

Volume 42-Number 5 September-October 2024 Issue Number 102

# Davenport Hosts Outstanding National Police Collectors Show

Davenport, Iowa proved itself a top flight venue for the 2024 National Police Collectors Show. Hosts Damir Krdzalic and Peter Harris welcomed about 400 hobbyists from throughout the United States and even Australia to their outstanding 270-table sellout on July 12, 13 and 14.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

DAVENPORT, Ia. – Iowa welcomed the 2024 National Police Collectors Show on July 12, 13 and 14. Damir Krdzalic and Peter Harris and Davenport hosted the hobby's annual convention for the first time. It was the first time the National Show has visited Iowa.



Damir Krdzalic (left) and Peter Harris (right) hosted the National Police Collectors Show in Davenport, Iowa. They welcomed about 400 tableholders, assistants and walk-ins to the spacious downtown River Center. It was the first time Iowa has hosted the National Show. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

The very successful event attracted eager law enforcement insignia hobbyists from throughout the United States and as far away as Australia.

The weekend long gathering at the downtown River Center on the shores of the Mississippi River was a 270 table sellout. It was the first National Show table sell out in several years.

Attendance was about 400 tableholders, collectors and walk-ins, including numerous local law enforcement and public safety professionals who are collectors.

Davenport attracted veteran hobbyists and newcomers from every region of the United



National Show display contest winners (left to right): Damir Krdzalic; John Christmann, Best Patch; Patrick Znajda, Best Badge; Gary Teragawa, Host's Choice; George Stumpf, Best Educational; Kellie and David Jensen, Best of Show; and Peter Harris. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

States. It was highlighted by one of the finest display contests in National Police Collectors Show history, as well as nonstop buying, selling and trading over three action-packed days.

"We want to thank everyone who helped make this a success. Without support from the tableholders and collectors, shows like this wouldn't exist," said Krdzalic.

"The show exceeded expectations. We thought it would be good, but it was better than we hoped it would be," added Harris.

The busy weekend began with table setup all day Friday. After setting up exhibits, most tableholders found time to scour each other's tables for potential additions to their own collections. Early bird wheeling and dealing reached a fever pitch, particularly when major vendors opened for business throughout the day.

Many collectors believe setup is the best day because trade and sale stock has not been picked over. "It's when the really good stuff is still out there," a tableholder said.

Setup continued early Saturday morning. Moments before the doors opened to the public at mid-morning, a local Iowa Sheriff's Association color guard presented the Colors. Five members in full dress uniform marched into the hall in parade formation and carried the United States and Iowa flags to a stage on one end of the massive hall. The stirring patriotic presentation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Davenport welcomed walk-ins and visitors from 9 am to 6 pm. Harris reported 105 walk-ins and 30 others who purchased early admission passes. "The buying, selling and trading started early at 8 am and went through to 6 pm when we had to kick out the last few



Retired Davenport police Sergeant Jerry Behning purchased this 1951 Chevrolet van and converted it into a replica of a vintage Davenport police prisoner transport vehicle. It took him two years, but the results are awesome! It has period-correct equipment and lights. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Runner-up display contest winners at the 2024 National Show: host Damir Krdzalic; Matt Wyrick, Best of Show; Glenn Hughes, Best Historical; Kent Jefferies, Best Badge; Bruce Von Haden, Best Patch; Charles McDonald, Host's Choice and host Peter Harris. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





An Iowa State Sheriffs Association Honor Guard presented the Colors to open the National Police Collectors Show. Each member represented a county sheriffs office. The patriotic opening ceremony was a highlight of the first day of the Quad Cities show on Saturday, July 13. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

**2024 National Show ...Continued**

stragglers," he said.

Enjoying a sun drenched 90-plus degree evening, tableholders gathered for a two-hour early evening rooftop bar reception sponsored by the hosts at the Current Hotel about a block from River Center. Afterward, many returned to their hotels and gathered at the Black Hawk or the Double Tree bars or lobbies to renew friendships, discuss second day events and exchange the latest hobby news.



David and Kellie Jensen won "Best of Show" honors at the National Show for an outstanding exhibit showing the insignia and uniforms of the Memphis, Tenn. Police Department. It features complete patch and badge collections, as well as historic uniforms. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

The National continued from 8 am to 3 pm on Sunday. As usual, final day walk-in attendance was low. Many tableholders began departing by late morning or early afternoon. "We understand that Sunday will be a smaller crowd and slower pace as many of our guests have to leave for home today or early tomorrow morning," Harris said.

Sunday was highlighted by the mid-afternoon presentation of display awards to ten collectors from nine states as the show wound down.

There were five first place winners and five runners up. First place winners received a 12-inch metal rendition of the 2024 National Show badge and a gold show badge commemorating their accomplishment. Runners-up went home with beautiful custom wall plaques.

First place winners were:



Among the historical exhibits in the Jensen Collection is a large placard carried by Memphis police during their eight-day strike in the summer of 1978. Police marched in downtown streets to protest low wages while carrying large blue and white signs like this one. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



The award-winning David and Kellie Jensen Collection includes this complete collection of Memphis Police Department patrol officer and special unit and service emblems arranged around door decals. The center frame is devoted to the Metro DUI Task Force. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

- Best of Show: David Jensen, Memphis, Tenn. Police Department
- Best Badge Display: Patrick Znajda, United States natural resources protection agencies
- Best Patch Display: John Christmann, Kentucky law enforcement
- Best Historical Display: George and Peggy Stumpf, United States Marshals Service
- Host's Choice Award: Gary Teragawa, California Highway Patrol
- Runners up winners were:
- Best of Show (Second Place): Matthew Wyrick, Knoxville Police Department
- Best Badge (Second Place): Kent Jefferies, Des Moines Police Department
- Best Patch (Second Place): Bruce Von Haden, Wisconsin county sheriffs
- Best Historical (Second Place): Glenn Hughes, antique police officer portraits and badges
- Host's Choice (Second Place): Charles McDonald, United States and Canada conservation agency emblems and Detroit Police Department insignia.

Davenport National tableholders A National Show hallmark is the hobby's



"Best of Show" winners David and Kellie Jensen offered a fine collection of Memphis police badges back to the origin of the agency. Officers wear shields, while supervisors wear a teardrop. Jensen is an MPD officer and researches its history back to the 1800s. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

largest turnout of tableholders. Exhibitors hailed from around the United States and Canada. Davenport exceeded expectations with a 270-table sellout. The tableholder list provided by the hosts reads like a hobby who's who.

- George Stumpf, Ed Sachs, Hervey Cote, John Christmann, Michael Chowning, Ken Lucas, Dennis Johnson, Christopher Redrup, Elizabeth Carlson, Vernon Thompson, Jeremiah Herderich, Paul Dahlen, Christina Sinai, Robert Anthony, Phoenix Police Museum, Jurgen Mohr, Ryan Martina, John Seay, Cole Earhart, Leonard Hanham, Bob Shockey, Ben Roberson, Richard Flaten, Robert



Brian Eaton, a retired Australian police officer from Queensland, traversed the Pacific Ocean to attend the National Police Collectors Show. He collects United States insignia, especially state agencies. Before Davenport, he attended the Gettysburg show. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





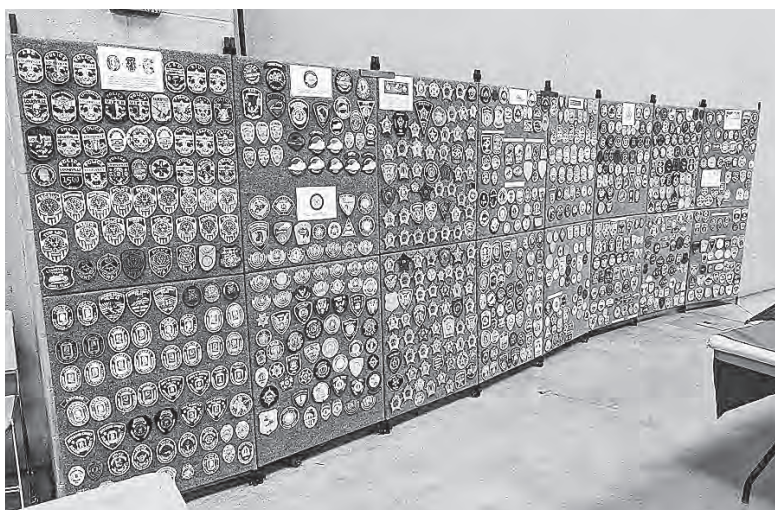
South Gate, Ky. police Chief John Christmann specializes in Kentucky law enforcement insignia. He won "Best Patch Display" for his massive exhibit. Christmann groups his emblems into categories and agencies, such as airport police, etc., and clearly labels them. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Kohlstedt, Steve Robertson, David Dotson, Randy Grago, Bill Burks, Steve Rivers, Brian Withrow, Darryl Petker, Craig Bauer, Nicholas Brondum, John Houma, Dean Tresch, Art Fox, Darrell Weseloh, Kevin Roszko,

Jim Signorelli, Scott Hannaford, Charles Duffield, Thomas Herring, David Urso, Mike Morgan, Jim Clark, James Claffin, Henry Shugart, Jeff Peeler, Jim Shattuck, Chris Brown, David Jensen, Ezra Stout, Steve Bridges, Doug Sarubbi, Jim Karas, Tom Breen, Herb Kane, Terry Bible, Tony Aleria,

Adam Wetzel, Robert Schluben, Cody Wolf, Peter Belos, Gary Gafney, Dean Cameron, Anthony Gorsek, Shawn Spohn, Marcel Jajola, Rob Jackson, David Fox, Audra Rawlings, Alan Levy, Phil Lind, Mark Stampfl, David Hume, Willie Herald, Mark Pyne, Randy Wilson, John Cook, Tony Bamberger, Tracy Styles,

Charles McDonald, Bruce Von Haden, Mike Leeper, Gary Teragawa, Jeff McGunnigle, Jon Davis, Gary Hoving, Chris Gilbert, Pat Znajda, Rachel Canning, Kyle Helvig, Nick Ergas, Gary Bettcher, Tom Boeckmann, Illiya Berdichevski. Andrew and Nancy Nelson, Steve Ho, Justin VanHalanger, Scott Boren,



A look at the rest of "Best Patch Display" award winner John Christmann's outstanding exhibit. He specializes in the Blue Grass State and has built a massive collection. It includes state agencies, county sheriffs and municipal police departments from across the commonwealth. *Gary Schott photograph*

Bryan Richard, Bill Swank, Gary Schott, Aaron Ihander, Larry Raudebaugh, Jake Bushey, Kent Jefferies, Jack Genius, Don Magruder and *Police Collectors News*.

"We had some late cancellations. We were able to sell some of those tables but not all, so we had a few empty spots. That's the way it goes. Life happens," Krdzalic said.

**Museum-quality exhibits** National Show exhibit quality improves every year. As founder the late Richard Salchunas envisioned when he proposed establishment of a traveling hobby annual convention, each National becomes a showcase for the region it visits. Davenport focused on mid-America.

David and Kellie Jensen won "Best of Show" for their outstanding Memphis Police



Rick Aguirre (left) and Maria Chavez (right) represented the Phoenix Police Museum, sponsor of the 2025 National Police Collectors Show next summer. They sold tables, answered questions and offered some Phoenix police collectibles. Book your tables now! *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



"Best Badge Display" at the National Police Collectors Show featured conservation law enforcement badges from the collection of Minnesotan Patrick Znajda. He also collects the Minnesota State Patrol. It was the first time a conservation collection won top honors. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Department exhibit. It represents the history of the agency told through its insignia and artifacts. Four cases of patches and six cases of badges were supplemented by old uniforms and career collections.

An exhibit chronicles the eight day Memphis Police Strike of August 1978 when officers walked off the job for higher wages. Photographs show officers marching and carrying picket signs. One shows well-known Memphis collector and officer Barry Copley carrying a sign.

"The best thing in the display is one of the picket signs the officers carried. I was able to get one from Barry. It's the only one I've ever seen," Jensen said. The large blue on white placard reads, "MEMPHIS POLICE ASSOCIATION/ ON STRIKE/ FOR/ EQUITY AND



Pat Znajda's world class conservation law enforcement badge collection. It is comprised of more than 500 badges from all 50 states, including many first issues, rarities and long obsolete style. Znajda is retired from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

FAIRNESS."

A display documents the career of Joanne Moore, who served from 1961 to 1990. She was the first female sergeant (1968), first female captain (1985) and first female field staff commander (1985). Moore was hired in 1958 as a non-commissioned parking "meter maid." She was promoted to patrol officer three years later.

Jensen told an interesting story about Moore became a Memphis officer. She was a professional wrestler in the 1950s and frequently appeared in the city. Her intervention in a fight led officers to encourage her to apply with the police department.

"There was a fight at one of the wrestling matches. Somebody took a swing at one of the officers trying to break it up. Moore saw it and tuned the guy up really good. Laid him



Pat Znajda's award-winning conservation law enforcement badge collection features hundreds of historic stars and shields from active and defunct agencies across the United States. Many badges go back to the origins of conservation law enforcement in each state. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





“Best Historical Display” award winner George Stumpf does a wonderful job of showing his United States Marshals Service in large freestanding display cases. Most badges are displayed in groups by era. These cases contain a variety of early issues back to the 1800s. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

**2024 National Show ...Continued**

out flat,” said Jensen. “The PD was going to hire the first females. The officers encouraged Moore to apply. They told her she was ‘one tough broad.’”

Jensens’ collection has a department patch chronology going back to 1968, as well as special unit and service emblems.

William D. Steele was a Memphis officer from 1953 to 1980 and held the ranks of patrolman, sergeant, lieutenant and detective lieutenant. His career display features two of his personal badges and uniform shirt.

Kentucky collector John Christmann, host of the Greater Cincinnati show, went home with “Best Patch Display” for his massive collection of Bluegrass State emblems representing state, county and municipal agencies. It is shown in groups, such as airport



Meet the 2024 National Police Collectors Show display contest judges, (left to right) Tom Geyer, police reporter for the *Quad City Times*, Brian Guy, Clinton police chief and Tim Lane, Scott County sheriff. They chose five first place winners and an equal number of runners-up. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

issues. It’s one of the hobby’s largest and most complete collections.

Znajda also collects Alaska badges.

It was fitting that the judges selected George Stumpf’s world class United States Marshals Service collection as “Best Historical Display.” The Cheyenne, Wyo. retired deputy marshal has been collecting the USMS since the 1960s and displayed his one of a kind exhibit.

“It was easier to pick up badges back then,” said Stumpf. “Nobody collected them. It’s a lot different now.”

Stumpf still has his first badge. It’s a small gold shield dated 1821. It was once worn by C.C. Everhart, whose title was roving deputy marshal when he worked in Durango, Colo. The hobbyist has been unable to find out much about the badge over the years but believes it came from the era during which the marshals were part of the Internal Revenue Service. He found it at a gun show many years ago.

“I’m still finding things. I’m always looking,” Stumpf said. He attends a lot of gun and antique shows, but some of his best finds have been at gatherings attended by fellow USMS retirees.

He featured an exhibit showing the chronology of USMS badges back to 1941 when the



George Stumpf has been collecting the United States Marshals Service since the 1960s and has a phenomenal collection going back to the Civil War. He has extensively researched agency history and wrote a book about its badges. He won “Best Historic Display.” *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

police, Louisville and corrections.

He also had framed collections from Boone County (two), Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement and the South Gate Police Department. He serves as the South Gate police chief.

Christmann labels each grouping so viewers are aware of its significance.

“Best Badge Display” was awarded to Pat Znajda, a retired Minnesota state trooper and game warden. Although he has impressive collections from both agencies, his passion is game warden badges. His exhibit featured more than 500 badges old and new from all 50 states. Most are pre-2000; the oldest goes back to the 1880s.

“Most people know the term game warden, but during different times of history and locations, they have also been known as conservation officers, wildlife officers, wildlife troopers, game rangers, marine patrol officers and a host of other names, some of which are not so nice!” wrote Znajda on a sign describing his exhibit.

Ten large frames showed dozens of obsolete styles, rarities and more than a few first



Many longtime law enforcement insignia collectors attended the National Show in Davenport. Among them were Marcel Jajola, a former California police chief, and Dennis Daniels (right), who started his career in California but then worked for a Nevada state agency. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

official badge was issued. It includes marshal and deputy ranks in this style from 1941 to 1970 and chief deputy from 1950 to 1970. These are known as “Ike” badges because they were introduced when Dwight “Ike” Eisenhower was president.

The second issue (1970 to 1980) is called the “Patty Hearst” badge because it was worn during one of the most famous cases of the era. Hearst newspaper fortune heiress Patricia Hearst was kidnapped by a terrorist group and held for ransom.



Gary Teragawa captured the “Host’s Choice” award in Davenport for his museum-quality multi-table California Highway Patrol and California State Police exhibit. It features badges, patches, photographs, ID cards and much more. It includes several career displays. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



A new display in Gary Teragawa’s California Highway Patrol exhibit is a career collection from Walter Bruno Pudinski. He served as commissioner from 1972 to 1974 and deputy commissioner from 1970 to 1972. He was a motor officer early in his career. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





Detroit collector Charles McDonald won the "Host's Choice-Runner Up" award. The retired DPD officer was honored for his massive Michigan, United States and Canada conservation law enforcement badges and patches. It must be seen to be appreciated. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Hearst sympathized with her kidnapers and joined their movement. She was involved in a bank robbery committed by the group and became a fugitive wanted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The USMS was responsible for security during her trial. Deputies were often photographed wearing the second issue badge.

The third issue badge was introduced in 1980. It is the circled star still worn today, silver for lower ranks and gold for higher ranks and appointed marshals.

Stumpf has the 1989 bicentennial badge and the 1993 first issue inaugural. "They only made six of the inaugurals. They were only worn by deputies at the inauguration. I've got one," he said.

His 16 frames showed dozens of badges going back to the 1800s, as well as Marshal's Posse insignia and much more.

Stumpf's career exhibits were dedicated to Deputy Marshal Joe Lefors and Captain L. Nichols. Lefors served from 1899 to 1907 in the District of Wyoming and took the confession of legendary outlaw Tom Horn in Cheyenne in 1903. He has Nichols' badge,



These segments show the depth of Charles McDonald's excellent conservation law enforcement collection. He shows some emblems on large cutout likenesses of antlered game, a moose and a bear! He has an extensive Pennsylvania collection as well. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

weapon and certificate of appointment dated 1841.

In addition, there were displays of USMS back patches and armbands, identification cards, badge ribbons and photos of deputy marshals with their badges.

A new National Show award, "Hosts' Choice," went to veteran hobbyist Gary Teragawa for his off the charts California Highway Patrol collection. He is a former California State Police and CHP officer who moved to Georgia following his retirement.

Twenty freestanding side-by-side display cases carried dozens of CHP and CSP badges, patches and historic photographs.

A career display is devoted to D.O. "Spike" Helmick, who served as commissioner and retired in 2004 after 35 years with the agency.

Teragawa recently added a career display from Walter Bruno Pudinski. He joined the



Bruce Von Haden's massive Wisconsin County Sheriffs collection features more than 400 emblems. He won "Best Patch Display-Runner-Up." Von Haden's exhibit only shows deputy sheriff emblems, no special units, reserves or anything else. It is one of a kind. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

CHP in 1951 and became a motor officer. His career steadily progressed. By 1970, his rank was deputy commissioner.

In 1972, Governor Ronald Reagan appointed Pudinski as commissioner. He held the office for two years before he returned as supervising inspector of the Inland Division.

"I got his star and the other things from his son," Teragawa said. Pudinski's son, CHP Captain Stephen Pudinski, is now retired.

Teragawa has a fascinating career exhibit from Marin Area officer John J. Agnew. He was one of four original dual control state traffic officers. They were paid by the state but counties recommended their appointments, hence the title dual control.

The Agnew exhibit shows his certificate of appointment as officer for Marin County in 1928, news articles about him with photos, a certificate of his state service and his CHP retired ID card.

Agnew was working in Marin County when the CHP was created in 1929. He spent his entire nearly 29-year career in the county. His beat included the Golden Gate Bridge. The veteran officer retired in 1957 and became a Marin County Court bailiff until he retired again



**Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor and Publisher**  
**2392 USH 12 BALDWIN, WI 54002**

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EDITOR AND PUBLISHER Mike R. Bondarenko  
 ADVERTISING AND CIRCULATION MANAGER Paula J. Bondarenko  
 PHOTOGRAPHS AND PRODUCTION John Schieffer  
 STAFF WRITERS Robert Beath, Dennis Beyer, Donald E. Brockman, Chip Greiner, Fred Hancock Jr., Greg Hatzis, Ronnie Jackson, Mike Lucas, Skip Skinner, Rick Uland, David Urso and Eric Wolman  
 STAFF WRITERS EMERITUS Nat McKelvey, Darrell Klasey, Jim Cross, David E. Schulberg, Ray Sherrard and Patrick Olvey  
 OFFICE HOURS Mondays 8 am to 4 pm Central time (except holidays)  
 OFFICE TELEPHONE (715) 684-2216  
 FACSIMILE (715) 684-3098  
 EMAIL [pcnews@baldwin-telecom.net](mailto:pcnews@baldwin-telecom.net) or [info@pcnewsonline.com](mailto:info@pcnewsonline.com)  
 WEBSITE: [PcnewsOnline.Com](http://PcnewsOnline.Com)

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Ohioan Glenn Hughes was honored with "Best Historical Display-Runner Up" with a unique collection of old original police portrait photographs augmented with antique badges from agencies across the country. Hughes started with photos but later added badges. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

**2024 National Show ...Continued**

in 1963.

**Stellar runners-up** Judging National Show display contests is a daunting task. It becomes more difficult with each passing year as the overall quality of the exhibits continues to improve.

Even though the Davenport hosts presented ten awards, five first place winners and five runners up, there easily could have been many more. Yet, the judges made their choices and selected very deserving collectors in each category.

"Best of Show-Runner Up" went to Matt Wyrick for a beautifully presented collection of insignia and memorabilia from the Knoxville Police Department. Ironically, Memphis and Knoxville collections placed first and second among best of show exhibits, so it was a very good weekend for Tennessee.

Wyrick's father, Roy Wyrick, and great-grandfather, Roy Lovelace, were Knoxville police officers. "I guess it's in my genes," he said. "I started collecting Knoxville because of them."



"Best of Show-Runner Up" was awarded to Tennessee law enforcement officer Matt Wyrick for his historic exhibit from the Knoxville Police Department. The display shows badges, patches, artifacts and included displays devoted to two of Wyrick's family members. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

and photos. Roy Wyrick was also a county deputy sheriff.

Bruce Von Haden won "Best Patch Display-Runner Up" with a massive Wisconsin county sheriffs' office collection, probably the largest and most complete ever assembled. It encompasses 12 large frames and nine smaller exhibits.

His display numbered 413 different emblems at the show but no doubt grew in Davenport. It is even more impressive because it contains regular issues only. No reserve deputy, special unit and service, commemorative, anniversary or novelty insignia are included.

"It's taken quite a few years to put this together. I've been pretty lucky. I've been able to find some really rare stuff," the retired Pierce County sheriff's deputy said. "It all started with Pierce County and grew from there."

Von Haden has an extensive array of Wisconsin county traffic and highway patrol emblems. In the 1950s, '60s and '70s, many county highway departments employed traffic officers to enforce rules of the road, vehicle size, weight and load and registration statutes. Now, county traffic departments are all but extinct.

"Best Badge Display-Runner Up" went to longtime federal law enforcement collector Kent Jefferies, an Iowa native. As he built his incredible United States Secret Service and Fairfax County Police, Md. collections shown at previous shows, he also collected Des Moines where he served as a young police cadet many years ago. He included surrounding Polk County, especially Urbandale, his hometown, as well as Iowa state agencies and police and sheriff departments.

His award-winning, highly educational exhibit of all things Des Moines area police and sheriff artifacts and memorabilia features 12 large displays and numerous smaller exhibits.

A 1979 state law standardized Iowa sheriffs uniforms. Shirts are khaki and trousers are green. All 99 counties are required to wear it. The standard badge is a seven-point star. The shoulder patch is Los Angeles County Sheriff Department-shaped and gold on green in color.

Jefferies groups his collection in frames, Polk County SO (one), police badge and patch sets (four), state agencies such as Division of Criminal Investigation, Capitol Police, etc. (one) and the State Patrol (one).

His Des Moines police collection covered two tables. There are complete collections of uniforms, badges and patches. He has the rare first issue emblem worn from 1952 to 1958.

J. Conrad Heefner was a city policeman from 1925 to 1955. Jefferies put together a collection from his career. Heefner served in the Motor Division in 1930, became a sergeant in 1944, made lieutenant in 1946 and retired nine years later.

"I got his scrapbook and pictures. I contacted Des Moines historian Mike Leeper. He helped me get his badges," Jefferies said. The officer wore number 60.

He has a collection of annual Policemen's Ball programs starting in 1925 and ending in the 1970s. The social event was a fundraiser for the Des Moines Police Burial Association.

Jefferies informed collectors DMPD breast and hat badges were by a local manufacturer, Des Moines Rubber Stamp Works, from 1920 until the mid-2000s. He has a collection of the maker's hallmark dies, as well as samples of finished badges.

"They bought what they needed to make badges from C.H. Hanson in Chicago. The hat badges came with Illinois state seals, so they replaced them with silver or copper Iowa



All things Des Moines police could be found on the tables of Kent Jefferies. He won "Best Badge Display-Runner Up." Jefferies lives in Virginia and had a long East Coast and federal law enforcement career, but started as a police cadet in Des Moines years ago. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

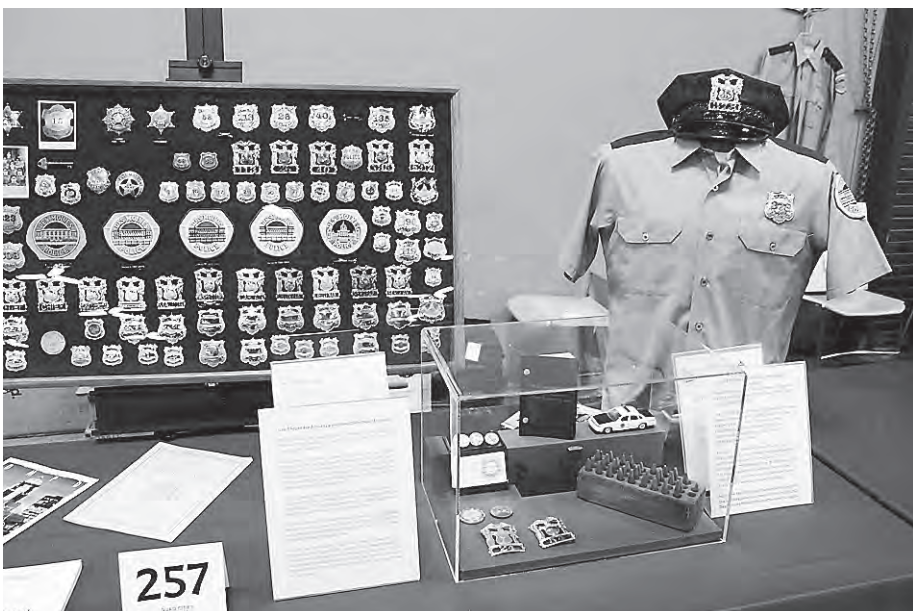
He works for the Knox County Sheriffs Office, opting not to follow in his family's Knoxville PD footsteps.

A 20-year collector, Wyrick has assembled a very impressive Knoxville exhibit with his father and great-grandfather as central themes. It includes three cases of city badges, two old uniforms and historic photos of officers in uniform and squad pictures. It was the first time it's been shown.

A particularly interesting exhibit was devoted to the Blue Hawks, Knoxville's motor unit. It features a cycle decal, photos of officers on their rides and unit patches. Members wore the department patch on one sleeve and the unit insignia on the other.

The Captain Lovelace exhibit shows his badges, handcuffs, ID cards, collar brass, other accouterments and photographs. He also has his hat.

Wyrick's collection of his father's artifacts includes ID cards, badges, patches, awards

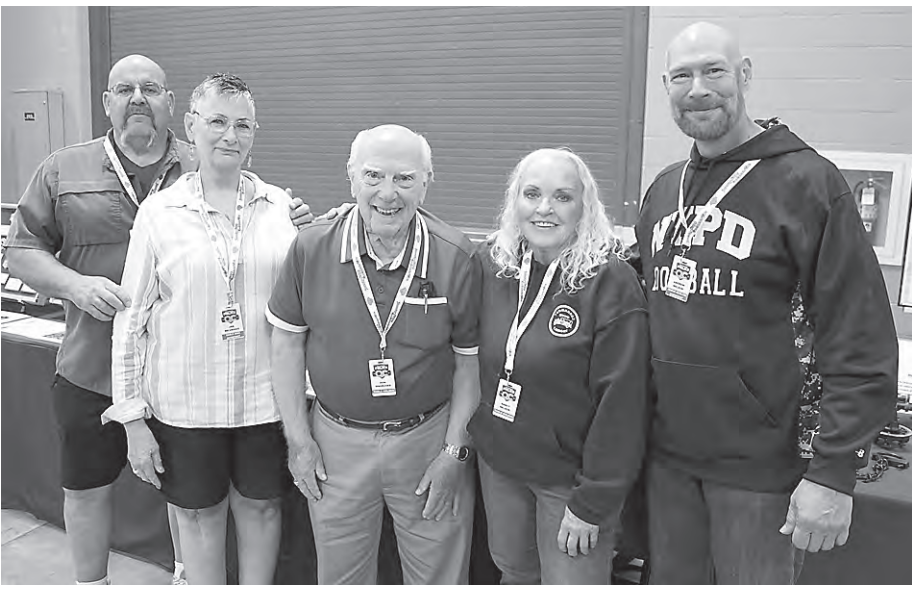


With Des Moines badges and an old uniform in the background, Kent Jefferies's award-winning National Show exhibit chronicled the Des Moines Rubber Stamp Company, who made Des Moines PD and other agencies breast and hat badges for many years. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



A Knoxville PD uniform and a display of patches and badges from every era in its history in the award-winning Matt Wyrick Collection. His father, Roy Wyrick, and great-grandfather, Roy Lovelace, were Knoxville PD. He has displays devoted to their careers. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





Saint Louis will welcome the 2026 National Police Collectors Show for the sixth time. The hobby's annual convention will be hosted by (left to right) Frank and Jan Selvaggio, Don Magruder and Nancy and Andrew Nelson. The venue is once again the Saint Charles Convention Center. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

seals," he explained.

Jefferies announced plans for an Arcadia Press-style book on Polk County law enforcement history and insignia. He hopes to meet with the sheriff and police chiefs to enlist their support and cooperation. It will include the state public safety department because its agencies work in the county.

"If it works out, I might also do a book on the Secret Service," he said. "All of this is in the thinking and planning stages."

Jefferies said he has compiled a great deal of information on Polk County and USSS history and wants to share it.

A future edition will feature a history of Des Moines Rubber Stamp Works badge production based on information provided by Jefferies.

Ohioan Glenn Hughes was honored with "Best Historical Display-Runner Up" for his phenomenal exhibit of historic, rare law enforcement badges and photographs, many dating back to the 1800s. The retired United States Air Force officer showed badges from a variety of agencies across the country displayed with old photographs of officers wearing them or very similar styles.

Hughes started collecting historic original police postcards and portrait photographs years ago. Only recently did he decide to supplement the images with antique badges. The collection is beautifully framed and documented.

He showed badges and pictures from Philadelphia, Boston, San Jose, Louisville, East Saint Louis, Ill., Salt Lake City, Milwaukee and three Massachusetts agencies, Brockton, Lawrence and Lynn. Also shown were badges and pictures from other Pennsylvania police departments.

Among his most impressive badges were:  
...three Lawrence shields, patrolman 1900 and 1921 and assistant city marshal circa 1890.

...a police captain hat badge from Pennsylvania.  
...Erie, Penna. breast badge number "99" circa 1890 and Bureau of Police hat and breast badges with matching numbers "159."  
...two very old breast badges from East Saint Louis.  
...badges from Philadelphia, Bureau of City Property breast badge number "112," an old cap badge, a set of cap and breast badges numbered "5286," a gold-filled detective shield, a custodian helmet badge numbered "410" and a Bureau of Police breast badge.

Former Detroit police officer Charles McDonald returned to Michigan with the "Host's Choice-Runner Up" award. He featured an eye-popping exhibit of United States and Michigan conservation law enforcement and an impressive variety of Detroit PD patches and badges.

He showed complete patch and badge collections from the state conservation agencies in Michigan and Pennsylvania, including keystone shapes. He also featured Canadian agencies.

Collectors really liked McDonald's conservation patch displays made in large shapes of a moose, bear and other antlered game animals, an innovative way to show this specialty.

"My son and I are avid hunters. I've been collecting DNR [insignia] for a long time," the longtime hobbyist said. The father-son team once journeyed to Africa for a big game safari.

McDonald was a DPD officer from 1972 to 2003. He showed a variety of general issue and special issue insignia, as well as a couple DPD-issued weapons. Three of his best displays showed regular badges from all eras, special unit emblems and Reserve Police insignia.

Detroit once had a clown troop. Officers dressed in costumes entertained kids of all ages around the city. He showed a DPD red-on-white clown troop emblem. Troop is spelled "troupe" on the insignia, the French word for troop. One of the clown troop members was longtime veteran Detroit collector Patrick Muscat, who headed the Mounted Patrol for many years and wrote a book on its history.

PCNEWS apologized to McDonald for mistakenly misspelling his last name as McDaniel



Frank Selvaggio (right) makes a pitch for the National Show to return to Saint Louis in 2026. He told tableholders at an impromptu Sunday morning meeting that he and his co-hosts have the show experience and means to stage the hobby's convention. "You all know us," he said. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

in our 2024 Detroit show report.

**Saint Louis comes through** Saint Louis, Mo. will host the 2026 National Police Collectors Show. It will be the sixth time the hobby's annual convention has been held in shadow of the Gateway Arch.

Don Magruder, Frank and Jan Selvaggio, Andrew and Nancy Nelson, Bob Shockey and Cody Umfress will welcome hobbyists to the popular Saint Charles Convention Center in nearby Saint Charles, a northwest Saint Louis suburb. The show will be held on July 10, 11 and 12, 2026.

The modern, spacious convention center offers complimentary parking in a massive outdoor lot, a wide range of amenities and an attached Embassy Suites Hotel with a restaurant and bar.

Information on table and hotel reservations and additional show details will be announced later this year.

No 2026 show bids were made during the well-attended Friday afternoon tableholder meeting. Krdzalic and Harris said they could host the show again unless another city came forward. Tableholders left the meeting with no bids and thus no decision.

The Saint Louis group discussed the possibility of hosting another National among themselves on Friday evening. They met with Krdzalic and Harris on Saturday morning, then announced they would make a bid.

Krdzalic convened an impromptu tableholder meeting on Sunday morning. Selvaggio told tableholders Saint Louis has hosted 39 annual regional shows as well as five National Shows. "You all know us. You know we have the experience to take on another National. We're willing to do it," he said.

Poking fun at co-host Nancy Nelson, Selvaggio said, "If it doesn't work out, blame Nancy. It was her idea."

Following Selvaggio's brief presentation, Krdzalic asked for a vote. Tableholders unanimously awarded the 2026 show to Saint Louis.

A few days later, Selvaggio contacted PCNEWS to announce a contract with the convention center had been signed and the show would take place as announced in Davenport.

Krdzalic and Harris said they may bid for another National Show in 2027 or 2028, probably in Davenport.

**Upcoming feature stories** Our next few editions will feature additional stories and interviews from the Quad Cities National.

We'll report on the law enforcement charities that benefited from the generosity of the hosts and attendees, including the Iowa chapter of the Concerns of Police Survivors. Most raised funds by selling a wide variety of collectibles, such as hats, tees, sweatshirts and much more.

Readers will meet two of the Phoenix Police Museum board members who will help host the 2025 National Show and get an opportunity to see and order PPD souvenir and holiday patches being offered for sale as fundraisers.

We sat down with Brooklyn DeCap, community ambassador for show co-sponsor Mission BBQ, and learned why the restaurant chain caters to first responders and welcomes patch, challenge coin and photo donations for display in its 137 stores.

Bruce Davison will fill us in on 2025 90th Anniversary Colorado State Patrol commemorative insignia that collectors can purchase. Troopers will begin wearing it on January 12, the official 90th anniversary date.

Readers will meet the family of the late badge and patch collector and designer Don DeDiemar and learn how they are liquidating his massive collection with the help of Colorado collector Jeremy Herderich.

There will be an up close look at a classic 1951 Davenport police prisoner wagon displayed outside the show hall. Readers will be introduced to retired DPD sergeant and motor officer Jerry Behning who built and outfitted the black and white van with period-correct markings and equipment, complete with rear wooden benches for transporting prisoners.

We'll cover the non-award-winning but nevertheless noteworthy displays and exhibits by such notable hobbyists as Shawn Spohn, Dennis Daniels, Marcel Jajola, Ken Lucas, Terry Bible, Jeff Peeler, Aaron Ward, Larry Raudebaugh, Gary Schott, Don Magruder and others.

There will be a feature on Bettendorf, Iowa police charity emblems featuring the "Pink Patch Ladies."

Finally, we'll tour Iowa's unique Squirrel Cage Jail in Council Bluffs with Roger Brannan, a Pottawatomie County corrections officer. The historic four-story jail was round. It opened in 1885 and closed in 1969.

Check the issue number on your address label. It lists the final issue on your current subscription. Don't miss out on these timely informative and entertaining stories. Make sure to renew either online at PCNEWSOnline.Com or by mail.

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (Baldwin, Wis.)

## Swap Meet Calendar

© 2024 Police Insignia Collectors Association

**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 2024 Columbus, O. Public Safety Collectors Show will be Sat., Sept. 14 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.



## Swap Meet Calendar ...Continued

All 108 display tables have been sold. 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. 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.

This show is once 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 will be available at the Marriott. The hotel number is (614) 791-1000. 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, contact Swank on (614) 638-7245 or email bill319cmh@gmail.com.

## Williamstown, N.J.

The Third Annual "South Jersey" Police Collectors Show will be Sun., Sept. 29 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 open 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 Fund and the Monroe Township Police Unity Tour.

For more information, email SouthJerseyPoliceCollectors@gmail.com.

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

## Ripon, Calif.

The 2024 Ripon Public Safety Collectors Show will be Sat., Oct. 5 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) and the Ripon VIPS. It is sponsored by CLEHS.

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 website, 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 mail it to President Gary Hoving, CLEHS, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875, (805) 441-4936 or email him through the CLEHS website.

## Dorchester, Mass.

The Third Annual "Metropolitan Boston" Police and Fire Collectors Show will be Sun., Oct. 6 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.

Admission is \$10.

Tables are available for \$45 each. The hall opens at 8 am for exhibitor setup. There were 80 tables last year.

The union hall has ample 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.

## Arnold, Mo.

The 39th Annual Saint Louis Area "Gateway" Police Collectors Show will be Sat., Oct. 19 from 8 am to 3 pm at the Arnold Fraternal Order of Eagles, 1725 Jeffco Blvd., Arnold, Mo. Frank Selvaggio, Bob Shockey and Cody Umfress will host it.

Admission is \$3 for those 21 and older. Guests under 21 and spouses are admitted free.

Sixty tables are available for \$20 each.

The closest hotels are just a couple miles away at the Interstate 55 and Highway 141 exit (191).

This is a private show. Entrance will only be granted to active and retired law enforcement, fire, emergency medical and military personnel, their friends and family members, as well as bonafide collectors. Exceptions can be made to this policy prior to the show with the approval of the show hosts. We reserve the right to ask for identification. Admission and table costs are non-refundable.

For show information, contact Frank Selvaggio on (314) 614-9444.

For table reservations, text Umfress on (573) 561-6053.

## Fairfax, Va.

The 2024 Fairfax Regional Badge and Patch Show will be Sat., Nov. 2 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 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 \$30 each. The fee includes admission for the tableholder and one designated table assistant. Tableholder setup begins at 8 am. Tables are assigned on a "first-come, first-served" basis with payment in advance.

Table reservations can be made by sending a check or money order to the Fairfax County Public Safety Cadets, 12099 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax VA 22035-5501.

The hall features plenty of free parking with easy access. Food 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. Explore our nation's capital and the famous museums and sites, such as 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 your prior arrangement.

Guided tours of the Fairfax County Public Safety Headquarters featuring historic displays with lots of badges, patches and uniforms have been held before previous shows.

For further information or questions, email Steinkuller at fcpashow@aol.com.

## New Port Richey, Fla.

The First Annual Tampa Bay-Gulf Coast Police Collectibles Show will be Sat., Nov. 9 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Fraternal Order of Elks Hall, 7201 Congress St., New Port Richey, Fla. Darryl Smith, Kelly Coopman and Aaron Waldo will host it.

Admission is \$5.

Ninety tables are available for \$20. These are six foot tables. Tableholder setup begins at 8 am. Only tableholders will be admitted during setup.

This show is a fundraiser for the Saint Petersburg Police Safety Cadets. One hundred percent of the profits will be donated to the organization.

The Elks Lodge will serve food and refreshments.

Two local hotels are offering reduced rates. Hampton Inn, 11050 U.S. 19, Port Richey. Make reservations on (727) 869-4900 and mention the collectors convention. Homewood Suites, 11115 U.S. North, Port Richey. Reservations can be made on (727) 819-1000. Please mention the Tampa Bay Collectors Show. Both hotels are less than 15 minutes from the show hall. They offer breakfast.

There will be display awards, a patch drop and raffles.

Make table reservations by email to tampabaygulfcoast@gmail.com. The hosts will respond with payment instructions.

## Hamilton Square, N.J.

The 33rd Annual "Central Jersey" Police and Fire Collectors Swap Meet will be Sun., Nov. 24 from 8 am to 1 pm at the Ancient Order of Hibernians, 2419 Kuser Rd., Hamilton Square, N.J. Dom Botteri is the host. **Please note this is a new location for this show.**

Tables are \$30 each and payable in advance. One admission is included with the tableholder. The hall will open for exhibitors set up at 7 am.

Admission for collectors is \$5. Wives, girlfriends and children are admitted free.

Displays are encouraged. There will be display awards and a patch drop.

Food will be available.

Reproductions available for sale or trade must be marked as reproductions. Contact Botteri for any questions or additional information regarding this policy.

For table reservations, directions or additional information, contact Botteri at (609) 571-8201 (voice or text) or email ltd104@aol.com.

## Claremont, Calif.

The 43rd Annual "The Porky Show" will be Sat., Jan. 18, 2025 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. A waiting list is being maintained.

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 \$139 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 14 to receive the discounted price.

The show website is ThePorkyShow.Com.

For additional information, email the hosts:

Nick Cardaras nick@theporkyshow.com

Dennis Smith dennis@theporkyshow.com

## Cocoa, Fla.

The 38th Annual "Space Coast" Patch, Badge and Coin Show will be Sat., Jan. 25 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Walter Butler Community Center, 4201 N. Cocoa Blvd., Cocoa, Fla. Steve and Karen Bridges will host it. **Please note the change in show hours from previous announcements.**

This is the second show at this new location. The previous venue in Titusville became unavailable. It is 12 miles from I-95 and S.R. 550 in Titusville where most hotels are located.

Admission is one colorful patch, preferably from the attendee's agency.

Seventy six-foot tables are available for \$25 each before December 31 and \$30 after December 31. Early reservations are recommended because tables are offered on a "first come" basis. The show is a sellout every year. Early reservations are recommended. Please send payment with reservations. Table setup begins at 8 am.

Reproductions must be marked.

Awards will be presented for the best displays.

There will be a food truck on site to serve lunch at a reasonable cost.

The host hotel is the Hyatt Place Titusville-Kennedy Space Center in Titusville. Reduced room rates of \$139 per night are available from Thursday through Sunday nights. Make reservations on (321) 383-2280. Please mention the police patch collectors show to qualify for the special rate.

Make table reservations by calling the host on (321) 302-1983 (cell) or emailing csteveb170@gmail.com. Confirm reservations by mailing table fees to Steve Bridges, 1535 Justin Court, Titusville FL 32796.

## Forsyth, Ga.

The first Georgia-Southeast Regional Patch and Challenge Coin Show will be Sat. Feb 15 from 8 am to 3 pm at the Monroe County Conference Center, 475 Holiday Cir., Forsyth, Ga. Elton Rosser is the host.

General admission is \$5.

At least 55 tables are \$25 each for six foot tables or \$30 each for eight foot tables. Setup is Friday, Feb. 14 from 5 pm to 6:30 pm or 7 am on Saturday.

An award will be presented for the best display.

A state shape show patch will be given to tableholders. The patch may be available to attendees depending on availability.



Chick-a-Fil will offer a catered lunch for tableholders. Refreshments will be available. Forsyth is located about an hour south of Atlanta west of I-75 in Monroe County. It is known as the public safety capital of Georgia. The last show in 2018 attracted a large turnout of hobbyists from California, Canada, Florida and Georgia.

For table reservations or additional information, contact Rosser by email at patchshow@outlook.com or visit the show Facebook page, 2025 Georgia Patch and Coin Show. Online reservations can be made using the Facebook page.

## Reno, Nev.

The first Reno-Sparks Public Safety-Law Enforcement Collectors Show will be held on Sat., Apr. 26 from 8 am to 3 pm at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Gymnasium, 34 Reservation Rd., Reno, Nev. It is sponsored by the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Tribal Police Department. Chief Jarrod Nunes is the host.

This event is a reorganization of the former Silicon Valley Collectors Show.

Admission is \$5.

Fifty tables are available for \$40 each.

All proceeds will go the RSIC cadets and community programs.

Awards will be presented for the three best displays.

Make table reservations by email to jnunes@rsic.org. Use the Pay Pal address, nunesjj@aol.com for online payment. By mail reservations can be made by sending a check to Chief Jarrod Nunes, RSIC PD, 405 Golden Lane, Reno NV 89502.

Email questions to Chief Nunes or call (775) 530-1173.

## National Police Collectors Show

The 2025 National Police Collectors Show will be Fri., June 13, Sat., June 14 and Sunday, June 15 at the Phoenix Convention Center, 100 N. Third St., Phoenix, Ariz. It is sponsored by the Phoenix Police Museum and hosted by Mike Lucas and Bryan Richard. The show is a fundraiser for the museum.

The hobby's annual convention will begin on Fri., June 13 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 tableholders reception from 6 to 8 pm. Tableholder packets will be available beginning at 9 am on Friday.

The show will be open to the public from 9 am to 6 pm on Sat., June 14 and 8:30 am to 3:30 pm on Sun., June 15. Tableholders only will be admitted for setup beginning at 8 am both days. An opening ceremony is scheduled for 8:30 am on Saturday. Display awards will be presented at 2 pm on Sunday.

Admission is \$5. An early bird pass is available for \$75. The pass will allow a non-tableholder admission to the hall during setup times. A limited number of these passes are available and can be purchased through the show website.

Two hundred sixty-five eight foot tables are available for \$100 each. The fee includes admission for the tableholder and one assistant.

There is no host hotel. A list of downtown Phoenix hotels near the convention center is available on the show website.

The hosts plan on a tour of the Phoenix Police Museum for collectors and guests.

Vintage police vehicles will be shown inside the show hall.

Use the website PhoenixPoliceMuseum.Org for hotel information, make table reservations or ask questions.

## NYPD History On Display At Patrol Borough Queens South

NEW YORK, N.Y. – New York Police Department history takes center stage on October 20 when the Patrol Borough Queens South Museum (107th Precinct) hosts its first open house. Everyone is invited to the free event from 12 pm to 4 pm.

Curators Sergeant John Schroeder and Officer Joseph Marino said more than 1300 pieces of NYPD history are displayed on all three floors at the precinct. The collection features vintage firearms, uniforms, equipment, badges, emblems, photographs and other artifacts and memorabilia. Defunct agencies such as Housing Police, Transit Police and others are included.

Vintage NYPD vehicles will be displayed.

NYPD officers will describe exhibits and answer questions. Several members will wear vintage uniforms.

The first 100 people receive an NYPD history packet with a copy of a vintage edition of *Spring 3100*, the official NYPD magazine.

Additional information is available on the museum Facebook page, NYPD Museum at PBQS.

Precinct 107 is located at 71-01 Parsons Boulevard, Fresh Meadows, Queens.

Courtesy of NYPD Patrol Borough Queens South Museum

# "Heart Of Ozarks" Brings Hobby To Branson, Missouri

The "Heart of the Ozarks" Police Collectors Show brought law enforcement insignia collectors from across the country to Branson, Mo. on June 14 and 15 for another sellout event. Jim Post, Tom Breen and Terry Bible hosted their ninth annual swap meet. It's an official Branson Law Enforcement Week event.

By Jim Post, Guest Writer

BRANSON, Mo. – The Ninth Annual "Heart of the Ozarks" Police Collectors Show in Branson, Mo. on June 14 and 15 was another successful sold-out event.

Tom Breen, Terry Bible and I, who collectively represent over a hundred years in our hobby, hosted it. In nine years, we have come up with a successful division of duties that results in a smooth-running collector event that has grown every year.

The show concludes National Law Enforcement Week, always the second week in June in Branson. This was the 11th annual week that honors American law enforcement.



"Taking A Trip Back In Time" is longtime collector and former reserve police officer Don Magruder's phenomenal exhibit of pre-1900 law enforcement badges from across the United States. It features 11 frames of mostly first and second issues from major cities and others. *Tom Breen photograph*

Law Enforcement Week has discounted and free events and shows, which include a law enforcement motorcycle competition, law enforcement vehicle light parade, five and ten kilometer runs, a golf competition and a day at Silver Dollar City, the Midwest's largest theme park, with a canine demonstration. The week's events conclude with a banquet cruise on the *Branson Belle* paddle wheeler with speakers, door prizes and raffles on beautiful Table Rock Lake.



Don Magruder of Iowa (left) won "Best of Show" honors at the well attended, sold out "Heart of the Ozarks" Police Collectors Show in Branson, Mo. on June 14 and 15. Entertainer Junior Brown (right) presented it. Magruder was recognized for his historic badges. *Tom Breen photograph*

National Law Enforcement Week was initiated by a group of local law enforcement members and businessmen to show the community's support for law enforcement. It, too, continues to grow every year.

Tableholders this year came from Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Tennessee with a good variety of badges, patches, coins and memorabilia.

The tableholders were: Missouri: David Brown, Cliff Kierstead, Frank Selvaggio, Kevin Mueller, Larry Crutchfield, Jason Holloway, Bob Schluben, Terry Bible and Tom



Jim Shattuck loves Christmas and began collecting law enforcement agency emblems with Christmas themes, which there are a lot these days. His unique collection is shown on red and green display boards. He may have the largest Christmas collection outside the North Pole! *Tom Breen photograph*





Country and western music artist Junior Brown (left) awards “Best Patch Display” to Jim Shattuck, a former United States Mint and United States Air Force police officer. Rather than show his USAF collection or his Mint Police displays, Shattuck went with Christmas themes, in June no less!. *Tom Breen photograph*

### Branson Show ...Continued

Breen; Kansas: Randy Wilson, John Cook, Marty Augustine and Howell Kania; Iowa: Don Magruder, Mike Leeper and Larry Raudebaugh;

Illinois: Willie Herald, Roger McLean and Daryl Weseloh; Arkansas: Seth DeBold and Jim Post; Minnesota: Rachel Canning and Pat Znajda; Kentucky: David Hume and Jim Fightmaster; Oklahoma: Scott Hannaford; Colorado: Craig Bauer; and Florida: Jake Schwalb and Steve Srozinski.

Branson always features a healthy walk-in traffic from Law Enforcement Week attendees and their families, many of whom experience their first collector show. The kids always



Pat Znajda traveled to Branson from northern Minnesota and brought along an informative historical exhibit from the Minnesota Highway Patrol, forerunner to the State Patrol, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Znajda has worked for both agencies. *Tom Breen photograph*

But, Junior was not finished. We only asked him once if he would like to present trophies to our winners, which he did with his typical enthusiasm. The winners were all well deserving.

Best Patch Display went to Jim Shattuck (Tennessee) for his unique collection of Christmas theme emblems, probably the hobby’s largest.

Best Badge Display was won by Howell Kania (Kentucky) for a conservation law enforcement theme array of badges, emblems and other artifacts and memorabilia.

Rachel Canning (Minnesota) won “Best Educational Display.” The LeCenter police officer brought displays of Minneapolis PD, Saint Paul PD and Minneapolis FBI Office insignia, federal badges and license plate sets, restraints and batons.

“Best of Show” was awarded to Don Magruder (Iowa) for his pre-1900 badge collection, “Taking A Trip Back In Time.”

Thanks to these great collectors for driving the miles and transporting their displays for our enjoyment and education. Our appreciation also goes to all the tableholders who supported this and earlier shows. Quite slowly, we couldn’t have done it without y’all.

Lastly, our sincere appreciation goes to Junior Brown for taking a break from his hectic tour to visit our show and hobby and sharing his wit and wisdom while passing out the



Rachel Canning won “Best Educational Display” for her Minnesota-themed exhibit at “Heart of the Ozarks.” She featured collections from Minneapolis, Saint Paul, FBI Minneapolis and federal agencies, as well as a variety of prisoner control devices, including old cuffs. *Rachel Canning photograph*

leave with handfuls of goodies from the tableholders. There were 100-plus guests and their families who registered from 12 states this year. Admission is always free.

On mid-afternoon Saturday, the first surprise occurred when the display contest trophies were unveiled. Following our yearly tradition, the trophies were a popular Missouri state shape in clear Lucite, but this year they also featured flashing blue LED lights, quite appropriate for a police gathering!

The next development was an unannounced surprise guest appearance by country music star Junior Brown, whose 1995 song, *Highway Patrol*, has become a national anthem for American state troopers.

Brown is famous for inventing the “guit-steel,” a unique double neck guitar that is half string and half steel. He has recorded 12 studio albums and keeps a busy tour schedule, so we were fortunate he could take time out to visit us. He enjoyed checking out all the tables, chatting with collectors, posing for photos and signing autographs.



Howard Kania (left) accepts the “Best Badge Display” award from Junior Brown at the Branson show. The officer collects his agency, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, as well as conservation law enforcement agencies throughout the entire United States. *Tom Breen photograph*



Rachel Canning (right) journeyed from Minnesota to attend the “Heart of the Ozarks” show. She went home with the “Best Educational Display” plaque presented by Junior Brown (left) for her historic law enforcement prison control devices and Saint Paul PD insignia. *Tom Breen photograph*

trophies.

JIM POST (Lowell, Ark.)

**Turocy Announces Retirement** Well known collector and historian Vinnie Turocy has announced his retirement from the Tennessee Highway Patrol after more than a quarter century. “THP” has given me some of the best years of my life,” said Turocy, a Nashville area lieutenant. He said he is exploring other opportunities. Turocy told *PCNEWS* he will continue his world class THP collection and plans to add to it in the future. “I’m retiring from the THP but not from the collection,” he said.



A very impressive framed Missouri emblem collection was found on the tables of co-host Terry Bible (center) shown talking patches with a Branson show visitor. The Missouri state trooper took a time out from showing his MSHP collection to offer something different at “Heart of the Ozarks.” *Tom Breen photograph*





Massachusetts badge and state police/highway patrol license plate collector Jim Aitken died on July 20 following a lengthy battle with cancer. He was 65. Aitken was head mechanic for the Massachusetts State Police from 1979 to 2015. He retired and moved to South Carolina. *Contributed photograph*



When former Los Angeles Police Chief Ed Davis (left) visited a Riverside County peace officers meeting, he was photographed with Riverside police officer and badge collector Pete Arellano (right) in front of an 1800-piece collection. The date of this picture is unknown. *Contributed photograph*

# Hobby Mourns Loss Of Five Fine Collectors

Collectors across the country are mourning the recent deaths of well known law enforcement insignia collectors, James Aitken, Pete Arellano, Scott Barksdale, Bruce Petro and Adam Sampler. All five hobbyists will long be remembered for their dedication to our hobby, as well as their fine collections.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

SPECIAL – Collectors across the country are mourning the recent deaths of well known law enforcement memorabilia hobbyists James Aitken, Peter Arellano, Scott Barksdale, Bruce Petro and Adam Sampler.

Aitken, 65, of Long, S.C. but formerly of Massachusetts, succumbed to cancer at his home on July 20.

Arellano, 85, of Riverside, Calif. died of natural causes in home hospice care on March 10.

Barksdale lost a two-year battle with cancer at his home in Columbia, S.C. on July 9. He was 72.

Petro, 78, died of an apparent heart attack in Millersville, Md. on July 19 following a lengthy illness. His brother, Steve Petro of Spencersport, N.Y., is also a longtime insignia collector and historian.

Sampler, 38, of Griffin, Ga. died on August 1 following a courageous fight with colon cancer.

**“Ace’s” unmatched loyalty** Even though he never wore a badge, Jim “Ace” Aitken maintained fierce loyalty to Massachusetts state troopers.

As the Massachusetts State Police head mechanic for 35 years, not only did Aitken keep

patrol vehicles running at maximum efficiency, but troopers revered him for his strong work ethic and dedication to his profession, nicknaming him “Ace,” as in ace mechanic.

Aitken never turned down a trooper who wanted something fixed on his cruiser, even as the state transitioned between vehicle manufacturers and from four door sedans to sport utility vehicles. Troopers always asked him to coax a few more top end miles per hour out of their rides. He was always able to accommodate them.

He joined the MSP in 1979 only about a year and a half out of high school in Natick, Mass. A lifelong “car guy,” he breezed through certified mechanic training and was hired by International Harvester to work on trucks. However, he left private employment after only a few months when he heard about an opening for a fleet mechanic at the state police garage. He retired as the head mechanic in 2015 and moved from Natick to South Carolina.

Aitken collected state police and highway patrol badges and patrol vehicle license plates from all 50 states. His Massachusetts State Police collection was truly incredible. He became a recognized expert on his department’s badge and license plate histories.

In 1988, he designed a new cruiser license plate that was approved by the department. It appeared on all MSP marked vehicles from 1989 to 2007.

Aitken was equally dedicated to state police history. He was an early supporter and contributor to the first Massachusetts State Police Museum and even served as one of the inaugural curators.

He was a regular at the annual National Troopers Coalition Picnic across the country where he exchanged plates and other memorabilia with troopers from across the country.

As news of his death spread across the hobby, his many friends offered tributes and remembrances.

“Rest in peace, Jim; a true legend in the SP/HP collecting world, and a great friend for many years. Another MSP legend gone too soon,” said Brian Dunn, a retired Massachusetts state trooper, longtime collector and host of the Boston show. “The show this year will be dedicated to his memory.”

“Jimmy was a wealth of knowledge in the hobby, a true gentleman. He was a founding member of the New England Black Sheep, and most of all, a very good friend. He will be missed...” veteran Massachusetts collector Tony Kalicki wrote.

Fellow state police and highway patrol insignia collector Tony Aleria, a retired California Highway Patrol motor officer, said, “I will miss our trades, our conversations, our visits, our friendship. No more pain now that you are in the glory of Heaven.”

Retired Kentucky state trooper Willie Herald, another SP/HP hobbyist, reminisced about spending time with Aitken at the National Police Collectors Show in Marlborough, Mass. in July 2018.

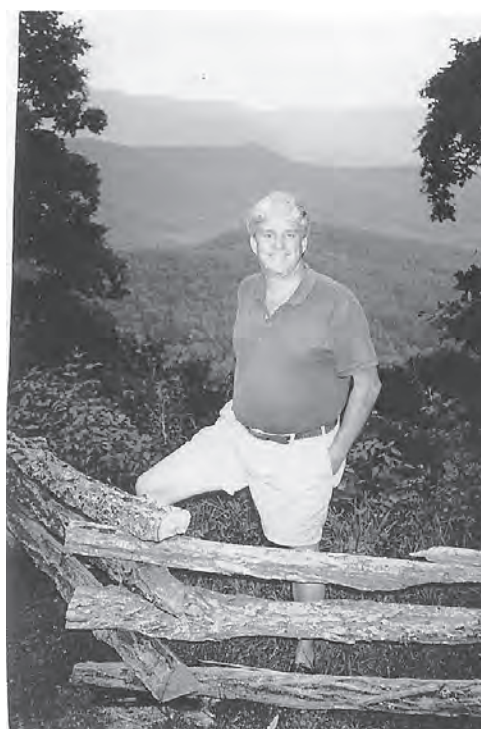
“I flew up to Massachusetts for the National Police Collectors Show. Jimmy met me at the Boston airport. It had been many years since we had seen each other, and Jimmy had just gotten back active in the hobby.

“Our first stop was the Massachusetts State Police Marine Patrol on Boston Harbor where we had the opportunity to patrol the harbor and visited the oldest United States lighthouse. That was just the beginning of the weekend’s adventures and an opportunity to make some memories I otherwise wouldn’t have.

“Jimmy was first class, looked out for his friends, always asked how you were doing and was a genuine and loyal friend. I was fortunate and privileged to call him my friend. There



Pete Arellano was a police officer in his hometown of Riverside, Calif. for 25 years and retired with the rank of patrol sergeant. He had spent five years with Hemet PD before joining Riverside. His daughter said Arellano “absolutely loved being a police officer.” *Contributed photograph*



Francis Scott Barksdale, law enforcement insignia collector and designer, died on July 9 at his home in Columbia, S.C. He was 72. Barksdale joined the Marines after high school and served two years in South Vietnam. He became a police officer after his discharge. *Contributed photograph*





Scott Barksdale designed and produced custom insignia for law enforcement agencies across the country. His designs were always large, colorful and usually portrayed a highlight of the community depicted. The Marine Corps veteran had been battling cancer before his untimely death. *Contributed photograph*

## Obituaries ...Continued

was only one and there will never be another..."

Mike R. Bondarenko first met Aitken in the late '80s at one of Rich Pontes' early New England shows. He invited him to tour the Massachusetts State Police Museum and Fleet Garage in Framingham. Pontes and Bondarenko accepted the invitation and found Aitken a gracious host.

"I collected only patches back then. As he was showing us around his workplace with state police cruisers in various states of repair all around, he offered me a door decal, as many license plates as I wanted and, believe it or not, the front door from a patrol car that had been damaged in an on duty crash," said Bondarenko.

Aitken was born in Boston in 1959 and raised in Natick.

He is survived by his wife, Trang, and two sisters.

His funeral was held in Natick on July 31. He was buried in nearby Wayland, Mass.

*Thanks to Tony Kalicki and Rich Pontes for their assistance with this remembrance of their friend.*

**Riverside all the way** Pete Arellano was all about his beloved Riverside, Calif. The veteran insignia collector and law enforcement officer was born, raised, lived, worked and died in the city he loved.

According to his daughter, Dawn Gronowski, Arellano had been in failing health for some time. Her father was in home hospice care when he died on March 10 at age 85. "My father had a good life. He did everything he wanted to do. We were all there for him right to the end," she said.

Arellano was born in a Riverside barrio in 1939. He lived in a poor, often violent Hispanic neighborhood where street gangs were constantly at odds with the police. Even though he was recruited by gangs as a teen and saw most of his friends join, Arellano wanted a brighter future.

"My father wanted to do better for himself. He didn't want to be a gang banger; that's what he called them. He never joined a gang. He decided to become a police officer," Gronowski said.

Arellano joined the Hemet Police Department, another Riverside County agency, in April 1961 as a 22 year-old recruit.

He worked in Hemet for five years before he went to work in his hometown and started

a distinguished 25-year career. He received a Purple Heart for an on duty injury as well as many awards and commendations. He retired as a patrol sergeant.

Arellano was passionate about giving back to Riverside throughout his career and even after his retirement. He won at least three major awards for his dedication to city youth soccer programs, including a commendation from the California State Senate.

Arellano began collecting patches and badges early in his career. He specialized in California, although he also added out of state insignia that interested him, usually very colorful or unusual designs, or famous places.

He was a regular at California shows and attended all three National Shows in the state beginning in 1985. While his home was decorated with numerous attractive displays, he almost never brought them to shows.

Gronowski said her father did not share his wishes over what he wanted done with his collection upon his death. There are 19 cases of patches and seven cases of badges. He also collected pictures of police officers and ID cards.

"Ninety-nine percent of everything is from California," she said.

She has chosen three collectors to help her liquidate his badge collection, Ed Godfrey, Randy Grago and Richard Rufo.

"My father really loved being a police officer and collecting patches," said Gronowski. "He really enjoyed your newspaper, too. He always looked forward to getting it."

He is survived by his wife, Gronowski and nieces and nephews.

Arellano was buried with full police honors in Riverside on April 9.

*Thanks to Gary Hoving and Randy Grago for their assistance with this tribute.*

**Once a Marine...** Once a Marine, always a Marine was more than a saying to Scott Barksdale. It was a way of life.

The law enforcement emblem collector and designer enlisted in his beloved Corps after graduating from high school in his native Florida. He was sent into combat in South Vietnam where his unit fought against Communist forces in hot spots like Khe Sanh.

"I got a police job in Sebastian [Florida] after my discharge. I was 21 years old and fresh out of Vietnam. That's how I got interested in police patches. I saw they were bigger and more colorful than patches we wore on fatigues," said Barksdale in a 2005 interview with PCNEWS.

Later, he became a sheriff's deputy before he left law enforcement and became an insurance broker and consultant.

Barksdale began collecting police patches. The longer he worked in law enforcement and built his collection, the more he became convinced he could design emblems. He began studying patches worn by officers he encountered on the job and in the hobby.

"The emblem on an officer's uniform should be something special; it should be a source of pride for the officer, his department and the community, not something so plain and simple that it really doesn't mean anything," he said. "I've seen quite a few I would never want to wear on my uniform if I worked there."

Barksdale believed agency insignia should be specific to the community as well. He decried so-called generic styles and what he described as overuse of state seals.

In 1991, he started Barksdale's Custom Emblems and marketed his services as an insignia producer to public safety agencies. Using a local artist to help create designs based on his ideas, his company became quite successful. He specialized in small departments.

Barksdale made insignia for dozens of agencies nationwide. Although he wasn't a badge collector, he also produced some badges with custom seals. However, cloth emblems were his primary focus.

His trademarks were large, very colorful designs with big block-shaped lettering. Local landmarks were often depicted. High school sports team mascots were among his favorite themes. "Nothing usually brings a small town together like supporting their high school sports teams," he said.

Occasionally, Barksdale created a prototype patch that he tried to sell to the agency. This practice made his insignia controversial among collectors who criticized him for marketing emblems representing an agency that the department never adopted.

He offered an explanation in the PCNEWS interview.

"I've been approached by chiefs who wanted a patch made for their department or one of their units. They were real interested but wanted to see the patch before they bought it from me. So, when I was pretty sure they'd buy it, I had a small number made so they could see it," Barksdale said.

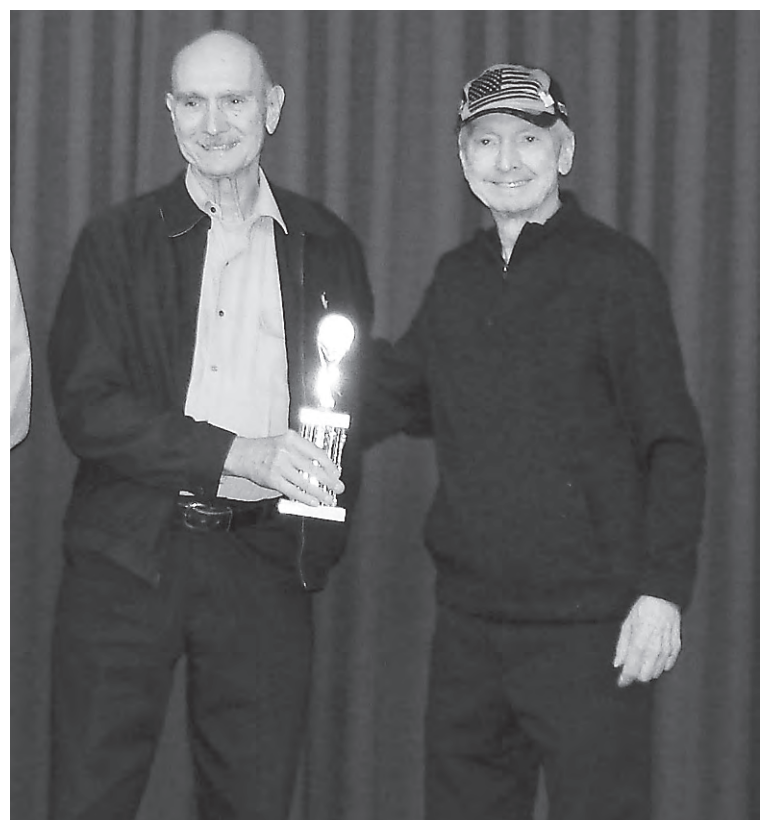
"I didn't do this very often because I have to pay for prototype patches. But, almost every time I did, the chief loved it and bought it. There were some times when a chief turned me down after seeing the patches. That left me with bunch of patches. I sold some as prototypes. I also gave some to collector friends as gifts or used them as samples."

Barksdale was particularly proud of an emblem he did for the presidential helicopter, Marine One, in 2005. It was created for the Marines who provided security for the helicopters that transported President George W. Bush during his second term. "That's the patch that made this all worthwhile for me," he said.

Barksdale was diagnosed with cancer about two years ago. He had been undergoing



Jim Aitken was among the founders of the Massachusetts State Police Museum. He contacted retired troopers and former employees soliciting artifacts and memorabilia for the then-new museum. He now has a place of honor all his own at the museum. *Hervey Cote photograph*



Host Andy Ferraro honored Steve (left) and Bruce (right) Petro with an award for displaying their massive United States Secret Service pin collection. Steve Petro was a member of the Secret Service and collected most of the pins, while Bruce Petro built the exhibit. *Contributed photograph*





Bruce Petro was a member of the Anne Arundel, Md. County Police Reserve Unit from 2006 until his death on July 19. He rose to the rank of reserve major; this photograph shows him as a lieutenant. Petro was an avid collector of Maryland and natural resources insignia. *Contributed photograph*

treatment before his death.

Sadly, *PCNEWS* was unable to locate an obituary for Barksdale. No details on his funeral or interment are available.

**A lifetime of public service** Bruce Petro spent most of his life in public service. The veteran insignia collector served with five federal agencies, United States Army Reserve, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Civil Air Patrol and civilian law enforcement in Maryland.

Petro, 78, died on July 19 in Millersville, Md. following a lengthy illness.

He was an avid collector of Maryland and natural resources law enforcement insignia, according to his brother, Steve Petro, a noted federal law enforcement collector and historian.

"Bruce prided himself with an almost complete Anne Arundel police framed patch display which he intended to donate for display at their police headquarters in Millersville," said Steve Petro. "It is missing only the first issue shoulder patch to make it complete."

Petro also collected Federal Aviation Authority and United States airport police patches, Coast Guard Auxiliary patches and Civil Air patches. In addition, he had an impressive Maryland police license plate and antique car photograph collection.

Bruce and Steve Petro won a display award at one of the Riverdale, Md. shows for their extensive United States Secret Service pin collection. "Bruce did all the framing to make the collection complete with an easel and lights to make the display attractive at any event," Steve Petro said.

In 2014, the brothers donated the entire pin collection to the United States Secret Service Training Center in Beltsville, Md. It is currently displayed at the Merletti Administration Building lobby.

During his long career in federal government service, Petro worked for the Federal Emergency Management Administration, Veterans Administration, United States Postal Service, Food and Drug Administration and Federal Aviation Administration.

He had been a member of the Anne Arundel County Police Reserve Officer Unit from 2006 until his death where he attained the rank of reserve major. He was secretary of the county reserve police officers association.

Petro joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary in 2007 and held the rank of ensign flotilla staff officer. "He was very active in the Auxiliary," said Steve Petro.

He served from 2007 until his death as a member of the Southern District Maryland



Georgia public safety insignia collector Adam Sampler lost a two-year fight with cancer on August 1. He was only 38 years old. Sampler was a police officer and deputy sheriff, as well as a firefighter and emergency medical technician in Georgia. *Contributed photograph*

Natural Resources Police Auxiliary.

Petro was a member of the Civil Air Patrol Apollo Squadron from 2007 to 2016 where he held the rank of lieutenant.

The veteran public servant was born in Buffalo, N.Y. He obtained a masters degree in industrial engineering at the University of Buffalo. He held a professional industrial engineer certificate.

Petro had many other interests. He was an antique car collector. He enjoyed motorcycling, boating, wood carving and playing the guitar and banjo.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Karen, brother Steve Petro and a nephew.

A funeral mass was held in Millersville on July 25. Internment was at the church cemetery.

Steve Petro eulogized his brother during the service, describing him as "mission driven, despite many medical challenges."

"During our college days, we both lived with our parents while he simultaneously pursued business and engineering degrees while managing the night shift team at a local restaurant. He routinely reduced his sleep schedule to four or five hours a day to accommodate his strong work ethic," he told the mourners.

**"Just a great guy"** Adam Sampler covered all the bases in Georgia public safety during his all too brief life. He was a police officer, sheriff's deputy, emergency medical technician and firefighter. The 38-year-old Griffin, Ga. law enforcement and fire insignia collector died following a courageous two-year battle with colon cancer.

"Adam was just a great guy. He could make friends faster than anybody I know. I'm still trying to get over him being gone. It's been pretty rough," said his best friend, fellow collector Elton Rosser, host of the upcoming Georgia-Southeast Regional Collectors Show. They knew each other for 25 years.

Sampler entered the Georgia Public Safety Training Center after graduating from high school in Griffin. He worked for the Pike County 911 Communications Center, Spalding County Sheriffs Department and Jonesboro Police Department.

He joined Pike County Emergency Medical Services and became an EMT. He rose to the rank of lieutenant.

However, Sampler's first love was firefighting. He volunteered at the local fire department. "Adam liked being a firefighter more than he liked police work. He started out collecting fire stuff and had quite a big collection," said Rosser. "He collected mostly police things from around here and didn't have a very big collection, but he still picked up stuff he liked."

About five years ago, Sampler opted for a career change and went to work for a local towing and auto body business. He was manager and estimator at First Rate Towing and Collision in Griffin, a job he truly enjoyed.

"He put flashing lights all over their tow trucks. Everything you can think of lit up. I kidded him about it all the time," Rosser said. "He told me when he was cop he saw too many wrecks when people hit trucks, so he made sure his trucks were lit up."

Sampler shared Rosser's interest in railroads. They are among a group of local people working to restore the Roosevelt Railroad, a short line in middle Georgia. The Roosevelt Railroad Museum has owned the rail line since 1991 and hopes to restore it to active service. The line was part of Southern Railway's "M" Line that frequently transported President Franklin D. Roosevelt from Washington, D.C. to his residence in Warm Springs, Ga.

"Adam was going to be our director of public safety. He'd been the person responsible for contacting the local police, fire and EMS and arranging for them to help us when needed after we get rolling," Rosser said.

The railroad's seven miles of abandoned tracks were recently used to film an episode of the TV series, *The Walking Dead*. Sampler declined an offer to become an extra.

Funeral services were held in Griffin on August 5. Internment was at a local cemetery. MIKE R. BONDARENKO (Baldwin, Wis.)

## Gettysburg Hosts First Pennsylvania Show Since 2017

Historic Gettysburg, Penna. welcomed eager law enforcement insignia collectors from nine states and as far away as Australia to the first "Mason-Dixon" Police Collectors Show on June 29. Adam Reid and Lou McAlexander hosted a premier 63-table sellout that far exceeded expectations. It was the first Keystone State show since 2017.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

GETTYSBURG, Penna. – Gettysburg is all about Civil War history. It's where the Union Army defeated the Confederate Army in an epic 1863 battle that turned the tide of the war. It's where President Abraham Lincoln delivered his historic Gettysburg Address only a few months later.

This southern Pennsylvania city only minutes north of the Maryland state line made a perfect backdrop for a law enforcement insignia show emphasizing our profession's rich history as Adam Reid and Lou McAlexander hosted the first "Mason-Dixon" Police Memorabilia Show on Saturday, June 29.

Pennsylvania's first police insignia show of the decade was an unequivocal success. The 63-table sellout attracted hobbyists from as far away as Australia, Arizona and Wisconsin with heavy turnouts from throughout the Keystone State, New York, New Jersey and Virginia. Brian Eaton journeyed all the way from Brisbane, Queensland especially to attend the get-together.

Collectors represented 11 states, Arizona, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Virginia and Wisconsin.

One hundred eighty walk-in collectors paid admission to attend in addition to 45 tableholders and assistants. Total attendance was a very impressive 225.

Reid and McAlexander were overwhelmed by the response.

"I thought it would be a good show, but I never dreamed it would be anything like this,"





Adam Reid (left) and Lou McAlexander (right) hosted the first “Mason-Dixon” show in historic Gettysburg, Penna. on June 29. They welcomed Brian Eaton (center), a retired police officer and patch collector from Australia. Eaton enjoyed the show and acquired new insignia. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

### Gettysburg Show ...Continued

said Reid. “I’m absolutely amazed.”

“It was a lot bigger and better than we thought. We had to squeeze in more tables so everyone would have one who wanted one,” said McAlexander. “We couldn’t be any happier with how it went.”

The first-time hosts sold all 55 tables well before the show. However, they added eight



Longtime Maryland collector Phil Jascot collects Maryland with emphasis on municipal police, railroads and the Maryland-National Capital Park Police. He is shown with his MNCPPD patches and badges, as well as a collection from the Montgomery County PD in Maryland. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

more literally at the last minute to increase the tables rented to 63, which is outstanding for a new show.

When the hosts arrived before 7 am to open the hall for tableholders, they found the parking lot already filled with eager hobbyists waiting to get inside and set up. Fifteen or more non-tableholder walk-ins lined up before 8 am, ready to pay \$10 for early bird admission before the show officially opened at 9 am when admission was \$5.

Veteran collectors offered high praise for “Mason-Dixon.”

“This reminds me of an old fashioned ‘70s and ‘80s show with crowded aisles, every table sold and collectors lined up waiting to get in,” said Chip Greiner, noted railroad police badge collector from New Jersey. “They did a great job.”

“Great show! We [Pennsylvania] needed a show and the hosts came through. Add me to the list of those who thought this was a really, really good show. They’ve got something going here for the future,” offered Max Bellard, who has been collecting Pennsylvania for 50



Among the most popular collectors at Gettysburg was Santa Cop or Cop Claus, also known as Tony Mills, a Maryland collector. The retired law enforcement officer has been playing Santa Claus at public and private events for 25 years. His jacket is dark blue while the pants are light blue. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Phil Jascot’s impressive Maryland police collection featured 20 display boards like these with 20 patches each. That’s 400 patches, and he had even more in a large loose leaf binder. The collector’s goal is to complete the state, meaning at one emblem from every agency. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

years and attended nearly every show ever held in the state.

“One of best shows I’ve been to in a while. Lots of really good stuff at the tables. Great turnout. They [Reid and McAlexander] did a really good job,” said Jim Thomas, the North Carolina Highway Patrol collector who came up from Virginia.

Reid described “Mason-Dixon” as an experiment. “We wanted two things. First, we wanted to get the old time heavy hitter collectors from Pennsylvania and Maryland. We wanted to see if they would come out. Second, we wanted collectors to spend time in Gettysburg, see the sights and enjoy a vacation,” he said. “We accomplished both goals.”

Joe and Mary Conover of Abington, Penna. were among those came in early to see the Gettysburg National Battlefield and go on the legendary Gettysburg Ghost Tour, which they enjoyed immensely. “Both were just great. Everybody has to take both tours,” said Mary Conover. Both are avid history buffs and loved Gettysburg.



Jim Thomas titled his nicely done display of Confederate battle flag patches and badges “The South Invades Gettysburg Again.” It features nearly 150 law enforcement emblems featuring the flag. Battle flag patches were once popular in the South but few agencies wear them now. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

“We saw the battlefield, the visitor center that has a lot of history and the museum, which is awesome,” said Joe Conover. “It was all very interesting. We learned a lot about the Civil War we didn’t know. They put on nice tours at both places.”

Reid and McAlexander announced there will be a second Gettysburg show next year. However, they want feedback from those who attended before making final plans. “We want to know what we did good, and what we need to improve,” said Reid. He invited feedback on the show Facebook page, which remains active.

He said several collectors commented on the high cost of hotel rooms because the show was held at the height of the tourist season. Consideration will be given to moving the show to either the spring or fall when prices are lower. However, the hosts want to avoid conflicts with other established shows before they choose a date.

There is also the possibility of a larger venue. “It was crowded in here, that’s for sure. We’ll talk about that and see what we can do,” said Reid.

The 2025 show will be announced well in advance, he said.

“Mason-Dixon” tableholders Exhibitors from throughout the Northeast and beyond made “Mason-Dixon” a big winner.

Bob Speed, Bill King, Fred Repp, Ed Zitek, Mike Matkowsky, Ben Lefever, Joe Conover, Russ Crimmons, Brian Lyons, Max Bellard, Gerry Lindenhaf, Larry Wickert, Jim Thomas, Jim Thomas (Police Heritage Museum), David Martin, Ken Marshall, Phil Jascot, Tom Lent, Jim Crumpacker, Steve Petro,

Natalie McCurry (Thin Blue Line Art), Herman Naring, Dave Heck, James Meehan, Tracy Lynne Malloy, Luis Mendez, Gerry Tibbs, Tim Dellospedale, Eric Bernard, Kent Jefferies, Dave Valentine, Jeff McGunnigle, Michael Moore, Bradley Parker, Mike R. Bondarenko (*Police Collectors News*), Chip Greiner, Ed Sachs and Joe Morrison.



James Meehan specializes in fire police insignia from throughout the United States with emphasis on Pennsylvania. (Left) An eagle-topped police shield from the Lexington, N.C. Fire Department. (Right) Attractive fire police badges from Massachusetts, Attleboro and Northampton. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





New York was well represented in Gettysburg. Bradley Parker (left) and Steve Petro (right) were among tableholders. Petro found the shield-shaped Cattaraugus County Sheriff Sub-Station sign and added it to Parker's collection from the county. Parker also has a star-shaped sign (left). *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Joe Morrison of New Hampshire featured segments of his outstanding badge collection at "Mason-Dixon." Although the veteran collector has fine collections from the Northeast, he also brought collections from as far away as San Francisco and Texas. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Two prepaid tableholders were no shows.  
This list does not include the eight additional tables rented as the show opened.

**Outstanding displays enjoyed** Although "Mason-Dixon" was primarily a buy, sell or trade show, there were several outstanding displays for collectors and visitors to enjoy. There was no display contest.

Phil Jascot lives in Pennsylvania now but is Maryland born and raised. He specializes in Maryland law enforcement badges and patches and is interested in every agency.

Jascot's massive exhibit occupied an entire corner of the hallway leading into the show hall. Along the walls were shown 20 large framed collections of police and sheriff patches. Each frame had 20 patches. There was a loose leaf binder with additional Maryland

Virginian Jim Thomas is best known as one of the hobby's leading experts on North Carolina State Highway Patrol history and insignia. However, for "Mason-Dixon," he opted for the perfect Gettysburg show theme, badges and patches displaying the Confederate States of America battle flag. The veteran hobbyist titled it, "The South Invades Gettysburg Again."

"My friend, [the late] Ron Johnson, collected battle flag patches. He had a large collection. I bought it after he died and added some more that I've been able to find," said



Bradley Parker specializes in Cattaraugus County, N.Y. SO and has an excellent collection of historic agency artifacts and memorabilia. Here is his CCSD badge exhibit. It features a variety of deputy sheriff and special deputy sheriff badges going back to the last century. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Among the oldest badges worn by police officers in New York City in the Joe Morrison Collection. Most date to the late 1800s and early 1900s. This segment is heavy with detective and supervisor badges; the oldest are shown in the top row. NYPD is a challenging agency to collect. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

emblems as well. His badge and specialty collections were displayed on three tables. It was the largest exhibit of the show.

"I started collecting in 1981 when I was still living in Maryland. I started collecting Maryland even though I moved to Virginia for a police job," Jascot recalled. "I kept the Maryland collection going and have been collecting ever since. I like Maryland because of the variety."

Jascot has particular interests in railroad police and the Maryland-National Capital Park Police. His Park Police exhibit was shown in four large frames, two with badges and two showing patches, including obsolete styles and special units. Many rarities are depicted.

The Maryland-National Capital Park Police was formed in 1954. It is governed by a 15 member parks commission and patrols about 50,000 acres of parks and other recreational facilities in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. Officers are responsible for public safety in 422 parks, 235 miles of trails, 282 swimming pools, campgrounds, golf courses, horse stables, soccer stadiums and stream valleys.

Among Jascot's railroad offerings was a collection devoted to the Western Maryland Railroad, a defunct line. It ceased operations in 1983 after it was acquired by the CSX Railroad. The line transported passengers and freight beginning in 1853. Today, the railroad operates scenic tours on the original WMR tracks from Cumberland to Frostburg.

Jascot's exhibit features a Book of Rules, a 1968 Timetable, four police badges in different styles, a shoulder patch and locomotive photograph.

"My great-great-grandfather designed the line. He also did the Silver Durango Railroad in Colorado. I guess that's where my passion for trains comes from," he said.

There were exhibits of Maryland badges in multiple frames and collections devoted to the Montgomery County Police and the Baltimore Police Department.

Thomas. "They're getting hard to find because a lot of departments have gotten away from them. Not politically correct, I guess you'd say."

Thomas's exhibit featured six large frames of Confederate flag patches, as well as other examples arranged in plastic sleeves on his table. He has about 140 different battle flags in all.

He also showed five badges with the battle flag on them, two from Mobile, Ala. (patrol officer and retiree), Pensacola, Fla., Hillsborough, Fla. and Chickamauga, Ga., which is a commemorative shield.

"I've never shown this collection before, but I thought it might be fun to have the South invade the North again," grinned Thomas. "Like I said, these patches used to be common in the South but not anymore."

The collector's family has ties to the Confederacy. His great-great-grandfather, James Thomas Kerrick, enlisted in the Confederate Army at age 16. He was among 71,000 troops who battled 94,000 Union soldiers in Gettysburg for three days from July 1 to 3, 1863. Although the Union was victorious, there were 51,000 casualties between the two sides. It was among the bloodiest and costliest battles of the Civil War.

"Can you imagine what that young man saw and lived through? Seeing men being killed right in front of his eyes? All the carnage? Remember, he was only 16 at the time," said



Joe Conover put together this exhibit of Confederate States battle flag emblems to mark the 1863 Battle of Gettysburg. The veteran hobbyist makes a new display for every show he attends; it's become his trademark. The Conovers arrived early to see the battlefield and local attractions. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Joe Morrison showed agency specific collections. Authentic Texas Ranger badges are hard to get, but nevertheless, Morrison has a fine collection. This exhibit shows generations of Ranger badges. He's has a very nice chief circled star (lower right). *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





North Carolina State Highway Patrol Aircraft Operations unit members came up with this handsome emblem they intended for uniform wear. It was approved all the way up the chain of command to the colonel, but it was rejected. It shows an officer rappelling from a hovering helicopter. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

## Gettysburg Show ...Continued

Thomas. "No 16-year-old should ever have to see what he saw."

Thankfully, the young soldier lived through the war. Private Kerrick was discharged following two years of courageous service.

Longtime readers know about fire police because we've published articles on their unique duties in the past, but a synopsis of basic fire police duties and responsibilities is offered for new readers or those otherwise unfamiliar with fire police.

Fire police officers are members or affiliates of local fire departments in several states, especially Pennsylvania. They are responsible for safety and security at fire scenes. Their law enforcement authority is generally limited to fire scene protection, although they conduct fire investigations in many communities. In addition, fire police officers control traffic and crowds at active fire scenes, maintain perimeter security and protect firefighters



Police Heritage Museum board members Ronda Heilman, Kim Woolsock and Jim Thomas raised funds for a new location by selling shirts and other collectibles in Gettysburg. The museum was located in York, Penna. until 2015 when it was forced to close because their building was sold. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

from public interference with their duties.

Pennsylvania collector James Meehan specializes in fire police insignia and showed four large exhibits of badges and patches from his fine collection. He is also interested in other fire insignia. There are about 5000 different fire department emblems in his massive collection.

"I started collecting fire police because no one was preserving our history. I've been a fire police officer, lieutenant and captain, so collecting was natural for me. I share my collection on the internet on my website, which I started in 2018. Anyone is welcome to look at it," said Meehan. He also has a Facebook page with 22,500 members.

His "Mason-Dixon" exhibit featured fire police patch collections from Pennsylvania and New York and fire police badges from 14 other states, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Rhode Island and South Carolina. Many are old styles.

Meehan has built what is almost certainly the finest fire police insignia collection.

Where is Cattaraugus County, New York? Bradley Parker knows. He has been collecting the county sheriffs office for 20 years, specializing in the agency's long history, which began in 1817 when the county was founded.

Parker brought an interesting exhibit of agency history depicted in signs and posters,



David Martin, a retired Richmond, Va. police captain, produces most of the emblems and challenge coins worn by the state capital city department. He offered recent new styles, as well as a wide variety of domestic and foreign law enforcement insignia, artifacts and memorabilia. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



If you have these emblems in your United States Secret Service collection, you have counterfeits, according to former Special Agent Kent Jefferies, who has one of the hobby's largest and most complete agency collections. He has begun showing counterfeits to educate the hobby. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

badges, documents and Civil Defense artifacts.

One sign is a six-point ball-tipped gold-colored badge replica, while the other is a large white-on-black shield shape that once hung at a substation in the 1950s and '60s. Parker's longtime friend and fellow collector Steve Petro found it for him.

He showed 12 badges from Cattaraugus County SO history. Interestingly, only two are six-point stars. The others are a variety of eagle-topped or plain shields in various styles and sizes in the ranks of deputy sheriff, special deputy sheriff and correction officer.

"Our county museum has a photo of deputy sheriffs from 1902. They're wearing two badges. I have these styles in my collection," said Parker. "I've seen a 1950s photo that shows two more badges I have, too."

His turn of the century badges are a silver shield with a large round applied state seal and ornate black legends, "DEPUTY SHERIFF/ CATTARAGUS CO.," and a small gold-colored eagle-topped shield with gold legends on four banners, "DEPUTY/ SHERIFF/ CATTARAGUS COUNTY/ N.Y."

His 1950s badges are somewhat more modern styles.

There is an ornate silver-colored cirlet with an eagle and sunburst and laurels on either side. "DEPUTY SHERIFF/ CATTARAGUS COUNTY" is seen in blue letters on a gold ring around a gold center design showing the state seal on a blue background. "N.Y." in blue letters completes the design on a bottom panel.

Parker's other badge appears to be a cap shield. It's a gold-colored teardrop with a small state seal at the bottom. "DEPUTY SHERIFF/ CATTARAGUS CO., N.Y." appears in blue letters on a rectangular center design.

His Civil Defense exhibit from the 1950s and '60s features the familiar red, white and blue round CD patch with the county name along the bottom, two patch-like stickers and a 1951 certificate of training the county presented to J.E. McLaughlin when he was sworn in as an auxiliary police officer.

Finally, Parker has a reelection campaign poster for Sheriff Charles B. Hill, who served from 1967 to 1982. He was undersheriff when the elected sheriff died in office in 1967. Hill was appointed to fill the incumbent's unexpired term and won reelection to the office four times.

Still wondering about Cattaraugus County? It's in far western New York south of Buffalo and borders Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania collector Joe Conover always builds a new display for every show. He picked up on the Gettysburg Civil War theme with a timely display of emblems depicting either the Confederate battle flag or Civil War battle locations, such as Vicksburg, Miss., Manassas, Va. and Chickamauga, Ga.

"I wanted to do something with the history here [in Gettysburg]. I decided to put together a collection of Civil War battlefield cities and add a few Confederate flags," said Conover. "We love history, so we had to come here and learn about the battle."

He showed some hard to get battle flag styles, including Parkers Ferry, W. Va and Philippi, W. Va. Philippi was the site of the first battle of the war in 1861. Parkers Ferry changed hands between the North and South between eight and 12 times from 1861 to 1865 depending on the source.

New Hampshire collector Joe Morrison is one of the Northeast's most accomplished badge collectors. He featured outstanding exhibits from the Texas Rangers, San Francisco Police Department, New York Police Department and New Hampshire State Police.

His most impressive display featured antique badges going back to the 1860s and '70s. There were five so-called generic badges reading "POLICE" that officers or agencies ordered from badge makers, usually local jewelers, and a numbered hat wreath. All are silver-colored and hallmarked. Some have officer names engraved on the back. They were



North Carolina State Highway Patrol historian and collector Jim Thomas models a civil unrest training helmet troopers wore in the 1960s and '70s as the agency prepared for potential violence during Anti-War and Civil Rights protests. The military surplus helmet is silver with black letters. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





When the United States Transportation Security Administration (TSA) was created by the Congress in 2001, the federal government intended to take over policing at all United States airports. The law enforcement agency was to be known as the TSA Police. This is their prototype. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

shown with a set of old handcuffs and a metal police whistle.

"Back then, police badges were brought locally, usually from a jeweler or engraver. They were all made by hand," Morrison said.

His historic badges are in sharp contrast to the much larger, colorful custom designs of today. Yet, the era they represent, the earliest days of American law enforcement, will always remain our profession's heritage.

Morrison has an encyclopedic knowledge of the badges in his collection, easily reciting maker names, dates and background from memory.

**NCSHP Air Ops** Dave Kellner showed a North Carolina State Highway Patrol Air Operations emblem that never was, but still might be. Confusing, yes, yet it's a scenario all too familiar to patch collectors.

Although Kellner didn't produce it for Air Ops, he said troopers on the unit designed it. "They love it and want to wear it on duty. They got it approved all the way up the chain [of command], except for one signature, the colonel's. He declined to approve it," Kellner said.

However, there is always the possibility the creation may be approved sometime in the future. "Let's hope things change so it'll be approved," he said. "It's a nice patch."

The large round insignia has attached rockers. There is a large custom center design depicting a black clad trooper being lowered from a black helicopter with "SHP" (State Highway Patrol) lettered in gray on the bottom. The two-sided background shows a light blue sky in daylight and the sun on one side with the Moon and darkness on the other. "ADSERVIO SUPERNE," Latin for "Serve Above," is lettered in red along the bottom.

The rockers are black bordered in gold. The legends are also gold. "NCSHP" appears on top, while "AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS" is on the bottom.

Kellner showed a plastic-backed version of the emblem. It's nearly the same as the one the unit approved, except the letters "SHP" on the bottom of the helicopter are incorrect. "SHP" is too large and lettered along the long axis of the fuselage rather than perpendicular to it.

It's not unusual for members of a special unit to come up with a new patch like this that they want to wear, only to have someone in upper management reject it so they can't. Let's hope Air Ops gets their patch soon.

**Homeless police museum** Board of directors members from the Police Heritage Museum in York, Penna. welcomed collectors to their table to purchase museum t-shirts and other memorabilia to raise funds for the facility, which is temporarily closed. The museum operated in a former downtown storefront for 16 years until 2015 when it was forced to shut down. The building was sold to a developer.

"We've been homeless ever since," said Lower Windsor Township Police Chief James "Jim" Thomas, who serves as board president. "What happened was our building was sold. We had to vacate. Right now, we're searching for a new building. Everything we had on display is in safe storage."

Thomas said the board wants to find a suitable location somewhere in York County because the museum includes artifacts, memorabilia and history only from York but from other law enforcement agencies in the county and beyond.

"We're not just York PD. We've got things from other departments in York County. We've also got a piece of the World Trade Center wreckage, the first patrol bike used in New York City with wooden wheels and a lot more," said Thomas. "Our goal is to preserve all police history."

Additional artifacts are a variety of uniforms, vintage emergency lights, two motorcycles and a dirt bike. The collection is described as a potpourri of all things police.

Thomas said the group also wants to create a virtual museum to show the collection online.

Directors Ronda Heilman and Kim Woolsock helped Thomas sell shirts and collectibles during the show.

**Richmond insignia update** State capital city collectors take note. Richmond, Va. has added some special unit patches, cloth badges and challenge coins.

David Martin, a former Richmond police captain, does most of the insignia for his former



David Martin showed these emblems from the Richmond, Va. PD, Unmanned Aircraft Systems Team, Richmond Area Gang Enforcement (R.A.G.E.), Crowd Management Team, Saint Patrick's Day (fundraiser) and two gold and black cloth badges for sergeants and detectives. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

department and offered a variety of current styles at his well-stocked tables. He recapped some recent additions that will interest Virginia and state capital cities collectors.

The drone unit, known officially as the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Team (UAS), has a patch and coin.

Their emblem is the same familiar rounded rectangle with white-on-dark blue colors as are most RPD on duty cloth insignia. The rectangular center design shows a black and white drone in flight over a light blue background with "UAS" in gold letters at the bottom.

One side of the UAS coin is dark blue and white with a silver-colored outer border and legends. "RICHMOND VIRGINIA" appears at the top and "UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS TEAM" on the bottom on a blue ring bordered in white. An embossed silver drone on a silver background is depicted on the round center design.

Richmond's historic city seal is shown in black-on-white as the center design on the other side. It is surrounded by a blue ring bordered in red that carries the legends, "RICHMOND POLICE DEPARTMENT UAS" at the top and "ESTABLISHED DECEMBER 2017" on the bottom.

Crowd Management Team (CMT) has a style identical to UAS, except for the center design, which appears on a light blue background. It features a heavy armed officer in full riot gear behind a large transparent black shield with "POLICE" in white on a black shield center. The officer is depicted in white, black and red. "C.M.T." appears at the top in white letters.

Richmond Area Gang Enforcement (RAGE) is another identical style except for the center design. It depicts a dark multicolored panther with barred teeth as if ready to strike on a black background with brick-like gray horizontal and vertical lines. "RICHMOND AREA GANG ENFORCEMENT" is shown at the top in small white letters with "R.A.G.E" at the bottom in even smaller letters.

Sergeants and detectives now have cloth die-cut depictions of the agency's eagle-topped badge in black-on-gold. Their ranks appear on a top banner beneath upon which is seen, "POLICE/ RICHMOND VA," on a ring surrounding the state seal center design. "STATE OF VIRGINIA" is lettered in gold on a black ring around the seal.

Finally, Martin reported RPD comes out with a dated novelty emblem every Saint Patrick's Day. Only 100 are made and sold to raise money for the annual Police Unity Tour. He had to go back to 2018 to show me one because the patch sells out every year.

"I worked with members of each unit and the patches were designed. They can wear their unit patch on their left sleeve and the regulation patch on their right sleeve," Martin said. "A few are just novelty patches, like Homicide, but all are designed by a member of the unit."

The collector worked RPD for 40 years and retired as a captain in 2011. He founded the RPD Museum at the department training academy where most of his world class department collection is displayed.

Martin also brought a variety of other collectibles, including several frames of foreign law enforcement agencies, especially from England and Germany, as well as some federal emblems.

Among the most interesting items is a silver-colored helmet with "NC/ HIGHWAY/ PATROL" stenciled in black on the front. It's an old military surplus "pot," probably from the Korean War-era. I asked Jim Thomas, who specializes in the NCSHP, about it. He recognized the helmet from photos he has seen.

"They used these for riot squad training in the 1960s. I have one of nightsticks they used, but I don't have one of these helmets," he said.

The helmet is actually two helmets in one. There is a lightweight metal liner that would be worn by itself. It fits beneath the heavy steel helmet worn on top.

Like many states during the Civil Rights and Vietnam War protests eras, North Carolina troopers prepared for civil unrest in cities and on college campuses.

**Secret Service fakes** Kent Jefferies has put together a collection I deemed his Irony Bag. It's filled with counterfeit United States Secret Service patches he's come up with over the years. Imagine the irony in counterfeiting insignia from the federal agency created to combat counterfeiting!

"There are a lot fake Secret Service patches. I've found enough to fill this bag. Some we never wore at all; others are just unauthorized copies of official patches. I'm sure there others I just haven't run across yet," said the retired USSS special agent and highly accomplished agency collector.

Among the counterfeits in this infamous collection are...

...A round mostly gold-on-black patch with a crude depiction of a dog in the center on a white background. The legend appears in gold on a black background, "UNITED STATES/ SECRET SERVICE."

...A round mostly gold- and white-on-black patch with a gold lightning bolt and "ERT" in the center with "UNIFORMED" at the top and "DIVISION" on the bottom. It is surrounded by a black ring upon which is lettered "UNITED STATES/ SECRET SERVICE."

...A very attractive, but bogus, gold shield shape with six full color flags and the White House in the background with a dog, patrol car and Magnetometer in the foreground. "Very nice and colorful patch, but a fantasy," said Jefferies.

...There is a mostly blue and gold oblong shape purportedly for the USSS Training Academy. It has a five-point star badge as the center design with a red, gold and blue shield and "DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY" on it. Otherwise, "TRAINING" (top) and "ACADEMY" (bottom) are shown in blue letters on gold banners. "UNITED STATES" (top) and "SECRET SERVICE" (bottom) surround the badge.



One of the most highly decorated United States Navy combat ships during World War II was the *USS O'Bannon (DD-450)*. It fought with distinction in several major campaigns in the Pacific. Russ Penka recently traded a license plate for two military badges; this rarity was among them. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



## Gettysburg Show ...Continued

...Boston Field Office is a blue shield bordered in gold with a multicolored center design that depicts Faneuil Hall, a historic landmark, a clipper ship, an outline of the states of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts and a large silver USSS badge.

...Jefferies showed two additional counterfeit canines. One is larger version of the emblem previously described with a different lettering style. The other is a semicircle with a light blue background and gold legends. A gold, red and white five-point star badge is superimposed over a full side view of a German shepherd. "UNITED STATES" at the top and "SECRET SERVICE" on the bottom in mixed case letters completes the design.

Sadly, these counterfeits and others like them appear in many collections. I immediately removed them from my collection. I admit I had them all.

Finally, Jefferies showed a very rare agency-made prototype intended as the first emblem for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) when the agency was being formed in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the USA.

"Not many collectors know that Congress created TSA to federalize law enforcement at airports. In other words, the federal government planned to take over policing. Local agencies would no longer have primary jurisdiction at their airports," he explained.

President George W. Bush signed the Aviation and Transportation Security Act in November 2001. The legislation created the TSA to take over airport security. It also provided funding for initial staffing.

"TSA hired the first 24 supervisors, a captain, lieutenants and sergeants, and began training them to supervise the first line officers to be hired," said Jefferies. The new agency was to be known as the TSA Police Department.

The prototype was created for uniformed officers. Jefferies has one in his collection. It is a black-on-white shield shape with a round center showing a black and white eagle superimposed over the red, white and blue United States flag. "TSA" appears across the top and "POLICE" at the bottom. On a white ring bordered in black surrounding the center design is "TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION." Another white banner bordered in black carries "U.S. DEPARTMENT OF/ TRANSPORTATION." It appears at the bottom of the center design.

When cities across the nation learned the federal government was taking over airport policing through the new TSA Police, municipalities complained loudly to Congress. They asserted the takeover was an intrusion on their authority and local control and lobbied for revisions in the legislation.

Intense lobbying by mayors, city councils and municipal organizations got Congress to change its mind. The law was amended so airport policing remained a local responsibility, while the TSA was put in charge of passenger and baggage screening.

"They offered other federal jobs to the 24 police supervisors," Jefferies said.

Only 100 prototype TSA Police emblems were made in either late 2001 or early 2002. Jefferies got one because he was with the agency at the time. He has never seen another authentic TSA Police patch in a collection or anywhere else. It is assumed the remaining unused emblems were destroyed. "That's how the government works. When something is no longer needed, it's usually destroyed," he said.

**Historic Navy badge** North Carolinian Russ Penka is a license plate guy, not a military badge collector. However, recently he swapped a plate for two old military police shields. Figuring he could sell or trade them, he didn't give the badges much thought, until, that is, he discovered one was a master-at-arms shield from one of the United States Navy's most famous warships, the USS *O'Bannon* (DD 450).

"I started looking at the history of the *O'Bannon* and went, 'Wow! This ship has quite a history,'" said Penka. It turned out the destroyer was one of the most decorated combat ships of World War II with 17 battle stars and a Presidential Unit Citation.

The badge is small silver-colored eagle-topped shield with extensive wear. Legends read, "U.S. NAVY/ MAA/ USS O'BANNON/ 7." A circled five-point star inside a small shield comprises the center design. It's a standard Navy master-at-arms badge to which was added the ship name and a badge number in engraved legends on panels.

Built at the Boston Naval Yard in late 1941 and early 1942, construction was accelerated on the *O'Bannon* after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The ship was commissioned in June 1942 and sailed to the Southwest Pacific where it played a key role in brutal naval battles during the arduous Solomon Islands campaign, including supporting the Guadalcanal landing. Later, it played key roles in battle against Japanese forces in the Philippines and Okinawa.

*O'Bannon* was one of three destroyers Admiral William Halsey chose to escort the battleship *USS Missouri* into Tokyo Bay for the signing of the Japanese surrender documents in 1945. The ship returned to the USA and was decommissioned the following year.

"I never expected such a great piece of history to come my way," Penka said.

**Gettysburg police swag** It goes without saying Gettysburg police patches and challenge coins are in high demand because of the city's place in Civil War history.

Retired city police Sergeant Larry Wickert, a challenge coin collector, marketed a coin he recently did for his former department, as well as GPD patches. He obtained city approval for the coin.

"We got a lot of requests for patches and coins when I was still working," said Wickert, who retired this January. "We got flagged down all the time by out of town cops asking for trades."



Larry Wickert retired from the Gettysburg Police Department in January. The challenge coin collector took a "Mason-Dixon" table to promote his new GPD challenge coin. Large depictions of the front and back are shown. Wickert also had the police department patch for sale. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Chip Greiner went back to New Jersey happy. He landed this old pie plate from the Union Stockyards Police in Chicago, one he needed for his collection. Officers called them pie plates because the badges were heavy, mostly silver-colored and curved like a metal pie baking plate. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Gettysburg's shield-shaped emblem is white on black with a multicolored colored center design depicting a former city seal inside a keystone shape surrounded by a sunrise, trees and laurels. "GETTYSBURG" is lettered at the top and "POLICE" at the bottom.

A round white background carries the seal on the coin face. A black outer ring shows the legends, "GETTYSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT" at the top and "ORDAINED 1806" at the bottom.

The reverse commemorates the Battle of Gettysburg, which took place on July 1, 2 and 3, 1863. It shows a high-relief silver depiction of a Confederate and a Union soldier confronting each other face to face on either side of a canon with full color United States and Confederate States flags behind them.

Artist Keith Hanshaw of Gray Water Ops in Harrisburg, Penna. designed the coin.

Wickert has only a few patches and coins left. He is willing to sell by mail order to collectors who couldn't make the show. The coin is \$20 and the emblem is \$5. He adds \$5 for shipping. Contact him by email at sarggpd009@gmail.com.

Gettysburg has 12 full-time officers, a chief, two detectives, two sergeants and eight patrol officers.

**Mason-Dixon notebook** Gettysburg was wall to wall collectors, kind of like my show notebook.

...New York-New Jersey hosts Ed Zitek, Gerry Tibbs and Brian Lyons were tableholders. "We wanted to support this new show. It's been great," said Lyons. Zitek had a table piled high with trade patches, while Tibbs showed six cases of mostly East Coast badges for sale or trade. Lyons bought some New York State Police emblems.

...McAlexander and Reid came up with a commemorative show patch that sold like hot cakes. It's a take off on the Gettysburg police patch with a Civil War theme. Only four of the 100 patch order remained available as the show closed.

...Among out of state visitors were John Christmann, host of the Greater Cincinnati show; Hugh Jordan, Arizona; P.J. Belos, Indiana; Tom Rees, Virginia and Bob Speed, Maryland.

...Patches, patches and more patches stood ready, willing and able to find new homes at the well-stocked tables of such well-known East Coast sellers as Michael Moore, Dave Heck, Bill King, Herman Naring, Fred Repp, Tracy Malloy, Jim Crumpacker and Tom Kent, who hadn't attended a show in quite a few years.

...Praise was heaped on the refreshments and lunch providers, "It's All Good," a food truck owned by a couple from Carroll County, Md. Their homemade food and baked treats all but sold out by the end of the day. No one went home hungry. Everything was delicious and reasonable priced.

...Natalie McCurry of Thin Blue Line Art is a show supporter. The local artist offered a variety of custom law enforcement-related collectibles. She also donated a large thin blue line blanket as a raffle prize.

...Christmas in June? Well, why not? For retired Anne Arundel County deputy sheriff Tony Mills, it's always Christmas. The police and fire collector has been playing Santa Claus at public and private holiday functions in Maryland for 25 years. However, he swapped his traditional red and white costume for a blue one at the show, making him Cop Claus, Santa Cop or something like that.

"When I was a deputy, I was told by the boss that I was going to play Santa for a bunch of kids. I've been doing it ever since," said Mills.

Cop Claus posed for a ton of pictures. "I've had my picture taken so many times it's funny all the flashes haven't hurt my eyes," the collector added in his usual jovial tone. Mills has the perfect personality to play Old Saint Nick. Needless to say, he was a big hit at "Mason-Dixon." After all, who doesn't like Santa?

...Steve Petro offered a large set of law enforcement belt buckles for sale, including a few from state police and highway patrol agencies. We reminisced about how belt buckles were red hot collectibles in the '80s and early '90s. Now, they've joined Road Champs cars as all but forgotten pursuits in hobby history.

...New Jersey hobbyist Chip Greiner picked up a nice piece for his incredible police badge collection. It's a silver-colored pie plate from the Union Stockyards Police in Chicago that's was headed for his pie plate collection.

"I love old pie plates, if they're from railroads or not. Chicago had dozens of pie plates over the years," he said. "Chicago PD wore them. A lot were used by special police or private security companies. Most old Chicago badges are pie plates."



Jim Thomas (left) meet Jim Thomas (right)! Thomas on the left is the chief of police in Lower Windsor Township, Penna. and curator of the Police Heritage Museum in York. His counterpart is a retired North Carolina magistrate and specializes in North Carolina. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





Minnesota trooper badges are worn suspended from the left breast pocket of shirts and jackets. (They also have hat badges.) This one is a prototype showing the new seal. It is gold-colored with black legends and a silver custom seal. It will replace the current style. *Contributed photograph*

Chicago had a thriving meat packing industry beginning in the early 1800s until well into the 1900s, largely because the Windy City was major railroad hub. Livestock could easily be transported to Chicago, slaughtered and packed. Meat products could then be shipped anywhere by train.

Union Stockyards grew to a 345-acre complex after the Civil War. It was actually a city within a city with its own luxury hotel, bank, saloon and eatery, offices and a police force. The officers were special police granted police authority when on duty by Chicago PD.

...Several fire collector tableholders offered a wide variety of artifacts, memorabilia and, of course, lots of swag. I saw a few badges and quite a few patches to tempt fire collectors, as well some beautifully done scale model apparatus.

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (Baldwin, Wis.)

# Minnesota State Patrol Adopts New Insignia

A legislative directive for a new state seal and flag initiated the process of new insignia for the Minnesota State Patrol. New shoulder patches, metal badges and door decals featuring a colorful custom seal debuted in mid-August.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

SAINT PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota State Patrol has new cloth insignia for the first time since 2015. It's the eighth shoulder emblem worn by state troopers since 1929.

Colonel Christina Bogojevic announced the style change in mid-August. The basic design and colors remain the same as the previous emblem introduced in 1974 and modified with a color change in 2015. The 2024 patch features a new custom seal. Previous insignia showed the now-obsolete state seal.

"When the decision was made to replace the state seal and the state flag, we decided as a state agency that this would be a great opportunity to align ourselves with state agencies throughout the nation and come up with our own identity," said Colonel Bogojevic.

The new seal was created by a 13-member committee appointed by the colonel to formulate ideas for the new insignia. Input was solicited from troopers across the state.

Committee member Lieutenant Colonel Jeremy Geiger said the custom seal, which is predominantly two-tone blue and green, depicts the Mississippi River flowing into the distance below a four-point North Star surrounded by Norway pines, the state tree.

According to Lieutenant Colonel Geiger, the shining star shape is similar to the star depicted on the new state seal. It symbolizes the State Patrol's mission of serving all four corners of Gopher State. Seven trees were chosen because early in the agency's history,



(Left) The new Minnesota State Patrol emblem features a new custom seal designed by troopers on a 13-member committee. It debuted in mid-August. (Right) Troopers have worn this style since 1974 when the agency underwent a name change from Highway Patrol. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



A complete set of the current Minnesota State Patrol emblems that debuted in mid-August. The duty assignments are trooper, Capitol Security (blue background), Commercial Vehicle Inspection (gray background) and Communications. Each shows the new seal. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

troopers worked seven days a week with one day off a month.

"SINCE 1929" appears in gold on a maroon banner on top. The agency has served the state ever since then.

The custom seal also appears on new patrol vehicle decals and metal badges. Minnesota troopers wear a gold-colored hat badge and metal badge suspended from the left breast pocket on shirts and jackets.

Colonel Bogojevic estimates about 188,000 pieces of equipment, everything from squad cars, patches, badges and miscellaneous items, will need to be replaced with the new design. "We will prioritize forward-facing symbols like those on squads, the uniforms," she said. Rebranding will cost about \$4 million over the next two or three years, she said.

The agency considered but decided against replacing the old state seal with the new one. Committee members concluded employees should have input on their look for the next generation.

"We have a wonderful positive brand image in the state. We wanted this to continue to be recognizable," Lieutenant Colonel Geiger said. "When they see this patch, we wanted to make sure the citizens of the state knew that this was a Minnesota state trooper."

Capitol Security, commercial vehicle inspectors and communications officers will also wear new styles featuring the seal.

There is also a new metal badge. It is gold-colored with a silver seal. Three-digit badge numbers appear at the bottom.

Last year, Minnesota lawmakers established a commission to re-image the state flag and state seal. New designs debuted on Statehood Day in May. The flag shows the North Star, while the seal depicts a loon, the state bird.

Minnesota collectors predict the new styles will be difficult to obtain at first, at least until employees are completely outfitted.

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (Baldwin, Wis.)

**Milwaukee Chocolate Badges** A Milwaukee business has a tasty way to raise funds for fallen police officers, a milk chocolate replica of the police department badge. Ultimate Confections in suburban Wauwatosa is selling them to raise money for the Milwaukee Police Association Fallen Heroes Fund. Owner Patrick Murphy came up with the idea. "We're really happy to help. We really back the police officers. They don't hear that enough," he said. Murphy is donating the labor and chocolate, as well as all sale proceeds. The money helps pay for funerals and family needs when an officer dies.

**"Space Coast" Tables** Hosts Steve and Karen Bridges reported in late August that 36 tables have already been sold for the 2025 "Space Coast" show. "Collectors who want tables should make reservations now. The show is always a sellout," Bridges said. The 38th annual swap meet is scheduled for Saturday, January 25 in Cocoa, Fla.

## 2025 National Police Collectors Show Hosts Offer Latest Updates

PHOENIX, Ariz. – Enthusiasm is building for the 2025 National Police Show in Phoenix, Ariz. Hosts Bryan Richard and Mike Lucas announced the latest updates as collectors continue planning for the hobby's annual convention.

Six large hotels are located within a mile of the Phoenix Convention Center: Marriott Residence Inn, 132 South Central (602) 687-9666, Hampton Inn, 77 East Polk Street (602) 710-1240, Holiday Inn Express, 950 West Van Buren (602) 675-2894, Sheraton Phoenix, 40 North Third Street (833) 487-0572, Hilton Garden Inn Downtown, 15 East Monroe (602) 343-0006 and Hyatt Regency Downtown, 122 North Second Street (602) 252-1234.

The Crown Plaza Hotel, 4300 East Washington, is directly across the street from Sky Harbor International Airport. "It's an excellent hotel. The estimated room rate would be around \$104 per night plus tax," Lucas said. "Light Rail runs in front of the hotel and stops at the Phoenix Convention Center. The cost to ride is \$2."

The Crown Plaza offers complimentary WiFi, a complimentary airport shuttle and free breakfast. Parking for those driving to the show is \$12 a day. Their garage is covered.

Richard and Lucas recommend collectors choose a hotel and make reservations as soon as possible.

Other show details:

...Setup is Friday, June 13 from 10 am to 5 pm.

...Non-tableholders can purchase an early entry pass for Friday admission for \$75. A limited number will be available.

...Tableholder registration packets will be distributed beginning at 9 am on Friday.

...Show hours are Saturday, June 14 from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday, June 15 from 9 am to 3:30 pm. Admission is \$5.

...Table fee refunds will be available until March 31. Beginning on April 1, table fees are non-refundable but tables are transferable.

...Reproduction insignia must be marked.

*Courtesy of Bryan Richard and Mike Lucas*





Mike Chuchro hosted the first Chicago Police and Fire Collector Show in suburban Addison on Sunday, June 23. The owner of Blue HQ and the Chicago Cop Shop greeted about 200 collectors and vendors from as far away as Washington and Kentucky. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

# Chicago Has A Show All Its Own Again

Chicago's long drought is over! Mike Chuchro hosted the first police collectors show in the Windy City since the National Show in 2006. The Chicago police officer, collector and insignia salesman welcomed more than 200 collectors and vendors from throughout the Upper Midwest and beyond to his 54-table swap meet.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

CHICAGO, Ill. – Like most cops, Mike Chuchro saw a need and did something about it. The Chicago police officer and collector knew the Windy City has been without an insignia show for many years, so he decided to put the nation's second largest city back on the hobby swap meet map.

Chuchro's first Chicago Police and Fire Collector Show on Sunday, June 23 was a big success, so much so that he's already making plans for next year.

"I had no idea how a new show would go over. All I wanted was to see if Chicago collectors would come out and support it. We haven't had one since the National, so we were way overdue," said Chuchro. "Eighteen years with no show is too long. Chicago should have at least one a year."

Chuchro chose the beautiful Medinah Masonic Lodge in Addison, a northwest Chicago suburb, as his inaugural venue. The modern, upscale facility offers a large carpeted and well lit banquet hall with a well appointed lobby. It has a massive complimentary parking lot. A Hilton Garden Inn hotel where several out-of-town collectors stayed is close by.

Chicago attracted hobbyists from eight states, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Ohio, Washington and Wisconsin. There were 153 walk-ins, ten early birds and 40 tableholders and assistants. Overall attendance was a very respectable 203.



Law enforcement diecast vehicle collector Peter Vinson was among tableholders at the first Chicago Police and Fire Collector Show. The 32-year Chicago police veteran has been collecting diecasts since he was a kid. His owns more than 400 worldwide vehicles. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Don Magruder is a former reserve police officer in Saint Louis, Mo. He had one of the largest collections of reserve police badges in the USA, then sold it and retired. He came back a few years ago to specialize in pre-1900 badges, a challenging and expensive sub-hobby. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Collectors and local vendors rented 54 of 66 available tables. While Chuchro hoped for a sellout, the host was satisfied with the response. "It would have been nice to sell out, but it was good for a new show," he said. "I'm sure it'll be better next year as word gets around."

Positive reviews on Chicago were found on the show Facebook page.

"Excellent show!!! Felt great to have a badge show return to the Chicago area, and a great venue. Organized perfectly, lots of friendly collectors and some great badges to tempt me. Saw a lot of guys I have not seen for a while, and the friendship is what this is all about. Gotta do it again!!!" posted veteran hobbyist David Honor.

"Glad I made the trip too," wrote Jim Karas, who came up from Kentucky.



"Taking A Trip Back In Time" is Don Magruder's world-class collection of pre-1900 law enforcement badges from across the United States. His exhibit featured dozens of very rare first and second issues shown in ten glass frames. It's the veteran Iowa collector's specialty. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

"I had a great time. My son and his family live in Evanston, so it was a chance to see them and go to a show on one trip," said Harold Rubin. He lives in Vancouver, Wash. near the Oregon border, so he undertook quite a journey to attend.

Ultimately, Chuchro wants the National Police Collectors Show to return to Chicago. The city hosted the hobby's annual convention in 1987 and 2006. However, he doesn't intend to bid for the National until his local show is well established and an opportunity arises.

Peotone, Ill., which is about an hour or so south of Chicago in rural Will County, has annual public safety show. Police insignia collectors are welcome, although it is primarily a fire equipment, apparatus and collectibles event. It was held the day before Chicago this year. Several local collectors attended both shows.



(Top) Rare Pennsylvania Forest Reservation officer badges from about 1885, breast badge (left) and hat shield (right). (Bottom) First issues from Trenton, N.J. and Cincinnati, O., beautiful pieces in remarkably good condition for their ages of over a century. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





(Left) Don Magruder's Chicago display included a variety of old pieces from the Wells Fargo Express Company, including this special agent shield. (Right) A historic six-point ball-tipped star from the Topeka, Kan. police. Topeka was once a rough and tumble frontier town. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Chuchro hopes to hold his 2025 show the same weekend as Peotone to give attendees another two shows on one trip opportunity. Details will be announced later this year, he said.

**2024 Chicago tableholders** While exhibitors and vendors were overwhelmingly from the Chicago area, a few tableholders came from outside the vicinity.

- Kevin Baldwin (Artistic Engraving), Anthony Benigno, Mike R. Bondarenko (PCNEWS, Wisconsin), Jim Brady, Nicholas Brondum, Rick Cabellero (Brotherhood For The Fallen), Mike Chuchro (Blue Line HQ) Chris Dinardo, Glenn Florkow, Mashell Gellman, Jack Genius, Peter Belos, Luke Hartigan, David Honor, Dennis Johnson (Wisconsin), Scott Lancaster (Oddities and Antiques), Mike Leeper (Des Moines Police Museum, Iowa), Don Magruder (Iowa), Megan Maki, Louis Marron, Luis Martinez, John McGuire, Charlie Molnar, Harold Rubin (Washington), Jim Signorelli, Mark Stampfl (Wisconsin), Peter Vinson, Bruce Von Haden (Wisconsin), Daryl Weseloh and Zane Ziegler (Champaign Police Historical Society).

**The way back machine** Don Magruder's iconic "Taking A Trip Back In Time" exhibit just keeps getting better and better. He added several more pre-1900 badges since the last time it was shown. There were eight huge display cases packed with rarities from all over the country, each beautifully mounted and labeled. The collection must be seen to be fully appreciated.

The veteran hobbyist, who is now 91 years old but still going strong, showed recently added pieces and a few that have not been featured in this newspaper:

...A silver-colored six-point ball-tipped star from Topeka, Kan. It shows wear but is in remarkable condition for a badge more than a century old. It is numbered "17" in the center, while "TOPEKA" is shown across the top and "POLICE" at the bottom. Incuse legends are black. This badge is a second issue from the state capital city.

...An ornate eagle-topped silver-colored shield from Peoria, Ill. with a large, plain state seal as the center design. Around it are banners carrying "POLICE" at the top and "PEORIA" on the bottom. "ILL." is shown on a small bottom banner. Well worn legends are black.

...A round silver-colored badge from New Bedford shows extensive wear. Incuse legends read "NEW BEDFORD" across the top with "POLICE" in a different style at the bottom. A cutout number "8" comprises the center design. Magruder assumes it's from Massachusetts. While there are four other communities named New Bedford in the USA, all are small and highly unlikely to have had a police department before 1900.

...Santa Ana police desk sergeant is a fine old piece from Southern California. It's a silver-colored five point cutout circled star with black incuse lettering, "SANTA ANA" at the top and "POLICE" at the bottom. "DESK/ SERGEANT" is seen in small letters engraved on the star.

...A collection of four badges from the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Police in the ranks of captain, lieutenant, sergeant and patrolman. These small eagle-topped shields are identical except for the ranks at the top and numbers on the bottom. Each shows the railroad logo as the round center design. The captain badge is gold-colored with a blue enamel top panel that carries the title. The center design is gold-on-blue. Atlantic Coast was established in 1889.

...Among Magruder's favorites are early shields from Trenton, N.J. and Cincinnati displayed side-by-side in a case devoted to various early badge styles.



(Top) A rank set of badges from the Atlantic Coastal Line established in 1889. Captain (left) is gold-colored; others are silver-colored. (Bottom) Ornate badges from (left to right) Peoria, Ill., New Bedford, Mass. (?) and Santa Ana, Calif. in Don Magruder's antique exhibit in Chicago. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Trenton N.J. is circa 1898. It's a well worn small silver-colored teardrop with an eagle on top and laurels on either side. "TRENTON CITY POLICE" is lettered around the city seal. It appears this badge had a number or two-digit abbreviation at the bottom but the first letter or digit is missing. It appears the second one is either a well worn "5" or "S."

Cincinnati is an 1888 first issue in the rank of lieutenant. It's a silver-colored shield with a round gold-colored city seal as the center design. "LIEUTENANT" appears on a small top banner, while "CINCINNATI" and "POLICE" are shown in black letters around the seal. It has a chain used to affix the badge to a jacket or coat.

...Magruder has a circa 1885 set of breast and hat badges once worn by Pennsylvania Forest Preservation officers. Both are silver-colored keystone shapes; the breast badge is larger than the hat shield. Each shows a large tree leaf as the center design. "PENNSYLVANIA FOREST RESERVATION OFFICER" surrounds the breast badge leaf, while "PENNA./ FOREST RESERVE OFFICER" appears on the hat shield. Both have applied copper numbers, "148" on the breast badge top and "130" on the hat badge bottom.

Magruder augmented his exhibit with turn of the century photographs and a historic collection of artifacts and memorabilia from Wells Fargo, a bank and express company founded in 1852 that used horse drawn stagecoaches to transport cash, gold and valuables, the United States Mail and passengers throughout the western states and territories.

The company employed special agents who rode stagecoaches to prevent robberies and protect passengers. He showed a very old and well worn special agent badge from Wells Fargo Express. It's a small shield with an attached eagle top. The legend reads, "WELLS FARGO/ EXPRESS/ CO/ SPECIAL AGENT."

**Des Moines museum updates** Mike Leeper, representing the Des Moines Police Museum, gave local collectors a chance to load up on his former department's insignia to help raise funds for the museum. He had a plethora of mint old style badges and department issue emblems at very reasonable prices.

His latest museum project is to build a suitable display to house a cougar shot by a DMPD officer in about 2006 or 2007. It will cost \$1500 to make a glass case 40 inches tall, 65 inches long and 36 inches deep to properly show it. The 170-pound adult male was preserved by a taxidermist and is displayed at the museum located at police headquarters.

"Our cougar needs a case so he doesn't get dusty or damaged. I've got him up on top of a display case, but he's hard to see, especially for all the elementary school kids who visit and want to see him," said Leeper, the museum curator.

One day a civilian called 911 to report a cougar sleeping under a table in their greenhouse. Responding officers intended for an Iowa game warden to respond and capture the animal so it could be returned to the wild. However, Mr. Cougar awoke from his nap, left the greenhouse and headed toward the playground of a nearby school. It was shot and killed before it could become a threat to children playing outdoors.



Champaign Police Historical Society member Zane Ziegler shows a unique tri-fold heavy metal portable protective shield used by officers on his department during the Gangster Era of the 1930s. An officer could hold it by one arm and shoot with the other...if he was right handed! *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



And now there are five! Des Moines Police Museum Curator Mike Leeper reports the agency no longer funds most special unit emblems. These are the only issued patches now, patrol, tactical, cadet and two Metro S.T.A.R., a joint SWAT unit with the Polk County Sheriff. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





Phil Lind is thrilled to have obtained a beautiful solid gold presentation badge for Hamilton County, O. Sheriff's Jailer John Hauser, who was appointed in 1890 and began working in 1891. Jailer Hauser resigned after only seven months to take a deputy sheriff's job. *Phil Lind photograph*

### Chicago Show ...Continued

"He was turned over the DNR. They took him to a taxidermist to be preserved. They planned to take him around the state to show people that cougars are potentially dangerous. Now, we've got him," said Leeper.  
 ...Unwelcome news for Des Moines and other state capital cities collectors: DMPD has opted to discontinue pretty much every special unit emblem as a cost cutting measure. Officers assigned to special units have traditionally worn the general issue emblem on one sleeve and the department issue unit patch on the other.



The Des Moines Police Museum is looking for a badge like this to complete its department collection. Curator Mike Leeper said the museum had one but it was on loan and the owner wanted the badge back. The museum is willing to buy one or make on loan arrangements. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

As a result of the City Hall decision, DMPD now has only five issued patches, the familiar gold, blue and black standard issue showing the State Capitol, a subdued version for tactical wear, a round Cadet insignia with an attached rocker and two for the Metro Special Tactics and Response Unit (S.T.A.R.), a custom shoulder patch and a large cloth breast insignia. Metro S.T.A.R. has members from the police department and the Polk County Sheriffs Office.

"For years I was handling all the patches for the city. I worked with the units to get their patches designed and manufactured. The PD and each unit got the patches they needed; the rest were donated to the museum so we could sell them to raise money," said Leeper. "No one ever had a problem with it."

Recently, a City Hall bureaucrat looking at ways to cut costs arbitrarily determined the



The Champaign Police Historical Society has created displays of department history like these that are shown throughout police headquarters. According to Zane Ziegler, the society hopes to put its entire collection on public display in a permanent museum. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Wisconsin emblems collector Bruce Von Haden has gone all in for Chicago Police Department patches, artifacts and memorabilia. He showed some of his CPD patches, including the long obsolete teardrops and the current octagon shape, at the Windy City show. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

PD was spending too much on patches. Thus, special unit patches are no longer issued. Officers on each unit can still wear them but have to pay for them themselves.

"This is a big hit for the museum because selling discontinued badges and all our patches is a big part of our revenue. Now, we'll have only a few to sell once my supply runs out," said Leeper.

...Finally, the museum is looking for an old Des Moines shield needed for their otherwise all but complete badge collection. It's a plain silver-colored ornate Cincinnati-style pinched shield with a number in the center. Legends read "DES MOINES" across the top and "POLICE" at the bottom. It was worn between 1909 and 1920.

"We had one on loan from the officer who wore it's widow. However, she wanted it back to give to her grandson, who ended up selling it," said Leeper. "We want to find one to replace it. We're willing to buy it for a reasonable price or work out a loan arrangement."

Contact Leeper at Des Moines Police Museum, 26 East First Street, Des Moines IA 50309. His contact number is (515) 283-4811. This is the PD non-emergency number; ask for Leeper or the Museum by name.

"We'd really, really appreciate someone helping us find this badge," he added.

My kind of town I was born and raised in Chicago about six blocks from Wrigley Field long before I became a Cheesehead, so it's only natural I collect Chicago PD, Cook County Sheriffs Police and Illinois State Police. While I've got only a handful of their badges, I have respectable patch collections, several scale model patrol cars and quite a few books, movies and TV shows featuring Chicago cops.

Chuchro's show was like Christmas morning for us Chicago collectors because there was a lot of anything and everything CPD, especially badges and patches galore, on the vendor tables. It would have been no problem to go home bankrupt.

Local vendors offered top quality antiques (vintage photographs, restraints, nightsticks, uniform garments, hats and much more), tons of CPD logo clothing and ball caps, model cars and SUVs in current and former agency liveries, enough challenge coins to cover the outfield at Wrigley and every other kind of memorabilia or collectible imaginable.

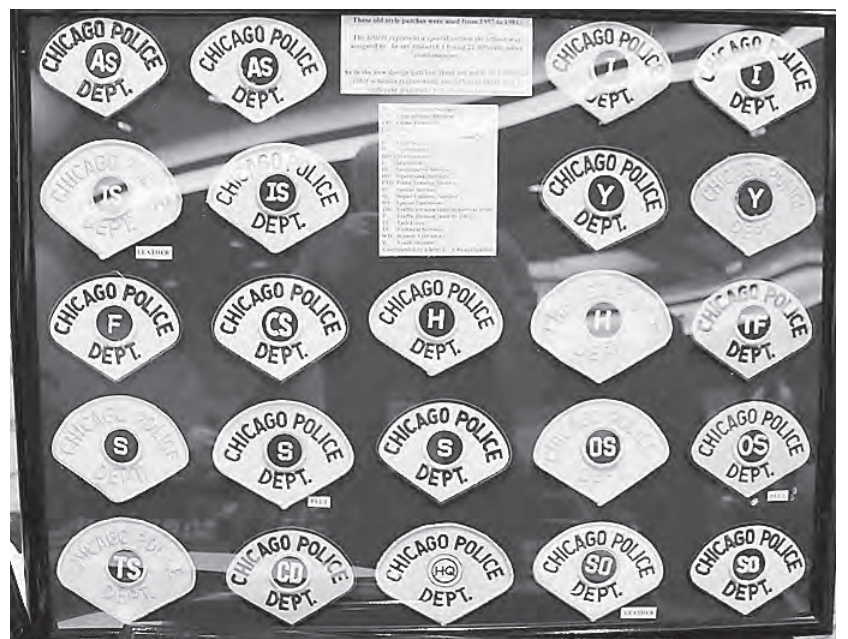
Our family was visiting our former neighborhood during the infamous Democratic National Convention in 1968 when Chicago police clashed with anti-war demonstrators downtown, so I collect CPD t-shirts and hats made to commemorate that event.

Since the Democratic convention returned to the city this summer, there were some cool shirts and hats created to spotlight it from a police perspective. I bought an irresistible gray shirt featuring a blue CPD badge and the message, "DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION/ 1968 1996 2024/ WE KICKED YOUR FATHER'S ASS/ NOW IT'S YOUR TURN." There were several other convention styles available.

In all, I went home with 40 CPD, 20 Cook County and three old ISP patches, 20-plus CPD and Sheriffs Police cloth badges and a couple books and movies from the Gangster Era when Al Capone ruled the Chicago mob. I could have spent a lot more; in Addison on this hot summer Sunday, CPD collectibles were low hanging fruit and I was picking.

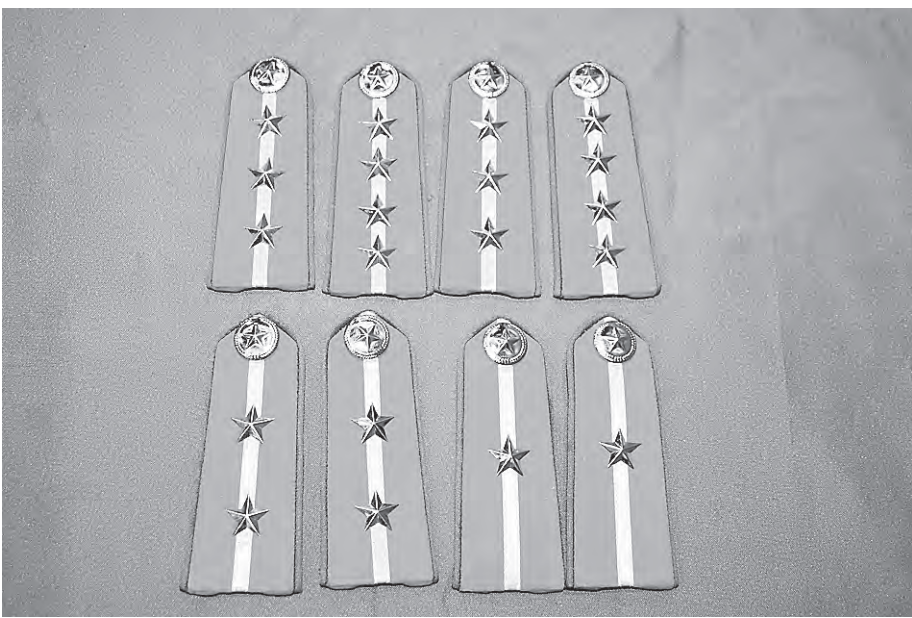
Wide variety of displays Chicago was primarily a buy, sell or trade event. Nevertheless, several veteran hobbyists brought impressive exhibits from their collections. Although there was no display contest this year, Chuchro wants to recognize outstanding exhibits at future shows.

Cincinnati collector Phil Lind has a new historic display from the Hamilton County Sheriffs Office in Ohio. The centerpiece is a breathtaking presentation badge from 1891.



Bruce Von Haden featured segments of his Chicago Police Department shoulder patch collection. Teardrop shapes worn from 1957 to 1981 had round discs with district numbers or special unit or service designations. Von Haden does a good job of labeling his displays. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





People's Armed Police shoulder boards from Communist China in different ranks in the Harold Rubin Collection. The insignia is red with gold symbols and a five point star on top. Chinese insignia is tightly controlled and never made available to collectors or the public. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

This badge was shown in one of Jim Casey's *America's Finest* badge books. His books only feature "OMG!!!" badges, so this one is guaranteed extra special.

Lind's exhibit is devoted to Hamilton County Jailer John Hauser. It's highlighted by an awesome custom presentation badge made in 14-karat gold with 15 rose-cut diamonds in three 10-karat settings. Five diamonds are mounted on top of a round city seal affixed to the top of the circlet, while ten others appear on a ring surrounding the center design, five on each side beneath a banner with the legend "JOHN HAUSER."

A highly detailed depiction of the stately county courthouse appears on a blue background as the center design.

Names of jailers he worked with are engraved on the back.

The one-of-a-kind badge has a jeweler-made "T" pin and catch.

Lind researched Jailer Hauser's career. Sheriff-elect Val Heim appointed him as a jailer on December 27, 1890. He started on January 6, 1891 but resigned on August 6, 1891 to accept an appointment as a Hamilton County deputy sheriff. The badge was presented to him when he left the jail. He started his deputy job on October 6, 1891.

The display features two photographs of the courthouse and jail.

"I've always wanted this badge. Now, I finally have a nice presentation piece," said Lind.

Zane Ziegler represented the Champaign Police Historical Society and featured an educational exhibit of city police history. The historical society maintains 19 different displays throughout police headquarters.

Founded in 2012, Ziegler said the society's ultimate goal is a city police museum. "We would like to have the entire collection together on display somewhere where everyone can see and enjoy it," he explained. "We've some things in public view now, but most everything is in secure areas of the PD."

An exhibit was devoted to Illinois State Police Radio Operator Charles L. Hopper, who was Ziegler's uncle. Hopper invented the police Ten Code in the late 1930s while working at ISP District 10 headquarters in Champaign. The code was officially adopted for nationwide use. Hopper's Morse Code key was shown.

Another display showed badges and patches worn by three city police officers killed in the line of duty. Their photographs are also shown, as well as summaries of their careers and untimely deaths.

Sergeant Thomas Dodsworth was the first Champaign officer killed. He died in 1913 after being shot while accompanying Chief of Police A.U. Keller attempting to serve a warrant. Although Chief Keller was shot twice himself, he was able to kill the assailant. His badge is a six-point star numbered star.

Officer Robert Tatman was shot and killed with his own gun during a traffic stop two days after Thanksgiving in 1967. His murder remains an unsolved mystery. Officer Tatman wore a silver-colored pie plate.

Officer Christopher Oberheim was killed and another officer wounded responding to a middle of the night domestic in 2021. The wounded officer shot and killed the shooter. The officer's silver-colored pie plate with a three-digit copper number is part of the exhibit.



Harold Rubin, a foreign insignia collector, traveled all the way from Vancouver, Wash. to attend the Chicago show. He covered his tables with mostly international badges and patches, although he had a few from the USA. He specializes in international insignia. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Mashell Gellman brought railroad police insignia exhibits to the Chicago show. A collection from the New York, Susquehanna and Western Railway features a badge wallet, current and obsolete shoulder emblems and an impressive selection of cap and breast badges. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Among the most interesting CPD artifacts is a Gangster Era model bulletproof shield. It was made by Federal Laboratories in Pittsburgh, Penna. in 1933 in the aftermath of the bloody Kansas City Massacre. The portable 25-pound tri-fold shield is 43 inches tall and 18 inches wide. It has a small bulletproof glass view port and a notch on the right side for a handgun barrel to protrude beyond the protective cover. (It is unknown if there was model for left handed shooters.) The historic shield was donated by the city police benevolent association.

Ziegler retired from Champaign PD as a detective in 2003 after 28 years on the job. Now, he's working part-time for the PD to maintain electronics, such as surveillance cameras and other equipment.

Bruce Von Haden might be a Wisconsin Cheesehead, but he also collects Chicago PD artifacts, memorabilia and emblems. The retired sheriff's deputy showed six frames of CPD patches, mostly the obsolete teardrop shape in a variety of styles.

"I got interested in Chicago after I saw a collection. I started collecting patches and have quite a few," said Von Haden, whose primary interest is Wisconsin county sheriff emblems. "I like the old stuff better than the new."

He showed a blue-on-white teardrop with a red center that I hadn't seen before. A retired Chicago officer said it came from the Red Squad, a department special unit.

According to the *Encyclopedia of Chicago*, the Red Squad, also known as the Industrial Unit, Radical Squad or Intelligence Division, was created in the late 1870s. Later, it was officially known as the Subversive Activities Unit.

Red Squad officers were tasked with combating anarchy in the aftermath of the 1886 Haymarket Riot in downtown Chicago. Striking McCormick Harvesting Machine Company workers wanted an eight hour work day and organized a rally to garner public support. Someone threw a dynamite bomb at police trying to keep order. Gunfire erupted. Seven policemen and four civilians were killed.

Initially, the squad targeted anarchists. Later, people suspected of being Communists were surveilled and dossiers compiled on them. In 1968, its officers infiltrated pro-minority and anti-war organizations following the violent Democratic National Convention.

The squad was disbanded in 1985 after a federal court ruled its activities violated the civil rights of political dissenters and organizations.

Illinois collector Mashell Gellman is a railroad police insignia collector and brought an impressive variety of badges, patch and other insignia exhibited in 12 large frames.

Gellman had displays showing collections from the New York, Susquehanna and Western Railroad; Delaware and Hudson Railroad; Lackawanna Railroad in Hoboken, N.J.; and many others.

"I'm into railroad police from all over the country," said Gellman. "I like to show other things from each railroad with their patches and badges. It makes for a lot better display."

Chicago police officer and law enforcement scale model vehicle collector Peter Vinson covered his table with diecast vehicles by various manufacturers in the most popular scales.

"I got into Hot Wheels cars when I was a kid. Not just police cars but all cars. I was always looking out for new ones. I even went to flea markets to find cars," said Vinson, who plans to retire in nine months after a 32-year CPD career. "After I went to work for the PD, I started concentrating on state police cars by Road Champs, White Rose and so on."

Vinson has about 400 police vehicle models displayed in an eight-by-five foot cabinet in his home. His show offering was duplicates he acquired over the years, not his collection.



Veteran Chicago collector Jim Signorelli acquired these fine pie plate-style badges at the show. (Top) Milwaukee-Ashland National Bank security guard and (bottom) Pullman Standard Ship Division, a long obsolete private security force that existed during WW II. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



## Chicago Show ...Continued

Like many veteran diecast aficionados, Vinson branched out to collect all major state agencies (Capitol police, etc.), federals and even international. He showed cars representing law enforcement in England, Germany and other countries.

Vinson asserted the diecast hobby has slowed in recent years. He blames licensing fees imposed on manufacturers, which he said can be upwards of \$20,000, as well as spiraling production costs.

"All the good manufacturers are out of it now. It just costs too much to make cars when you add in the fees. Right now, the big thing is customs. They're really nice but cost as much as \$100 depending on who's selling them. That's a lot of cash for a diecast that used to cost a couple bucks," he said.

Harold Rubin specializes in worldwide police insignia. He covered a couple tables with interesting badges, patches and uniform accouterments, mostly from Europe and Southeast Asia, for sale or trade. Africa and Far Eastern nations were also represented.

"I'm retired military and started collecting military patches and badges first. Pretty soon, I started collecting police too, but my interest is other countries," he explained. "Foreign insignia is unique. I've learned a lot about every country I collect." Currently, 100 nations are represented in his personal collection.

Rubin is surprised not more United States collectors have interest in foreign insignia, especially because many are former military personnel who may have traveled worldwide during their service careers. "It seems to me someone interested in police insignia in the USA would be very interested in other countries, especially if they were ever deployed overseas in the military," he said.

The retired United States Army captain has been collecting since 1974 and is celebrating his 50th year in the hobby.

Rubin purchased Roselle, Ill. George Hoepfner's massive foreign insignia collections in the late 1990s to fast track his police insignia hobby. "As you know, George had a great collection and brought it to a lot of shows like this. He won quite a few awards showing it," he said.

Unlike the United States, Canada and a few other countries, where most insignia is readily available to hobbyists, many countries tightly control police insignia. Even law enforcement offices in some nations often cannot obtain extra patches or badges to trade. It is a serious crime to unlawfully possess police insignia, uniforms and indicia in many countries.

"I've found the best places to find foreign badges and patches are military collector shows. A lot of what I have in my collection came from military shows," he said.

"There's also a lot of stuff online, but you have to be very careful. There are a lot of reproductions and fakes. Also, delivery can be a problem. That's why I like the shows; I can trade face-to-face and see what I'm buying before I buy it."

Rubin showed a set of People's Armed Police rank shoulder boards from Communist China. Their high ranks are senior colonel, major colonel, colonel, captain, first lieutenant and second lieutenant. These insignia are red with yellow stripes and feature a gold-colored star at the top. Ranks are denoted by the number of gold-colored stars. Senior colonels wear four stars, major colonels three stars, etc.

"I got these at a military show from a collector who lived most of his life in China. He was able to get some police patches and other things because he has contacts. Otherwise, these would be impossible to get," he said.

Rubin had a collection of obsolete 1962 to 1976 shoulder boards from the People's Public Security, the national police force in Vietnam, another Communist country. Their insignia is very similar to China's. Shoulder boards are bright red with yellow horizontal stripes and gold stars. He said there are four for rank officers and four others for enlisted officers. However, he didn't know the rank structure.

**Chicago Cop Shop** Mike Chuchro owns and operates the Chicago Cop Shop, an online business that markets Chicago PD, Cook County Sheriff and Illinois State Police emblems. He produces challenge coins, name tags and service awards for public safety agencies and personnel. He is also a Blackinton badge dealer.

"The business is growing pretty fast. I supply all the Chicago police uniform stores with patches now. These are the same patches they sew onto shirts and jackets that officers order. I've got a vendor bid in to make badges for the Chicago Police Department. I'm pretty excited about that," he said.

Chuchro offered hundreds of current Chicago PD, Cook County and ISP patches at the show, as well as other cloth insignia, badges and coins. His obsolete styles are remakes. He also produces novelty insignia.

He vehemently denied online allegations that deals in reproduction insignia. "That's just not true," he said. "People who are spreading that stuff don't understand how Chicago works."

"CPD, Cook County and the ISP don't use a quartermaster system like a lot of other places. Patches don't come right from the department. Officers get their uniforms from police supply stores. The stores have the patches in stock. They sew them on shirts, vests and jackets. My company sells patches to these stores," said Chuchro.

Chuchro said his company is authorized to produce emblems for Chicago PD and the Cook County Sheriff.

The Cop Shop does make novelty emblems that are not worn on uniforms. "Officers like

them. They buy them on their own and put them on whatever they want, caps, duty bags or you name it," he said.

Chuchro asserted that novelty patches are good for morale. Cops have a sense of humor. A lot of novelties are meant to get a laugh or a chuckle, making the job a bit less stressful. As he said, cops like them and are willing to buy them.

It's hard to argue with his rationale. Novelties, most often with comedic themes, have become extremely popular. Many cost more than department issue on duty emblems.

Chuchro also buys patch factory overruns that he sells to collectors. "These are the same patches that go to the departments," he said. "These aren't reproductions."

The Cop Shop sells remade obsolete styles that the owner considers novelties.

**Chicago show notebook** Here's what collectors were seeing and talking about at the Windy City show.

...Brotherhood for the Fallen is the Chicago Police Department chapter of a national fraternal organization formed in 2010 to send representatives to every funeral of law enforcement officers feloniously killed anywhere in the United States. The Chicago group offered high quality CPD-style shirts, hats, hoodies and other collectibles for sale as fundraisers.

"We send two Chicago officers to every funeral in our region. They represent our department and show that Chicago supports our brothers and sisters everywhere," said Rick Caballero, one of three chapter representatives at the show. "We pay for their trip and cover all their expenses." He is president of the Chicago chapter.

Brotherhood of the Fallen has eight other chapters across the country, Aurora, Colo.; New York, N.Y.; Suffolk County, N.Y.; Fort Worth, Tex.; Boston, Mass.; Dallas, Tex.; South Carolina; Arkansas; and Connecticut Capital Region.

"It's a great organization. Cops are a brotherhood, and we must never forget our fallen brothers and sisters," Caballero said.

Brotherhood of the Fallen has a website for more information or to make a donation, [BrotherhoodForTheFallen.Org](http://BrotherhoodForTheFallen.Org). There is also a Facebook page.

...Longtime Chicago badge collector Jim Signorelli found a couple unusual pie plates. Both are large silver-colored six point stars with applied numbers in the traditional Chicago style.

Milwaukee-Ashland National Bank is a security guard badge from a prominent Chicago bank which still exists. It is now known as the Home Bank and Trust Company. Previously, it was the Manufacturers Bank. His guard star is number "10."

The bank was organized in 1911 to serve its mostly Polish American neighborhood on the city's North Side. It's home is a six-story 1926 Renaissance Revival building designed by well known Chicago architect Karl M. Thulium. It is located at the busy three-way intersection of Milwaukee, Ashland and Division, three major streets.

Pullman Standard Ship Division is a rarity from World War II. It features the Illinois state seal and is numbered "217" at the bottom. The legends "POLICE P-S SHIP DIV." appear on a top banner. "P-S" abbreviates Pullman Standard.

The pie plate was worn by private police officers for the Pullman Standard Company. Signorelli said the company is best known for building train cars, but also manufactured aircraft and ships for the war effort. The badge is a rarity.

Today, the former Pullman plant is a park.

...Chicago has a bright future as a potential regional show. The city is centrally located with a large collector base in the city and suburbs, southern Wisconsin, southern Illinois, northwestern Indiana and southern Michigan. Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Ohio are not that far away.

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (Baldwin, Wis.)

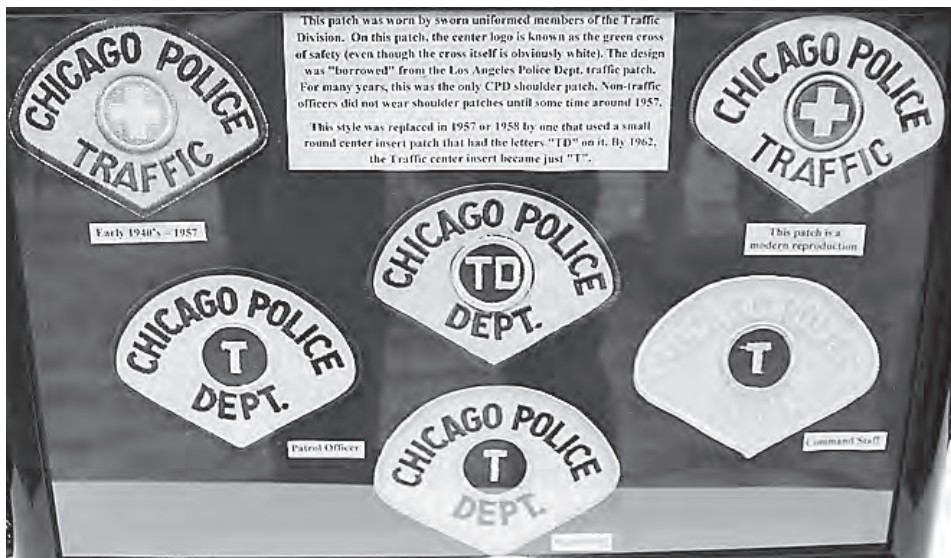
## "It's Okay Not To Be Okay"

Taylor Carter, Minnesota state trooper and patch and challenge coin collector, committed suicide on March 14, leaving his wife and four-month-old child behind. Fellow trooper and collector Alex Forsman is out with a commemorative emblem to raise money for the family and increase law enforcement suicide awareness.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

COTTAGE GROVE, Minn. – Our hobby means time away from the stress of serving as a public safety professional. Camaraderie and fellowship are what it's all about. Yet, being a public safety professional has a dark side that impacted our hobby recently when we lost one of our own in a personal tragedy.

Minnesota State Patrol Trooper Taylor Carter, an aspiring patch and challenge coin collector, committed suicide on March 14. He was 32 years old and leaves behind his wife,



Bruce Von Haden put together this informative display on Chicago PD Traffic Division emblems. From the early 1940s to 1957, traffic officers wore the department's only patch, a green cross borrowed from the Los Angeles Police Department, worn on a teardrop. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Kelce and Taylor Carter with their infant son Leo Michael in a recent family portrait. Tragically, Taylor, a Minnesota state trooper, took his own life on March 14. Kelce has become a strong advocate for law enforcement suicide prevention efforts in Minnesota. *Contributed photograph*



Carter's tragic death sent shockwaves through the Minnesota public safety community and far beyond. Of course, his State Patrol colleagues were the most traumatized, especially collector and Trooper Alex Forsman, one of his best friends and hobby mentor.

"Nobody, and I mean nobody, saw it coming. It was a total shock. I couldn't believe it when I heard it. Taylor was the last guy I ever thought would commit suicide," said Forsman.

"Taylor had everything going for him, a great job, a wonderful family and a brand new baby. He loved to fly and was just promoted to fly our helicopters. He was really excited about flying. It was his dream assignment for as long as I knew him."

Yet, as mental health professionals who specialize in public safety personnel warn, outward appearances of happiness and contentment often mask deep seeded despair and hopelessness.

"Suicide is the hardest thing to deal with for officers and families because usually no sees it coming. We [police officers] are really good at suppressing our feelings because we don't want to look weak. We don't want anyone to think we're not tough," said Dennis Conroy, PhD., former Saint Paul Police psychologist now in private practice in Saint Paul. He specializes in law enforcement officers and their families.

"Cops have Macho Man Mentality, 'It doesn't matter what happens out there. I can take it.' But, just the opposite is true. We all take certain things hard, just like anyone else, because it's human nature. We can be hurt inside and not be able to let it go, but not show it on the outside. We cover it up," Conroy said.

Chronic untreated stress can trigger self-destructive behaviors and deep-rooted psychological issues. Suicide can appear as the only escape, mental health experts say.

According to the latest statistics, an average of 185 law enforcement officers kill themselves every year. Police suicide peaked in 2019 when 234 lives were lost. The tragic loss of life has since declined, largely due to a dramatic increase in suicide prevention efforts and mental health intervention programs. However, as Conroy points out, one suicide is too many.

"It's okay not be okay" has become the motto for police suicide prevention.

**Getting into the hobby** Forsman introduced Carter to the hobby. His wife, Kelce, said he was an avid collector of patches and challenge coins. She asked officers attending his funeral to bring patches and challenge coins so she can eventually pass them on to their son. "He can see that his Dad was a police officer," she said.

"Taylor was really getting into it. It was fun watching him catch new collector fever. He reminded me of me when I started," Forsman said.

Forsman was working for Saint Louis Park PD when he met Carter for the first time at the Hennepin County Jail in Minneapolis a few years ago. "I told him I had thought about joining the State Patrol. We talked quite awhile and became friends. He gave me one of his cards and told me to call him if I had any questions," he said.

Meeting Carter strengthened Forsman's desire to become a state trooper. He applied and was accepted. He graduated from the training academy in 2002 and now patrols the West Metro, a cluster of counties west of Minneapolis-Saint Paul. Carter worked the same area.

"Taylor was my mentor. He was an FTO and did my shadow phase. He was hard working, dedicated and took on a lot of other duties. Like I said, he was a pilot and finally got promoted to Air Support so he could fly for us," he said.

Minnesota State Patrol pilots are promoted to chief warrant officer or CWO. Carter reached this rank after eight years service.

**Benefit commemorative emblem** Because Carter's death was a suicide, his family received no public safety benefits, either state or federal. Forsman is selling a commemorative emblem as a fundraiser for Kelce and Leo Michael. He designed it with

help from the family.

The custom insignia also promotes Safe Call Now, a national suicide prevention crisis line exclusively for first responders and medical professionals. Safe Call Now counselors are available around the clock every day. The telephone number is (206) 459-3020. Calls are completely confidential.

Forsman's design is the identical size and colors as the department issue emblem. The background is maroon. "MINNESOTA" is lettered in gold across the top. A set of white and black pilot's wings with a centered purple and turquoise ribbon is shown as the center design. The wings are superimposed over a turquoise state shape bordered in black and white. "CWO TAYLOR CARTER SP608/927" is lettered in maroon on a gold banner bordered in black that appears beneath the wings on the state shape. "STATE PATROL/SAFE CALL NOW: 206-459-3020" in gold letters completes the design.

The emblem is Velcro-backed so it adheres to a patrol or private vehicle passenger compartment headliner. "Officers will have the Safe Call Now number right in front of them if they ever need it or know someone who needs it," Forsman said. "Kelce wanted that number on the patch."


Emblems can be purchased for \$10 each plus \$2.50 postage for one or two and \$5 postage for three or four. Email Forsman to order, a.forsman01@gmail.com.

"I'm hoping collectors will buy patches to raise money for the family and spread the word that help is always available. Just make the call. Please!" he said.

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (Baldwin, Wis.)



Fellow trooper and law enforcement insignia collector Alex Forsman and the family of Taylor Carter designed this emblem promoting the Safe Call Now first responder and medical professional crisis line. Forsman is selling it for \$10 each to help the family. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



# California Police Historian

**The Official Publication of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society**

**Mike Bondarenko, Editor**

## San Luis Obispo Hosts 2024 CLEHS Collectors Show

An early date and a record-breaking heat wave couldn't deter the annual San Luis Obispo Police Memorabilia Show on Saturday, July 6. The annual law enforcement insignia collectors gathering is hosted by President Gary Hoving and the California Law Enforcement Historical Society.

Usually held in mid to late July, "SLO" was moved up to July 6 during the long Fourth of July weekend this year to avoid conflicting with the National Police Collectors Show the following weekend. And, Mother Nature turned up the thermostat to well over 110-degrees only a few miles inland off the Central Coast. Yet, CLEHS welcomed collectors from

throughout the state, as well as Arizona, Florida, Oregon and Wisconsin.

"Our walk-in was down a little, but it was still a good show. I'm sure the holiday kept a few people away. So did the hot weather. On the other hand, we had 46 tables. Most of our 'regulars' were here and there were people from out of state, so we're happy with how everything turned out," said President Hoving.

Tableholders were Mike R. Bondarenko (*California Police Historian*, Wisconsin), Mark Bray, California Law Enforcement Historical Society, Phil Colonnelli, Brad Darling, Gene Green, John Hernandez, Gary Hoving, Roy Johnson, Nick Kanaya, Mike Kimball, Darryl Lindsay, Dennis Lovejoy, Steve Mizroch, Napa Police Historical Society (Todd Shulman), Bill Palmini, Darrel Palmer (Arizona), Art Pegg, Brian Smith, Russ Snow (Oregon), Jess Tovar, Veterans Museum of Central California, Chris Villegas and R.C. Yoshioka.

"SLO" is highly regarded as a showcase for California law enforcement history with outstanding historic displays and highly anticipated recognition of the Police Historian of the



Award winners at the 2024 CLEHS show (left to right) Todd Shulman, Jess Tovar, Mark Bray, John Hernandez, Chris Villegas and Andrew Scott (California Police Historian of the Year) accepted their plaques from President Gary Hoving (right) as the event concluded. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Andrew Young (left) researches the history of his former department, the Placer County Sheriffs Office, and shares his findings online. Now retired and living in Florida, he returned to receive the California Police Historian of the Year award from Gary Hoving (right). *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





The annual CLEHS show is a “must” for veteran law enforcement insignia collectors from throughout California. Among them again this year were Janet and Darrell Klasey, the father-daughter collecting team. Darrell Klasey is a hobby pioneer in the state as a trail blazing collector. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Year.

Many leading Golden State hobbyists showed their collections. Mark Bray, “Best Patch;” Jess Tovar, “Best Badge;” John Hernandez, “Best Educational;” Todd Shulman (Napa Police Historical Society), “Best Historic;” and Chris Villegas, “Best of Show,” were honored with well-deserved rewards for their exhibits.

Placer County Sheriffs Office historian Andrew Scott was named 2024 California Police Historian of the Year. He was honored for his research and documentation of department history. Retired from Placer County law enforcement, Scott now lives in Florida but nevertheless maintains his dedication to agency history.

Show weekend is doubly important to CLEHS because the board of directors annual business meeting takes place the day before the swap meet. The 2024 meeting was held at the CLEHS office in Arroyo Grande on Friday afternoon. Although there was no directors election this year, the board met to conduct business required for the continued success of the society.

California insignia was dominant, as always. All five award winners were Californians. Badges, patches, artifacts and memorabilia found on the tables hailed from all over the state. Some out of state collectibles were available but in limited quantity.

“SLO” was far from only badges and patches. Vintage emergency vehicle equipment, signage, books, department yearbooks, challenge coins and diecasts could easily be found by collectors with these interests. Nearly every interest could be satisfied for hobby veterans and newcomers alike.

President Hoving announced July 25 is the tentative 2025 show date. “We want to get back to our usual time of year,” he said. The venue will once again be the Veteran’s Memorial Hall in San Luis Obispo.

*Submitted by Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor*

## CLEHS News Updates

**Ripon Shows Coming In October** The 2024 Ripon Public Safety Collectors Show and Public Safety Recruitment Fair will take place on October 5 from 8 am to 3 pm at the Ripon Community Center and Park, 334 West Fourth Street, in Ripon. The show is a pro-public safety family event.

Three shows in one location. Throughout the park and surrounding areas, you will see vehicles of all types, including police, fire, ambulance, security, tow trucks and military vehicles. In the Recreation Center will be a vehicle parts swap meet, while in the second section of the Recreation Center will be a law enforcement memorabilia show. Bring your law enforcement or fire memorabilia or go home with a collectible yourself!

Spectators are free. Bring the family. There will be food and tee-shirts for sale and a raffle. At 1 pm, many of the emergency vehicles will start up, turn on their lights and sirens and drive a slow speed “Code 3” designated parade route around the City of Ripon area.

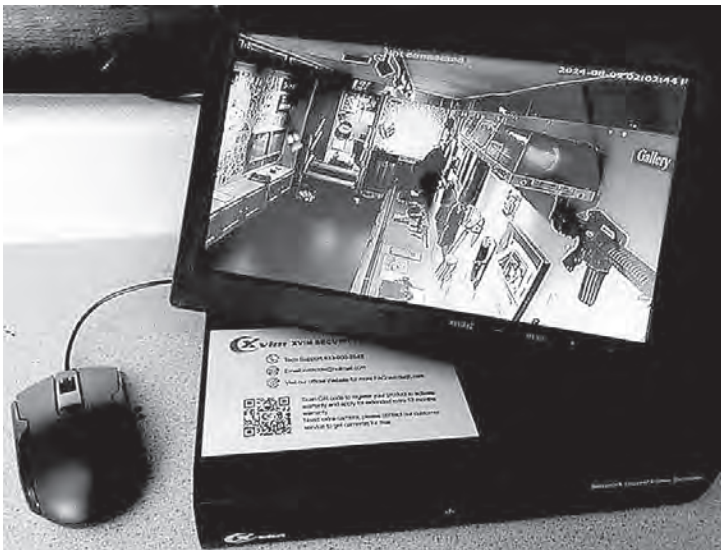
To reserve a table for the collectors show, or for questions, go to [CalPoliceHistory.Com](http://CalPoliceHistory.Com) and click on “Ripon Public Safety Collectors Show.”

*Submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Brian Smith*

**Life Membership Dues To Increase** The California Law Enforcement Historical Society has long offered regular annual membership with the option of a lifetime membership for a one-time payment. The lifetime membership has been \$400 for several years and many have taken the opportunity to save money while supporting the CLEHS.

Beginning on January 1, 2025, lifetime membership dues will increase to \$500. With that, now would be an opportune time to join as a life member or upgrade your regular membership at a significant savings to you.

Our regular annual membership dues will remain at \$40 per year.



The California Police Museum now has a new security camera system. President Gary Hoving recently installed it. The new camera is smaller and has better imagery than the original one that was put in about 15 years ago. It watches the mobile museum as it travels around the state. *Gary Hoving photograph*



A very old and rare San Francisco Police Reserve patch is among the thousands of items in the California Law Enforcement Historical Society collection. Most of these artifacts were gifted; some were purchased. President Gary Hoving maintains the collection. *Gary Hoving photograph*

We appreciate your support through membership and will continue to maintain our programs, including the California Police Museum, Friday Favorites, a variety of collector events, maintain an archives of professional artifacts and provide excellent communications through *Police Collectors News*.

*Submitted by President Gary Hoving*

**Museum Maintenance Continues** Recently, I started replacing our failed security camera system in the California Police Museum. After a delay, the installation has been completed. The old system served us well for over 15 years, so no complaints. The replacement system is much smaller, and the images are very sharp. There is always work



Former San Luis Obispo County Sheriff Edward C. Williams recently gifted a fine commemorative Buck knife to the California Law Enforcement Historical Society collection. It was commissioned in 1994 by the California State Sheriffs Association. *Gary Hoving photograph*

to be done, but it is nice to have everything in working order.

*Submitted by President Gary Hoving*

**Artifact Donation From Sheriff Williams** The California Law Enforcement Historical Society is the recipient of a beautiful 100-year anniversary commemorative Buck knife honoring the California State Sheriffs Association.

The knife was gifted by former San Luis Obispo County Sheriff Edward C. Williams, who was the CSSA president during the organization’s centennial in 1994. Sheriff Williams and Orange County Sheriff Brad Gates flew to Buck Knife headquarters and negotiated a deal and the design of the piece.

Such a beautiful knife is a welcome addition to the CLEHS collection. The serial number on our new artifact is 0006 of 2500. Thank you, Sheriff Williams, for a such a wonderful donation.

The Sheriff is an active member of CLEHS.

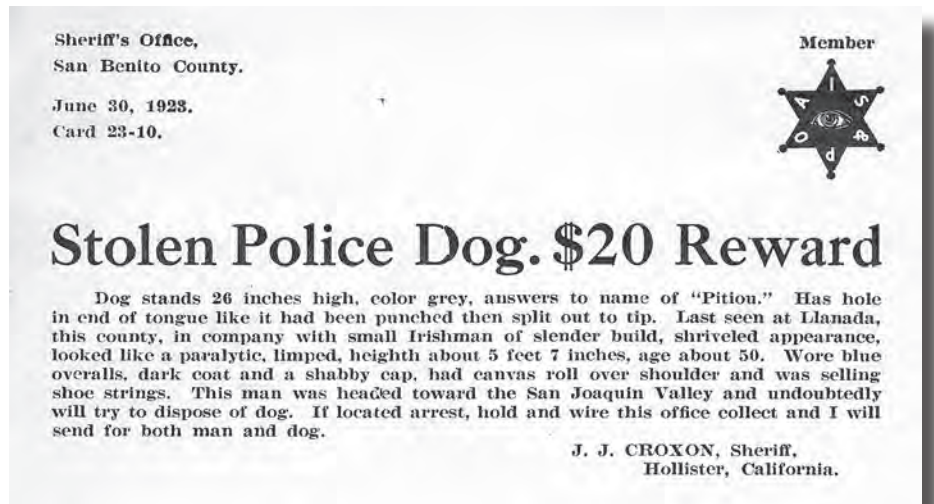
*Submitted by President Gary Hoving*

**CLEHS Collection Grows With Donations** The artifact and archival collection of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society continues to grow. Recently, I spent a weekend accessioning some of the newly acquired pieces from the past year.

Adding a new item to the collection is somewhat labor intensive. Each piece is photographed, described in detail, placed in an acid-free container and assigned a storage location. Most of the items processed recently were wanted postcards and posters from the 1880s to the mid-1990s. The material is fascinating, including the murder of peace officers and the rewards assigned.

The CLEHS approved the purchase and on-going expenses for a professional museum software program many years ago. We selected Past Perfect, which is considered the industry standard, although there are many software vendors.

I have shown some images. Once entered, these items can never be eliminated, which



On June 30, 1923, San Benito County Sheriff J.J. Croxon issued an alert about a stolen police dog and offered a \$20 reward for its return. The alert was sent on a postcard from his office in Hollister. Postcards were commonly used by agencies as communications tools back then. *Gary Hoving photograph*





(Left) A vintage photo of a Los Angeles police officer taken between 1876 and 1889 when City of Angels patrolmen wore the eight-sided Series One badge. (Right) Way back when, some LAPD motorcycles outfitted with sidecars that were built as one person mobile jail cells! *Gary Hoving photograph*

results in an excellent accounting of the collection.

...A rare vintage San Francisco Police Reserve emblem. It is a yellow shield shape with black legends and outer border. A white six point star appears as the center design. The star has a black circle with white legends, "Co. 1."

...A postcard sent out by the San Benito County Sheriffs Office on June 30, 1923



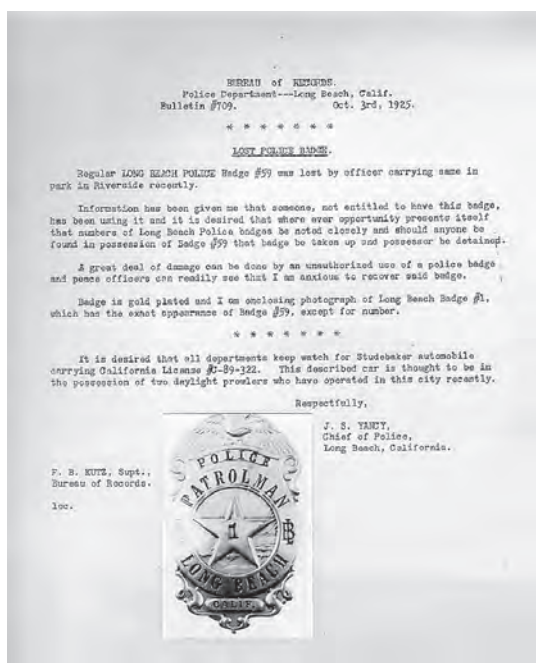
A sharp-looking Los Angeles police officer poses curbside next to his black and white patrol car in the late 1940s or early 1950s. He is wearing the famous oval-shaped badge that his department introduced in 1940. The door decals are strikingly similar to those of today. *Gary Hoving photograph*

offering a \$20 reward for a stolen police dog. It describes the suspect, adding he was carrying a canvas roll and selling shoe strings. The card doesn't indicate if the dog was law enforcement or privately owned. Some refer to German shepherds as police dogs.

...On October 3, 1925, the Long Beach police chief put out an alert about a missing badge from his agency, No. 59. It informs other agencies that someone had been using it. Chief J.S. Yancy asked the badge be returned and the possessor detained. A photo of badge No. 1 is shown on the alert. It's identical to No. 59 except for the number, Chief Yancy pointed out.

*Submitted by President Gary Hoving*

**LAPD Among Thousands Of Photos** The ever-growing California Law Enforcement Historical Society historic photograph collection features thousands of images awaiting processing.



The Long Beach Police Department notified other California law enforcement agencies of a lost Long Beach badge in 1925. Chief of Police J.S. Yancy wrote badge number "59" was missing and someone had used it to impersonate an officer. *Gary Hoving photograph*

The collection features a large number of images donated by Doug Gist, many from the Los Angeles Police Department.

...A portrait of an officer wearing a first issue badge. Series One eight-point shields were worn from 1876 to 1889. Apparently LAPD had stringent grooming standards even then. The officer has a short military-style haircut and a neatly trimmed mustache.

...A vintage black-on-white patrol car from the late 1940s or early 1950s is parked curbside with an officer posing next to it. He is wearing the classic oval badge, which was adopted in 1940.

...Necessity often is the mother of invention! Way back when, some LAPD motorcycles used sidecars outfitted with a small single person jail cell! An officer is shown issuing a citation or taking notes, while his not handcuffed prisoner is seated next to him inside the mobile cell.

...A 1905 souvenir program and scorecard for a baseball game benefiting the Los Angeles Police Association Relief Fund. Chief W.A. Hammel, who served from 1904 to 1905, is shown on the cover in uniform. It's assumed the baseball teams were comprised of officers from Los Angeles or surrounding jurisdictions.

Interestingly, William A. Hammel also served as Los Angeles County sheriff twice, 1899 to 1902 and 1907 to 1914. He is the only person ever to head both departments.

*Submitted by President Gary Hoving*

## CLEHS Holds Annual Meeting In Arroyo Grande

The California Law Enforcement Historical Society held its annual meeting on Friday, July 5 at 4 pm in Arroyo Grande. Meeting was held at the CLEHS office. Secretary-Treasurer Brian Smith shared the meeting minutes with *California Police Historian*:

Call to Order: 4:07 pm by President Gary Hoving.

Roll Call of Board Members: Present: Gary Hoving, Brian Smith, Dean Hileman, Mark Bray and Jake Bushey. Absent: Ian Parkinson, Doug Brimmer, Brad Darling and Mike DeVilbiss.

Roll Call of Attendees: Phil Colonnelli, Darryl Lindsay, Andrew Scott and Russ Snow.

Meeting Minutes: Minutes of the July 28, 2023 meeting and board approval of two emails were distributed and reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes and emails was made by Dean Hileman and second by Jake Bushey. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports: Reports were distributed and reviewed. Brian Smith presented an overview of the Cash Flow report for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 and the Wells Fargo Bank statement dated June 28, 2024. Motion to approve the financial reports was made by Jake Bushey and second by Dean Hileman. Motion carried unanimously.

Membership Report: Report was distributed and reviewed. Brian Smith presented an overview of the status of membership as of June 30, 2024. The Society has 77 active, 17 associate, two corporate and 53 life members for a grand total of 149 members. Total membership has decreased by two members over June 30, 2023.

Museum Report: ...Gary Hoving provided an update on upcoming events where the museum will be displayed: September 7 at the SLO Sheriff's Family Day that generates between 800 and 900 visitors, and November 5 in Arroyo Grande for the Cops and Kids event.

...Hoving continues to need help to staff the museum during events. Anyone can volunteer to work in the museum, so contact him if you can help out.

...Jake Bushey suggested bringing the museum to a local National Night Out event. Hoving was receptive but cited an unworkable experience with Santa Maria PD last year.

...Dean Hileman suggested bringing the museum to the annual conference of statewide CCW coordinators held in Solano County. Hoving explained the high cost of transporting the museum to events across the state prohibits our attendance. In fact, the 2024 National Police Collectors Show in Iowa had invited us to bring out museum to the show. Hoving had to decline, citing the high cost of attending such an event.

...Hoving suggested taking the museum to the 2025 National Show in Phoenix might be doable.

Old Business: None.

New Business: ...Hoving suggested increasing life membership from \$400 to \$500 effective January 1, 2025. We need more active and associate members who pay on an annual basis to ensure a steady cash flow. Motion to increase life membership to \$500 was made by Jake Bushey and second by Mark Bray. Motion carried unanimously.

...Hoving suggested we consider another badge fundraiser to celebrate the state's 175th anniversary in 2025. A discussion was held but no decision was made about the badge.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.

*Submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Brian Smith*

## Chris Villegas Wins "Best of Show" In SLO

Calaveras was one of the original California counties. It was officially formed on February 18, 1850 when California became a state. County law enforcement has protected and served there for 174 years.

Chris Villegas serves as historian for the Calaveras County Sheriffs Office. He has assembled an incredible collection of artifacts and memorabilia tracing department history back to the rough and tumble California Gold Rush days. His effort captured "Best of Show" honors at the CLEHS show in San Luis Obispo.

"I've worked for the county since I got into law enforcement. I've never worked anywhere else, so I know a lot about our history. I started the collection because I enjoy history and want to preserve as much as I can from the Sheriffs Office," he said.

Villegas traces department history all the way back to the days of legendary Sheriff Benjamin Kent "B.K." Thorn, who took office in 1868 and served until 1900. The sheriff is best remembered not only as the longest-serving sheriff, but as one of the lawmen who captured notorious outlaw Charles Boles, known as "Black Bart," in November 1833.

The county owns Sheriff Thorn's one of a kind badge, an ornate solid gold shield. It's a unique custom shape and displays his title, "SHERIFF/ OF/ CALAVERAS CO.," as the center design with his name, "B.K. THORN," on a small banner at the bottom.

PCNEWS did a feature story on this priceless badge in 2017 when former Sheriff Rick DiBasulio asked county supervisors to approve its display at the new Sheriffs Office complex in San Andreas, the county seat.

Sheriff Thorn turned the badge into the county when he left office. It had been in storage in the treasurer and tax collector's office for than 100 years until supervisors approved Sheriff DiBasulio's request that it be put on public display at the SO.

Villegas has another sheriff badge worn by Sheriff Thorn that was discovered years ago by collector Ken Snyder, another Calaveras County collector, who displayed it at numerous shows. This is the badge that was on display in SLO. It is sterling silver with bright blue enamel shields. No question that Sheriff Thorn liked very nice badges!

The "Best of Show"-winning exhibit featured a wide variety of Calaveras County artifacts





Chris Villegas of the Calaveras County Sheriffs Office accepts the coveted "Best of Show" award from California Law Enforcement Historical Society President Gary Hoving at the CLEHS show in San Luis Obispo. Villegas specializes in his department's history. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Legendry Calaveras County Sheriff B.K. Thorn carried this sterling silver shield during his incredible career from 1868 to 1900. He turned it in when he left office. It was in storage for a century-plus. Now it is on permanent display at the sheriff department in Angels Camp. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

and memorabilia, as well as five large frames of badges and five more showing patches. There were three old uniforms, headgear and much, much more, old and new. It is a window into county sheriff history.

Villegas has a fine collection of badges worn by county constables. However, Calaveras and other counties began phasing out their constable offices in the '80s. By 1989, the county had only one active constable. He was assigned to the courts.

Current Calaveras County badges are beautiful large gold Old West-style circled stars made by Irvine and Jachens. "Every deputy has his or her name on their badge. First initial and last name," Villegas said.

His department patch collection goes back to the 1940s when the first emblems were worn by constables. The first sheriff department patch debuted in 1950. It is a gold-colored shield with two frogs as the center design. The Calaveras County Fair is known far and wide for its annual frog jumping contest, which draws huge crowds. (No, frog legs are not served on the fairgrounds...) None other than Samuel Clemens, also known as Mark Twain, introduced the county fair to frog jumping.

The current emblem is a modified LASD shape. It is gold-on-black and shows the county seal in full color. Ranks are depicted along the bottom.

Villegas has been a part of the department since he became an Sheriff's Explorer when he was 11. "I was an Explorer for nine years and then was hired as a recruit deputy to

been custody captain for three years.

Villegas's son is currently a police officer in the United States Marine Corps and plans to return to Calaveras County and work for the Sheriffs Office following his discharge. He is also a collector and plans to continue his father's passion in the future.

In addition to his department, Villegas collects all public safety agencies in the county. "Anything Calaveras County," he said.

Despite his extensive collection, Villegas is always searching for more artifacts, insignia and memorabilia to add to his displays. "There's probably a lot more out there, especially from the former sheriffs. I've traveled far and wide to find things, and I've found a lot all over the USA. I'll never stop looking," he said.

*Submitted by Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor*

*After this story was written, it was announced that Chris Villegas has been promoted to chief deputy by the Calaveras County sheriff. He assumed the position on August 26. Congratulations Chief Deputy Villegas! EDITOR*

## Change Of Pace Brings Jess Tovar "Best Badge" Award

In baseball, a change up is often a very effective pitch. Jess Tovar tossed a change up at the CLEHS show in San Luis Obispo and went home with the "Best Badge Display" award.

Tovar specializes in Stanislaus County law enforcement, especially the Sheriffs Department where he works, and usually devotes his show exhibits to his agency. Not so this time.

He showed a very impressive collection from the former Waterford Police Department instead. It has been a Stanislaus County contract city since July 1, 1998. There were frames of badges, patches, uniforms, leather gear, nightsticks and much more. He also had framed photographs of Waterford officers.

Tovar has a special interest in Waterford. He started his law enforcement career as a reserve with the department in 1989 and left in 1991.

"The city had a lot of personnel issues and some other problems with the police department, so they decided to contract with Stanislaus County," Tovar said. "Their chief of police is a county lieutenant." Today, the department is known as Waterford Police Services.

The city pays for ten full-time positions, a sergeant, seven deputy sheriffs and two administrative assistants, all permanently assigned. It pays half of the lieutenant's compensation. He also supervises Hughson Police Services, another contract city.

Waterford PD wore gold-on-blue cloth insignia, mostly showing the state seal. Their badges were stars and ovals. Officers wore traditional blue police uniforms with a city patch and badge.

"All Waterford badges are pre-1998. They're getting hard to find; patches not so much," said Tovar.

Stanislaus County provides contract police services to three other cities, Hughson, Patterson and Riverbank. Hughson turned to the county in 2001 and has five deputy



Uniforms and headgear old and new are part of the phenomenal Calaveras County Sheriffs Office collection built by Chris Villegas, the department historian. Since it was one of the original California counties, its law enforcement history goes back to the 1850s. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

attend the police academy in November 1997," he said. "After graduating from the police academy, I started my first day on patrol in May 1998."

The collector and historian worked his way up through the ranks over the years. Today, he serves as captain of the county jail, a new state of the art 120-plus bed facility. He has



Extensive collections of Calaveras County Sheriffs Office badges and patches are among the highlights of Chris Villegas's "Best of Show" exhibit of his department's history, which dates back to 1850 when the county was formed. His Thorn badge is in the lower right. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



President Gary Hoving (right) presents Jess Tovar with the award for "Best Badge Display" at the California Law Enforcement Historical Society show in San Luis Obispo on July 6. Tovar featured his excellent Waterford Police Department insignia collection. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





Jess Tovar shifted gears. Instead of showing a segment of his Stanislaus County sheriff collection, he featured an exhibit of insignia, artifacts and memorabilia from the former Waterford Police Department. He won "Best Badge Display" for his effort. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

sheriffs and a legal clerk. They share a chief with Waterford. Patterson joined in 1998 with four deputies at peak times and four other deputies assigned to street crimes. The city manager supervises the department. The county has policed Riverbank since 1995. Currently, it employs 22 county deputies. A lieutenant serves as chief of police.  
 Submitted by Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

## CLEHS Honors Mark Bray With "Best Patch Display"

Once a cop, always a cop. That's Mark Bray. Winner of the "Best Patch Display" at the CLEHS show, Bray left the Fresno County Sheriffs Department to pursue a career in public education. He teaches criminal justice at Dinuba High School where he decorates his classroom with emblems donated by police and sheriff departments.

Bray specializes in Fresno County law enforcement with emphasis on the Sheriffs Department and the former Constables Office. He has amassed an incredible collection documenting the history of not only his former department but police departments in the county as well. It must be seen to be fully appreciated.

"I love collecting Fresno County history because it means a lot to me. I worked at the Sheriffs Department; now, I teach criminal justice to future law enforcement officers here.



"Best Patch Display" award winner in SLO was Fresno County insignia collector Mark Bray. He was honored for his large and virtually complete collections from Fresno County sheriffs, constables and municipal agencies. Deputies have worn patches since 1950. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

I've been able to find a lot of things, but I know there's a lot out there that hasn't been found," he said. Bray's exhibits are unique in that he mixes patches and badges with photographs of deputies, constables and officers wearing them. His sheriff and constable collections are virtually complete and date back to the earliest days of the agencies.



A variety of Fresno County Sheriffs Department emblems in Mark Bray's award-winning exhibit at the CLEHS show. Several special unit emblems are shown in the lower right, along with subdued tactical insignia. Notice how he has added photos of insignia being worn. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Mark Bray's outstanding Fresno County law enforcement insignia and memorabilia exhibit features a variety of uniforms worn by sheriff's deputies. This exhibit allows collectors to see how shoulder patches look when they are affixed to deputy sheriff on duty garments. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

His award-winning exhibit featured four large freestanding frames of patches from Fresno County sheriffs, deputies and constables, as well as six frames of badges. Insignia is supplemented with uniforms, scale model cars, challenge coins, figurines, headgear, wanted posters, sheriff election campaign posters and brochures and much more.

"I started out collecting patches only. I branched out from there," Bray said. He is particularly proud of artifacts from his father and grandfather, both Fresno County law enforcement officers. "Dad is a reserve lieutenant. My grandfather was a constable. I have my father's uniform and grandfather's badge in my collection," he said. He is third generation Fresno County law enforcement.

Bray is involved in an effort to establish a sheriff's museum and learning center in Fresno. While plans are in their infancy, the long term goal is a bricks and mortar museum and learning center at the Fresno Substation. He said Sheriff John Zanoni fully supports the idea.

Among the most interesting pieces in Bray's collection is an invitation to the last public hanging in Fresno County on October 27, 1893. Sheriff Jay Scott sent out personal invitations to people to watch Frank Vincent put to death at the end of a rope.

"Vincent was a doctor in Fresno. He tried to poison his wife but she wouldn't take it, so he shot and killed her. It was a sensational case," Bray said. Fresno County borrowed the



Mark Bray (left) received the "Best Patch Display" award from California Law Enforcement Historical Society President Gary Hoving at the SLO show. He was honored for his outstanding Fresno County collection. Bray worked for the department from 1991 to 2015. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

gallows from Santa Barbara County. Sheriff Scott's undersheriff was Fred T. Berry. Bray believes he has his badge in his collection. It's a very dark well worn shield with the legends, "FRESNO/ SHERIFF/ COUNTY." It has no center design.

Bray wanted to join Fresno County SO when he became a certified officer, but there was a hiring freeze at the time, so he worked for Merced PD from 1987 to 1991, the year he came a collector. He joined the SO in 1991 and retired as a sergeant in 2015.

Fresno County fun fact: While many county sheriffs have changed the names of their agencies from departments to offices in keeping with a nationwide trend, it's the opposite in Fresno County. The agency was known the Sheriff's Office until 1964 when Sheriff Mel Wilmoth changed it to the Sheriff's Department. It is still a department, not an office.

Submitted by Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

## Napa Police Historical Society Wins "Best Historical Display"

Preserve, honor, educate has been the mission of the Napa Police Historical Society since it was formed in 2006 by President Todd Shulman, a retired city police officer. The 70-member organization has masterfully fulfilled its mission ever since.

Shulman represented the NPHS in San Luis Obispo and took home the "Best Historical Display" plaque for its beautifully assembled museum-quality exhibit featuring badges, patches, photographs, artifacts, model cars and other memorabilia. The collection is displayed at police headquarters and shown at special events.

"We're the Napa Police Historical Society, but we include other county agencies in the collection," said Shulman. Saint Helena PD and Calistoga PD badges and patches were shown alongside the county sheriff department and Napa PD.

"Everything here belongs to the society. It's taken 18 years to put this all together. A lot of these things came from retired officers," he explained.





Todd Shulman is a student of Napa County law enforcement history. He founded the Napa Police Historical Society in 2006 and still serves as president. The Society's outstanding countywide insignia, artifacts and memorabilia won the "Best Historical Display" award. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

NPHS insignia collections are particularly impressive and noteworthy. Complete collections of Napa PD and SD patches include obsolete and current styles with general issues and special units. Current and obsolete badges are featured. There are progressions of PD and SD badges from first issues to current styles.

A turn of the century wooden baton with red tassel and a black leather belt with a brass buckle reading "POLICE" that once worn by Officer George D. Secord was displayed with a large photograph of the officer. Officer Secord started as a town constable, then joined the PD. He wore badge number "1" in 1908. "We had a chief and three officers at the time," Shulman said.

Another exhibit is devoted to Chief of Police Alexander F. Hewitt (1922 to 1933) who died of a on duty heart attack while in office. He is commemorated with a gold-filled presentation badge. It was given to him by his officers in 1930. Photographs show Chief



Exhibits from the Napa Police Historical Society collection are well labeled so viewers can read details on the pieces displayed. These frames contain progressions of badges from the county sheriff (left) and the police department (right) from the earliest to the newest. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Hewitt and the entire department in 1928.

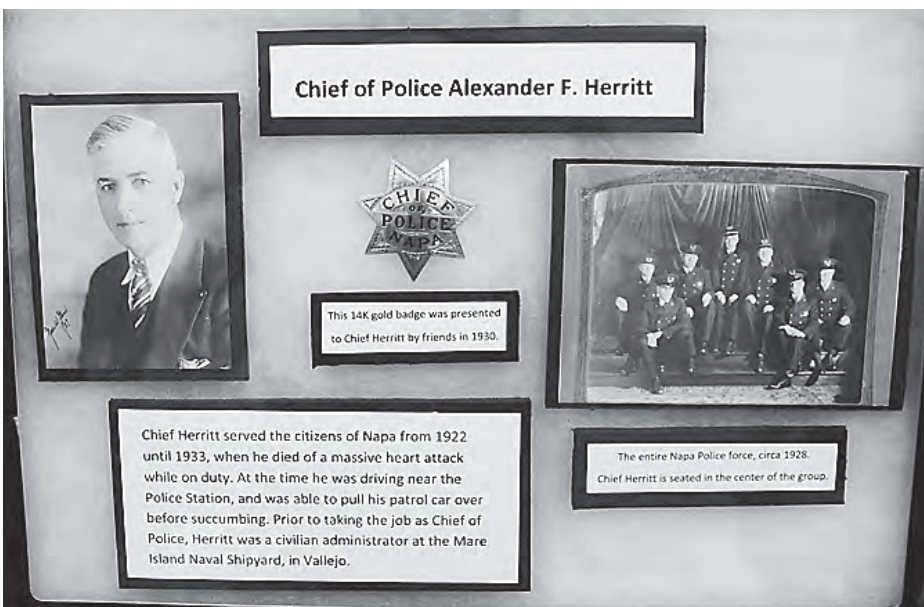
The Society collection includes of thousands of photographs and scanned images. It follows archival methods to ensure these items will be preserved for future generations.

Shulman said the NPHS owns two vehicles, a 1957 Ford Custom 500 and a 2000 Ford Crown Victoria.

Membership is open to anyone interested in Napa County law enforcement history. Information on how to join is available on their website, [NapaPoliceHistory.Com](http://NapaPoliceHistory.Com).

*Submitted by Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor*

**\$1000 CLEHS Donation** CLEHS was arded a \$1000 donation by the hosts of the 2024 National Police Collectors Show, Damir Krdzalic and Peter Harris. President Gary Hoving accepted the check in a brief ceremony at the conclusion of the three-day event.



Alexander F. Hewitt served as the Napa police chief from 1922 to 1933. Sadly, he suffered a fatal heart attack while on patrol. His exhibit shows his photograph, a squad picture and a gold-filled chief of police presentation badge that his officers gave him in 1933. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Cois Byrd served as sheriff of Riverside County for eight years after 20 years as a deputy. A local history lover, he helped catalog the department's extensive artifacts and memorabilia collection. A permanent public sheriff museum is his post-retirement dream. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

## Former Riverside County Sheriff Hopes For Department Museum

Cois Byrd has a dream. The 85-year-old former Riverside County sheriff hopes he can make it come true.

Byrd, who served as sheriff from 1986 to 1995 and spent 28 years with the department, is hoping to help the Riverside County Sheriff's Foundation, which he stated as sheriff, fund a permanent agency museum. The estimated cost for the facility he envisions is between \$1 to \$2 million.

"I love local history. I'm not a collector myself, but I love the history I've seen here," said Sheriff Byrd. "Right now, we don't have a museum. That's not something we should be



President of the Napa Police Historical Society Todd Shulman (left) was awarded the "Best Historical Display" plaque by CLEHS President Gary Hoving at the SLO show. The Society brought a multi-table exhibit showing segments of its massive agency collections. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

without."

As he was preparing to leave office, Sheriff Byrd discovered the department's entire collection of historical artifacts and memorabilia was in storage at the Sheriff's Training Center on 375 acres the county purchased from the United States government. The grounds were once on March Air Force Base, which closed in 1996. Today, March is a reserve base.

"The collection wasn't very well organized. I thought it would be a good idea to get that done, so I volunteered," Sheriff Byrd recalled. "I approached Sheriff Stanley Smith to talk to him about it. He was all for it; in fact, he hired me as a part-time employee to get it done."

The county purchased software used by 8000 museums across the country to organize the collection. "Everything was handled just like it was evidence, documented, numbered and cataloged," the sheriff said. "The program describes every item and tells where it is."

Once the collection was cataloged, Sheriff Byrd helped raise money through the Sheriff's Foundation to purchase a double wide modular building to house the artifacts and display a few of the best things. However, the building has since been moved to the rear of the



John Hernandez (left) is presented with the "Best Educational Display" award at the California Law Enforcement Historical Society show for his well displayed collection of state agency and college and university police badges. He had a Santa Clara County exhibit too. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



"I want a permanent building that's big enough to show everything. It's not doing us any good in storage. I want it out in public so everyone can enjoy it," Sheriff Byrd said.

The department collection includes firearms, badges and emblems, uniforms, thousands of photographs, court records back to the 1920s and a wide variety of other artifacts and memorabilia. It represents everything the department has retained since 1893 when Riverside County was founded.

"There is so much history in it [the collection]; a lot of really historic things from some of our most famous cases," said Sheriff Byrd.

Among the artifacts is the complete case file from the infamous Wineville Chicken Coop Murders, which occurred in 1928 on a poultry farm near what is now Mira Loma. Gordon Stewart Northcott, a Canadian who moved to Los Angeles with his parents in 1924, kidnapped, sexually abused and murdered as many as 20 young boys, mostly from Los Angeles. He held them captive in the chicken coop on his parent's ranch where he abused and then murdered them one by one. Northcott admitted to nine murders but was only convicted of three. He was executed in 1930 when California still had the death penalty.

"Riverside County was the primary agency because the murders happened here. The county brought in a very experienced homicide detective, Jack Brown, to help with the investigation. It was successful; Northcott was prosecuted successfully and executed," Sheriff Byrd said. "We've got everything from that case in our collection."

In 2008, Clint Eastwood directed a movie on the Wineville Chicken Coop Murders, *Changeling*, which focused on the effort by a mother of a victim to find her kidnapped son. "The movie doesn't mention Riverside County, but LAPD is in it because that's where most of the boys were kidnapped," the sheriff said.

He added that Don Williams, who now lives in Arizona, has put together a book-length manuscript outlining the first century of Riverside County SD history. The document has yet to be published.

Sheriff Byrd has some potential benefactors in mind and plans to approach them about making significant donations to the museum project. "I'd very much like to see this happen in the time I've got left. It would be a very good thing for the department and Riverside County," he said.

Considering his legendary accomplishments as sheriff and since leaving office, betting against him would not be a very good wager.

Submitted by Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor



California Law Enforcement Historical Society President Gary Hoving (right) presented the 2024 CLEHS "Police Historian of the Year" award to Placer County historian Andrew Scott (left), who flew cross country from Florida to accept it. This recognition is the highest honor that CLEHS bestows. Mike R. Bondarenko photograph

stories," said Scott. He has continued his work on Placer County history even though he is retired and no longer lives in the county.

The historian began collecting Placer County artifacts and memorabilia for his personal collection, although he plans to donate it to the department someday. He wants to make it available so people can see it.

His extensive research is documented in a 200-page document. "I don't know what do it with it. There's a lot of good information, and I've got pictures and other things to show," he said. "I guess it could be a book, but I'd rather do research than edit."

Scott shared that Auburn, the Placer County seat, was a rough, rowdy and dangerous town during the Gold Rush of the late 1840s and early 1850s. It was the second place where gold was discovered in California. Creeks that flowed through Auburn were mined by gold panners seeking their fortunes.

"Auburn was as tough as any town in the Old West. We had murders, hangings, robberies and a lot of violence. People who think cities are violent today should have been in Auburn during the Gold Rush. A lot of people died in the streets and alleys," said Scott. "There was a lot of crime."

Placer County was created out of parts of Sutter and Yuba Counties in April 1851. His goal is to document the history of county law enforcement back to the beginning.

"Auburn was the county seat, but there was no jail. A Chinese man was convicted of petite larceny. He was sentenced to be whipped 50 times, but he hired an attorney. By the time the attorney contacted him, the sentence had already been carried out," said Scott. He found a document with the man's name that showed the sentence had been carried out by the sheriff.

Scott's research shows rampant racism directed at Chinese immigrants who worked in Auburn. Chinese workers were beaten, harassed, threatened and victimized. "I found sheriffs tried to stop it. They protected them and punished people who violated their rights," he said. "One sheriff said he wouldn't stand for anyone being victimized on his watch. I thought that was pretty interesting given the anti-Chinese sentiment. They risked their lives to protect these people."

Placer County history includes sensational crimes, such as the first mass murder in California in 1906 or serial killer Robert Scott, who committed multiple murders from Oregon to Ensenada, Mexico. He was hanged in 1854 for killing Andrew King in Auburn.

"Scott wrote a book about himself and his crimes when he was in jail. He ended it with, 'My name isn't Robert Scott either,' so his true identity is unknown," Scott said. "He was one bad dude."

Scott created an Auburn murder map showing the locations at which killings took place in the county seat over the years.

"Police Historian of the Year" is a high honor that CLEHS bestows annually on a person who has distinguished himself/herself as a law enforcement historian through research, authorship or other contributions to the society.

Submitted by Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor



John Hernandez (left) and his son, Jason, are shown with the "Best Educational Display"-winning badge collection at the San Luis Obispo show. John Hernandez specializes in California state agencies and college and university police departments. Mike R. Bondarenko photograph

## "Best Educational Display" Goes To John Hernandez Collection

John Hernandez's badge collection keeps growing and growing. He specializes in California, especially state agencies and college and university police departments. His exhibit won "Best Educational Display" at the San Luis Obispo show.

"I worked patrol in Santa Clara and Milpitas, but most of my time was on campus at San Jose State PD. It was a good career," Hernandez said. He retired as a sergeant.

Hernandez has a fine collection of college and university badges from throughout the state. They come in stars, shields and ovals, some in silver and others in gold. Most depict the state seal.

His state agency collection features 42 different badges, mostly obsolete styles.

Hernandez also brought his collection of mostly older style badges from Santa Clara County law enforcement agencies.

"New badges are nice, but I like to find old ones. They're a lot more interesting to me. It's always good to find one for the collection," he said.

The collector is particularly proud of the new criminal justice studies program at San Jose State. He worked on the campus and served as a class training officer, so he is familiar with it. He said it's now the first program in California whose graduates will be POST-certified, which he described as a major accomplishment.

Hernandez hopes to be able to keep adding more badges to his collection. "I have about three times what I had last year and twice what I had at Ripon," he explained.

Nothing is more exciting to a collector than expanding an already fine collection to an even finer one.

Submitted by Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

## Meet Andrew Scott, CLEHS Police Historian Of The Year

Andrew Scott spent 31 years with the Placer County Sheriffs Department. While on the job in 2009, he discovered a county sheriff who had been killed on duty was not remembered on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. He documented the death and submitted it to memorial officials. After the sheriff's name was added to the wall, it sparked his interest in department history.

"He gave his life for the people of the county, yet he was forgotten. No one who makes that sacrifice should ever be forgotten. I was interested in our history before, but that's what really got me into it," said Scott, who has retired and now lives in Florida.

"When I got ready to retire, I realized how many stories from our past had not been saved. I started my research and found a lot of interesting things. Stories have led to other

## CLEHS Members Make News In San Luis Obispo

Many of California's leading law enforcement collectors and historians gathered in San Luis Obispo on July 6. As always, the CLEHS show generated plenty of hobby news and information.

...Longtime Golden State show host Mike Lynch specializes in his former agency, the California State Parks Rangers. He is the "go to" source for information on park ranger



(Left) A collection of Canine Program emblems. The badge is subdued black-on-gray. The large round patch is the general issue. (Right) Lifeguard patches from California State Parks and California Beaches and Parks. The 75th anniversary insignia will be worn in 2025. Mike R. Bondarenko photographs





Mark Hall-Patton was happy to add these badges to his "weird stuff" collection. (Left) An official's badge from the Fresno County Fair from 1981. It's a silver-colored star. (Right) A hard to find presidential inaugural special police shield from the Smithsonian Institution Police. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

history and insignia, as well as other state natural resources protection agencies.

He featured a display of Department of Forestry emblems, including a rare patch with a green fire background that was worn briefly in 1977 and 1978. "The chief didn't want a patch with a green fire, so he changed it to red," Lynch said.

There was also a collection of breast cancer awareness emblems worn by state natural resources agencies, including the park rangers. These agencies are committed to the Pink Patch Project, Lynch said.

Lynch offered mostly green, gold and blue California State Parks K-9 Program emblems. Among them was a small patch for junior handlers. He had the black, gray and gold cloth badge with a subdued German shepherd as the center design.

State parks desert lifeguards are seasonal employees who are trained emergency medical technicians. They wear a round tan and brown patch with attached rockers, "DESERT" on top and "LIFEGUARD" at the bottom. A dark brown walking bear appears as the center design.

Lynch said California Beaches and Parks lifeguards will celebrate their 75th anniversary in 2025. They will have a gold-on-blue commemorative patch with "1950" and "2025" on it with "75" superimposed over the walking bear as the center design. The emblem will be worn on their swimming trunks.

...**Will Berry**, a California patch collecting pioneer, attended the show in search of current styles and other additions to his collections, including Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon and specialties like state shapes.

Berry still prints want lists, which I think are great. However, he is definitely in the minority since nearly everyone uses computers or cell phones these days. I like his printed lists because he shows color pictures of the patches he needs. They make a good style change reference, too.

The now retired police officer was among the first California collectors I got to know after we met at Bob Foley's Greater L.A. show in 1982.

...Another longtime California patch pioneer, **Darrell Klasey**, was in SLO, along with his daughter, **Janet Klasey**, also a collector. He, too, was collecting back in the early '80s, and he is still active 51 years later.

"Wes Maroney was doing prisoner transports for Santa Barbara County when he was a marshal down there. I was working at San Luis Obispo PD at the time. He had dropped his prisoner off at the county jail and stopped at the PD to ask about a patch," Klasey recalled. "They brought him back to me. He got a patch. We became friends and that's what started it all. That was 1973."

Klasey is still working as an identification technician in the county and plans to another three years on the job so that he will have 50 years on the job when he finally decides to call it quits.

...**Darrel Palmer** made the 500-plus mile trip to San Luis Obispo from Mesa, Ariz. in search of challenge coins, his specialty. He said it took him 36 hours to make the trip one way because he stopped along the way numerous times to swap coins.

...A phenomenal Auburn Police Department badge collection was displayed at **Bill Palmini's** tables. He showed dozens of ranks in various styles, including a very rare chief of police star. Auburn was the veteran collector's department before his retirement.

Palmini also had a beautifully framed collection of Confederate States of America battle flag emblems arranged around a Confederate \$20 bill from the Civil War. "I liked the patches, so I put this together. They were hard to get, but I found these," he said. "It's something different."

Another recent creation is a display of 1960s *Batman* TV show trading cards autographed by the cast and guest stars. The program aired two nights a week in 1966 and 1967, then once a week in 1968 before it was canceled. It was a smash hit. "I figure Batman was on our side as cops, so why not?" Palmini said.

...**Mark Hall-Patton** of *Pawn Stars* fame is a badge collector and SLO show regular. He credits **Gary Hoving** with getting him started in the hobby in about 1987 or '88.

Recently retired as Clark County, Nev. museum director, Hall-Patton has been involved



Mark Hall-Patton (right) has been collecting badges since Gary Hoving (left) introduced him to the hobby while he was working at a museum in San Luis Obispo years ago. They have been acquaintances ever since. Hall-Patton spent his entire career as a museum curator. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

in museums most of his life. His career took him to San Luis Obispo, Anaheim, Los Angeles, San Diego and Santa Ana in addition to Las Vegas.

"I collect 'weird stuff' badges, off beat things that appeal to me as museum guy," he said. His collection includes 250 library and museum guard badges.

Among his many other interests are badges worn by police officers at California county fairs and such eclectic pieces as church usher badges. Yes, ushers once wore police-like badges. Hall-Patton has a bunch of them.

He was happy to add a couple nice pieces at the show, an old Fresno County Fair six-point star and a very colorful special police presidential inaugural shield from the Smithsonian Institution Police in Washington, D.C. He was particularly pleased with the Smithsonian badge.

...**Russ Snow** is yet another longtime California collector who turned out for the show. He collects badges but also enjoys compiling histories of early law enforcement officers and famous crimes. He now lives in Oregon, but don't be surprised if he's back in California before too long. "It rains all the time, and you can't get good Mexican food up there," he said.

*Submitted by Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor*



A SFPD captain by the last name of Anderson was photographed in the late 1870s or early 1880s, according to research into Police Department archives by the San Francisco Public Library. His hat badge shows his rank, while his breast badge is a five-point star and wreath. *San Francisco PD photograph*

## San Francisco POA Celebrates Department's 175th Anniversary

August 13 marked the 175th anniversary of the San Francisco Police Department. The police officers association celebrated at the Hall of Justice with historic artifacts displays, officers dressed in vintage uniforms and vintage vehicles. The event was well attended by active and retired officers, as well as people interested in police history.

"For 175 years, our officers have protected one of the country's most storied and dynamic cities," said SFPOA President Tracy McCray. "We wanted people to come and celebrate this milestone and our legacy of serving our community with professionalism and honor."

The City Council authorized formation of the San Francisco Police Department in 1849 and named Malachi Fallon as chief of police. When the Chief took over policing from the city marshal, he commanded a force of a deputy captain, three sergeants and 30 patrolmen.

Chief Fallon dealt with rampant lawlessness. Hundreds of thousands of people from around the world entered the United States through the Port of San Francisco hoping to get rich quick during the California Gold Rush. Many immigrated from China to work in the city and Gold Rush boom towns that sprung up around Northern California.

Angry that police were unable to protect them, their families and property, hundreds of men joined the San Francisco Vigilance Committee. Members took the law into their own hands, often usurping local and state authority. Committee member James F. Curtis became chief of police in 1856.

"Our history is highlighted by the sacrifices made by our brave officers over the years. It's important to remember them as we celebrate 175 years of service to the city," said President McCray.

*Submitted by San Francisco Police Officers Association*



An unnamed police captain from the early days of the San Francisco is shown wearing a beautiful custom breast badge in this photograph taken in the late 1800s. His hat badge is a wreath with the legend "CAPTAIN." SFPD archives contains thousands of pictures. *San Francisco PD photograph*





San Francisco police officers showed off one of their newfangled patrol cars in a Fourth of July parade in the early 1900s. City police transitioned from horses to motorcycles to cars after the turn of the century. Cars gave them unprecedented mobility and ability to patrol large areas. *San Francisco PD photograph*



Black and white has been the color scheme for San Francisco police cars since the earliest days of motorized transportation in the City by the Bay. This is a beautifully restored 1953 Chevrolet with two red flashing roof-mounted lights and a large whip radio antenna. *San Francisco POA photograph*



A group of San Francisco police officers and officials ride in an open air touring car during a parade in the city not long after the turn of the 20th century. A couple of military officers in full dress uniform are admiring the car as it rolls by. *San Francisco POA photograph*

## CLEHS Member Promoted To Calaveras Undersheriff

California Law Enforcement Historical Society member Chris Villegas is now the undersheriff of Calaveras County. A promotion ceremony was held at the sheriff's office in Angels Camp on August 26.

Newly installed Sheriff Rachelle Whiting, who was the undersheriff, promoted the veteran law enforcement officer. She was named sheriff by the county board of supervisors following the retirement of Sheriff Rick DiBasillo on August 9. He had been with the department for 21 years.

Villegas is well known for his incredible award-winning Calaveras County Sheriff's Office collection. He also collects other agencies in the county. He is a regular at California police insignia shows.

Prior to his promotion, Villegas had been in charge of the county jail. His entire law enforcement career has been with the department.

*Submitted by President Gary Hoving*

## San Diego Police Museum Needs \$5000 For Use Fee

As most of you know, the San Diego Police Museum operates with a use permit between our organization and the city. We are billed \$1 per year for rent. However, contained within the bill is an annual fee of \$5000 for "processing of the use permit."

For several years our supporters have helped us fund raise to pay for this expense. We hope we can rely on you once again this year. Like years past, I will start the fundraiser off with \$100. As more donations come in, I will update all of you on our progress. Once we

reach \$5000, I will end it.

You can donate online at [SDPoliceMuseum.Com](http://SDPoliceMuseum.Com). Click on the "Cash Donation" button. We also accept checks via US Mail. Send to: San Diego Police Historical Association, 1401 Broadway-MS 734, San Diego CA 92101.

For those who donate and would like a tax letter, please let me know. I'll email you. If you would like to do a credit card over the phone, please message me on Facebook. I can help with that, too.

As always, thank you for your support of the San Diego Police Museum.

*Submitted by Steve Willard*

## End California Police Historian



A vintage black and white cruiser from the Salem County, N.Y. Sheriffs Department. This full size Ford four door is equipped with a single revolving red dome emergency light and a driver's side spotlight. The door decals are gold-colored and feature a five-point star badge. *Eric Wollman photograph*

# New York Minute

By Eric Wollman, Senior Staff Writer

NEW YORK, N.Y. – My focus this issue is on the 38th Annual Police Security Expo. On a hot summer day in June, a visit to the Police Expo in the well air conditioned Atlantic City Convention Center was a fine way to spend a day or two. Running June 24 and 25, this show comes around yearly and is open to industry professionals only. It is sponsored by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police.

Vendors representing car dealerships, firearms makers, duty gear and much more have displays. I have going for decades now, and it is always well attended but not overly crowded with row after row of displays. A mini car show is included.

Many attendees also find time to sit in on seminars and complimentary health screenings are provided by the Deborah Heart and Lung Center.

The show features vintage police cars, so-called "funny" cars and contemporary police command centers. As you can imagine, the show is mainly New Jersey-centric but offers a



A gleaming black and tan retired pursuit car from the Florida Highway Patrol was among vehicles displayed at the Police Security Expo in Atlantic City, N.J. in June. Florida state troopers have been driving black and tan vehicles since 1939, according to the agency. *Eric Wollman photograph*

lot for everyone.

I made a stop at the vehicle display by the New Jersey Transit Police. The department is a state agency that covers the heavy and light rail systems, busses and their ferries.

This year, the Drug Enforcement Agency was doing some recruiting and the Fraternal Order of Police was there seeking new members.


This show is a good place to network.

ERIC WOLLMAN (New York, N.Y.)



A brand new, sparkling four-door sport utility vehicle from the New Jersey Transit Police. It's white with blue and gold markings. The agency's shoulder emblem appears in full color on the front fenders. There is a low profile emergency lightbar mounted on the roof. *Eric Wollman photograph*





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SEARCHING FOR police and law enforcement themed recruiting posters, traffic safety signs, advertising signs with police images, and a police department NEON directional or entrance signs. Thank you. HOWARD OSTLUND, email: police1944@aol.com, telephone (305) 343-4649 (101)

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 (103)

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 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 (103)

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 (103)

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/AFB MP/AP/SP, or any other Massachusetts badge. Please contact MICHAEL COONEY at (413) 784-3378 (105)

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 (110)

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 (103)

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 (105)

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 (105)

WANTED: A five point star 1950s-1960s Dade County Sheriff's Department or Dade County Public Safety Department badge. The Department is now known as the Miami Dade Police Department and utilizes a typical shield the sheriff's star within the shield. Thank you. HOWARD OSTLUND: phone (305) 343-4649, or email: police1944@aol.com (101)

WANTED: Badges, patches, license plates, all memorabilia related to both Trooper and Inspectors or the Wisconsin State Patrol. Contact Peter Hill: phill3056spectrum.net or call (608) 212-9560

WANTED: Surete de Quebec Police Department Flag, also Signage: I would like to correspond with member/collector of this department. Contact: Capt. JACK BART, RET., Fairfield County Sheriff's office. Email address: jackbart36@gmail.com (203) 921-6400 (103)

WANTED: Your ad here for only \$3.00 for up to 50 words each issue. Send to PCNEWS, 2392 US Highway 12, Baldwin, WI 54002

**3RD ANNUAL**  
**SOUTH JERSEY**  
**POLICE**  
**COLLECTOR**  
**SHOW**

**SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2024**  
DOORS OPEN 9AM

**Proceeds Benefit:**  
**Gloucester County K9**  
**Monroe Twp Police Unity Tour**

**PATCH DROP RAFFLE**  
Drop a patch to enter for a chance to win them ALL


★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Williamstown VFW  
1940 North Black Horse Pike  
Williamstown, NJ 08094

**For More Info Contact:**  
southjerseypolicecollectors@gmail.com  
Mike Matkowsky 856-404-2294 Michaelmatkowsky@aol.com  
Thomas Accoglio 609-685-2846 Taccoglio@yahoo.com

**TABLES \$40 Entry \$5**

**50 TABLES**



Visit us on Facebook at the group '2024 Gateway Police Collectors Show'

PATCHES, BADGES, COLLECTIBLES, TOYS, BOOKS, CHALLENGE COINS, LICENSE PLATES, T-SHIRTS, MEMORABILIA, DISPLAYS, AND MUCH MORE...  
*'ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING POLICE RELATED'*

Welcome to the 39th Annual St. Louis Area Gateway Police Collectors Show

**"GATEWAY" POLICE COLLECTORS SHOW**

**SATURDAY October 19th, 2024 8AM TO 3PM**


**Arnold Fraternal Order of Eagles**  
1725 Jeffco Blvd Arnold, Mo. 63010

ADMISSION IS \$3 FOR THOSE 21 AND OLDER (GUESTS UNDER 21 & SPOUSES ARE FREE)

YOUR SHOW HOSTS ARE FRANK SELVAGGIO, BOB SHOCKEY, AND CODY UMFRESS  
FOR SHOW INFORMATION CONTACT FRANK AT 314-614-9444  
FOR TABLE RESERVATIONS TEXT CODY AT 573-561-6053

**THERE ARE 60 TABLES AVAILABE AT \$20 EACH.**

The closest hotels are just a couple miles away located at Highway 55 and the Arnold exit (#191).



THIS IS A PRIVATE SHOW. ENTRANCE WILL ONLY BE GRANTED TO ACTIVE AND RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT / FIRE / EMT/ MILITARY PERSONNEL, THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS, AS WELL AS BONAFIDE COLLECTORS. EXCEPTIONS CAN BE MADE TO THIS POLICY PRIOR TO THE SHOW WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE SHOW HOSTS. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ASK FOR IDENTIFICATION. ADMISSION AND TABLE COSTS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.

Please note that this is a newer location for this show.





# NYPD History @ Patrol Borough Queens South Museum

## OPEN HOUSE

Sunday

# October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## 12 P.M. to 4 P.M.



3 Floors of  
Historical Displays

Firearms - Uniforms  
Equipment  
Housing - Transit  
& More...



Vintage  
NYPD RMPs  
&  
Additional  
Displays




- M.O.S. in vintage uniforms
- NYPD Historians to tell the story
- History packets with vintage Spring 3100s to the first 100 people



**Where? - PBQS /107 Precinct**

**71-01 Parsons Boulevard Fresh Meadows Queens**

**More Information and Questions?  NYPD Museum at PBQS**



# WANTED !



Badges, Patches, License Plates, all memorabilia related to both Trooper and Inspectors of the Wisconsin State Patrol

**PETER HILL**

phil3035@spectrum.net  
(608) 212-9560



COLLECTORS' CLASSIFIED  
PO Box W-347, Holbrook, MA 02343 USA  
781-961-1463 [ccmay1975@aol.com](mailto:ccmay1975@aol.com)  
[collectors-classified.com](http://collectors-classified.com)



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We haven't raised subscription rates in well over a decade. We have lowered advertising rates and offer a free 80 word Classified Ad each issue. What more can we do for you? For over 48 years we have published a quality collectibles magazine and have enhanced the hobbies and businesses of countless hundreds of people. Give us a try!

The magazine is published 8 times a year from Sept. to June for \$7.50 (USA First Class) or \$14 for 16 issues (cash, check or mint US stamps are OK). Canada rates \$14 for 8 issues. Foreign rates \$20 for 8 issues. Samples: USA \$1.00. Canada \$1.50. Foreign \$2.50. Classifieds: 5¢ a word. Full page \$12 (5.5" x 8"). Whatever you collect, I'm sure you'll find it listed in each issue.

Bill Margolin, Founder, Editor & Publisher

## SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF WANTED



ANY AND ALL MEMORABILIA FROM THE SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT. I WILL PAY TOP DOLLAR FOR PHOTOGRAPHS AND AUTHENTIC ARTIFACTS. CONTACT: **MICHAEL DEVILBISS** P.O. BOX 3477 YUBA CITY CA 95991 (916) 838-1907 OR [KDEVILBISS08@COMCAST.NET](mailto:KDEVILBISS08@COMCAST.NET)

## BADGES WANTED

### Minnesota Highway and State Patrol

- Numbered and rank badges
- Radio Communications
- Law Compliance Representatives
- Commercial Vehicle Inspectors

**PAT ZNAJDA**

patznajda@gmail.com  
218-689-4626



## Fairfax Regional Badge and Patch Show

Benefiting the Fairfax County Police Association and the Fairfax County Police Public Safety Cadets

"The Larry Wilkins Show"

### Saturday, November 2, 2024

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 \$30 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, mail checks or money orders payable to:

**Fairfax County Public Safety Cadets\***  
12099 Government Center Parkway  
Fairfax, VA 22035-5501

Note "Fairfax Regional Show" on the memo line of your check.  
Tables assigned on a first-come, first-served basis with payment in advance.

- ✓ Food and drink available for purchase
- ✓ Plenty of free parking with easy access
- ✓ Numerous hotels / restaurants close to show
- ✓ Trophies for Best of Show & Judges' Award

Email show host Bill Steinkuller at: [FCPASHow@aol.com](mailto:FCPASHow@aol.com)

\*Public Safety Cadets is a tax-exempt organization under IRS Section 501 (c) (3)

- The Show is located just outside of Washington, DC.
- 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 & 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 of badges, patches and uniforms is planned for Friday afternoon before the show. Email show host for information.



\* \* \* \* \*

# 2025 Georgia - Southeast Regional PATCH & CHALLENGE COIN SHOW

***Police, Sheriff, Fire, EMS - Public safety memorabilia***

**February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025**, in Forsyth, Georgia. The “*Public Safety Capital of Georgia*”

*Early set-up access for table holders; Friday evening, 17:00 - 18:30, & Saturday at 0700. \*Doors open for the show at 08:00, and the show will conclude by 15:00*

Table fees; 6' Table = \$25, 8 ft. table = \$30 (includes 2 Table holders access)

General admission is \$5 to help cover the expenses incurred for the show

(Children 14 and under Free)

\* \* \* \* \*

Our last show was held here in 2018, and the attendance was phenomenal!

Collectors came from California, Canada, Florida and many places in between.

Initial plans are for 55 tables, we very well may expand to 80+ tables, depending on how table sales go. \* Tables will be sold beginning August 01, 2024 \*

\* \* \* \* \*

Location is at the same facility as before, the “Monroe County Conference Center” Located at 475 Holiday Circle, Forsyth, Georgia, 31029

(The Holiday Inn Express and the Red Roof Inn are right next to the Conference Ctr.)

Email us at; [patchshow@outlook.com](mailto:patchshow@outlook.com)

*or visit us on Facebook;*

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2025georgiapatchcoinshow>

**BUY - SELL - TRADE - DISPLAY Patches, Badges, Challenge coins, Equipment, etc.**

*\* AWARD GIVEN FOR BEST DISPLAY, BY AN IMPARTIAL JUDGE \**

\* \* \* \* \*



Welcome to

# PCNEWSONLINE.COM

New updated Police Collectors News website now online!!!  
Check it out!!!

### \* SUBSCRIPTIONS \*

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All display ads now also appear online.

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- Swap Meet Calendar (Updated)
- Online only articles and content
- Post hobby news or your collection online for worldwide free exposure

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IS OPEN TO ALL COLLECTORS WORLDWIDE

---ONLY PAID SUBSCRIBERS CAN POST---

Register your name and email address for your own user name and password.

Login in anytime to catch up on the latest hobby happenings!

Go to PCNEWSONLINE.COM today!!!



## BADGES WANTED

# ALASKA

- Territorial Highway Patrol
- Territorial Police
- State Police
- State Trooper with rosette Entenmann
- Fish & Wildlife
- Also, Vintage Alaska Police

PAT ZNAJDA  
patznajda@gmail.com  
(218) 689-4626



# WANTED!

## BY JERSEY COLLECTOR

Looking for Badges, Handcuffs, Whistles or Pictures from Municipal 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)



October 26 and 27, 2024 - Waco, Texas



We are proud to present the Collection of Don Perry a Texas Law Enforcement Icon at public auction. During the first session of the Perry Collection we will be selling 150 badges, Firearms, Law Enforcement Memorabilia, and Vintage Leather from his extensive collection.

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[www.AsAuctions.com](http://www.AsAuctions.com) - 254-799-6044





# WACO, TEXAS

## ADVANCE NOTICE: Special 2-DAY Auction scheduled for March 22-23, 2025

Featuring the vintage Law Enforcement Badges (approximately 250) Huge Firearms and Gun Leather Collection from Lee Hutcheson of Jonesboro, Georgia.

Also included will be many documented items of Art and Old West Artifacts from the late Jim & Theresa Earle Estate, College Station, Texas.

Conducted by A&S Auction Co., Waco, Texas. Auction to be held at the A&S Auction facility at 900 E. Loop 340, Waco, Texas, 76705.

Call now for full 200+page color catalog with description and order of sale. 254-799-6044. Catalogs are \$25.00 includes priority postage.

# A&S AUCTION COMPANY LLC.

Scott Franks TXS-7222



# 250 BADGES

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# 2025 NATIONAL POLICE COLLECTORS SHOW

## JUNE 13-15, 2025

PHOENIX CONVENTION CENTER  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA



### HOSTED BY PHOENIX POLICE MUSEUM

*OUR HOBBY'S PRMIER EVENT SINCE 1985*

### 265 TABLES --\$100 EACH

Displays  
Buy, Sell, Trade

Meet Collectors  
From Around  
The World



Top Quality  
Vendors

All Public  
Safety Collectibles  
(No Firearms)

**PHOENIX CONVENTION CENTER, 100 N. THIRD STREET**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 13 TABLEHOLDERS ONLY SET UP 9 AM – 5 PM**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 14 9 AM – 6 PM**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 15 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM**

### ADMISSION \$5.00

RESERVE TABLES, HOTEL INFORMATION,  
COMPLETE SHOW SCHEDULE ONLINE

## PHOENIXPOLICEMUSEUM.ORG

Early table and hotel reservations highly recommended!