the Holden in 2020, many departments continued to drive these cars. Perhaps



(Left) Missouri Governor David Francis appointed John H. Overall as president of the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Board in 1889. He served with honor and distinction. (Right) As president, Overall became the commissioner of the department. This badge is coin silver. *David W. Brown Collection*



The Holden Commodore was a workhorse patrol vehicle in Australia and New Zealand for years. It was built by GMC in Australia. Although production ended in 2020, some agencies are still driving them, although many have been retired. This NZP unit is in a museum. *Southward Museum photograph*

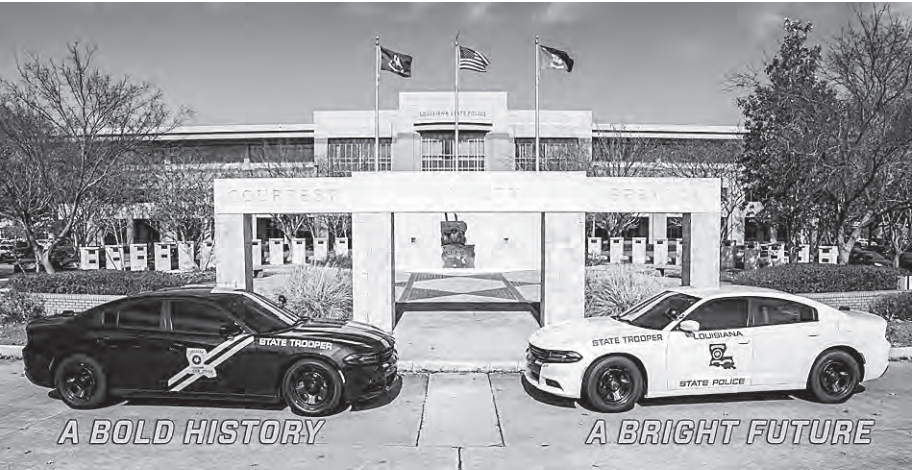
some still do. They have pretty much gone out of service here in Australia and New Zealand. Over in New Zealand, their police force has arranged for the last four Commodore SVG Highway Patrol units to be given to car museums in the country. The Southward Car Museum in Paraparamu already has one and museums in Tarananaki, Kapitti, Dunedin and Wanaka are getting them soon. It's tops that these cars will always be remembered and people will get to see them for years to come! LAURA WILSON (Western Australia Police Headquarters, 2 Adelaide Terrace, East Perth W.A. 6004, Australia)

### LSP Heritage Unit Debuts

The Louisiana State Police is an organization with an incredibly rich history. Our motto, "Courtesy, Loyalty, Service," has given us direction and inspiration over the last 87 years. Since 1936, our patrol units have changed in type and color over the years. Motorcycles were exclusively used as a patrol unit until 1939. Currently, our white units with red letters have gained fame across the nation as a Louisiana State Police unit. However, for a brief moment in time, our units were navy blue with gold lettering. In 1989, during Governor Buddy Roemer and Colonel Marion Flories' administration, our patrol units took on a new look. They were navy blue, matching the LSP uniform. Two gold stripes were placed on the side on the unit, symbolizing highway centerlines. Some of the first units to receive the new look were 18 Ford Mustangs. The Mustangs were purchased with seized proceeds from drug investigations at the cost of \$11,300 per car. They were equipped with five-liter 302 cubic inch fuel-injected engines and were chosen for their quick acceleration. They went from 0 to 60 mph in 8.6 seconds, as compared to the majority of Chevrolet Caprices in our fleet that took 12.4 seconds to reach 60 mph. In 1992, under Governor Edwin Edwards' administration, the LSP reverted back to the traditional white units with red lettering. Slight modifications were made over the course of several years to what you see today as a Louisiana State Police unit. As the men and women of this organization prepare for the future, we must reflect on the legacy and heritage left by those who preceded us, the LSP is proud to showcase our new heritage unit with a color scheme reminiscent of the patrol units from the late 1980s to the early 1990s. This Dodge Charger has been refurbished from our existing fleet and will be used at recruiting and other community events across the state to help share the story of our past. ROSS BRENNAN, Trooper First Class, Public Affairs Officer (Louisiana State Police Troop C, 4047 W. Park Avenue, Gray LA 70359)

### Cleveland Host Thanks Collectors

On behalf of the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society, we would like to thank everyone for the great support of the Cleveland Police Collectors Show. GCPOMS is keeping its promise to never forget our fallen heroes, and this show, which is free and open to the public, is part of the mission of creating activities where the public, police and their families can engage in a law enforcement-related activity. Therefore, this show will always be open to the public without restriction. The ballroom space was filled to capacity with 37 tables. We exceeded expectations with at least 122 counted walk-ins. We were overwhelmed with positive comments. A fortuitous late cancellation allowed us to accommodate three last minute tableholders. As we were at the maximum number of tables, please remember to make reservations



Louisiana State Police introduced a heritage unit (left) early this year. It's a Dodge Charger outfitted in the colors and marking scheme the agency used in the late 1890s to the early 1990s. Since then, the agency has returned to their longstanding white and red vehicles *Louisiana State Police photograph*





This purported Arizona Commercial Interdiction Unit emblem is a fake. No such unit exists. The bogus insignia is made on PVC material and looks real, but it is not. Paul Swietek, a member of the DPS Executive Officer Adjunct Staff in Phoenix confirmed it is a third party novelty. *Paul Swietek photograph*

## Letters To The Editor ...Continued

early to ensure you have a table in 2024. If there is enough interest, we will be able to expand into the full ballroom and accommodate 60-plus tables.  
Thank you again. Stay safe. Stay well.  
TONY GORSEK (3171 W. 162nd Street, Cleveland OH 44111)

## Fake Arizona DPS Marketed

I have the following information on a fake patch being sold on eBay as a warning to other collectors. Please feel free to distribute to any collectors you know.  
The attached image is of an alleged Arizona State Troopers Commercial Interdiction Unit patch being sold by various sellers on eBay. The patch is made on PVC material.  
I have confirmed with the chief of staff for the department’s Commercial Enforcement Division that this patch is most certainly not legitimate in any way. There is no unit titled “Commercial Interdiction Unit” within the State Troopers.  
Collectors should consider this patch to be an unofficial third-party novelty.  
In early 2022, the State Troopers and the Department of Transportation Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division (ADOT) were merged together as a joint operating task force at the direction of the Governor. The state troopers oversee management of this task force.  
No uniform patches and no special patches were made to identify the task force. Troopers continue to wear their standard patches and the ADOT officers continue to wear their agency’s standard patches.  
PAUL SWIETEK, Executive Officers Adjunct Staff (Arizona Department of Public Safety State Troopers, PO Box 6638-MD 1205, Phoenix AZ 85005-6638)

## Kalin Family Thanks PCNEWS

You reported on the death of Mick Kalin, a Chicago area collector in your last issue. You wrote an amazing story. It captured everything he was. I know Mick would be thrilled.  
Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. There’s not a day that goes by we don’t think about him and even laugh at some of things he said and did. I hope he knows how much he’s missed.  
THE FAMILY OF MICK KALIN



Retired Phoenix police Captain Carroll Cooley, 78, died on May 29. It was his arrest of Ernesto Miranda in 1963 resulted in the requirement that criminal suspects be read their constitutional rights against self-incrimination and right to counsel, the 1966 Miranda Decision. *Contributed photograph*

## Host Unable To Attend Show

I organized a patch show on April 29 in North Myrtle Beach. S.C., but did not get to attend my own show. I had a mild stroke the day before the show and spent the weekend in the hospital. I am getting back to being close to normal, still dragging my left leg if I get lazy. I have to concentrate on picking it up as I walk.  
My wife, Kathy, and a friend from my pool team stepped in and took on the show. Leonard Hanham was in town a day early, and he pitched in and helped out.  
Tableholders were Mike Inken, Bob Fry, Don Woolard, Russell Penka, Jim Aitken, Bill Burks and Leonard Hanham.  
Other attendees were Erik Carter, Barry Weinstein, Nick High, Even Nabb, Eric Seene, Greg Speakes, Joe Speakes, Rusty Darnell, Joe White, Gary Pence, Bryan Barbour and Virginia Ghent.  
I did manage to do a little bit of trading via texts and pictures.  
Some miscommunication between my church and me resulted in us sharing the hall with the annual church rummage sale setting up for the following week. No one had informed me they like to set up a week early.  
All in all, everyone seemed happy to attend.  
I will host the North Myrtle Beach show again next year. I was really looking forward to meeting some of the South Carolina collectors. I have done a lot of trading by mail with them but have not met them in person.  
LOREN FINCH (721 Prestbury Drive, Conway SC 29526)

## Miranda Decision Officer Deceased

I have attached information on the recent death of Phoenix police Officer Carroll Cooley. He was the officer behind the Miranda warning.  
Collectors will be interested because in his death because he is very well known here in Arizona and often gave out autographed Miranda warning cards. He attended the National Police Collectors Show in Phoenix in 2013:  
Retired Phoenix Police Captain Carroll Cooley, the arresting officer in the landmark case partially responsible for the Supreme Court’s Miranda rights ruling that requires officers to be read suspects their rights, has died, department officials confirmed. He was 87.  
Phoenix police said in a brief statement that that Cooley died on May 29 after an unspecified illness, nor was there information about services or survivors.  
On March 13, 1963, Cooley arrested Ernesto Miranda in the kidnap and rape of an 19-year-old Phoenix woman. Miranda was eventually convicted based on his handwritten confession and sentenced to 20 to 30 years in prison.  
Miranda appealed, and the case eventually went on the U.S. Supreme Court, which issued a ruling in 1966 overturning the conviction, saying that suspects should be advised of their constitutional rights against self-incrimination and to an attorney before questioning.  
That decision, along with other similar cases that were bundled together, led to the so-called Miranda rights or Miranda warning, which is familiar to anyone who has watched a police procedural drama on television.  
Cooley retired from the police department in 1978.  
He also volunteered at the Phoenix Police Museum where in 2013 he recounted his story before a 50th anniversary display about the Miranda arrest.  
MIKE LUCAS (PO Box 5317, Mesa AZ 85211)

# Collecting Memories

By Dennis Beyer, Staff Writer

NAPLES, Fla – When I first started my blog, I did a post in May 2008, “Oldies But Goodies.” I focused on a badge that was part of the second generation of Newark, N.J. police badges, introduced in 1865. This design was used up to 1885.  
I didn’t give the badge the story it deserved in my original article. Pretty much, I just said, “It was old and from Newark, N.J.” What an understatement!  
Now, I possess three of these rare treasures, and I certainly know how valuable they are. While there is monetary worth, there is also historical and sentimental value that make these beauties priceless.  
In addition the “newbie,” Number 14, I also have the two other badges.  
Number “1640” was the first of this edition that I collected. It was obtained over 50 years



(Top) Of all three second issue Newark badges that Dennis Beyer owns, “14” is in the best condition. (Left) Newark “52” is not quite as good but nevertheless is presentable. It was worn from 1865 to 1885. (Right) It took Beyer 60 years to get his first one, “1640.” *Dennis Beyer photographs*



ago. It has a blemish at the center that impacts the coloring. Everything else is fine.  
The second badge is Number “52.” No blemish on this one.  
Note how both badge numbers are stamped into the lower panel and just how high the numbers went during their 20-year period of service.  
The newest addition, Number “14,” is in the best condition of the three items that I have. Observe how the number is presented. It is a little different than the first two badges. The numbers are shown in black enamel fill on a separate panel affixed to the bottom of the badge. Apparently, this method of numbering was discontinued rather quickly.  
The general appearance of Number “14” is quite awesome. It is two and one-half inches by two inches. “POLICE” is set from the rear with impressive depth and resolution. This is the only word on this shield.  
In the center, using a large area of the front, is the identifier for Newark, the city seal. The seal tells you in an instant where this badge is from. This is true even today, although the size of seal is now smaller. The hand holding a hammer at the very top of the seal is what to look for when identifying a Newark police badge.  
I consider myself very fortunate to have acquired three of these second edition Newark shields for my collection. It only took 60 years to obtain them all.  
I have placed these badges under glass in a fine oak case that is definitely double-locked.  
I see them in my den daily. When it gets cold here in Naples, these rare antiques generate a little heat to help me nice and warm.  
DENNIS BEYER (7959 Valentina Court, Naples FL 34114)



(Left) The not easy to obtain Fire Department of New York Auxiliary emblem from the 1950s to the 1990s. It’s the same shape, colors and design as the FDNY emblem. (Right) A slot machine confiscated by Nassau County PD during a gambling house raid was displayed during Family Day. *Eric Wollman photograph*

# New York Minute

By Eric Wollman, Senior Staff Writer

NEW YORK, N.Y. – While many readers of this column are familiar with the New York Police Department Auxiliary Police, those knowledgeable about the Fire Department of New York Auxiliary Fire Service are few and far between.  
I have shown a picture of a FDNY Auxiliary fire patch, which is rarely seen at shows or other collector events.  
This volunteer operation was a hybrid volunteer firefighting and fire police combination. They were active in the 1950s and dissolved in the 1990s with limited membership. After years of research, I finally located their patch and a former member.

**Nassau County Family Day** In May, the Nassau County Police Department held its annual Family Day for new members, their families and friends. It was held at the new



A current Nassau County Police Department Highway Patrol car. It’s a white four door with familiar Nassau County Police Department orange and blue markings. The agency shoulder patch is shown on the front door. “HIGHWAY PATROL” is prominently shown. *Eric Wollman photograph*



An orchestra and pipes and drums corps welcomed visitors to the annual Nassau County Police Department Family Day at the NCPD Academy in Garden City in May. The event is an open house featuring static vehicle displays and live demonstrations, including one by the K9 Unit. *Eric Wollman photograph*



The Nassau County Police Department Highway Patrol Motorcycle Platoon featured their transport trailer pulled by a full size pickup truck at Family Day. The Motorcycle Platoon provides an additional resource for traffic enforcement, escort duty and other assigned duties. *Eric Wollman photograph*

Nassau County Academy, which opened in October 2021. The event was held on a rainy Saturday, as it was last year, too.  
Despite the rain, the event was held indoors. Everyone stayed mainly dry and the hot dogs and hamburgers served cooked on the grill tasted fine.  
The NCPD had outdoor displays of many current and historic and retired police vehicles. On display outside were several Highway Patrol vans and trailers, police cars and their current fleet.  
There were many demonstrations inside the cavernous gymnasium. There were great demonstrations by their Canine Unit and music was provided by their band.  
On display was an old slot machine taken during a raid. Back then, the cost of this game of chance was ten cents. Who, at the time, would have predicted that gambling would be open, legal and above board today? And, that state and local governments would rely on gambling money to keep them afloat?  
Somehow, a replica of the *Adam-12*, the famous Los Angeles Police Department radio car, sneaked onto the grounds and brought some nostalgia to the day.  
The NCPD was established in 1925, hoping to consolidate and streamline the scattered system of constables, town and village police departments. While some of these secondary agencies survive to this day, most police service is provided by the NCPD. The NCPD Auxiliary Police serve as an adjunct of the department as well.  
Stay safe, wear your vest and keep reading *PCNEWS*.  
ERIC WOLLMAN (2209 East 28 Street, New York NY 11229)



## California Police Historian

The Official Publication of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society  
Mike Bondarenko, Editor

## CLEHS News Updates

**2023 Ripon Show Announced** The 2023 Ripon Public Safety Collectors Show will be held on Saturday, October 7 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Ripon Community Center, 334 Fourth Street, Ripon.  
The show is a fundraiser for the California Law Enforcement Historical Society, Concerns of Police Survivors and the Ripon Volunteers In Police Service. It is sponsored by the CLEHS. Hosts are Gary Hoving, Mike McCarthy and Scott Welch.  
There are 50 eight-foot available for \$40 each. Reserve your table early as the show sells out every year. Free admission.  
To reserve a table online, go to the Ripon Public Safety Collectors Show tab on the CLEHS Web site, CalPoliceHistory.Com, and follow the reservation and payment instructions.  
If you wish to make payment by check, please contact Gary Hoving, California Law Enforcement Historical Society, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875 or email him by following the link on the site.  
*Submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Brian Smith*

**New Look Mobile Museum** The mobile CLEHS Police Museum will have an impressive new look next time it hits the road for another exhibition.  
“After about 20 hours of labor, we removed the decal lettering on the museum trailer and prepared it for an update,” President Gary Hoving said.  
A full new look graphic wrap was installed by a local vendor on the Central Coast. It cost



Volunteers spent 20 hours removing these graphics and markings from the mobile California Police Museum, preparing it for new wrap-around color graphics. The project to apply new graphics as well as install a set of new tires cost about \$2500. Donations to defray the cost are accepted. *CLEHS photograph*



\$2000.

“The new design will update our museum, which has been in service for nearly 20 years.,” Hoving said

The awesome improvements debuted at the National Police Collectors Show in San Bernardino.

New tires were also purchased and installed. The set cost \$500.

President Hoving asked members for financial assistance to help pay for the museum update and tires. The total project cost was \$2500.

*Submitted by President Gary Hoving*

**Top Ten Facebook Contributors** President Gary Hoving has announced the top ten contributors to the Friends of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society Facebook page for the past year.

Mark Bray, who specializes in Fresno County, was the top contributor, followed by Dennis Shell, Howard Johnson and Randy Grago.

Rounding out the top ten were Jess Tovar, Donald Mitchell II, Dennis Lovejoy, Friends of the Placer County Sheriff’s Office and Lester Chew.

Each contributor received a colorful Contributor Award of Excellence award.

**Mobile Museum Exhibit Scheduled** The traveling California Police Museum will be on display at the San Luis Obispo Sheriff’s Family Day on Saturday, September 9 beginning at noon. The event is held at Madonna Meadows adjacent to the Madonna Inn just off Highway 101 in San Luis Obispo.

President Gary Hoving is looking for volunteers to staff the museum.

Family Day is hosted by Sheriff Ian Parkinson, who is a CLEHS member, and the Sheriff’s Advisory Foundation. It is held annually in September.

There will be demonstrations and exhibits from the county Canine Unit, Sheriff’s Posse, Bomb Squad, Crime Prevention Unit, SWAT and Search and Rescue. Use of the Jaws of Life is among the scheduled demonstrations. There will be a landing and take off by a California Highway Patrol helicopter.

Admission to Family Day is free. T-shirts, hot dogs and Bike Raffle tickets will be given away to children under 12 while supplies last.

The event returned last year following a two-year absence due to the pandemic.

*Submitted by President Gary Hoving*

**California Memorabilia Donations Wanted** Do you have California law enforcement memorabilia that you are not sure what to do with? The California Police Museum would be honored to accept and preserve your items.

Memorabilia can be mailed to: Gary Hoving, President, California Law Enforcement Historical Society, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875.

CLEHS is a registered 501(3)(c) non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible.

Questions about making a donation can be directed to President Hoving. His contact information is can be found on the CLEHS Web site, CalPoliceHistory.Com

*Submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Brian Smith*

**Obsolete Ridgecrest Insignia Donated** CLEHS recently received a donation of an old emblem and two obsolete badges from a former Ridgecrest police officer, President Gary Hoving announced.

“He provided a patrolman badge, cap piece and an older patch used during his career. We greatly appreciate the generosity of the donor, who would like to remain anonymous,” President Hoving said.

The donated shirt badge is a well worn eagle-topped shield with a plain state seal in the center. It appears it was two-tone silver and gold, but the finish has worn off. The legends are “PATROLMAN/ RIDGECREST/ POLICE/ 15” and shown on banners. The letters and numbers were once black but are also badly worn.

The hat shield is a typical California style with spread wings at the top. It is much better condition than the breast badge. It is gold-on-silver and has full color state seal in the center. “RIDGECREST” appears above the seal and “POLICE” beneath it on banners. The legends are bright blue.

The shoulder patch is Washington state-style. It is black-on-yellow with black borders. It has a colorful custom city seal bordered in gold with a blue banner. The legends appear on gold ring borders in black and read, “CITYOF RIDGECREST CALIF.” above the seal and



Recent donations to CLEHS from a former Ridgecrest PD officer are (left) a well-worn eagle-topped patrolman’s shield, (top) obsolete Ridgecrest police shoulder patch and (bottom) an old hat shield in very good condition. CLEHS actively solicits gifts to the California Police Museum. *CLEHS photographs*

“KEY TO NEW HORIZONS” on the blue banner beneath it, all in black letters.

*Submitted by President Gary Hoving*

**New Museum Donation Box** Not only is there a new look on the outside of the California Police Museum trailer, but there is a new look inside as well. It’s a new donations “box.”

President Gary Hoving announced a 1970s model Bell helmet worn by a deputy sheriff on the Central Coast was transformed into a donation box in time for the National Police Collectors Show where the museum was on display.

“The new box is more in keeping with our museum theme,” he said.

President Hoving invited everyone to step into the museum in San Bernardino and “test drive the donation box!”

*Submitted by President Gary Hoving*

**SLO Show Sold Out** With only a month until the annual San Luis Obispo Police Memorabilia Show on July 29, the show is now sold out, according to Secretary-Treasurer Brian Smith.

The show will take place from 9 am to 1 pm at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 800 Grand Avenue.

Admission is free but donations to CLEHS are gratefully appreciated.

Awards will be presented for the best displays.

Please see the CLEHS Web site or the Friends of the LEHS Facebook page for late show updates.

The CLEHS will hold the annual corporation meeting the night before the show and all members are welcome to attend. In addition, we will be hosting a Grand Opening-Open House directly following the corporation meeting. All are welcome to attend and view our new corporate office.

The new office is progressing nicely, but we still have several needs. High on this list is updated monitors, computer printers, table and stools for workstations. Those who donate to the project will be added to the perpetual donor’s plaque. Thank you in advance for your support.

*Submitted by President Gary Hoving*

**Lindsay Announces Car Show Details** Longtime CLEHS member Darryl Lindsay will once again host the 33rd Annual Emergency Vehicle Display Show on Saturday, October 7 from 8 am to 3 pm at the Ripon Community Center and Park in Ripon. He recently announced the 2023 event details.

The show is a very pro-public safety family event. You will see emergency vehicles of all types, including police, fire, ambulance and military. All proceeds will be donated to the Ripon Police Volunteers and Explorers, the Menlo Park Police Cadet Unit, the California Law Enforcement Historical Society and the CHP Historical Museum. Spectators are admitted free.

Vehicle Entry: Public safety agency vehicles are free and privately-owned veicles are \$40 for pre-registration or \$45 on the day of the show. This show is open to any current or vintage vehicle, including police, CHP, public relations-CSO-volunteer vehicles, mobile command, SWAT, motorcycle, fire trucks, ambulances, hearses, security, tow trucks and military vehicles. Agency-owned vehicles of any year are permitted. Privately-owned vehicles must be at least 20 years old, unless they are unmarked and unequipped for the “Daily Driver” class. Contact us if you need further information. All vehicles entering the show must arrive by 9:30 am.

Recruitment Booth: Any public safety, military or non-governmental (law enforcement or military-related) agency is welcome to set up a recruitment booth, but a marked display vehicle is required. Public and military agencies are free; private businesses are \$50.

Car Swap Meet: Spaces are available. All items must be hobby-related only. The cost is \$50 per space.

Cruise, Parade and Other Information: Only Friday, October 6 pm, there will be a cruise escorted by the Ripon Police starting from the Ripon Community Center. On October, October 7 at 1 pm, there will be a slow speed “Code 3” parade escorted by the Ripon Police. Only vehicles registered in the show may participate in the event. The Ripon Police Department oversees the cruise and the parade.

We thank the Ripon Police Department, Ripon Police Volunteers and Explorers, Menlo Park Police Department, Menlo Park Police Officers Association, Menlo Park Police Foundation, California Law Enforcement Historical Society, Walnut Creek Police Reserve Captain Chris Flath and the Walnut Creek Reserve Police Officers Association, retired Menlo Park Police Chief Bruce Cumming, Kevin McLaughlin and family, Jeff and Mavis Leathley, Pete and Diane Onorato, Ernie Zebal, Sean and Bernice McDonough and the many other individuals who sponsor and support our event. We also recognize and thank our many show volunteers. Thank you all for supporting our event.

Further information or an entry form, please contact Event Coordinator Darryl M. Lindsay on (650) 743-4486 or email [inpursuitmppd@yahoo.com](mailto:inpursuitmppd@yahoo.com). Visit our Facebook page under the show title or see our Web site at [RiponMenloParkPoliceCarsShow.Com](http://RiponMenloParkPoliceCarsShow.Com).

Thank you again for your support.

*Submitted by Darryl Lindsay*

**California Museum At National Show** The California Police Museum traveled about 250 miles to attend the National Police Collectors Show in San Bernardino. The new museum graphics were displayed and well received with many positive comments.

One of our rotating exhibits included a collection of Palos Verdes Estates police insignia donated by Bill Woosley. This collection includes the very first police badge of the agency, which was jeweler-made of bronze.

Additionally, an AR rifle was added to the exhibit with an explanation that the “AR” in



Collectors and visitors alike raved over the beautiful new graphics on the California Police Museum on display at the National Police Collectors Show in San Bernardino. The new look is highlighted by a large seven point star badge on a stunning unfurled United States flag. *CLEHS photograph*





*Pawn Stars* star Mark Hall-Patton poses with Crystal Hoving (left) and other volunteer docents at the National Police Collectors Show in San Bernardino. The beautiful new look mobile California Police Museum was on display and was a big, big hit with collectors and visitors alike. *Gary Hoving photograph*

the name actually represents manufacturer's name, ArmaLite, and not assault rifle. The artifact notation also notes the widespread adoption by law enforcement as a regular patrol weapon following the February 28, 1997 North Hollywood Bank of America shootout.

Police Museum attendance during the show saw 223 visitors during the three days.

The museum docents for the event included Mike Howell (retired San Bernardino Sheriffs Department captain), Jana Holman Howell (current San Bernardino County Sheriffs Department), Debby Holman (retired San Bernardino County Sheriffs supervising dispatcher) and Crystal Hoving (retired San Luis Obispo Sheriffs Administrative Service Officer), Darryl Lindsay (retired Menlo Park dispatcher) and Kelly Mayfield (former Fresno County sheriffs deputy). Several others had offered their time to assist but were canceled due to a sufficient number of volunteers.

A big thank you for Dennis Houser and his team from the San Bernardino Police Historical Society for taking on such a monumental task of hosting a National Show.

*Submitted by President Gary Hoving*

**2023 CLEHS Members Group Photo** For the first time, the California Law Enforcement Historical Society created a group photograph of members. Taking the opportunity of a National Police Collectors Show in San Bernardino, the group assembled for a photo shoot in front of the California Police Museum.

While this clearly does not represent all of the society members, it is a nice grouping of about 41 members who were attending or displaying at the National Show.

Unfortunately, nearly a dozen members were unable to participate in the photo shoot. Some members did not have enough coverage for their table, others were enjoying lunch or the sheriff's helicopter and others simply did not hear about the opportunity. Regardless, this was a historic opportunity and should turn into a recurring tradition.

*Submitted by President Gary Hoving*

**April Virtual Collectors Show Recap** The CLEHS hosted the first virtual collectors show of the year on Saturday, April 15. At the end of the day, we received many compliments and support indicating that the event was a success and enjoyed by the virtual attendees.

There were 46 individual listings during the show offering a total of nearly 200 items for sale or trade. In addition, there were many postings of items wanted by the members.

Total sales for the day topped \$5500. While there is no fee for listing, most sellers were generous and donated about \$150. In addition, several new friends of the CLEHS Facebook page and four new dues-paying members were added.

There are many advantages to all participants of a virtual show. They are certainly cost effective and avoid high gas prices and hotel charges to attend. The preparation is minimal; all that is needed is a photograph to post an item. In addition, we generally reach a larger number of collectors who can participate from anywhere. The Friends of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society has just shy of 1000 members.

While any of our Facebook friends may purchase, only members of the CLEHS may post items for sale or trade. An interesting note is that CLEHS annual membership dues is \$40 which is the typical charge for a table at a single show, yet there are many other



San Luis Obispo County Sheriff Ian Parkinson will host Family Day on September 9. He is a CLEHS member. Demos and tent exhibits will be offered by the Canine Unit, Sheriff's Posse, Bomb Squad, Crime Prevention Unit, SWAT and Search and Rescue and a CHP helicopter. *CLEHS photograph*

benefits for membership. Please check us out at [CalPoliceHistory.Com](http://CalPoliceHistory.Com).

Hosting a virtual show is certainly not as labor intensive as a physical show, but it still takes a great deal of effort to sponsor.

Continuing the virtual show rests with the CLEHS membership and our Facebook friends. As long as these shows are supported, we are excited to continue to provide such a venue.

To all those who bought, sold, viewed or made donations, we are very appreciative and thank you.

*Submitted by President Gary Hoving*



The California Police Museum offers rotating exhibits and San Bernardino was no exception. In addition to a display of historic Palos Verdes Estates police insignia, there was this police patrol rifle. It was made by ArmaLite. ("AR" comes from the company name, not assault rifle.) *CLEHS photograph*

**Los Angeles Rangers** The Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department, which was founded in 1850, was the first professional police force in the Los Angeles area. The all-volunteer, Los Angeles-specific Los Angeles Rangers was formed in 1853 to assist the LASD. They were soon succeeded by the Los Angeles City Guards, another all-volunteer group. Neither force was deemed efficient and Los Angeles became known for violence, gambling and vice.



Forty-one members of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society gathered for a historic first-ever group photograph at 1 pm on Saturday, June 3 at the National Police Collectors Show in San Bernardino. About a dozen other members did not participate. President Gary Hoving organized the picture as

the hobby's annual convention visited Southern California for the fourth time since it was founded in Los Angeles in 1985. Hoving left open the possibility additional group photographs may be taken at other CLEHS events. (That's Tony Aleria taking five on the floor in front of the rest of the members...) *CLEHS photograph*





CLEHS member Stan Berry offered several rare and difficult to locate patches during the April Virtual Show, Waterford PD, Wasco PD (three different styles), Watsonville PD and Visalia PD. According to President Gary Hoving, sellers received about \$5500 during the online show. *CLEHS photograph*

## Brentwood Police Celebrate Anniversary

The City of Brentwood is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. The Police Department is joining in on the yearlong party with colorful, custom-designed insignia and specially-marked anniversary patrol units.

The shoulder patch is a larger, more rounded variation of the traditional CHP shape. It has a blue background and gold inner and outer black borders.

The center design is a large multi-pointed star with the United States flag in the center. Superimposed is the city anniversary logo, which shows "75TH" in large numerals at the top and "1948/ ANNIVERSARY/ 2023" in small letters on a bottom banner.

Two small gold stars on either side the of the design and a small walking bear complete the insignia.

The badge is a beautiful seven point custom star, gold for supervisors and silver for officers. Filigree is seen on each star point.

The anniversary logo is shown above a small Contra Costa County seal in the center design. Small United States (left) and state (right) flag banners appear next to the seal. Across the bottom is a panel that reads, "BRENTWOOD POLICE."

A small panel on the bottom star point shows the officer's badge number.

The anniversary patrol units are black and white with the anniversary patch shown diagonally above the rear tire superimposed over a front-to-rear large stripe bordered in white. "POLICE" is shown diagonally in large white block letters from the center of the rear door to the front fender. Above the stripe on the front fender is "BRENTWOOD" in small, cursive letters and "CELEBRATING 75 YEARS" beneath it on the doors in the same style. On the rear fender is "EMERGENCY/ 911."

According to a press release from Chief of Police Tim Herbert's office, the anniversary patch is not being sold to the public.

On January 21, the city hosted a 75th Anniversary Birthday Party at the Brentwood Community Center, complete with a birthday cake, balloons and refreshments.

Chief Herbert, who has 22 years service in Brentwood and 33 years of overall law enforcement experience, and other officers welcomed visitors to the police booth where he and other officers handed out goodie bags and BPD swag. There was also an informative historical display and one of the anniversary patrol units was parked outside so people could take pictures. A raffle for BPD patches, including the anniversary issue, was also



Brentwood police officers are wearing attractive custom-designed 75th anniversary insignia. (Left) The shoulder patch features the city anniversary logo. The legends read, "BRENTWOOD/ POLICE/ CA." (Right) The badge is a custom seven-pointed star. *Brentwood PD photographs*

held. Badges, patches, old equipment, historical photographs and other artifacts and memorabilia from the department's collection were featured.

Chief Herbert said BPD was formed the same year as the city incorporated, 1948, although the community had been policed by constables and deputy sheriffs since it was settled in the late 1800s.

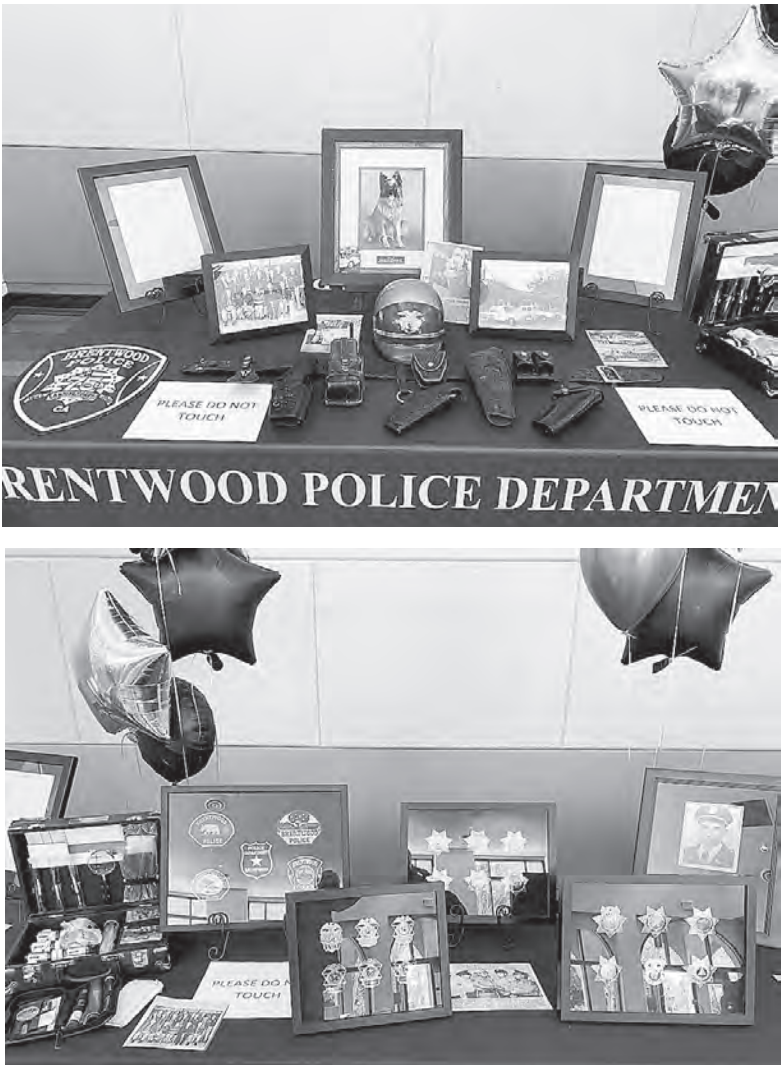
Today, the department has 72 sworn officers, 36 civilian employees and 20 volunteers who protect and serve about 65,000 people in a fast-growing city of 14 square miles. The



Displayed outside City Hall is one of two 75th anniversary patrol units currently being driven by the Brentwood Police Department. It features the anniversary patch and graphics including "CELEBRATING 75 YEARS." Both cars will be re-marked after the end of the year. *Brentwood PD photograph*



(Top) A circa 1915 San Diego special police badge promptly offered by Robert Jay sold for \$875 at the Virtual Show. It is excellent condition. (Bottom) Florida resident and CLEHS member Mark Pyne offered a Beverly Hills police badge and many other nice pieces. *CLEHS photograph*



Brentwood held a 75th anniversary birthday party on January 21. The police booth featured an outstanding historical exhibit. (Top) Vintage photographs, a helmet and old equipment were shown. (Bottom) With birthday balloons overhead, BPD showed its insignia history. *Brentwood PD photographs*





Jimmy Torre was among the most popular people of Brentwood, Calif. when he was shot and killed in his business place, Torre's Saloon and Ice House. His murder remains unsolved after more than 100 years. It is likely that Brentwood police may never solve it. *Brentwood PD photograph*

population has skyrocketed an incredible 287-percent from 23,302 in 2010 to 64,854 in 2022.

Brentwood is best known for agriculture, especially fruit, such as peaches, apricots, plums and cherries. It is also a leader in alternative energy sources and water conservation measures.

**Long unsolved murder** Brentwood holds the dubious distinction of being where one of the oldest unsolved murders in Northern California history took place.

It was shortly after 10 pm on Monday, December 13, 1915 when gunshots rang out in the quiet town of Brentwood.

Residents Jeff Barkley and professor C.A. Martin followed the sounds down a dusty road to Torre's Saloon and Ice House, which is now Sweeney's Bar and Grill.

Both men reported to the *San Francisco Chronicle* the following day that they found owner Jimmy Torre, an admired Brentwood resident, "lying in a pool of blood near an overturned table in the center of the barroom."

Constable James Schaefer reported that "a pair of glasses on a crumpled newspaper and a still-lighted pipe near the dead man's mouth made it appear he was surprised while reading."

The saloon was empty. There were no witnesses who may have seen the killer leave the building.

It's been 108 years since the most historic unsolved murder in Brentwood, which continues to beg the question, "Who killed Jimmy Torre?"

"This is the most historic unsolved murder in Brentwood," said East Contra Costa County historian Kathy Leighton. "People were just shocked because Jimmy Torre was a well-liked man who had no known enemies. He did so many good things for the community."

The *Byron Times* booster edition of 1910 described Torre as a man with "a heart almost as big as his body, and no worthy cause ever comes to him in vain," and as "a worthy citizen who is not afraid to do things that will aid his home town and the community."

If Torre was so well-liked, who would want him dead? Investigators quickly collected clues to guide their search for the murderer. According to reports, there were two empty cartridges for a Colt automatic .32 revolver found on the saloon floor.

According to Coroner C.L. Abbott's inquest, Torre died from two bullet wounds. The first struck his left arm, which was believed resting on a table, and passed through, entering his side and piercing spleen and liver before coming out on the opposite side of his body. It's believed Torre rose to fight his assailant, who fired again, with the second bullet fatally striking the right side of his chest.

Reports also indicate that the contents of the till, around \$190, were untouched and none of the liquor had been removed. Another report indicated there may have been other cash stolen. It was intended to pay laborers employed by a nearby pipeline.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported on December 15 that "the theory of robbery had been eliminated by police."

The *Byron Times* also ruled out robbery on December 17, reporting, "A burglar never shoots until cornered and a hold-up man always gives his victim a chance. Everything points conclusively to the fact that this midnight assassin ran into the saloon and deliberately opened fire without notice."

The night of Torre's murder, another clue was revealed. Austin Collis, who was returning from a visit to his mother, reported that at 10:20 pm, he saw a stranger going in the direction of Oakley, where he boarded a Santa Fe train. The suspect was described as about 35 years of age with a dark complexion, mustache and dark eyes."

Rumors swirled that this unidentified man might have been a member of the Mafia, as Torre reportedly received a letter from the Black Hand, an arm of the Mafia, a month prior to his murder. He ignored it.

The Black Hand extorted protection money from business owners of Italian decent, such as Torre, and threatened them with kidnapping, arson or murder, often of family members in Italy.

Many believe Torre had a premonition his life would be taken, as shortly before his death, he made a will dispensing much of his ranch and other property valued at approximately \$30,000. The will had been locked in a safety deposit box at the Bank of Brentwood.

When Torre was murdered, he was 52 years old and one of the most revered citizens of Brentwood. While his murder remains unsolved to this day, his memory is still very much alive.

According to Sweeney's Bar and Grill owner Peter Charitou, Torre never left and still looks over his old saloon. Locals believe his friendly ghost haunts it.

"We love Jimmy," said Charitou. "Sometimes at the end of the night, we'll see a man sitting at the end of the bar. He will smile, tip his cap and disappear. That's Jimmy."

*Submitted by Editor Mike R. Bondarenko, Brantwood Police Department and the East Contra Costa County Historical Society*

**LAPD Bans Flag** Los Angeles Police Chief Michael Moore, a 40-year department veteran, has banned display of the "Thin Blue Line" flag from LAPD headquarters and stations, as well as on officer uniforms and LAPD vehicles. He issued the department-wide order in mid-January. Chief Moore wrote that while he is not personally offended by flag, he acknowledged some city residents find it divisive.



This is what Port Harford, now Avila Beach, in San Luis Obispo County looked like in 1899 when San Diego County Deputy Sheriff Will J. Ward was killed by Bert Ross, who he was transporting by ship from his county to San Quentin Prison. Ross struck him repeatedly in the head. *CLEHS photograph*

## San Diego Deputy Sheriff Murdered In San Luis Obispo County In 1899

A San Diego deputy sheriff, Will J. Ward, was fatally injured during the escape of a prisoner while on board a steamer ship at Port Harford (Avila Beach area of San Luis Obispo County) on November 11, 1899.

Deputy Ward was transporting the prisoner from San Diego by ship to San Quentin Prison for burglary in San Diego County. As the ship approached the port, the prisoner caught the deputy off guard and struck him with several vicious blows to the head with a heavy water bottle.

The suspect jumped overboard in an attempt to gain freedom. However, he was recaptured from the water by Santa Barbara County Sheriff Stewart, who was on another ship docked at Port Harford.

Sheriff Ivins of San Luis Obispo and Sheriff Jennings of San Diego County met with Sheriff Stewart at Port Harford on November 15, 1899 to obtain facts surrounding the assault on the deputy.

Deputy Ward died several days after the assault. His remains were taken to Bowen's Undertaking Parlor, where they remained until the following Friday. The body was then sent home by steamer to San Diego, accompanied by grieving relatives, who watched daily at the bedside.

Coroner Nichols swore in the following jury to inquest the death of the deputy: J.W. Barnsberg, P.B. Perfumo, Walter Wood, L.M. McManus, A.J. Green and S.D. Ballou. The jury found that the deceased came to his death from exhaustion, the result of wounds to the head caused by some blunt instrument in the hands of another person.

The suspect, Bert Ross, was eventually convicted of the murder of Deputy Sheriff Ward. On May 23, 1900, Judge Unangst sentenced him to be "hanged by the neck until dead."

By 1899, executions were no longer conducted at the local level, as the state assumed this duty. Sheriff E.C. Ivins was ordered to transport Ross to San Quentin Prison. There, on July 26, 1900, Ross was hanged by the warden.

*Submitted by President Gary Hoving*

**Correction** The final paragraphs of Rick Uland's outstanding feature on San Francisco Police Patrol Specials were inadvertently omitted from the last *California Police Historian*. The missing text is shown below:

"I believe that the historical point for both SFPD and the S.F. Patrol Special Police is that the first officially recognized line of duty death of an SFPD Patrol Special police officer was that of Patrol Special Officer Theodore Canham in December 1909 and that death took place in the Marina District when Officer Canham was assigned to the North End Police Station.

"When Patrol Special Officer Alan Byard retires, he will be retiring from duty at the Northern Police Station (formerly the North End Police Station). I believe that in life there is no such thing as coincidences. And to that regard, the San Francisco Patrol Special Police of the SFPD will become just another footnote in history, along with many other historical footnotes in the history of San Francisco."

We apologize for the error.



A San Luis Obispo undersheriff badge, an eagle-topped shield, worn during the era when Deputy Will J. Ward was killed in the county while enroute to prison. He was born in San Diego. Ward's killer was sentenced to death and hanged at San Quentin State Prison after the state took over executions. *CLEHS photograph*





Retired Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department Lieutenants Al Ortiz (left) and Ed Godfrey (right) pose with piece of star-shaped carpet cut from the rug that once led to the door of the Sheriff's Office in the Hall of Justice in downtown Los Angeles. The building was damaged in 1994. *Contributed photograph*

## Preserved Los Angeles Sheriffs Department Rug Shown At National

For those who might not have noticed, I had a small rug within my display at the National Police Collectors Show in San Bernardino.

After the 1994 Earthquake, it was believed our Hall of Justice in downtown Los Angeles had sustained irreparable structural damage. It was immediately vacated and red tagged.

Several years later, after it was found to be sound and slated to be restored, I, along with other members of the Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department Historical Association, went on a recovery expedition. Armed with flashlights and trash bags, we commenced to rescue some artifacts for our museum. Fully loaded, we made our way past many important items that we did not have the resources to save and ultimately left them behind.

I made one last pass of the Sheriff's Office where Sheriffs Block and Baca were the last two to occupy it. The star-shaped design was woven into the ugly, industrial grade wall-to-wall carpet in front of the sheriff's door.

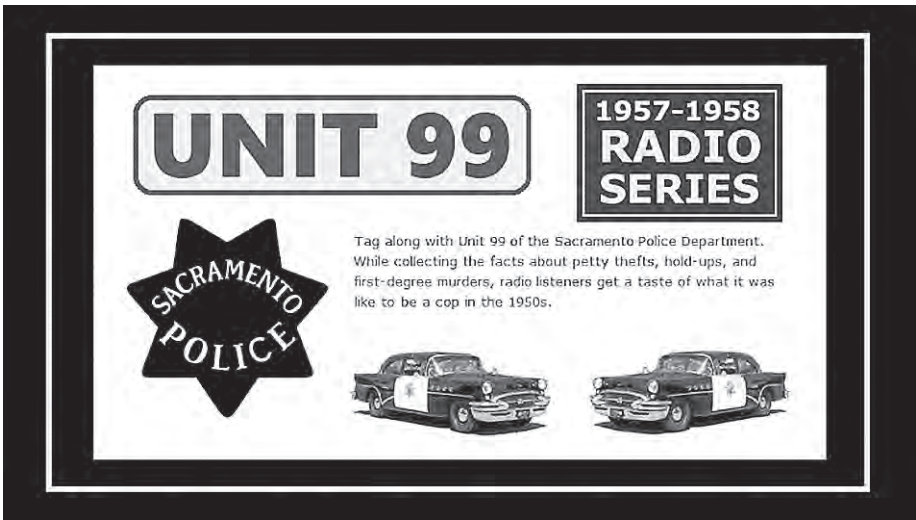
I can only imagine how many how important figures and others waiting to get their asses chewed crossed over that star. Determined not to let it get discarded as just a piece of used carpet, I cut it from the floor. Over the years, it started to unravel along its unfinished edges.

A week before the National, my good friend and former partner, Al Ortiz, came to visit my home museum. He was saddened to see how tattered the old star was and knew someone who could save it. He drove off with it.

To my surprise my friend and fellow lieutenant showed up in San Bernardino with that no longer tattered star made of carpet, most likely created by inmates, just in time to be part of my presentation.

Thank you, Al Ortiz, for helping preserve LASD history, even if it was part of an old rug.

*Submitted by Ed Godfrey*



"Unit 99" was a 1957 to 1958 true crime radio series featuring the Sacramento Police Department. It was hosted by Chief James B. Hicks and featured Sergeant Dan Meredith, who recorded actual police interactions with victims, witnesses, bystanders and criminals. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

## Historic Sacramento Police Radio Program "Unit 99"

"Unit 99" was a true crime series on the American Broadcasting Company national radio network in 1957 and 1958.

Weekly 30-minute professionally-produced broadcasts chronicled real cases handled by the Sacramento Police Department and Sergeant Dan Meredith.

Each episode was hosted by legendary Sacramento Chief of Police James B. Hicks, who served for 18 years from 1947 to 1965, the longest tenure in department history. Sergeant Meredith acted as narrator. Actors portrayed the characters.

Possibly envisioned by ABC as a successor to the popular radio series "Dragnet," which aired from 1949 to 1957 on the rival National Broadcasting Company radio network, Sergeant Meredith carried a tape recorder with him on patrol. He recorded interactions patrol officers had with victims, witnesses and criminals, as well as fellow officers at the police station. He also appeared on some broadcasts.

While the encounters were dramatized for radio, each was authentic and reflected a real case. It was an innovative concept for the '50s when most crime programs were fiction.

"Tag along with Unit 99 of the Sacramento Police Department on patrol. Hear Sergeant Dan Meredith collect all the facts about petty thefts, hold-ups and first degree murders..." read an on air promotional announcement. Perhaps "all the facts" was designed to remind listeners of "Dragnet" Sergeant Joe Friday's memorable line, "Just the facts. Ma'am?"

"Unit 99" gave listeners an authentic glimpse of what it was like being a Sacramento cop in the 1950s. It was strongly supported by the police department. Chief Hicks was the host. It was reality TV on radio!

Chief Hicks began his Sacramento police career in 1937, rose to the rank of chief and



Joseph Rooney (left), the incoming Sacramento police chief, is congratulated by outgoing longtime chief James B. Hicks (right) and accepts his badge. Rooney was Hick's top assistant for years and his handpicked successor. The chief took office in 1965 and served until 1969. *Contributed photograph*

retired in 1965. In all, he had a 28-year career in California's capital city.

It was unknown whether the concept for "Unit 99" originated in the police department or the network. However, it seems like ABC Radio wanted to compete for true crime listeners with NBC Radio after the network canceled "Dragnet" in September 1957. "Unit 99" debuted a month before "Dragnet" went off the air.

Sadly, as television became more and more popular and more and more families gathered around a TV set rather than a living room console radio, network radio broadcasts diminished in listenership and advertiser revenue declined. "Unit 99" was canceled following the June 13, 1958 broadcast.

California Police Historian readers can listen to full length, digital quality "Unit 99" broadcasts for free on old time radio and TV aficionado David Von Pein's You Tube "Old Time Radio Channel," an incredible collection of vintage radio broadcasts.

The Mooresville, Ind. audiophile's primary interest is TV and radio broadcasts that carried the horrific, earth-shattering news that President John F. Kennedy had been assassinated in downtown Dallas on November 22, 1963. The Kennedy collection can be found on his "JFK Channel."

Von Pein's Old Time Radio Show channel offers "Unit 99" There is no cost to listen online, but recording is prohibited. He also sells audio CD compilations of the most popular shows at very reasonable prices.

The site contains a 16-minute sample of some of the most popular episodes, as well as complete broadcasts. Go to [Old-Time-Radio-Shows.Blogspot.Com/2013/02/Unit-99.HTML](http://Old-Time-Radio-Shows.Blogspot.Com/2013/02/Unit-99.HTML) to listen.

I listened to two full episodes and enjoyed them both. The audio quality is very impressive. The show is formatted into two or three segments. Each details a particular crime and is narrated by Sergeant Meredith. Best of all, there are no annoying commercials or pop-ups.

"Night Watch" Von Pein's Old Time Radio Shows also carries episodes of "Night Watch," which aired from 1954 to 1955. It's also a true crime program from Southern California and focuses on the Culver City Police Department. It was produced by Donn Reed, popular Los Angeles radio personality. It was aired locally on KNX Radio and Columbia Broadcasting Company network radio stations nationwide.

Possibly the blueprint for "Unit 99," Reed's program had a different format than its later counterpart. Reed spent countless hours riding along with Culver City officers with his tape recorder. He uses actual recordings of officers, victims, witnesses and bystanders. Actors played these parts on "Unit 99," using scripts prepared from transcripts of Sergeant Meredith's tapes. On "Night Watch" everything is as it happened as Reed looked on and recorded them.

"Night Watch" was the first crime show featuring real-life officers on the job. Listeners heard officers respond to a assault call at which a drunken women beat a man with her shoe. And, they heard pain in the voice of a husband when he had to send his mentally ill wife back to a sanitarium.

Reed billed himself as a police recorder. He got the idea for the show when he played handball against a Culver City police officer friend who invited him for a ride-along. He accepted and brought his tape recorder. Chief W.N. Hildebrand approved the concept and "Night Watch" was born.

The program aired for 49 30-minute episodes. It was canceled by the network after about a year on the air in 1955.



"Night Watch" featured Culver City PD and aired on the CBS Radio national network in 1954 and '55. Creator and producer Donn Reed (shown) spent countless hours riding with Culver City officers and tape recording their encounters with criminals, victims and witnesses. *Contributed photograph*



**Police radio shows** A variety of other old-time police radio shows can be found on You Tube and heard for free.  
I was able find “Dragnet,” “Police Headquarters,” “Mr. District Attorney,” This is Your FBI,” “Tales of the Texas Rangers” and “I Was a Communist for the FBI” easily with a simple search. All are law enforcement-related programs.  
Happy listening! Remember: Don’t touch that dial!  
*Submitted by Editor Mike R. Bondarenko*

San Quentin Prison is a correctional facility for men located north of San Francisco in Marin County. It opened in 1854 and is the oldest prison in California.  
It has the state’s only death row for male inmates, which is the largest in the nation. There is a gas chamber, but since 1996, executions have been by lethal injection. No inmate has been put to death since 2006.  
The current inmate population is approximately 3200. The official capacity is 3082, according to the DOC.  
*Courtesy of Donald Mitchell II with additional information by Editor Mike R. Bondarenko*



Kern County Fourth Township Constable John Bowen wore this ornate ball-tipped six-pointed star with extensive filigree on the star points during his years in office, 1911 to 1936. His name appears in the center. His wife, Cora, succeeded him following his death. *Jim Bowen photograph*

## Kern County Fourth Township Constables John and Cora Bowen

John Bowen was born September 8, 1872 in Greenwood, Ark. to Russell Bowen, originally of Tennessee, and Elizabeth Bradshaw Bowen of Arkansas.  
In 1890, Russell and Elizabeth left their home in Sebastian County, Ark. and moved their family to Kern County, Calif., settling near Bakersfield. Their son, John, remained a Kern County resident for the rest of his life, spending much of his working life in law enforcement.  
John Bowen started his law enforcement career as a policeman under then Bakersfield City Marshal James McKarny in 1906 and 1907.  
In 1909, he and his wife, Cora, and their two sons, Ray and Frank “Russell” (who later worked as a reserve deputy with the Kern County Sheriffs Department), moved to Maricopa where John and Cora lived until their deaths.  
In 1911, John Bowen ran for and was elected to the Office of Constable of the 15th Kern County Township of Maricopa. The Maricopa area was called the 15th Township until 1926 when it became the 19th Township. Then, it was again renamed as the 4th Township in 1930. Bowen held the position until his death.  
In March 1936, Bowen suffered a massive stroke which left him paralyzed. On June 10, at age 63, he passed away at Kern General Hospital, now Kern Medical Center, in Bakersfield.  
In a front page article on June 11, the *Bakersfield Californian* reported the passing of Bowen, calling him a “veteran Kern County peace officer.” The paper went on to praise Bowen, saying, “He won a wide circle of friends both in Bakersfield and on the West Side during his many years as a peace officer, attaining a reputation for the highest personal integrity and courage.”  
Bowen was laid to rest on Sat., June 13 at Union Cemetery in Bakersfield after a career of serving the citizens of Bakersfield and then Kern County in various peace officer capacities for over 30 years.  
His death left the office open. During his rehabilitating illness, his wife and sometimes deputy constable, Cora, fulfilled his responsibilities, making her the first Kern County woman peace officer.  
On July 20, the Kern County Board of Supervisors voted to appoint Cora Bowen to fill the office of constable of the 4th Township for the remainder of her husband’s term of office. On the same day, she was sworn into office. Thus, she became the first woman constable in Kern County, the first woman head of any public agency in the county and the first woman constable in California.  
In November, 1937, Ms. Bowen ran for election for the 4th Township constable and was successful in her bid, as the good people of Maricopa elected her to remain in the office to which she had been appointed, making her the first woman elected to political office in the county.  
*Contributed by Jim Bowen*

## End California Police Historian

**Sheriff Collected Patches** Chippewa County, Wis. Sheriff James Kowalczyk, who retired after 26 years in office on January 2, collected patches from agencies he worked with while extraditing prisoners throughout the country. An Eau Claire television station featured his patch collection during an interview with the outgoing sheriff about his 45-year law enforcement career. “I got a patch from places where I picked up a prisoner and brought him back to the county,” he said. Kowalczyk started as a county traffic officer in 1978.”I’ve saved them as mementos.”  
**Thrift Shop Uniforms** Columbus, O. police are investigating how several CPD uniforms ended up at a Goodwill store next to a selection of Halloween costumes. Local media reported the department-issue shirts were found on a costume rack. Assistant Chief LaShanna Potts said the department has a process to dispose of used uniforms and was unable to explain why those precautions were not taken. The uniforms were removed and disposed of before any were sold to the public.

**Cascade Badge Sold** Cascade Badge and Emblem of Oregon owner Rocky Barrett, a collector, announced he has sold the custom insignia business to fellow collector Derwin Boggs. “I took great pride in designing custom badges, patches and coins for department customers and am quite proud of many of those designs,” Barrett said. He started the business in 2000. Barrett will continue to collect but plans to downsize his collection.



(Top These hat badges were worn at San Quentin Prison from 1915 to the 1930s. Two have gold-colored seals (center and right). (Bottom) San Quentin hat badges worn from about 1940 into the 1970s. The shield in the center has a gold-colored seal. Sergeant is all gold-colored. *Donald Mitchell photographs*

## San Quentin State Prison Hat Badges, 1915 To 1979

Having spent 14 years working for the California Department of Corrections at San Quentin Prison (1974 to 1988), I have collected a number of artifacts and pictures of the place I thought I would share.  
Before correctional officers were issued breast badges in about 1979, they only had hat badges. The first three badges with smaller state seals were worn from about 1915 to the 1930s. The second group had larger state seals.  
I have shown a hat badge I was issued in 1974.  
There is also a photo of two officers wearing these badges. One is a lieutenant, while other is an officer.



Former San Quentin Prison officer Donald Mitchell was issued this hat badge in 1974. It is a silver-colored eagle-topped shield. The center is gold-colored with a state seal surrounded by a gold ring upon which appears “STATE DEPARTMENT OF” in blue with “CORRECTIONS” at the bottom. *Donald Mitchell photograph*



Donald Mitchell’s San Quentin Prison collection features these historic pictures of prison officers. The officer on the left is a lieutenant, while the picture on the right depicts an officer. Officers wore hat badges only until about 1979 when breast badges were introduced. *Donald Mitchell Collection*



# Police History Preserved By Detroit Museum

The Detroit Police Museum is a treasure trove of city police history dating to the earliest days of the department in 1865 when it was founded during the Civil War. Curator Jeff Lemaux, a dedicated DPD collector, oversees an incredible collection of artifacts, memorabilia and insignia.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

DETROIT, Mich. – Fortunately for the Detroit Police Department and the people of the Motor City, Jeff Lemaux took a keen interest in preserving his department’s history while serving as a second generation city police officer for 27 years. Lemaux’s extensive personal collection became the cornerstone of the breathtaking Detroit Police Museum at the beautiful, modern downtown Public Safety Headquarters building. Located in two rooms on the third floor, the museum is a treasure trove of all things DPD. There are also lobby displays. Best of all, the public is always welcome. The



Detroit Police Museum curator Jeff Lemaux, a 27-year city police veteran and one of the leading collectors of Motor City insignia, welcomes worldwide visitors to the incredible repository at Public Safety Headquarters. His massive DPD patch collection is on display. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

museum is easily accessible even though it is in a secure area. Since the museum opened at its current location in 2015, Lemaux, the curator, has welcomed untold hundreds of visitors from around the nation and the world. While most foreign visitors come from Europe, the United Kingdom in particular, people from Asia, the Middle East, Africa and South America have also enjoyed the fascinating exhibits. It is also a popular destination for Canadian law enforcement officers. “We’re right across from Windsor, so we get a lot of Canadian visitors, especially retired officers,” he said. “It’s been really interesting to see how the collection has grown over the years. When we first opened, pretty much everything was from my personal collection. Now, it’s about half and half, my own stuff and the city’s collection,” Lemaux said. Even though he is now compensated by the Detroit Public Safety Foundation for the 36 hours a week the museum is open (after being an unpaid volunteer for years), Lemaux devotes countless hours of his own time searching for artifacts and memorabilia to add to the collection, often by making contact with retired officers, the families of deceased officers or combing through historic records and photographs.

**True historical archive** The Detroit Police Museum is a true repository of department history. It is not a high-tech experience with computer-generated image kiosks, never-ending videos and the like. Its mission is to educate visitors on DPD history, not entertain them. Instead, the incredible museum very much resembles a large, somewhat eclectic

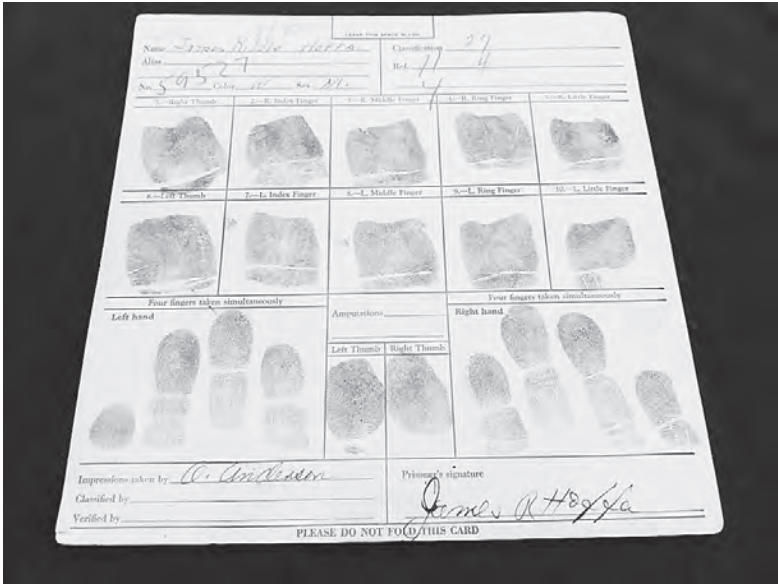


A 2005 Harley-Davidson motorcycle ridden by Detroit Police Motor Officer Rodney Jones greets visitors to the Detroit Police Museum. Officer Jones, a 28-year veteran, died of a heart attack while participating in a law enforcement motorcycle skills event in Flint, Mich. in 2013. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Large lighted display cases in the Detroit Public Safety Headquarters third floor lobby are devoted to DPD history. Police museum curator Jeff Lemaux, a former DPD officer and longtime collector, often rotates exhibits with specific themes in the lobby. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

collection, similar to those of many leading police insignia collectors and historians worldwide and nearly all other agency museums, with notable exceptions, of course. “Even if we could afford that kind of technology, we wouldn’t have room for it. Besides, because we rely on donations to the Foundation to fund our programs, we’d rather use those resources to keep the museum open and operating rather than make technology a priority,” Patti Kukula, Detroit Public Safety Foundation executive director, said. “We like the museum the way it is because people can come here and see everything up close. They can ask Jeff questions and get answers, rather than look at a one-way video narrative. Of course, there’s nothing wrong with that approach, but that’s just not our museum.” Lemaux explained the original museum was a small room at the old headquarters building at 1300 Beaubien. There were a few displays, but it resembled a storeroom far more than it did a department museum. There was also a short-lived stand alone museum.



Jimmy Hoffa was president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in Detroit when he was charged and convicted of numerous federal corruption crimes. The Detroit Police Museum chronicles Hoffa’s DPD arrests. This is his DPD fingerprint card. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

He credited former Chief of Police James E. Craig, who headed the department from 2013 to 2021, with playing a crucial role in developing the new museum. “He wanted a museum and authorized it. We opened it as part of our 150th anniversary celebration in 2015. The chief asked me to put on a display at our anniversary gala at Cobo Hall. It went over really well,” he recalled. Lemaux lamented that before he began preserving DPD history, a great deal was lost. The department used the former city lockup on the ninth floor of 1300 Beaubien as a catch-all repository for old records, photographs, equipment, artifacts and memorabilia. It was filled with dusty, often flimsy decades old boxes, cabinets or containers. Some items were simply dumped on the floor. “A lot of things walked off over the years, if you know what I mean. No one took care of anything. It was a mess, like a big attic or junk room. Then, Chief Craig ordered everything moved to a secure area for safekeeping. If he wouldn’t have done that, I doubt we would have the collection we have now. So much of the early stuff would have been gone forever,” he said. Today, the museum’s extensive collections, archives and exhibits chronicle Detroit law enforcement history, which goes back to 1857 when the agency was founded, although it went defunct for a few years and was restarted in 1865. A variety of city marshals, nightwatchmen and citizen patrols preceded it. “Our early history is pretty interesting. The department was created after the city was ordered by the state to have our own police force. There was a small police department



A gleaming, fully restored 1968 Cushman “Superflow” motor scooter ridden by school resource officers welcomes visitors to the Detroit Police Museum. The entrance also features curator Jeff Lemaux’s patch collection, an old call box and a 150th anniversary shirt. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

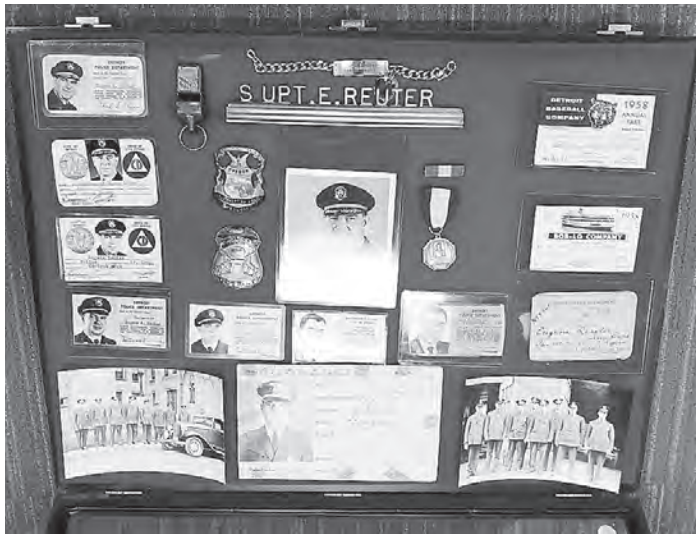




This exhibit of Detroit police artifacts is located near the exhibit hall entrance at the Detroit Police Museum. It features an old radio transmitter, data terminals, patrol car radios, a red and blue roof-mounted lightbar and panoramic photographs of DPD officers. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

before 1865, but the city closed it down because they didn't want to pay for it. There was a riot in 1863 but no police to handle it. That's what did it. The state ordered us to start up again," Lemaux said.

In addition to his personal collection and selected items former the storage floor, the museum has benefited from donations from officers, retirees and police families. Although



Detroit police Superintendent Eugene Reuter, who served from 1963 to 1967, had a 39-year career in the Motor City, starting as a patrol officer at the onset of the Great Depression. This display features his badges, medals and ID cards. He was chief during the 1967 riots. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

many donations were old equipment, numerous scarce early uniforms and headgear, numerous other artifacts that also came through the doors. However, very few badges have been contributed.

The family of Louis Wuesthoff, the first motor officer, donated a picture of him on his 1908 Harley.

Hugh Matteson was one of the first Mounted Police officers after he served as a cavalry officer in the Civil War. A photograph of him in uniform came from his family.

"When I first started collecting 35 years ago, my biggest interest was old photographs, especially panoramic pictures of early officers lined up outside stations and headquarters.



(Top) Patrolman John Heffron was awarded a 14-karat solid gold medal for bravery after he was shot four times apprehending a burglary suspect. (Bottom) The collection has this display of his medal, photo, newspaper articles and his lifesaving notebook. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Detroit Police Museum curator Jeff Lemaux shows off original Harbormaster drag hooks used to locate underwater human remains. He and his father served as harbormasters, DPD's water patrol. Harbormasters worked closely with the Dive Team. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

I've been able to come up with quite a few. Some are on the walls here. I don't have enough space to put them all up. I wish I did," Lemaux said.

**Motorcycles, trophies and themes** Visitors encounter the first museum exhibits as they step off the elevators and enter the large open lobby that separates police department offices from other agencies that share the third floor, including the Michigan State Police Regional Forensic Science Laboratory, one of seven state crime labs strategically located across the state.

There are two old motorcycles, a 2005 Harley-Davidson and a rare fully-restored 1937 Harley-Davidson "Knucklehead." DPD was first law enforcement agency in the USA to use Harleys for patrol duty beginning in 1908.

The 2005 Harley is dedicated to the memory of Motor Officer Rodney Jones, who suffered a fatal heart attack during a law enforcement skills and operation competition in Flint in 2013. He was a 28-year DPD veteran. The bike is signed in his memory by dozens of his fellow motor officers.

The wife of a former officer bought the 1937 Harley at an auction. She bought parts for it, paid to get it road ready and donated to DPD in the 1970s. It was originally displayed at DPD headquarters, then at a small museum at 2110 Park Avenue. Now, it is displayed beneath an old hand-operated "stop and go" sign traffic officers once used to regulate downtown traffic flow.

Two large lighted display cases complete the lobby exhibits.

One case contains large trophies won by various DPD sports teams, of which there have been many throughout the years. Lemaux pointed out that his department could have the largest number of inter-department athletic teams in the USA. "You name the sport or the hobby. We either have or had a team for it, even ping pong," he said. "There is a clown club, too."

The other case features rotating theme exhibits that Lemaux creates out of the museum collection. His February display featured early Black officers to commemorate Black History Month. During our visit, "Organized Crime in Detroit" filled it. "Women of the DPD" was another lobby display.

He tries to change the rotating exhibit every month or so, usually in conjunction with events or commemorations, such as Police Memorial Week.

Lemaux is especially proud of the Fallen Officers Memorial Wall. It displays photographs of officers killed in the line of duty. A kiosk shows their names, assignments, dates of death and details on how they lost their lives.

As visitors approach the museum entrance, their eyes are drawn to Lemaux's massive and virtually complete framed DPD emblem collection, which is probably the biggest and best in the hobby.

In addition to department-issue standard and special service insignia, such as Mounted Police, Special Response Team, Aviation, K-9 Unit, etc., and cloth badges. There are dozens of sports team logos, unofficial emblems and a few prototypes.

"We have had special unit patches for a long time, but we never had a patrol [officer] patch until the 1990s. Only supervisors wore it at first. Now, all officers wear it unless they are on a special unit. Then, they wear their unit patch," Lemaux said.

The current emblem has not changed since it was introduced, except for minor color



A historic McLellan saddle is among several exhibits at the Detroit Police Museum devoted to the Mounted Police, which was among the first in the United States and way dates back in city police history, The saddle is named after a renown Civil War calvary officer who invented it. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





One of the oldest exhibits in the Detroit Police Museum collection is this ornate, hand-carved wooden baton presented to US Army officer John Spelan after the Civil War. He joined DPD after the war and rose to the rank of captain. His regulations book is also shown. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

## Detroit Police Museum ...Continued

variations. It is an LASD shape with a blue background and gray lettering and borders. The center design is a colorful depiction of Henry Ford-inspired Model T and the logo, “Automotive Capital of the World.” It is known as the Old Car patch.(It is not difficult for collectors to obtain.)

Finally, there is a 1968 Cushman “Superflow” motor scooter that school resource officers once used to ride around campuses. They were called “C.O.P.” for Cop on Patrol. It was found in a warehouse.

**Front room and gift shop** The museum entrance leads to an area Lemaux calls the front room, which is visible from the lobby. It features a restored cell from the old City Jail, early communications equipment, trophies, historic department photographs, competition and presentation trophies DPD has won over the years and numerous other historic photos. (Detroit was the first agency in the nation to utilize one-way radio communications.)

A particularly interesting display honors four officers who took military leave during World War II and were killed in action in overseas combat. Each officer served with honor and distinction.

A small gift shop occupies an area inside the doorway to the main exhibit hall. It offers a variety of DPD swag ranging from hats to glassware to toys to clothing, such as t-shirts, sweats and golf shirts, all with the agency logo on them. These items are sold as museum fundraisers.

Lemaux doesn’t have facilities to ship mail or online orders. However, the Foundation has an online gift shop and accepts orders on their Web site, [DetroitPublicSafety.Org](http://DetroitPublicSafety.Org). It offers most of the same swag and clothing found in the museum gift shop, as well as EMS and Fire Department items.

**Incredible exhibit variety** The exhibit hall is literally filled to capacity with DPD history. While most exhibits are arranged by themes or units, some areas offer a hodgepodge of artifacts and memorabilia. The collections represent a fascinating DPD historic timeline dating to the mid-1800s. Of course, the emphasis is on the best of DPD history.

“Sorry it’s a little crowded in here, but I want to show as much as I can. If I had more room, I would show a lot more because I have a lot more in storage. There just isn’t room to show everything. I picked out what I thought was the best of the collection,” Lemaux said.

The curator showed some of the most interesting exhibits.

...A unique item is an original photograph of United States Army Captain John Spelan and his beautifully-engraved one-of-kind wooden baton. The hand carved and lettered baton was presented to him in appreciation for his service in the Civil War. Both are priceless.

Spelan joined the police department after the war and rose quickly to the rank of captain. He was second in command to the superintendent. (The title changed from superintendent to chief in 1974.)

...An original DPD badge die came from the 13th Precinct station.

...There is a display devoted to the William L. Hart, the first African-American police chief. He served from 1976 to 1992. It features his official photograph, personal badge, dress uniform and other memorabilia.

Hart resigned after he was convicted of embezzling \$2.3 million from the department’s

drug enforcement fund. Later, he was convicted of income tax invasion. He served seven years in prison.

“There has always been speculation that he took the fall for others, but whether that’s true or not, I worked for him. He was a great chief,” Lemaux said. “He was very well liked by the rank and file. He did a lot of good things for the department.”

...Informative exhibits are devoted to special units, including Motors, Dive Team, Harbormasters, K-9 Unit, Mounted Police and Bomb Squad.

Motors, the agency’s motorcycle patrol, is represented by an original uniform from 1917 with a rare patch and badge and complete with riding boots. There are several framed photographs of officers on their bikes, including one taken of the entire unit taken in front of police headquarters.

The Dive Team collection features scuba gear, wet suit, underwater duty gear and safety equipment. There are early drag lines and hooks used to recover bodies underwater.

Lemaux’s 27-year DPD career (1985 to 2012) included service as a harbormaster, the agency’s water patrol, and worked closely with the Dive Team. His father, Max Lemaux, preceded him as a harbormaster.

The canine exhibit features Officer Samuel Thompson, one of the original DPD canine handlers in 1971. He worked with “Charlie” and “Shawn,” the second and third dogs in agency history. It shows on-duty vests worn by both dogs and memorabilia.

Mounted Police includes a department issue horse blanket and a classic McClellan saddle used during the Civil War. It was obtained from the Army after the war. The saddle was named after the cavalry officer who is credited with inventing it. There is also a set of farrier’s tools from the original horse stable.

Bomb Squad is a particularly interesting display. It features an old bomb blast suit from 1963 and one of the original bomb disposal robots.

...Lemaux, who is working to digitize the department’s massive historic photograph collection, showed one of his favorite pictures, a shot of an exhausted, sweating Officer Harry Neitzer with his boots off and bare feet resting atop a large block of ice following a long foot patrol shift. It was taken by a local newspaper photographer during a summer hot spell in Detroit in the early 1950s.

“It was probably a staged picture, but it is pretty good. The officer played along with the photographer. It was taken during the days when newspapers had regular police reporters who made friends with a lot of the officers,” he said.

The museum frequently receives requests from the descendants of DPD officers seeking photographs of their loved one. Lemaux does his best to accommodate their wishes.

**The Purple Gang** An underworld mob of bootleggers and criminals known as The Purple Gang became the dominant criminal element in Detroit in the 1920s and ‘30s.

Their trademark was excessive brutality and extreme violence against rivals as they took over the flow of illegal alcohol into the city during Prohibition. Most bootleg liquor was smuggled in from Toledo and Canada. Eventually, the gang also took over gambling, prostitution, kidnapping for ransom and the drug trade.

“When Al Capone tried to expand his empire out of Chicago into Detroit to take over bootlegging, The Purple Gang stopped it. They didn’t just kill Capone’s lieutenants. They tortured them to death, then mutilated the bodies and sent pictures to Capone so he could see what they could do. Capone gave up on taking over because no one who worked for him wanted to come to Detroit and take them on!” Lemaux said.

Later, rather than try to take over illegal alcohol in Detroit, Capone made a deal with the gang to supply liquor to his operation in Chicago at enormous profit.

The museum features a large display devoted to the gang featuring photographs, newspaper clippings and other artifacts.

“Remember the Elvis [Presley] song ‘Jailhouse Rock?’ He sings the whole rhythm section was The Purple Gang. He was singing about Detroit,” Lemaux said.

The gang was comprised mostly of Jewish and Polish immigrants from the lower east side. It was led by four brothers, Abe, Izzy, Joe and Raymond Bernstein, who came to Detroit from New York City. They were small time criminals at first, committing mostly petty



(Top) The personal badge once worn by former Detroit police Chief William S. Hart, who served for more than 15 years, is part of the police museum collection. (Bottom) A large display cabinet holds career mementos, a uniform and other artifacts from Chief Hart’s career. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



A current lobby exhibit at the Detroit Police Museum features a collection of historical artifacts and memorabilia on The Purple Gang of the 1920s and ‘30s and corrupt union boss Jimmy Hoffa, who disappeared after being released from prison in 1975. He has not been found. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





Among Jeff Lemaux's favorite photographs in the Detroit police photo archives shows Officer Harry Neitzer dozing off on a stool without his boots and socks and his feet resting atop a large block of ice during a summer heatwave. The picture was taken in the '50s. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

thefts.

By 1929, the Motor City had 29,000 illegal bars. The Purple Gang became the supplier of their bootleg liquor, also at enormous profit.

"If anyone tried to horn in on their business, they'd kill him, no questions asked, and make sure the word got out to anyone else who might want to try. Like I said, these guys were real bad asses," Lemaux said.

**Saved by a notebook** Several times a metal badge or portable radio has deflected a bullet fired at a law enforcement officer and saved their lives. However, has the life of a law enforcement officer ever been saved when a bullet lodged in his pocket notebook?

It happened in Detroit in 1940 when Officer John Heffron attempted to arrest a suspected holdup man at an intersection in his Petoskey Station patrol beat. A nearly point blank gun battle ensued between them. Merrill Harmon, 32, fired at Officer Harmon multiple times with a .45 caliber pistol. His rounds struck the patrolman four times.

While he was returning fire with his handgun, even though he was seriously wounded, Officer Heffron's thick pocket notebook stopped a round that struck him just below the heart that almost certainly would have killed him. He killed the shooter and wounded an accomplice. The officer ultimately recovered from his wounds and returned to duty.

"We have a display from [Officer] Heffron's his career. We have the notebook with a bullet hole in the middle. It slowed the bullet just enough to stop it. It was found on his shirt. Remember, no vests back in those days," Lemaux said.

In addition to the lifesaving notebook, the exhibit is also highlighted by a 14-karat solid gold Medal of Valor made by Cartier, an internationally renown jewelry maker in New York City. The custom presentation case it came in was made by Tiffany's, another leading NYC jeweler.

The medal is suspended from a gray ribbon and engraved, "PRESENTED TO/ PATROLMAN JOHN E. HEFFRON/ FOR/ BRAVERY/ APRIL 14, 1940." The city seal appears as the center design.

"We had a millionaire in Detroit who paid for two bravery medals just like this, one for the police and the other for fire every year. After he died, the family was not interested in continuing the medals. Too bad. They were beautiful," Lemaux said.

Officer Heffron's family donated the priceless solid gold medal, as well as newspaper articles about the shooting to the museum.

The notebook contained blank traffic citations and city traffic regulations. Ironically, the round went through the city seal on the front page of the notebook, which is titled "Your Guide to Safety." It certainly was for Officer Heffron!

Harmon was suspected of holding up at least 12 drug stores in just five months before his death.

His accomplice was his common law wife. She admitted to detectives that she was with her husband during eight of the 12 robberies.



According to Detroit Police Museum Curator Jeff Lemaux, DPD had a very active Clown Club that performed at charity events, schools and community functions. These are a couple of the suits the officers wore when they performed, usually as DPD prisoners, and other memorabilia. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

**Odds and ends** Odds, ends and tidbits gathered during a tour of the Detroit Police Museum:

...The department once had its own rock and roll band, The Blue Pigs, in the late 1960s. The group performed at schools and community events in a musical effort to improve police-community relations during a tumultuous era. The band recorded and marketed two songs. The museum collection features one of their guitars and their 45 rpm record.

...There is a McGruff the Crime Fighting Dog robot that the agency took to city schools and loaned to suburban agencies. It moves its arms and legs and even speaks to elementary school kids with pre-recorded crime prevention messages.

...Detroit had an armored car the city purchased as military surplus to help rescue officers under fire during civil unrest in the '60s and '70s. There is a photo of the armored car rescuing an officer under fire during civil unrest in 1967.

...An old-fashioned black hooded baby carriage had a false bottom that bootleggers used to transport illegal liquor. "I guess they thought no one would ever suspect someone pushing a baby carriage was a actually smuggler," Lemaux said.

...Long before computers and high speed communications devices, DPD used teletype machines to communicate between stations and with other agencies. The collection features a long obsolete vintage machine.

...There are old jackets worn by the Honor Guard, Color Guard and Chaplains. Lemaux has several other old uniforms but no room to display them.

...A display features confiscated outlaw motorcycle gang colors from the Lobos, Devil's Disciples and Drifters.

...Early identification equipment is featured. The display includes a variety of vintage cameras and picture developing equipment.

...A display case shows old handguns confiscated by police officers, most of them legendary Saturday night specials.

...In the late '60s, DPD created a small group Keystone Cops who appeared at civic functions dressed in authentic uniforms from the late 1880s. One of their uniforms is stored in a turn of the century wooden police officer's locker that Lemaux found in storage. He cleaned it up and now uses it for the display. He also shows a vintage helmet.

...A Detroit Police Clown Club exhibit features a clown suit and the club's oversize jacket emblem. Club members toured elementary schools and entertained children with magic tricks and antics.

...Lemaux found the complete DPD file on infamous union boss Jimmy Hoffa, president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, who was convicted and sent to prison for corruption and several other crimes.

Hoffa mysteriously disappeared in 1975 not long after the remainder of his sentence was commuted by President Richard Nixon and he was released from prison. While his disappearance technically remains an open case, Hoffa was declared legally dead by a judge in 1982. His body has never been found.

The massive file contains Hoffa's DPD arrest records, investigative reports and case notes.

"He was arrested by us several times for various crimes but managed to get out of most of them. He went to prison for jury tampering and bribery. He did a lot!" Lemaux said.

...Heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis, who was from Detroit, was a strong DPD supporter and staged several exhibition boxing matches to raise money for the Widows and Orphans Fund. He remains a legend in the city.

...Lemaux's wife's grandfather, Eugene A. Reuter, was a Detroit police officer from 1929 to 1968. His 39-year career saw him rise through the ranks to become superintendent. An exhibit features his photograph, ID cards and badges.

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (2392 USH 12, Baldwin WI 54002) pcnews@baldwin-telecom.net

*The Detroit Police Museum is located at Public Safety Headquarters at 1301 Third Street in the heart of downtown. There is large secure free parking lot in front of the building. Admission is free. It is open Monday through Friday from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm except legal holidays. The telephone number is (248) 245-0720. Curator Jeff Lemaux requests out-of-town collectors contact him in advance to arrange tours. EDITOR*

**Detroit Fun Facts** Detroit Police Department fun facts: It was established in 1865 and serves 670,000 city residents. DPD has 2586 sworn members, 585 civilian employees and 582 patrol vehicles. The Motor City is divided into 12 police precincts who patrol 136 square miles. DPD handles nearly a million calls for service annually.

**Victoria Insignia Displays** When the new Victoria Police Center opened last year in downtown Melbourne, Australia employees created large exhibits of agency history, artifacts and memorabilia in the seventh floor restaurant. In addition to a floor-to-ceiling displays of historic photographs, there are several display cases of badges, patches, uniforms, challenge coins and other insignia. Social club insignia is also shown. The collections were salvaged from the old station where they were kept in storage.



(Left to right) A guitar played by the Detroit Police rock and roll band, The Blue Pigs, in the late 1960s and early '70s. McGruff the Crime Fighter Dog and a display of old confiscated weapons. Old forensic, identification and equipment in the collection is shown in the background. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





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AMAZING “BADGECOLLECTOR.BLOGSPOT.COM” offers pictures and stories regarding Police Memorabilia with a focus on Newark, N.J. The view of this blog is free, however if you have New Jersey items for sale or trade contact: DENNIS BEYER, email: jerseychief@gmail.com (97)

BUYING OR TRADING patches, coins, pins, badges, etc. from /depicting the U.S. Federal Protective Service (FPS, FPSD, or FPSP), U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) and Dartmouth, Massachusetts Police. Contact: RICH PONTES, 8 Cedar Crest Road, Dartmouth, MA 02747 or email: tyall@comcast.net (102)

WANTED: Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI) badges, patches and challenge coins (including Force Protection Detachment coins) not already represented in my collection. I am willing to buy or trade. JIM H. CRUMPACKER, P. O. Box 523357, Springfield, VA 22152-5357 or email: JHCrumpack@aol.com (95)

WANTED: Any Alcohol Beverage Commission / Liquor Commission patches. Contact me at www.abcpatchcollector.weebly.com or on Facebook at “Jeremy’s Alcohol Patch Collection” (95)

WANTED: BOLO for the following shoulder and/or badge patches: 1. Cottey College police/security (located in Nevada, MO); 2. Mission Township (Kansas) Police Dept. I am willing to buy or trade to complete my collection. DAN PATZ, 10409 San Simeon Ln., Ft. Worth, TX 76179, or email: dlpatz@aol.com (97)

WANTED: Boy Scout memorabilia of all types: Patches, Pins, Medals, Handbooks Pre-1936. CHRIS JENSEN, PO Box 1841, Easley, SC 29641, email: CJENSEN@STREAMWOOD.NET (97)

WANTED: Fish and Wildlife and Conservation Agency badges. I am also buying Idaho, Washington, and Oregon police and sheriff’s badges. Older badges preferred and top prices paid for quality items. DEAN TRESCH, P.O. Box 30054, Spokane, WA 99223 Ph. (509) 939-1296 email: militarycollector7711@gmail.com (103)

WANTED: I am looking for these Arizona patches; City of Mesa Police Department: Animal Control, Collision Investigator, Gang, and Victim Assistance Volunteer. AZ Department of Public Safety: Explorers, Paramedic, and EOD. PAUL SWIETEK, email: 1966 lincoln@mchsi.com or text: (408) 227-0657.

WANTED: I collect Police Explorer (Boy Scout) metal badges or embroidered patches. Send picture of items that you have for sale to: CHRIS JENSEN , PO Box 1841, Easley, SC 29641, email: CJENSEN@STREAMWOOD.NET (97)

WANTED: I collect South Carolina police metal badges and embroidered patches. Send picture of items that you have for sale to: CHRIS JENSEN, PO Box 1841, Easley, SC 29641, email: CJENSEN@STREAMWOOD.NET (97)

WANTED: Massachusetts Police Badges: Hampden, Springfield Police/Fire, Springfield Armory Guard/Fireman, West Springfield, Wilbraham, East Longmeadow, Holyoke, Chicopee, Monson, Palmer, Ludlow, Northampton, Westfield, Agawam, Southwick, South

Hadley, Holland, Brimfield, Wales, Westover Field MP, or any other Massachusetts badge. Please contact MICHAEL COONEY at (413) 784-3378 (98)

WANTED: Motor carrier enforcement patches and cloth badges, the older the better, Top prices paid. MIKE R. BONDARENKO, 2392 USH 12, Baldwin, WI 54002

WANTED: New Jersey badges from the following towns: Mantoloking, Bergenfield, Matawan, Green Brook, Berkeley Heights, Edison, Metuchen and New Jersey State Police. I also collect Lehigh Valley Railroad Police items. Email DAN at email: jasperdan26@gmail.com (732) 452-0322 (98)

WANTED: Oregon and Washington badges, one badge or a whole collection, and no collection too large. I have some badges to trade from my over 50 years of collecting. FRED MILES, 10350 N. Vancouver Way, Suite 273, Portland, OR 97217-7530 (97)

WANTED: Railroad police badges and artifacts, early badges, office signs, marked guns, old uniforms, RR police commissions, etc. Highest prices paid for 10K, 14K and 18K solid gold badges, early custom die badges, hand engraved sterling silver badges and any railroad “pie plate” stars. See my website for updated “Wanted” list: www.railroadpolicebadges.com CHIP GREINER, P.O. Box 125, Bogota, NJ 07603 (201) 390-7372 or rrbadges@aol.com (99)

WANTED: Retiree is searching for her service badges: California State Police badge number 2282; California Highway Patrol badge number 9433. ROXANNE L. STAFF, email rockysworld@att.net, or (541) 497-2881 or (541) 409-4903. (96)

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**or email: [willponner58@gmail.com](mailto:willponner58@gmail.com)**

# EMPIRE ORIGINAL DESIGNS



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FOR CUSTOM MADE:**

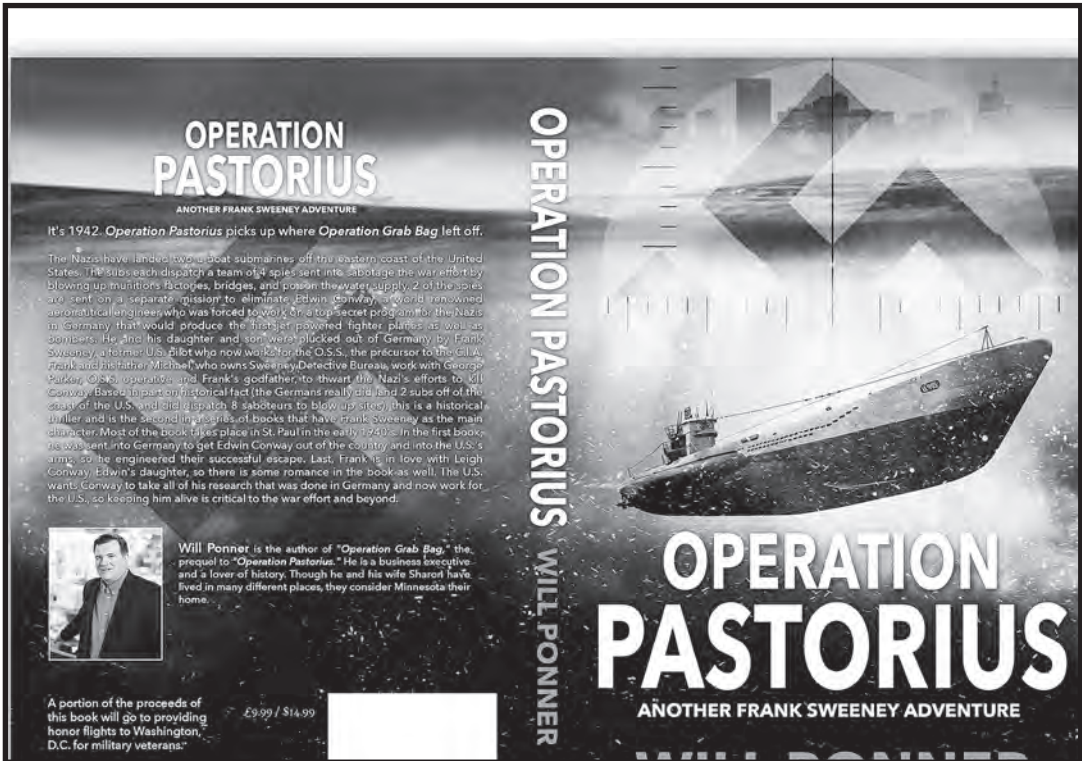
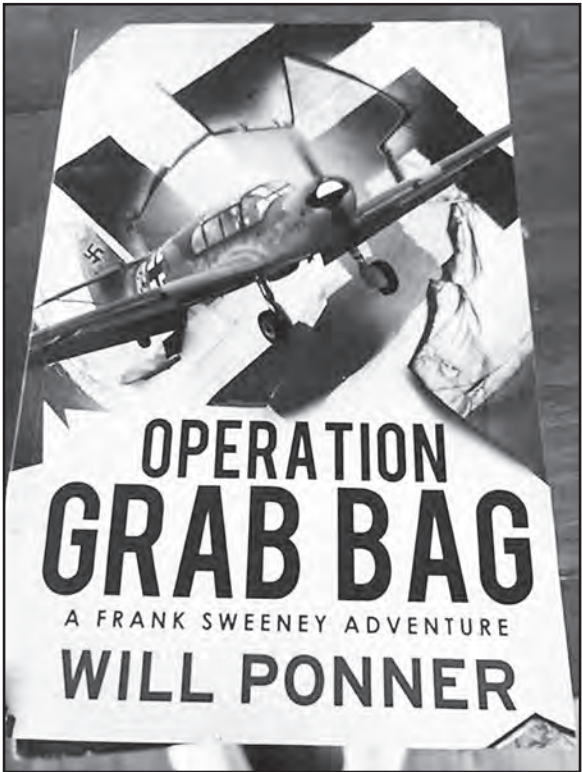
- CHALLENGE COINS
- PINS
- PATCHES
- BOTTLE OPENERS
- MINI BADGES
- APPAREL
- PROMOTIONAL ITEMS
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- PENDANTS
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## Attention Collectors and WWII Historical Fiction Lovers!



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## MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE POLICE MEMORIABILIA SHOW 2023

Saturday, December 2nd, 2023

Located at:  
American Legion Post 278  
800 Romancoke Road  
Stevensville, Maryland 21666

Admission \$5 per person (Children are free)

Food, Drinks, Patch and Challenge Coin Drop, Raffle, Cash Bar

Join our Facebook group for updates at:  
**Maryland Eastern Shore Police  
Memorabilia Show 2023**



# COLLECTION FOR SALE

About 850 Police Patches  
From All 50 States

\$2,000.00 (less than \$2.50 each)

Included are the 50 State Highway Patrol patches, Ohio's 88 county seats' police patches, and Alaska's pipeline with some of the 10 towns' police patches (including North Pole, Alaska), large cities in all states, and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

For info and pictures, text me at  
419-552-8847



Announcing the launch of an Auction Site  
specifically for Collectors of Police, Fire and  
other Law Enforcement Memorabilia.

Come and check us out at:

<http://auction.collectors-badges.com>

# WANTED! BY JERSEY COLLECTOR

Looking for Badges, Handcuffs, Whistles or Pictures from  
Muicipal Police or County Probation Departments with a  
particular interest in all items from Newark, N.J.

**DENNIS BEYER**  
(collecting N.J. For 50 Years)

Producer: [badgecollector.blogspot.com](http://badgecollector.blogspot.com)  
email: [denb22@GMAIL.COM](mailto:denb22@GMAIL.COM)

# WANTED

Badges, photos, ephemera and any material from Sheriff's  
Department, Matron, Civil Defense, Coroner, Probation, Court,  
District Attorney, Health Department, Weights and Measures  
or other county-level departments from the following New York  
State Counties: Cattaraugus, Clinton, Hamilton, Jefferson and  
St. Lawrence. Also, I want badges from the Town of Machias,  
NY and the US Defense Investigative Service.

Please contact Bradley Parker for more info.

716-830-8749 or email: [horseblp@yahoo.com](mailto:horseblp@yahoo.com)

# WANTED



**MONTANA Law Enforcement Patches**  
**MONTANA Search & Rescue Team Patches**

Will buy or trade

Contact : JOSH at (562) 248-6055 or [joshg21908@gmail.com](mailto:joshg21908@gmail.com)



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# WANTED



**IKE & PATTY HEARST ERA**  
**U.S. MARSHAL BADGES**

NEEDED TO FILL VOIDS IN MY COLLECTION



**SHAWN SPOHN**  
[HANDCUFF911@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HANDCUFF911@GMAIL.COM)  
TEXT BEFORE CALLING: (440) 339-6737  
CHAGRIN FALLS, OHIO

ALSO COLLECTING: VINTAGE KNUCKLES (BRASS, IRON, ALUMINUM),  
HANDCUFFS, UNUSUAL NIGHTSTICKS





2nd Annual Rosemount Police Department  
Pink Patch Project Collector's Show

When: October 21st 9am - 3pm  
Doors open at 8am for setup

Where: Rosemount Community Center  
13885 South Robert Trail  
West garage entrance for loading/unloading  
General entrance - east main doors, downstairs to gym

\$5 entry fee for guests  
\$10 fee per table  
All money raised goes to American Cancer Society

20 tables will be provided (8ft each)  
For table reservations contact  
Jeremiah.Simonson@rosemountmn.gov

Pink Patch Agencies are invited to sell their pink patches

WANTED

LAW ENFORCEMENT CANINES  
DEPICTING DOBERMAN PINSCHERS



(Have all three... looking for others.)  
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FIRST ANNUAL

Mason Dixon

Police / Fire Patch & Memorabilia Show

Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup> 2024  
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Location:	Times:	Admission:
Gettysburg Fire Dept. 35 N. Stratton Street Gettysburg, PA 17325	Show: 9AM – 3PM Set up: 7AM	\$5.00 for adults (kids free) \$10.00 for early admission at 8AM \$35.00 per table (55 tables)

Plan your 2024 vacation around the first ever Gettysburg, PA Mason Dixon patch and memorabilia show! Enjoy the beautiful and historical sights of this great town. The show is located downtown in walking distance from everything, free parking for show patrons and plenty to keep your family entertained. Nearby lodging and food is easily accessible. Food truck will be on site the day of the show.

For table reservations email: [masondixonpatchshow@gmail.com](mailto:masondixonpatchshow@gmail.com)

Follow on Facebook: **Gettysburg PA Mason Dixon Patch Show**

Hosted by: Adam Reid and Lou McAlexander



Second Annual  
South Jersey  
Police Collector Show

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023  
Doors open @9am

Williamstown VFW  
1940 North Black  
Horse Pike  
Williamstown, NJ  
08094

Tables: \$40

Table Holder Admittance @ 8am

Admission: \$5

Patch Drop  
Raffle

Drop a patch to enter for a  
chance to win them ALL

Proceeds towards:  
Gloucester County Sheriff K9  
Monroe Twp Police Unity Tour

50 Tables

More Info Contact:

[Southjerseypolicecollectors@gmail.com](mailto:Southjerseypolicecollectors@gmail.com)

Mike Matkowsky 856.404.2294 [Michaelmatkowsky@aol.com](mailto:Michaelmatkowsky@aol.com)

Thomas Accoglio 609.685.2846 [Taccoglio@yahoo.com](mailto:Taccoglio@yahoo.com)

Welcome To  
Massachusetts

2023 Metro Boston  
Police Collectors  
Show & Swap Meet

Sunday October 1  
9am-3pm

IBEW Local 103  
256 Freeport Street  
Dorchester, MA 02125

**\$10- GENERAL ADMISSION**

Table Cost- \$45 for Table Holder & Assistant  
If Booking AFTER Sept 11, Table Cost- \$50  
Table Holder Set-Up is 8AM on Sunday  
For Table Reservations & General  
Information Please Contact Brian Dunn via  
e-mail at [MSP1697@hotmail.com](mailto:MSP1697@hotmail.com)

- Badges
  - Challenge Coins
  - Patches
  - License Plates
  - Shirts and MORE!
- Fire/EMS Memorabilia  
Also Welcome  
Displays Encouraged!



Fairfax Regional  
Badge and Patch Show

Benefiting the Fairfax County Police Public Safety Cadets  
and the Fairfax County Police Association



"The Larry Wilkins Show"

Come trade, buy, or divest your public safety memorabilia, patches, challenge coins, etc.



**Saturday, November 11, 2023**



9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Fairfax County Police Association Hall  
5625 Revercomb Court, Fairfax, VA 22030-5802

\$5 - General Admission at 9:00 a.m.  
(Spouses and children free)

60 8' Tables Available at \$20 each

(Admission for Table Holder and 1 Designated Assistant included)

**Table Holder Set-up begins at 8:00 a.m.**

The Longest Running Show in Virginia

For table reservations, make checks or money orders payable to:

**Public Safety Cadets\*** and mail to:

**Public Safety Cadets, 50 Catocin Circle, NE, Suite 325  
Leesburg, VA 20176-3124.**

Place, "Fairfax Regional Show" on the notation line of your check.

*Tables assigned on first-come, first-serve basis with payment in advance.*

- ✓ Food and drink available for purchase
- ✓ Plenty of free parking with easy access
- ✓ Numerous hotels / restaurants close to show
- ✓ Best of Show Trophy awarded
- ✓ Judges' Award Trophy presented
- ✓ Admission restricted to current/former Public Safety personnel and known collectors. ID check at the entrance

Email show hosts Bill Steinkuller & Kent Jefferies at: [FCPAShow@aol.com](mailto:FCPAShow@aol.com)

The Show is located just outside of Washington, DC. Commemorate Veteran's Day in the WDC area and explore our nation's capital, famous museums, the White House, U.S. Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln memorials. Tour the FBI HQ Exhibits, National Law Enforcement Museum and Memorial, DEA Museum, International Spy Museum, National Museum of Crime & Punishment, and others available by your prior arrangement. A guided tour of the Fairfax County Public Safety HQ historic displays with lots of badges, patches and uniforms is planned for the afternoon before the show.

\*Public Safety Cadets is recognized by the IRS as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3)



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