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Saint Louis Police History Highlights 39th “Gateway”

Two hundred seventeen years of Saint Louis law enforcement history took center stage at the 39th Annual “Gateway” Police Collectors Show on Saturday, October 19. Frank Selvaggio, Bob Shockey and Cody Umfress welcomed hobbyists from 12 states to their 70-table sellout swap meet and exhibit.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

ARNOLD, Mo. – Saint Louis was a small but bustling Mississippi River town in 1803 when the Louisiana Purchase made it part of the United States. The future city had been settled in 1764 as a European river outpost. It had grown to about 1000 people.

Saint Louis was a typical often violent western frontier town. There was no law enforcement except for the United States Army. Crime was especially troublesome at night.

On August 7, 1808, only five years after it became American, Saint Louis established the Metropolitan Police Department. It was organized like a citizen militia with four unpaid officers. All able-bodied men living in the city were required to serve as police patrolmen for four months. Refusal to join resulted in a \$1 fine. This is how city law enforcement originated.

Saint Louis police history came to life at the 39th Annual “Gateway” Police Collectors Show in suburban Arnold, Mo. on Saturday, October 19. The 70-table event was once again capably hosted by Frank Selvaggio, Cody Umfress and Bob Shockey. Selvaggio has been a host since the first show in 1985. He has become synonymous with it. Think of “Gateway,” think of him.

Outstanding exhibits by many leading hobbyists chronicled Metropolitan Police history through insignia, weaponry, artifacts and memorabilia. Sadly, with the demise of the Saint Louis Police Academy Library, which offered visitors an extensive historical collection, “Gateway” is now this major city’s only local police history showcase.

Not to be outdone, some of the region’s finest collections featured the police histories of Memphis, Tenn., Champaign, Ill., railroad law enforcement and the United States Mint.

Today, the Metropolitan Police is a division of the city Public Safety Department. It has about 1350 officers and 460 support staff who protect and serve about 295,000 residents. It is the second largest municipal law enforcement agency in Missouri behind the Kansas City Police Department. It is one of the oldest police departments in the USA.

Another great show “Gateway” has an enviable record of 39 consecutive successful shows, largely because it has always been led by capable, dedicated and experienced hosts headed by Frank Selvaggio, police chief in nearby Brynes Mill. Co-host Bob Shockey is the former longtime Arnold police chief. Cody Umfress is a Brynes Mills PD sergeant and heir apparent when Selvaggio retires.

Now held at the Fraternal Order of Eagles hall, the show attracted eager collectors and vendors from 12 states: Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri,



Kellie and David Jensen (center) went home to Memphis, Tenn. with the “Best Overall” award, a custom engraved plaque with the show logo, on October 19. 2024 was a good year for the Jensens. They also won “Best of Show” honors at the National Show. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Nebraska, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin.

The 70-table sellout provided the largest Saint Louis show in several years. “We were able to get the entire hall this year, so we were able to add 15 tables. I decided to go for 70. They all sold,” said Selvaggio.

Tables went to Dave Hume, Tom Breen, Jim Shattuck, Willie Herald, Jim Fightmaster, Larry Raudebaugh, Daryl Weseloh, Leonard Hanham, Terry Bible, Tim Greer, Damir Krdzalic, Mike R. Bondarenko, Bill Burks, Zane Ziegler, Carlos Salazar, David Jensen, Dave Menendez, Skip Murray, Eric Stacy, Bill Evans, Roger McLean, Bill Swank, Andrew Nelson, Mark Grobe, Adam Reese, John Cool, Jim Collins, Kyle Landgrebe, Hugh Mills, Jason Holloway, Mashell Gellman and David Brown.

Walk in attendance was an estimated 100 with a nice turnout from throughout the Saint Louis area and western Illinois. A few local officers stopped by while on duty and checked out the displays. A few even did some trading. Hopefully, they caught the hobby bug and return every year.

Selvaggio closed the early afternoon awards presentation by thanking collectors for making the show another success. “We know some of you with tables traveled a long way to come to our show. We really appreciate it. It makes doing this worthwhile to know that our show is good enough for you to travel a long way,” he said.

Selvaggio announced there will be a 2025 “Gateway” show next October at the same location in Arnold. It will serve as a prelude to the 2026 National Police Collectors Show on July 10, 11 and 12 at the Saint Charles Convention Center just northwest of Saint Louis. It will become the fifth Saint Louis area National. No city has hosted the hobby’s annual convention more often.

Table and hotel reservation information will be available on the show website this spring. Tables will also be sold at the National Show in Phoenix this summer.

Selvaggio announced his retirement as a show host after the ‘26 National. It will be his last. If anyone has earned retirement, it’s Frank! No one has served as a host longer than him.

Seven display awards “Gateway” hosts always recognize collectors who make the effort to show their collections at their show. Seven awards were presented, recognizing



(Left to right) Frank Selvaggio, Cody Umfress and Bob Shockey hosted the 39th annual “Gateway” Police Collectors Show in Arnold, Mo., a Saint Louis suburb. One hundred collectors and tableholders from 12 states attended the sold out swap meet. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



David and Kellie Jensen won “Best Overall” honors in the spirited display contest at the “Gateway” show. David Jensen is a Memphis police officer. He had always been interested in history and began preserving and collecting his department’s past before it was lost. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



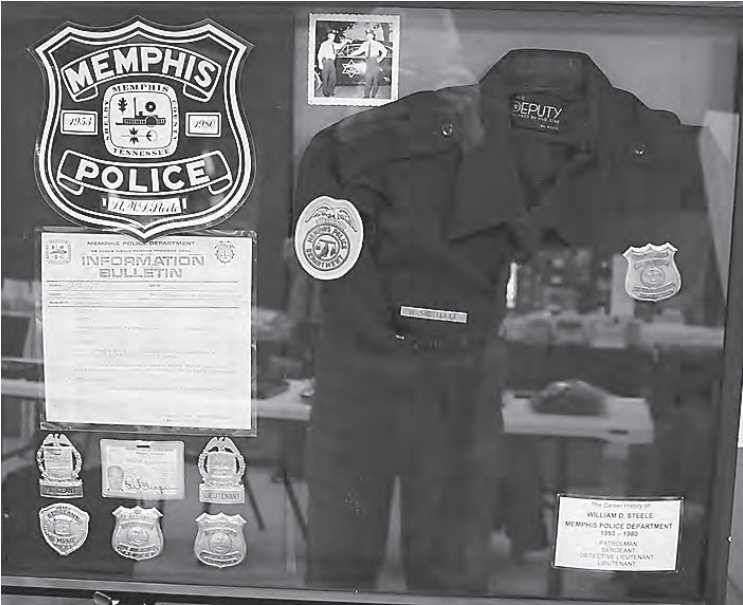
David and Kellie Jensen’s award-winning exhibit at “Gateway” featured this virtually complete cloth emblem collection. A patch chronology (left) shows every style worn. The large frames (right) feature a wide variety of current and obsolete special unit and service insignia. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

“Gateway” Show ...Continued

the finest exhibits in a variety of hobby interests.

“Best Overall” went to Tennessee hobbyists David and Kellie Jensen for their ever expanding Memphis Police Department collection, one of the hobby’s finest departmental compilations.

“Best Badge” awards were presented to Dave Hume (Kentucky), first place and Mashell Gellman (Tennessee), second place. Hume was cited for his Saint Louis County badge



A close look at just one of six large frames devoted to Memphis Police Department badges and other metal insignia in David and Kellie Jensen’s fine collection. David Jensen uses his own department issue identification card to show the IDs carried by city police officers. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

collection, while Gellman was honored for an outstanding display of railroad police badges and artifacts.

Tim Greer (Missouri) and Dave Brown (Missouri) captured “Best Patch” awards. Greer was honored with first place for his massive Saint Louis Metropolitan PD collection. Brown received second place with a fine large frame of state shaped law enforcement emblems.

“Best Specialty” accolades went to Dave Menendez (Missouri), first place and Zane Ziegler (Illinois), second place. Menendez showed a world class exhibit of weaponry, insignia and artifacts from the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police, while Ziegler brought a large collection of Champaign, Ill. Police Department history, including a virtually complete badge set.



The David and Kellie Jensen Memphis PD collection must be seen to be fully appreciated. It is by far the largest and most complete repository of Memphis police history. Yet, it’s always being upgraded and refined as new information or insignia is discovered. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Lexington, Ky. hobbyist David Hume (center) won first place for “Best Badge” exhibit at “Gateway.” Cody Umfress (left) and Frank Selvaggio (right) made the presentation. Hume showed his collection of current and defunct Saint Louis County municipal police badges. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

These veteran collectors impressed everyone, not only with the depth and completeness of their collections, but also for their professional, museum quality exhibits.

Being recognized by peers for outstanding achievement is an honor, especially among law enforcement insignia collectors because many of us collect the same agencies and insignia. The “Gateway” winners represented the best of the best at this show.

Memphis police history Thoughts of Memphis conjure up images of Elvis Presley and Graceland, the mighty Mississippi, awesome barbecue and great jazz music. Yet, for David and Kellie Jensen, Memphis is about chronicling the history of the Police Department where David Jensen serves as a patrol officer.

“I’ve always been interested in our history. I started reading up on it and decided since no one else specializes in it , I’d start a collection. That’s how it all started,” David Jensen said.

He credits Kellie, his wife, with fashioning most of the displays, which captured top



Municipalities that wear Saint Louis-style badges were shown in David Hume’s award-winning display. (Left to right, top to bottom) Clayton, Wellston, Northwoods, Woodson Terrace, Beverly Hills, Hillsdale, University City and Pine Lawn. Most are defunct agencies. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

honors at the National Police Collectors Show last summer. “She’s really good at putting display frames together,” he said. “I find things, she frames them.”

Memphis city law enforcement began in 1827, only a month after it incorporated. The first constable was John J. Balch. The official department history shows a photograph of



(Top and bottom) David Hume featured an interesting collection of 70 of the 100 law enforcement badges worn by officers in Saint Louis County municipalities. Many departments have gone defunct or been taken over by the County Police. He’s looking for 30 more badges to complete it. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Tim Greer exhibited his large collection of cloth insignia from the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department. It includes current and obsolete general issues and numerous special units. The agency is one of the oldest in the United States having been formed in 1808. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

him in uniform wearing a English bowler hat with a small hat wreath and a large six point star on his jacket.

It wasn't until 1852 that the city began issuing badges to its small cadre of police officers. Evidently, officers who worked before then had to buy their own, if they wore a badge at all, of course. Whether any of these pre-Civil War badges have survived is unknown.

The Jensens' extensive display featured six large cases of badges, old and new, and three full size frames of cloth emblems, including special units and rank insignia, also old and new.

A Metropolitan Law Enforcement exhibit was devoted to a drunk driving task force staffed by the PD and the Shelby County Sheriffs Office.

Career collections feature Patrolman William D. Steele and Patrol Officer Joanne Moore, a professional wrestler turned police officer. Both collections have been previously featured on these pages.

A relatively new exhibit shows Memphis Park Commission park ranger insignia. The Jensens plan to add pictures to it in time for their next show.



A highlight of Dave Menendez's award-winning Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department collection was this exhibit devoted to historic artifacts and pictures of the department Revolver Team going back to the early 1900s. It includes three competitive shooting trophies. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

No one knows, but it undoubtedly will be well worth seeing. And, Kellie will make sure it looks just right too!

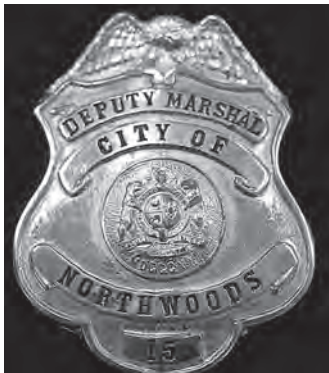
Seventy percent completed Veteran hobbyist Dave Hume showed an interesting collection of current and defunct municipal police department badges from Saint Louis County. Until 20 to 30 years ago, 100 municipalities operated their own law enforcement agencies. Now, there are less than half that many. Hume's unique collection features badges from 70 of the original 100 agencies. That leaves him with only 30 to go!

"The County Police took over a lot of them. There is the North County Police Cooperative that took over some," said Hume.



Top honors among tableholders with patch displays went to Tim Greer (center) of Saint Louis for his large and well presented collection from the Metropolitan Police Department. His collection was started by his late father, Charles Greer, who was a city police officer. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Like most serious departmental collectors, the Jensens are always on the lookout for all things MPD, the older the better, of course. What will be shown in their next new display?



David Hume's Saint Louis County police collection offers rarities from defunct law enforcement agencies, including (top) Northwoods deputy marshal, (lower left) Northwoods Court deputy marshal and (lower right) Times Beach detective sergeant. These are defunct agencies. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Dave Menendez, a retired Saint Louis police officer, won "Best Specialty" display for his massive collection of department issue weaponry from the Metropolitan Police Department. He is shown with his complete collection of revolvers and pistols. Most are marked. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

The collector pointed out that large municipalities in Saint Louis County, such as Clayton, Kirkwood and Ferguson, and, of course, Saint Louis, still have own police



Dave Menendez (left) won the award for the "Best Specialty" display at "Gateway." He featured an outstanding array of weaponry and insignia from the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department. He has virtually every weapon issued by the department. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Mashell Gellman (center), winner of second place for “Best Badge” display, was honored by hosts Cody Umfress (left) and Frank Selvaggio (right). Gellman featured a large exhibit of railroad police badges from across the country with emphasis on older styles. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

“Gateway” Show ...Continued

departments.

Hume wanted a badge from each jurisdiction in the county with its own agency with police powers before the County Police and North County takeovers. Since most of these departments are now defunct, building this collection represents a challenge, but he has done very well. It’s a good bet he’ll finish, or at least come awfully close.

A few of the badges in his two frame exhibit were worn by city or village marshals or



Mashell Gellman brought four large display frames filled with railroad police badges old and new from current and obsolete rail lines and companies across the United States. Gellman specializes in railroad police and also collects related artifacts and memorabilia. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

deputy marshals, while police officers wore the others.

Not every agency ceased to exist as a result of takeover or consolidation. Times Beach PD closed after the community was abandoned in 1983 after dioxin pollution from the 1970s was discovered. It is one of the worst, most costly environmental disasters in United States history. Hume has a couple Times Beach badges.

The North County Police Cooperative was formed in 2015. Eight municipalities consolidated their police agencies into a single department. Cooperative officers now police Vinita Park, Hanley Hills, Wellston, Pine Lawn, Uplands Park, Village Hills, Beverly Hills and



(Top) A set of shields from the New York Central Lines from Boston, Michigan and system wide (“887” and lieutenant). (Bottom left) New York Central and Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific R.R. circled star. (Bottom right) Chicago and Northwestern R.R. six-point star. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Zane Ziegler is dedicated to the preservation of Champaign, Ill. Police Department history, an agency he has worked for almost 50 years. He is responsible for a large collection of insignia, artifacts and memorabilia displayed throughout police headquarters. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Dellwood. More than 60 officers protect and serve a combined population of about 15,600 people in these small communities.

Hume showed a collection of eight Saint Louis look-alike badges from Clayton, Wellston, Northwoods, Woodson Terrace, Beverly Hills, Hillsdale, University City and Pine Lawn.

The 2023 editions of Hume’s two well researched and profusely illustrated badge reference books are still available, *Badges of St. Louis Police* and *Badges and Patches of the Kentucky Highway Patrol and Kentucky State Police*. These books are an absolute must for collectors interested in Saint Louis, Kentucky Highway Patrol and Kentucky State Police badges. The author plans on 2025 updates.

Hume’s outstanding books are available at his table at the many shows he attends



Zane Ziegler (left) accepts second place for “Best Specialty” from Cody Umfress (center) and Frank Selvaggio (right). Ziegler is the Champaign, Ill. Police Department historian and featured a well documented exhibit of agency insignia, artifacts and memorabilia. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

throughout the year.

Trains, trains, trains Mashell Gellman’s hobby is on track. A railroad track, that is. The Tennessee hobbyist specializes in railroad police badges and historical artifacts. This excellent badge collection was among the largest on display at “Gateway.”



(Top) New York Central and Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad with bronze-colored numbers. (Bottom left) Secret Service from the Baltimore and Ohio R.R. (Bottom right) Buffalo Terminal Association of Railway Police is a railroad retiree organization. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

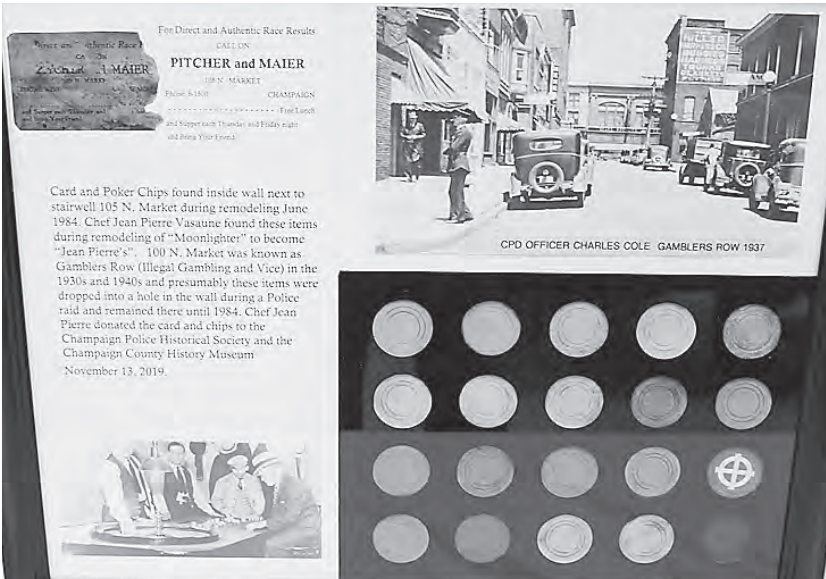


Champaign, Ill. police have worn a variety of badges over the years. Zane Ziegler brought an exhibit showing one of each style. The earliest badge is a six-point silver-colored ball-tipped star from 1889 and carries the black enamel legend, “CHAMPAIGN/ 37/ POLICE.” *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Gellman brought four massive display cases filled with current and obsolete styles from railroad law enforcement agencies across the country, although a large concentration came from the Midwest and East Coast. Emblems and other accouterments augmented each exhibit.

“I’ve always been interested in railroads and collecting train history. It’s been my hobby for a long time. It was Chip [Greiner] who got me into police badges,” said Gellman.

Gellman was asked to point out some personal favorites:



It was nothing like Chicago during the Gangster Era of the 1920s and ‘30s, but Champaign, Ill. certainly had its share of vice with illegal speakeasies, brothels, gambling houses and adult entertainment venues. Zane Ziegler’s exhibit shows a prominent gambling house. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

...A large, silver-colored and very Chicago-style six-point star for a patrolman for the New York Central and Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad with bronze-colored numbers “206” applied at the bottom. It features a large plain Illinois state seal.

Gellman said this star was worn by a patrolman who rode trains from the LaSalle Street Station to the Englewood Station in the city of Chicago.

...A set of four custom shields from the New York Central Railroad. Three are silver-colored, one is gold-colored. The silver-colored badges carry the legends, “B 50,” “M 30” and “887.” “B” was worn on the Boston to Albany Line, “M” on the Michigan Central Line from Chicago to Detroit and the numbers-only shield was worn on the entire NYC system.

...“Secret Service” appears prominently on a large copper-colored eagle-topped shield once worn by a special agent from the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The company logo appears on a chrome-colored disc as the center design.

Gellman explained it is not a federal badge, even though the title is Secret Service. The B&O used this title for its special agents. The building shown is the Maryland State Capitol in Annapolis.



David Brown with his state shape cloth emblem collection was a “Gateway” winner. He arranged his collection on a large map of the United States which makes for an eye catching, colorful display. State shapes were once red hot but not as much today as in the past. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

...A beautiful gold-colored personalized eagle-topped shield for a member of the Buffalo, N.Y. Terminal Association of Railway Police. It was once carried by Officer H.L. Markle and shows his dates of service, 1939 to 1974, a 35-year career. A large gold-colored buffalo appears as the center design.

The Buffalo Terminal was once among the largest and busiest passenger train terminals in the Northeast. The massive station could accommodate 14 trains simultaneously. It operated 24 hours a day from 1926 to 1979. While it is abandoned, an effort is underway to restore the main building.

The main terminal was a grand structure with a 270-foot tall office tower and cathedral-like architecture. Most major railroads used it as an east-west hub, although a significant number of north-south lines utilized it as well.

It is unknown whether the Buffalo Terminal operated its own police department or if it was policed by the Buffalo Police Department.

Gellman said Buffalo Terminal Association of Railway Police members are former

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Second place among patch exhibitors at “Gateway” went to veteran Missouri hobbyist Dave Brown for his state shape emblem display. He usually shows a segment of his outstanding Missouri collection but chose state shapes for this show. Most states have them. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

“Gateway” Show ...Continued

officers who served on police forces of the many railroads that passed through the terminal over the years.

Saint Louis weaponry If anyone has a better collection of Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department issue weaponry and weapons-related artifacts and memorabilia than Dave Menendez, I’d pay to see it. His award-winning collection is the finest I’ve ever had the pleasure to explore.

Retired from the department, Menendez possesses encyclopedic knowledge on the histories of all agency-issued weapons that Saint Louis police officers have carried over the



A premier collectible on display was this very old shield worn by a deputy sheriff in Missouri in the 1800s. It is made from silver with rose-colored plating and shows some wear. This badge belongs to David Brown. He does not know in which county it was worn. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

years. He has assembled a marvelous collection of long guns, pistols, revolvers and unique weapons, such as an old tear gas projectile-firing shotgun and numerous others.

Nearly all his weapons carry Saint Louis department identification marks and/or numbers attesting to their authenticity.

“Right now, Saint Louis is carrying nine-millimeter Berettas, but we transitioned through Colts and other brands before that. I’ve got examples of all of them here,” said Menendez.

A highlight of his “Gateway” exhibit was devoted to the Saint Louis City Police Department Shooting Team. It featured photographs of team members in action on ranges or posed in groups, trophies and awards and other artifacts. The oldest picture shows members in 1868 wearing Union Cavalry military-style uniforms.



Frank Selvaggio brought several nice displays to the show. This collection of federal law enforcement insignia worn around Saint Louis was among them. Most feature designs accenting the riverside city. The landmark Gateway Arch appears on many of these styles. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Longtime Missouri and Kansas City badge collector Hugh Mills was a “Gateway” tableholder. He is downsizing his collection in order to concentrate on Kansas City, Mo. and Kansas City, Kans. Mills was a helicopter pilot for Kansas City PD and in Vietnam before that. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

A top gun trophy on display was won by member Frank Stubitz in Kansas City in 1931. Menendez said Stubitz was a firearms instructor but was promoted to lieutenant and put in charge of the city firing range. The historic trophy is included in his display.

Menendez and I marveled at how amazingly fast officers could rapid fire and reload their revolvers using dump pouches or cartridge belts. Speed loaders came along much later. Obviously, proficiency took a great deal of practice, but they mastered it.

Menendez showed me a few of the many notable weapons in the collection:

- ...An 1879 Colt Lightening in excellent condition. It was one of 300 placed in service by the department. He has a letter from Colt attesting to its authenticity.
- ...A Colt .38 Super purchased in 1932 with the department name stamped on it. Eighty-two of these revolvers were used.
- ...A 20-gauge Remington Model 17 short barrel shotgun, known locally as a “Whip It.” Menendez explained officers could carry one concealed under an overcoat, whip it out from beneath the coat and fire it quickly when a situation required it.
- ...A 1930s gangster era tear gas gun.
- ...A Remington shotgun carried in Metro patrol cars in the ‘70s.
- ...A Beretta Storm carbine issued in the late 1990s to early 2000s as the agency transitioned toward semiautomatic rifles.

The collector said most guns are marked “STL” on the backstrap, but some are marked on the frame. He has examples of every issued weapon Saint Louis police officers have ever carried.

Among the rarest weapons in the Menendez Collection is a gleaming personalized ceremonial sword and scabbard the Honor Guard presented to Chief of Police Matthew Kiely, who served from 1899 to 1905. The chief wore this sword as he led the Worlds Fair Parade in Saint Louis in 1904. It is a priceless police antique.

Other exhibits included medals, badges worn by other city agencies, department issue restraints and Major Case Squad insignia.

Missouri law enforcement Former second generation Valley Park Police Chief David Brown specializes in Missouri law enforcement insignia, artifacts and memorabilia. Those who have attended shows in the state, as well as a few Nationals, have been treated to exhibits of his various specialties. He always has a nice display.

Brown changed his focus at this “Gateway.” He won an award for his collection of state shape law enforcement emblems from throughout the United States. The collection is arranged on a large map, one for each state that has a state shape.

Brown and I reminisced over how state shapes were a patch collecting rage beginning in about the early ‘90s. Nearly everyone wanted them and hard to get states commanded premium prices or trade values. Although some of us still collect state shapes, the fervor has considerably diminished over the years.

The veteran collector showed a beautiful old badge he recently obtained. It is an ornate eagle-topped silver shield with rose-colored plating in the rank of deputy sheriff. The shield has considerable filigree. The hallmark is “P.L. MILES,” a badge maker located at 314 Euclid Avenue in Cleveland. The firm was in business in 1882, according to the collector’s research.

While Brown believes it is from Missouri, the county in which it was once worn is unknown. It is obvious the badge was once worn because it shows wear. Yet, it remains in remarkable condition for its age. It’s definite a prime example of badge maker art.

Champaign police history Zane Ziegler specializes in his agency, the Champaign, Ill. Police Department. While the city is best known as home to the University of Illinois, the veteran collector’s outstanding exhibit shows it has a Big 10 quality law enforcement history, too; Big 10 as in the Ten Code used by law enforcement agencies



Cody Umfress is a Brynes Mill police sergeant. His specialty is making impaired driving arrests. This is his large collection of DWI and drugged driving unit insignia from throughout the USA. Umfress also collects drug recognition expert challenge coins from Missouri. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Among the many items in Jim Shattuck’s United States Mint Police Department exhibit was this highly-detailed figurine authentically outfitted as a Mint police officer. He said it is a G.I. Joe figure painstakingly rebranded as a Mint cop. Shattuck is a retired Mint Police officer. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

nationwide. The code was invented by a state police radio operator who worked in the city. Ziegler brought a large and very impressive collection from Champaign, much of which is displayed at police headquarters. He serves as department historian and founded the Champaign Police Historical Society. He has set up displays throughout the building. “I love history. I’ve done a lot of research into our history and started saving it. I didn’t want to see it lost,” he said. “I started putting together displays.” Today, his creations are either on the walls or in display cases at the PD.

Charles L. Hopper, an Illinois State Police communications officer based in Springfield, invented the Ten Code in the mid-1930s as a way law enforcement agencies could hasten communications on limited radio channels. It was officially adopted by the Association of Police Communications Officers in 1937. It is still used today.

“Hooper wasn’t with Champaign, but he worked out of the State Police office here for a time before he went to Springfield as a supervisor. He started working on the codes here as a Morse Code operator,” said Ziegler. Law enforcement agencies used Morse Code to transmit information quickly over long distances.

Ziegler’s exhibit showed Champaign had its fair share of vice in the Gangster Era of the 1920s and ‘30s. It was certainly nothing like Chicago a hundred or so miles to the north, but the city had a Gambler’s Row with plenty of speakeasies, illicit gambling houses and brothels. An exhibit shows Gambler’s Row memorabilia, including a photograph of a police officer standing on a street corner in 1937.

The unique collection features gambling house poker chips discovered when a former gambling parlor was remodeled in 1984. The chips were hidden in a stairwell, apparently stashed during a police raid, then forgotten until the building underwent renovation as a restaurant. As the stairwell was being taken apart, out rolled the then-illegal chips.

Ziegler showed six frames of CPD badges going back to the 1889 Chicago style first issue. The department started out wearing six-point ball-tipped stars, then went to pie plates. Pie plates were discontinued in 1970 when the department transitioned to shields. The collection features a wide variety of rank badges as well.

An exhibit is devoted to Chief of Police Harvey Shirley, who served from 1959 to 1974. It shows his photograph and personal badges.

There were three large frames of CPD patches. After Ziegler retired from the department, he was hired back as a civilian employee to oversee agency communications technology, particularly radios and related equipment. He showed a number of pieces of historic radio gear, such as an old Motorola Radio Phone. Obviously, police communications have come a long, long way.

Ziegler celebrates his 50th year as a Champaign PD employee in January 2025.

Charles Greer remembered In addition to his award-winning Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department patch collection, Tim Greer featured an exhibit devoted to his late father, Charles Greer, a Saint Louis police officer, who died in 2013 at age 71. Charles Greer spent his entire 20-year career (1968 to 1988) in the Ninth District.

In addition, Charles Greer was an avid law enforcement insignia, artifacts and memorabilia collector and a “Gateway” show co-host for several years. He had a massive collection of all things police, including a huge collection of statues and figurines, large and small. There was also a very large collection of model police cars and vehicles.

“It was Dad who got me started collecting. I went with him to the shows and liked it.



Herculean, Mo. Assistant Police Chief Mark Grobe uses lasers to create a variety of law enforcement-related collectibles, such a miniature ammunition boxes, plaques and coasters, ball caps and tumblers. Mike R. Bondarenko gave him the nickname “Mister Laser.” *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

When he died, I took over his collection,” said Tim Greer, now an accomplished hobbyist on his own.

He is still liquidating the remainder of his father’s collection that does not fall into his interests. While he kept collections that he has continued, particularly the patch displays, he doesn’t share his father’s wide variety of interests in such things as statues, figurines, model cars or police art.

“Dad collected everything. If it had anything to do with police, he wanted it. He wanted everything. His collection got so big there really wasn’t room for all of it,” Greer recalled.

DWI enforcement collectibles Co-host Cody Umfress, a patrol sergeant on Brynes Mill PD, has an interesting sub-hobby, driving under the influence-related law enforcement collectibles.

Although he has other duties as a patrol sergeant, his personal specialty is DWI enforcement. He has won four awards from the local chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving for his dedication to taking alcohol and drug impaired drivers off the streets.

“It’s my thing. I’m also a DRE [drug recognition expert], which is another tool in DWI enforcement,” said Umfress. He has arrested a significant number of impaired drivers during his career and continues to do so whenever he can.

His collection includes a large collection of DWI enforcement unit emblems from agencies across the country, as well as a frame of DWI unit challenge coins displayed around a personalized Brynes Mills PD license plate. Another frame shows drug enforcement unit coins.

Selvaggio said Umfress will take over the “Gateway” show following his retirement as a host after the 2026 National Show in Saint Louis. He also happens to be his boss in Brynes Mill, a city of about 3200 in northern Jefferson County.

Saint Louis highlighted Saint Louis took center stage among Frank Selvaggio’s “Gateway” show displays. He featured collections of Saint Louis area federal agency emblems, law enforcement challenge coins, Saint Louis area badges and patches and a frame devoted to his former department in suburban Clayton.

Meet Mister Laser I often make up nicknames to describe collectors with particular interests. I bestowed the title “Mister Laser” on Mark Grobe, the Herculean, Mo. PD assistant police chief. He uses laser engraving to create law enforcement-related collectibles. The hobbyist offered several creations for sale at very reasonable prices.

“I got interested this [laser engraving] three or four years ago. I saw stuff made with lasers and thought it would be fun to see what I could do,” said Grobe. “I started out small, but it’s gotten bigger.”

Now, he has two lasers in his garage that he uses to create police-related collectibles like miniature wooden ammunition cases, plaques and medallions, metal coffee and water mugs and tumblers and ball caps. He only recently started creating logos to fasten onto caps.

Mister Laser explained creating custom laser engraved items from either wood or metal is a multi step process. It involves creation of a master pattern on a computer. The computer follows the pattern exactly as it operates the laser. It precisely recreates and engraves it into wood, metal or another compatible material. The material rests on a platform as the laser cuts it.



Mark Grobe created this wooden miniature ammunition box using a precision laser. He set up the laser, cut each piece individually and then assembled and painted the finished product. It makes an attractive law enforcement-related collectible. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



James Shattuck is a retired United States Mint Police officer who worked at Fort Knox, Ky. He featured a large, highly informative exhibit of Mint Police insignia, artifacts and memorabilia, including an agency history summary depicted on the white board to his left. It includes patches. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

“Gateway” Show ...Continued

“It takes a lot of practice to get it right. Setup takes time. You’ve got to get the right depth and width for every cut. You also have to use the right laser because some are more powerful than others. The right laser does a much better job, depending on what you’re doing,” said Grobe.

Grobe cited his miniature ammo case as an example. He had to create an overall design, then set up patterns to cut each individual piece: the top, sides, bottom and interior cartridge holder. It took him about four hours to cut each piece one by one. Then, he assembled the pieces and fastened them in place. Painting was the final step.

“It’s nice because each piece is cut exactly. They fit together perfectly, if the pattern is right. It has to be right because the laser does exactly what you put on the pattern,” he said.

For a layman like me, it’s a fascinating process. But to Grobe, Mister Laser, it’s a hobby that may someday become a nice side business in addition to being his favorite pastime.

United States Mint Longtime collector Jim Shattuck has put together some outstanding displays for shows across the country, especially the National, but his “Gateway” exhibit devoted to the United States Mint Police Department is my favorite.

Shattuck spent 20 years from 1997 to 2017 as a Mint police officer at the United States Bullion Depository at Fort Knox south of Louisville, Ky. The Army installation is adjacent to the depository which stores about half the nation’s gold reserves. The depository is commonly known as Fort Knox.

His exhibit featured a large illustrated display of Mint Police history. It shows a complete collection of emblems, as well as photographs, articles and memorabilia. The collector designed the shoulder patch and vehicle marking scheme used at Fort Knox while he worked there. He is justifiably proud of that accomplishment.

Shattuck featured two glass-covered display boxes with Mint artifacts and memorabilia, including a dollar bill signed by the Secretary of the Treasury (technically the head of the PD), gold, silver and copper alloy shavings used to make coins, department badges and a nice picture of the fortress-like main depository building.

He also has a G.I. Joe figure redone as a Mint police officer and a semiautomatic rifle carried by officers. The detail work on the figure is remarkable.

The Mint Police also polices Treasury’s currency production facilities in Philadelphia, San Francisco, West Point, N.Y. and Denver, as well as agency headquarters in Washington, D.C., although no currency is manufactured there.

“Gateway” notebook ...It was a pleasure to meet retired Kansas City, Mo. police officer **Hugh Mills**, who later served as Jackson County, Mo. undersheriff. The veteran badge collector is a contemporary of such well known KCMO shield collectors as Jim Post, Clarence Gibson and others.

Mills is downsizing his collection to concentrate on Kansas City, both in Missouri and Kansas. “I’ve been collecting for quite a few years. It’s time to cut back some,” he said. He had some nice old badges for sale.

Mills was an Army helicopter pilot in Vietnam in the late 1960s. He joined KCMO PD after the war where he served for 16 years also flying choppers for the department. He was county undersheriff for a decade after he left KCMO.

...**Carlos Salazar** made the trip north from Mississippi and offered some good badges for sale or trade. It was great to get reacquainted with my longtime friend. It had been a long time since our paths last crossed.

Salazar and I both like the state shape badges worn by the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol and the Louisiana State Police. He said other Mississippi state agencies also use state shapes, including the Department of Corrections, Bureau of Narcotics and State Fire Marshals.

In addition to the State Police, other Louisiana state agencies wearing state shapes are Alcohol and Tobacco Control, Corrections, Probation and Parole, Game Wardens, Fire Marshals and Department of Public Safety.

...2025 is a special year for the **Saint Louis County Police**. The agency is celebrating its 70th anniversary. The department began protecting and serving on July 1, 1955. Officers are wearing commemorative badges to mark the occasion, according to collector **David Brown**, who shared a photograph of a rank set depicting 13 badges in all.

The commemoratives are five-point circled stars produced by Smith and Warren. “70TH ANNIVERSARY” appears on top of the outer circle with “1955-2025” at the bottom. These legends are separated by red, white and blue flag banners on both sides. The state seal appears as the center design on the star, surrounded by “ST. LOUIS COUNTY POLICE DEPT.” Ranks are shown on a small banner across the top star point. All legends are black.



The Saint Louis County Police Department is celebrating its 70th anniversary (1955 to 2025) this year. The agency has a 13-piece set of commemorative circled star anniversary badges. Supervisor badge (top) are gold, while other ranks and positions are silver. *David Brown photograph*

Supervisor badges are gold, while lower ranks are silver.

...Interested in early Saint Louis police history? I recommend the 2008 book, *Good Order and Safety*, by historian **Allen E. Wagner**. It covers the history of the Metropolitan Police Department from 1861 to 1906. I saw the book at the show, but it sold before I could get back to the table and buy it. Later, I bought a copy on Amazon for \$22.50.

Good Order and Safety is a lengthy (552 pages) but nevertheless fascinating read. Wagner delves deeply into what he describes as the Political Era in Saint Louis history which led to the establishment of the Metropolitan Police. Officers patrolled the fourth-largest city in the nation at the Met was formed. However, local control of the police force didn’t last long.

During the Civil War, the state took over the Metropolitan Police because segregationist Governor Claiborne Jackson didn’t want the Unionist city controlling an arsenal located in Saint Louis. He believed the city would turn over weapons and ammunition stored there to the Union Army. Missouri was a slave state but never seceded.

Corruption was rampant in Saint Louis during and after the war. The Metropolitan Police was no exception. In 1905, newly elected Governor Joseph W. Folk imposed wide ranging reforms on the city, especially on the police department. It was the beginning of the modern era for the agency.

The state finally relinquished direct jurisdiction over of the Metropolitan Police in 2013 and turned it over to the city. However, the Missouri Legislature, with the support of new Governor Mike Kehoe, wants the state to once again take control. It may happen soon, according to a couple collectors at the show.

Swap Meet Calendar

© 2025 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.

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 adjacent to 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 have been made by December 14 to receive the discounted price. It is no longer available. However, rooms may still be available.

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 third show at this new location. The previous venue in Titusville became unavailable. It is 12 miles from I-95 and S.R. 50 in Titusville where most hotels are located.

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

The show is another sellout. All 75 tables have been rented.

Reproductions must be marked.

Awards will be presented for the best displays.

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

For more information, contact Bridges on (321) 302-1983 (cell) or emailing csteveb170@gmail.com.

Forsyth, Ga.

The 2025 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 available for \$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 beginning at 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@

North Myrtle Beach, S.C.

The third North Myrtle Beach Public Safety Collectors Show will be Sat., March 22 from 9 am to 2 pm at Saint Stephens Episcopal Church, 801 11th Ave. N., North Myrtle Beach, S.C. Loren Finch is the host.

Admission is \$10 and a patch for the patch drop box. The drawing will be held at noon. Tables are \$15 each. Twenty-five tables are available. The hall will open at 7:30 am for tableholder setup. Please notify the host when making reservations if wall tables are needed.

Awards will be presented for the Best South Carolina Patch Display, Best South Carolina Badge Display and Best of Show for items not from South Carolina.

The 2024 show was attended by collectors from South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky and Pennsylvania.

Coffee and snack food will be available.

For table reservations or other information, contact Finch on (410) 935-2878. Send table payment checks to Loren Finch, 721 Prestbury Dr., Conway SC 29526.

Detroit, Mich.

The 40th Annual Detroit Area Police and Fire Collectors Show will be Sat., Mar. 22 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Mound Palace Banquet Hall, 38435 Mound Rd., Sterling Heights, Mich. Dave Loar, Mike Duvall, Todd Hansen, Gino Hliebay, Bill Pace and Bob Blickensdorf are once again hosting the 2025 show and exhibit.

Eight tables are available for \$25 each. Payment can be made by PayPal, check or money order. Contact Bob Blickensdorf at blick068@hotmail.com for table reservation information. Early reservations are highly recommended. Detroit is always a sellout show.

This is a closed show. Only known collectors or valid identification attesting to professional background is required for admission.

Current badges may not be sold. However, current badges may be displayed providing the exhibit is marked with “Display Only.”

Athens, O.

The Southeastern Ohio Police Collectors Show will be Sat., Apr. 5 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Athens Community Center, 701 E. State St., Athens, O. Clay Loving and Andy Watson are the hosts.

Eight-foot tables are available for \$15 each. The hall opens at 8 am for tableholder setup.

This is a closed show. Only public safety professionals and known collectors will be admitted.

To reserve a table, contact Loving on (937) 308-3158 or cl1237@gmail.com or Watson on (740) 448-7261 or aawwatson@icloud.com.

Hasbrouck Heights, N.J.

The 2025 New York-New Jersey Police Collectors Show will be Sun., Apr. 13 from 9 am to 2 pm at Hilton Hasbrouck Heights Hotel, 650 Terrace Ave., Hasbrouck Heights, N.J. The annual show will once again be hosted by Brian Lyons, Gerry Tibbs and Ed Zitek.

Admission is \$5.

Tables are \$70 each. Table setup begins at 8 am. Make reservations by sending a check or money order payable to “US Police Collectors” and mail to USPC, PO Box 53, Tappan, NY 10983-0053.

Awards will be presented for the best displays.

This show is open to all public safety professionals and bonafide collectors. Police, fire and emergency medical services insignia and collectibles are welcome.

Identification is a must. ID will be checked at the entrance prior to show entry.

Southgate, Ky.

The Third Annual Northern Kentucky-Cincinnati Area Police Collectors Show will be Sat., Apr. 19 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Southgate Community Center, 301 W. Walnut, Southgate, Ky. John Christmann will host it.

Admission is free.

Fifty-two eight-foot tables are available for \$15 each. The hall will open at 8 am for exhibitor setup. The hall will also be open for setup on Fri., April 18 from 6 to 8 pm.

Awards will be presented for the best displays.

Food and drinks will be available on site.

This is a closed show. Only known collectors, first responders and their families will be admitted.

For table reservations or additional information, contact Christmann on jchristmann23@gmail.com or (859) 743-5250.

Leavenworth, Kan.

The first First Responders Collectors Show will be Sat., Apr. 26 from 8 am to 3 pm at the historic Riverfront Community Center, 123 S. Esplande St., Leavenworth, Kan. Ken LaMaster is the host.

Admission is \$5. Children under 14 are admitted free.

Tables are \$35 for the first table and \$5 each for each additional table. No additional charge for wall tables. The hall will open at 10 am on Fri., Apr. 25 for early tableholder setup.

All collectors of police, sheriff, fire, emergency medical services, corrections and military insignia and collectibles are welcome.

Leavenworth is one of the most historic towns in America. It's home to Fort Leavenworth, the oldest active military base west of the Mississippi. It is also home to the Kansas State Penitentiary, United States Disciplinary Barracks and the first United States Penitentiary, also known as Leavenworth.

Through the years the majority of United States Army generals have graced the streets as they attended the Command and General Staff College.

Criminals named Hickok, Smith, Calley, Hassan, Panzam, Butalino and many others have spent time in the local maximum security facility.

Harvey House founder Fred Harvey, C.W. Parker Carousel and circus ride founder William T. Sherman, Wild Bill Hickok and Buffalo Bill Cody all called the first city of Kansas home.

All show proceeds will help establish a world class museum dedicated to all first responders and military personnel who put their lives on the line to make the world a safer place.

Please come and “do some time” in Leavenworth. Enjoy the show, tour the Kansas State Penitentiary, the Harvey House, Carroll Mansion, or the Richard Allen Cultural Center

dedicated to the 9th and 13th United States Cavalry (the Buffalo Soldiers Museum).

LaMaster is the author of four books on Leavenworth history, two on Leavenworth federal prison history, one about Fort Leavenworth and the fourth a history of the city.

Discount accommodations are available to vendors at the Leavenworth Local Hotel (913) 675-3301, Fairfield Inn and Suites (888) 978-2353 or the Hampton Inn (913) 680-1500. Please mention being a show vendor when making reservations.

For table reservations and additional information, contact LaMaster on (913) 704-9331 or email kennethlamaster@yahoo.com.

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. Active and retired first responders may donate their agency patch for admission.

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.

Cleveland, O.

The 2025 Police Collectors Show sponsored by the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society (GCPOMS) and hosted by Tony Gorsek will be Sat., May 17 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Double Tree Hotel, 1111 Lakeside Ave., Cleveland, O.

Admission is free.

Tables are \$20. Buy two or more tables and get a display-only table free. Setup begins at 8 am.

The show is an official event of Police Week in Cleveland. Police Week attracts hundreds of active and retired law enforcement officers from throughout the Midwest and Canada. Please see the GCPOMS website for the week’s activities, PoliceMemorialSociety.Org.

Find the show on Facebook at “Cleveland Police Collector’s Show.”

For table reservations, contact Tony Gorsek on (216) 287-5343 or email gorsek@att.net.

El Cajon, Calif.

Absolute Victory Insignia and the San Diego Police Historical Association will sponsor the 2025 San Diego Police Museum Police and Fire Collectors Show on Sat., May 17 from 8 am to 3 pm at Holy Trinity Church, 405 Ballard Street, El Cajon, Calif. Hosts are Jake Bushey, Steve Willard and Phil Colonnelli.

This show is a fundraiser for the San Diego Police Museum. All proceeds go to the museum.

Admission is \$5.

Sixty tables are available for \$25 each. The hall can be expanded if additional table space is needed.

All public safety insignia and memorabilia collectors are welcome.

Awards will be presented for the Most Original Display, Best Historical Display and Best of Show.

A barbecue lunch and soft drinks will be available at the site.

The hall offers free secure parking and easy unloading and loading.

There are plans for an informal gathering the evening of May 16 at the San Diego Police Museum, 4710 College Ave., with complimentary hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks. Additional information will become available soon.

For table reservations, contact the hosts on 911badges@sdpolicemuseum.org or telephone (619) 726-6151. The mailing address for reservations and payment is San Diego Police Historical Association, 1401 Broadway-MS 734, San Diego CA 92101.

Bentonville, Ark.

The annual Tri-State Police Collectors Show will be Sat., May 31 beginning at 8 am at the First Baptist Church Gymnasium, 200 S.W. “A” St., Bentonville, Ark. Dustin Carlton will host it.

This show is a benefit for the Benton County Sheriffs Office Fraternal Order of Police and the “Shop With A Cop” program.

Tables are \$20 each. Table fees are non-refundable.

Challenge coin, patch, badge, emergency vehicle equipment, photograph and all other law enforcement collectibles and collectors are welcome.

In addition to the insignia, the show will feature a live DJ, drawings for door prizes and giveaways.

Food and beverages will be available.

Make table reservations with Dustin Carlton on (479) 381-4088.

Branson, Mo.

The Tenth Anniversary “Heart of the Ozarks” Police Collectors Show will be Fri., June 20 12 pm to 4 pm and Sat., June 21, 8 am to 3 pm at the AmericInn By Wyndham, 275 Tanger Blvd., Branson, Mo. Jim Post, Terry Bible and Tom Breen are the hosts.

Admission is free.

Seventy-five tables are available for \$20 each. Early reservations are recommended. This is a popular show and previous shows have been sell outs.

“Heart of the Ozarks” is an official event of National Law Enforcement Week in Branson. Many attractions and restaurants offer discounts for active and retired law enforcement officers and families. There are numerous law enforcement events as well. Visit LawEnforcementWeek.Org for information or telephone (573) 694-6401.

Awards will be presented for the best displays.

Lodging is available at the AmericInn. Make reservations on (471) 334-8404. Please mention National Law Enforcement Week to qualify for the discount rate.

Branson is served by Springfield-Branson National Airport located less than an hour from Branson. American, Allegiant, Delta and United have flights in and out of the airport.

Checks, major credit cards and PayPal are accepted for table reservations. Email Tom Breen at mshp297@hotmail.com or send reservations with payment to Tom Breen, 1205 Markway Mills Rd., Jefferson City MO 65101. His telephone number is (573) 864-4736.

Swap Meet Calendar ...Continued

For area information, contact Terry Bible on terry.bible264@gmail.com or (417) 527-1598.
For show information, contact Jim Post on kopkars@arkansas.net or (479) 253-6333.

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 displayed inside the show hall.

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

Gettysburg, Penna.

The Second Annual Mason-Dixon Police and Fire Patch and Memorabilia Show will be Sat., June 28 from 9 am to 3 pm at The Barn Resort, 75 Cunningham Rd., Gettysburg, Penna. Adam Reid and Lou McAlexander are the hosts.

Admission is \$5 for adults. Children are admitted free. Early admission at 8 am for non-tableholders is \$10.

Sixty eight foot tables will be available.

A new exclusive limited edition show patch and coin will be available.

The Barn Resort offers free parking for show participants, discounted lodging, a restaurant, full service bar, general store and arcade on site. The hotel is only minutes from downtown Gettysburg.

Additional details will be announced.

The show has a Facebook page, "Gettysburg PA Mason Dixon Patch Show."

Email questions to the hosts on masondixonpatchshow@gmail.com.

"Central Jersey" Cooks Up Holiday Sunday Funday

The longstanding "Central Jersey" Police and Fire Collectors Show always means a great Sunday Funday on the eve of Thanksgiving and the Christmas season. Dominic Botteri hosted his 33rd annual pre-holiday get-together on the Sunday before Thanksgiving in Hamilton Square, N.J.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

HAMILTON SQUARE, N.J. – What better way to begin the holiday season than spending a Sunday Funday with friends at a police collectors show a few days before Thanksgiving? That's what Paula and I decided to do, so we journeyed to the 33rd Annual "Central Jersey" Police and Fire Collectors Swap Meet in Hamilton Square, N.J. We weren't disappointed!

Rather than fight holiday crowds at the airports in Minneapolis-Saint Paul, Chicago and Philadelphia, we decided to drive rather than fly. It was a delightful road trip and well worth the 2400 mile journey. Fortunately, the winter weather gods smiled upon us. No snowstorms or slick highways this trip!

Longtime friend Dom Botteri does a great job with his long running show. It's one of my personal favorites. It's small with just 21 tables this year, but the friendship and camaraderie always abundant at "Central Jersey" keeps New Jersey and surrounding states collectors coming back every year. I've made three of his shows and have never been disappointed. This year was no exception.

"The show was outstanding. Great attendance and a bunch of new collectors," said Botteri, a veteran New Jersey law enforcement officer. Forty-five collectors came through the doors, in addition to 19 tableholders.

"Central Jersey" took place on November 24, its traditional Sunday before Thanksgiving date. It's almost always been the hobby's last show of the year and a great way to kickoff the holiday season.

Botteri scrambled to find a new location after the Allentown Rescue Squad told him their hall would no longer be available. Allentown had been "Central Jersey's" home for 20 years. He chose the Ancient Order of Hibernian, an Irish fraternal hall, which proved an excellent venue.

"I got a lot of nice compliments on the hall. It's a great location and already locked in for next year," he said.

Most collectors came from throughout New Jersey, but there was strong representation from New York and Pennsylvania. And, long distance visitors from Quebec and Wisconsin.



Hail the first Italian King of the Hibernian, His Royal Highness Dominic Botteri! Mike R. Bondarenko talked the affable host of the "Central Jersey" show into a picture seated on the throne reserved for the leader of the Ancient Order of Hibernian in Hamilton Square. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Everyone was in a festive mood. It was laid back as friends renewed acquaintances with friends they may see only at shows a couple times a year.

Best of all, even though it was small, "Central Jersey" offered a big array of insignia available for sale or trade, including a surprisingly large number of premier badges. Prices were reasonable. Many tableholders preferred to trade rather than sell. Like a sweet desert after Thanksgiving dinner, the hobby sharks we all know don't show up at "Central Jersey." It's too small for the high rollers, another reason most collectors love it.

Tableholders were Gerry Tibbs, Brian Lyons, Ed Zitek, Chip Greiner, Al Attanasio, Fred Repp, Ernie Leves, Joe Conover, Troy Steiger, Russ Crimmins, Xavier Dee, Mike Novak, Jim McGunnigle, Herman Naring, Ned Schwartz, Dom Botteri, Mike R. Bondarenko, Chris Conte and Joe Flynn.

Collectors can kickoff the holiday season this year with a memorable Sunday Funday at "Central Jersey." It's not too early to start thinking about it. Hamilton Square is the place for



Al Attanasio featured some state ABC collections. (Top) Pennsylvania has a state police unit devoted to ABC. (Center) An impressive array of Alcoholic Beverage Commission from Texas includes a scarce badge. (Bottom) New Jersey ABC patches and badges. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Dom Botteri (center) congratulates the “Central Jersey” display award winners, Joe Flynn (left) and Al Attanasio (right). Flynn won for his massive New Jersey emblem collection. Attanasio was honored for his exhibit of nationwide alcoholic beverage control insignia. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

badge and patch collectors to be on November 23.

Attanasio, Flynn honored Dom Botteri is like most of us. We enjoy seeing fellow hobbyists’ collections, whether we collect what they put on display or not. It’s always fun and educational to view look over collections. Call it cop show and tell. The host always acknowledges the two best displays with a token of his appreciation. He chose a New Jersey challenge coin as the award this year.

The winners were New Jersey collectors Al Attanasio and Joe Flynn. Attanasio, a retired Mountainside police chief, was honored for his fine nationwide alcoholic beverage control (ABC) insignia collection. Flynn, a firefighter in Hamilton, received accolades for his Garden State patch collection. He collects police and fire emblems and has a massive collection.

Alcoholic beverage law enforcement is primarily a state responsibility in the United States, although counties and municipalities also enforce liquor laws in some states. ABC



Hamilton firefighter Joe Flynn is a member of New Jersey Task Force-1. Members wear the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System emblem with an identifying bottom rocker. The team responds to Federal Emergency Management Agency call outs. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

emblems and especially badges represent a challenge for collectors. Most agencies are small. Officers work mostly in civilian clothing. Badges are most often carried in wallets while emblems nearly always appear only on raid jackets.

Attanasio wants an ABC badge and patch from every state. So far, his collection features patches from 37 states and a few badges. He has more patches than badges right now.

“I was on an ABC task force here in Jersey for five years. We checked liquor stores for



Joe Flynn, a Hamilton firefighter, is a serious New Jersey police and fire emblem collector. He brought his entire 2600-piece collection with him but only exhibited a few loose leaf binders. Flynn keeps track of his collection with a laptop computer he takes with him to shows. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



The State of New York Capitol Police protected the building and grounds for 34 years from 1963 to 1997 before it was absorbed into the State Police. A plaque at the Capitol honors their service, even though “Capital” was mistakenly substituted for “Capitol.” *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

compliance and bars for underage drinkers. It was a lot of fun, but it was a lot of late nights, too,” said Attanasio. His service piqued his interest in collecting ABC insignia.

“We had investigators and detectives. Investigators were compliance officers. Detectives from the state and the cities took the criminal cases,” he said.



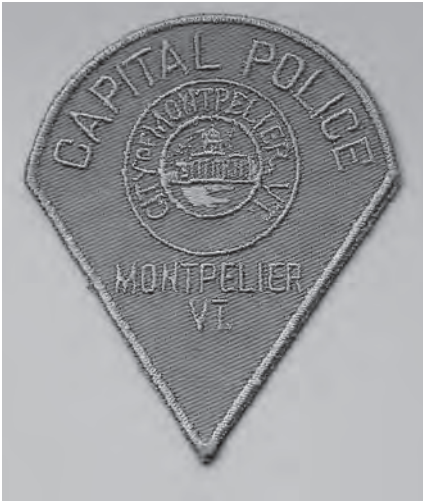
Al Attanasio’s collection includes cloth and metal insignia from the long defunct New York Capitol Police upon which “Capital” was substituted for “Capitol.” Even though this insignia carries the incorrect usage, it was worn on duty for an unknown period of time. It’s now obsolete. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Attanasio started with just ABC patches. Now, he wants to add badges when he can get them. They are hard to find.

His New Jersey ABC collection features his task force badge and identification card, as well as three different emblems. He has an agent badge and six patches from Texas, including an old Liquor Control Board revenue collector. There are two patches and a badge from Pennsylvania Liquor Control Enforcement, which is now a State Police responsibility. The current patch is the same as state troopers wear but has “LIQUOR CONTROL/ ENFORCEMENT” across the top.

Attanasio reiterated that his main interest remains the former New Jersey Highway Patrol. He has an extensive collection and even authored a book about the agency’s history. However, he is equally proud of his ABC collection. “It’s interesting to me because I did that job, and these patches and badges are hard to find. The fun is finding them,” he said.

Flynn’s New Jersey police and fire collection numbers more than 2600 different styles, old and new. Obviously, because it’s so large, he was unable to display it all, but he brought



Trenton, N.J. (left) got it right. Montpelier, Vt. (right) didn’t. The motto this Trenton PD patch reads, “HISTORIC CAPITAL OF N.J.,” which is proper usage of capital, as in the state capital city. An early Vermont State Capitol triangle misuses the word capital. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



“Oddities” was the theme of Joe Conover’s display. He featured emblems from across the country with oddball themes, such as animals, fish, movies, iconic characters and even aliens. Conover is known for always bring something new and different to every show. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

“Central Jersey” ...Continued

several three-ring binders filled with segments as examples. It is truly an accomplishment. Flynn also collects Pennsylvania and places he has been, probably because he is a base drummer in two pipe bands that often travels to police officer and firefighter funerals. He has performed as far away as Missouri at a firefighter’s funeral. The collector is a seven year member of the New Jersey Task Force-1, an urban search and rescue rapid response team. It is one of 28 teams across the United States under the jurisdiction of the Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency. NJTF-1 as 80 members and 19 vehicles. “We were deployed to North Carolina for the flooding earlier this year. That’s why I



Among oddities in Joe Conover’s collection are Mount Prospect, Ill. and Oxford, Okla. Mount Prospect claims it’s the home of the black and white Bluesmobile appearing in *The Blues Brothers*. Oxford is the home of the actor who played the Lone Ranger on radio. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

missed the Boston show. We spent 15 days in Asheville. We also went to Florida for 16 days for the Surfside condo collapse a few years ago,” Flynn said. Asked about task force insignia, Flynn said there is a shoulder emblem. He described it as a Homeland Security style with the NJTF-1 at the bottom. I was able to find a closeup picture on the team’s Facebook page.

“O” not “A”! Is it capitol or capital? Use of an “o” or an “a” is the difference between getting the usage right or wrong. Leo Simones, my high school English teacher, taught us an easy answer to “Is it ‘o’



Chris Conte is old school. He prefers obsolete, vintage law enforcement badges over modern styles for their artistry and craftsmanship. He featured historic stars and shields, including many from New York City. Some of Conte’s amazing badges go back to the mid-1800s. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



(Left) Chris Conte’s “Central Jersey” exhibit featured this gorgeous special deputy sheriff shield from New York City. It was worn in the 1880s. (Right) The American Protective League was a quasi-law enforcement organization during World War I. *Mike R. Bondarenko photographs*

or ‘a’? A capital is a city. A capitol is a building. But not everyone had Mr. Simones for a teacher. Even police insignia designers get it wrong. Trenton is the New Jersey state capital. The state capitol building is in Trenton. It’s easy to remember.

Somehow, Al Attanasio and I got to talking about mistakes made on law enforcement insignia. We speculated it could be because so many badges and patches are made overseas by people who may have difficulty with English. But, we agreed American manufacturers make mistakes, too. Some boo-boos go unnoticed and wrongly branded insignia has been worn. Attanasio showed me a plaque that hung in the State Capitol in Albany, N.Y. Perhaps it’s still there. It recognizes 34 years of service by the State of New York of Capital Police. Because they policed the Capitol building, it should be “Capitol,” not “Capital.” “They made the same mistake on their patches and badges. Nobody noticed it. I know the mistakes were worn, but I don’t know how long,” said Attanasio. (The Capitol Police became members of the State Police in 1997 after 34 years as a stand alone department.) “A” instead of “o” also happened with the Capitol Police in Montpelier, Vt. The agency wore a triangle-shaped whoops patch until someone noticed the error and corrected it. Attanasio has one in his collection.



A close look at one of Chris Conte’s badge exhibits at the “Central Jersey” makes a strong case that the quality craftsmanship and artistry of early law enforcement badges is unsurpassed. Many of these pieces date to as far back as the Civil War era. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Mr. Simones died many years ago. But, if he would have seen this insignia, his loud baritone would have bellowed, “C’mon, people, get it right! Capital is a city. Capitol is a building!”

Always something new Longtime Pennsylvania patch collector Joe Conover is known for bringing a new display to every show he attends with his wife, Mary, who always watches his tables while he scrounges for new additions. He brought Civil War theme emblems to Gettysburg last summer. This time the theme was oddities. “You know, oddities are patches that are a little different. Most patches have seals or flags. These don’t. They’ve got something the city is known for,” Conover explained. His large freestanding frame featured a bunch of odd ball but nevertheless official emblems actually worn on duty, not sold as fundraisers or novelties. Each has an unusual theme, such as ghosts, witches, animals and other things not usually seen on police patches. It’s a fun collection and attracted a few “Do they really wear that?” questions.



(Left) Among Chris Conte’s favorites is this ornate Licensed Hack shield from New York City in the 1800s. He called attention to the exquisite detail of the center design. (Right) This NYC Quarantine Police shield might have been worn during the Spanish Flu Epidemic. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Veteran New York show host and collector Brian Lyons owns and operates Elite Shields in Tappan, N.Y. His “Central Jersey” exhibit featured some recent new style emblems he created for New York State Police special units, such as Special Emergency Response Team. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Coon Valley, Wis. shows a raccoon. The area is famous for raccoon hunting.
Huntington, Ore. has a catfish. The city is the Catfish Capital of Oregon.
Pawnee, Okla. features Dick Tracy. The creator of the popular comic strip, Charles Gould, was born in Pawnee. The city celebrates a Dick Tracy festival and parade every year.
A flying saucer predominates Grovers Mills, N.J. It's the place where Orson Welles claimed a flying saucer landed in his epic Halloween 1938 radio drama, *War of the Worlds*.
Mount Prospect, Ill. is home to the Blues Brothers' Bluesmobile. It appears on the patch among with Jake and Elwood.
Oxford, Mich. portrays the Lone Ranger, the masked crime fighter, atop his horse, Trigger. The city is home to Brace Beemer, the actor who played the Lone Ranger on the long running radio series from 1941 to 1953. (The city proclaims itself the Gravel Pit Capital of the World. I wonder how that could be portrayed on a patch!)

It's always fun to wonder what Conover will come up with for his next show. No one knows, but it'll be good!

Older is better Chris Conte is old school. He reflects the view of most serious veteran collectors, the older insignia is, the better he likes it.

The Huntington, N.Y. hobbyist is a devotee of old custom die badges and brought a couple impressive displays to “Central Jersey,” including several premium historic pieces from New York City. Many stars and shields in his collection date to the late 1800s and early 1900s.

“I admire the marksmanship, the artistry and especially the craftsmanship in old badges like these. They're old, but they're timeless,” said Conte. “What the early badge makers did was just incredible. That kind of craftsmanship just doesn't exist today. Many badges these days are cartoonish, at least to me.”

Conte pointed out examples of finely detailed, often raised state or city seals on some of his older shields, as well as what he described as perfect lettering, mostly done by hand. “I can only imagine how difficult it was to do what they did with what they had to work with,” he said. “Now, makers use lasers. They used hand tools.”

A New York City badge from the 1860s is his rarest piece. It's for a license hack driver. A hack is a small horse drawn covered buggy. While it's not law enforcement, it is very scarce and a fine example of vintage badge craftsmanship. It fits nicely into his collection.

Conte said many of his badges were made in New York City by such makers as Tiffany and others. Each represents a work of art.

The silver-colored shield has a highly detailed center design depicting a man holding a whip and driving his horse drawn two-wheel one seat hack for hire. “LICENSED HACK” appears in raised lettering at the top and “N.Y.” at the bottom. The shield is numbered on



(Top) Elite Shield designs for New York State Police Aviation (in order at top) and a sample of four of his 13 NYSP troop patches. (Bottom) Additional Elite Shields creations for the NYSP, including the new SERT patches on the left in rectangular and round styles. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Pennsylvanian Gerry Lindenhaut (left) purchased a Carlstadt, N.J. police horse saddle blanket from Mike Novak (right). He bought the blanket for a young autistic man who reacts positively to horses. Sadly, Novak announced he is selling his 40-year collection. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

the front. A hack is a horse drawn taxi.

Among Conte's favorite badges is a New York City special deputy sheriff badge from the 1880s. It's a silver-colored shield with a large raised city seal. The legend, “SPECIAL/ DEPUTY/ SHERIFF,” appears on banner across the top. It is numbered at the bottom.

Another favorite is a silver-colored shield from New York City with a large city seal in raised relief. It carries the title “Quarantine Police.” It was probably used to enforce quarantines during health emergencies in the late 18th or early 19th centuries. It may have been used during the worldwide Spanish flu pandemic of 1918 that killed 50 million people.

Conte has a nice numbered American Protective League captain's badge from 1917 to 1919. The APL was a quasi-official organization whose members identified suspected German sympathizers during World War I. While it issued thousands of badges to qualified civilian members across the United States during the war, APL shields are becoming harder and harder to find. After all, they were carried more than a century ago.

The badge is an eagle-topped shield carrying the title, “AMERICAN PROTECTIVE LEAGUE,” on a ring surrounding a round center disc. “SECRET/ CAPTAIN/ SERVICE” appears on the disc. It is numbered.

Unfortunately, I didn't have enough time to talk to Conte about every badge in his impressive display. Hopefully, I'll have that opportunity in the future. But even if I don't, his collection carries amessage: Old can be awesome!

New BOP emblem Fred Repp offered news for federal collectors. The federal Bureau of Prisons has a new shoulder emblem. He works for the BOP in New Jersey and said the new style debuted about a month before the show.

Interestingly, the subdued rounded triangle is woven, not embroidered like most federal insignia. The reason is unknown. It has a dark green background and black borders and legends “DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE/ FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS” at the top and “FBOP” at the bottom. The full color center design is the round BOP seal.

“We started getting them in October. We're transitioning into them. It'll take about a year and a half before everyone has it,” said Repp of the new patch.

Repp had a large quantity of New Jersey patches for sale. He said he recently purchased a large collection that included about 1000 Garden State emblems. He offers a massive inventory of insignia for sale on his website, Fred's Patch Corner.

New York style Collector Brian Lyons owns and operates Elite Shields in Tappan, N.Y. He has the contract for some New York State Police special unit emblems. He showed new styles for Aviation and the Special Operations Response Team. There were also patches for NYSP Scuba Divers, the Contaminated Crime Scene Emergency Response Team and 13 Troops across the state.

Aviation's current style is pretty much the same as previous designs with minor color variations. The figure depicted in the center design has also been modified. It's a rounded triangle with a purple and gray background bisected diagonally, black outer border and white legends, “NEW YORK STATE POLICE” at the top and “AVIATION” on a superimposed attached arc panel. It is Velcro-backed.

“They wanted the changes after they got the one before it. It's just some color changes, but that's what they wanted,” said Lyons.

SERT members wear different patches on opposite shoulders. The NYSP style is basically the same, but the round emblem they also wear has changed considerably from the previous design. Both are worn.

SERT's camouflage subdued shoulder patch is based on the standard department issue. It has a black border and legends, “NEW YORK” at the top and “STATE POLICE” at the bottom. A large state seal comprises the center design. The lime green motto on the seal has changed from just “EXCELSIOR” to ‘EXCELSIOR/ EPLURIBUS UNUM,’ which is



A look at Al Attanasio's alcoholic beverage control agency emblems. Thirty-seven states are represented. There are a few old and new styles from some states. Each state enforces its liquor laws through its own agency, mostly affiliated with their A.G. offices. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Xavier Dee is a transit police officer in Montreal, Quebec and an avid collector of United States law enforcement insignia. He is a frequent tableholder at shows across the country. Dee is shown at his well-stocked “Central Jersey” table. He had a nice selection of patches for trade. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

“Central Jersey” ...Continued

now the official state motto. (*Epluribus unum* is Latin for “out of many, one.”)

“Our former governor wanted that added to the state seal. He got it passed. They wanted it added to the patch,” explained Lyons. “That’s the only change, except they went back to camo for the background, not dark green.”

SERT’s other shoulder emblem is a round and Velcro-backed. It’s a larger update of their previous design. It’s black on camo with the same legends as the other shoulder patch. The center design has changed to an erect sword with the blade pointed up anr surrounded by laurels, a traditional special weapons and tactics logo.

NYSP is organized into 12 geographic regions. Each region is called a troop and has a letter designation. Each troop has a small round troop emblem. They are identical with a dark blue inner border, black outer border and black round center background. “NEW YORK” (top) and “STATE POLICE” (bottom) appear in white. The design is a gray state outline with “TROOP” in gold at the top. Troops designations are large purple letters bordered in gold.

The troop patches are “A,” “B,” “C,” “D,” “E,” “F,” “G,” “H,” “K,” “L,” “T” and NYC. These are actual troops.

Lyons also produced a novelty with Troop “X” in place of the official designation. Troopers called members of the State Capitol Police “Troop X” after they were merged into the State Police in the ‘90s.

Scuba Divers have a black on gray background patch. It’s a custom shape with a big octopus as the center design. Octopus tentacles comprise the inner borders.

Contaminated Crime Scene is round and small. It has a black border and gray background with a silver state shape as the center design. Four icons representing hazardous materials are superimposed over the outline. Purple and black legends carry “NEW YORK STATE POLICE” above the center design and “CCSERT” (purple) and “CONTAMINATED CRIME SCENE/ EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM” beneath it.

Meanwhile, Howard Friedberg and Marc Schwartz have created an unofficial emblem commemorating the 2025 centennial anniversary of the Nassau County Police Department on Long Island. The colorful oblong patch shows the original triangle and current patch in full color.

“The triangle patch was worn starting in 1945. Prior to that ‘NC’ [Nassau County] collar brass was worn,” Friedberg said. “In 1954, the oval patch was adopted and is still currently in use. The oval features the Nassau County seal.”

The commemorative has a white background with light blue borders. Orange and blue stripes bisect the design upon which the emblems are superimposed. Shown between them are “1926” in orange and “2025” in blue.

“The seal was taken from the Dutch House of Nassau. The Dutch were the original settlers of the area,” added Friedberg.

“Central Jersey” notebook Scribbled notes from my Hamilton Square notebook:

...**Dom Botteri** hosted his first shows at two locations in Robbinsville where he served as a police officer before he moved it to Allentown. He missed two years as a result of COVID; once due to the pandemic and then because he became ill with the virus a couple days before the 2023 show. “Mine is the only show canceled by COVID not once but twice! Can you believe it?” he said.

...**Jim Karas** turned an out of state court appearance into an opportunity to attend the show. He had to fly from Kentucky to New York City for a court appearance the day after the show, so he worked in a day at Hamilton Square. Not a bad way to soften a long trip away from home for court.

Karas is a former Kentucky constable. He is going to do a story on constables for us in a forthcoming issue. I was surprised by the wide variety of duties constables have in Kentucky and look forward to learning more. Watch for it in the future edition.



(Left) The new Federal Bureau of Prisons shoulder emblem is woven, not embroidered, and features the full color agency seal as the center design. (Right) Howard Friedberg and Marc Schwartz created this commemorative emblem about the Nassau County, N.Y. PD centennial. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

...Melancholy news from longtime New Jersey collector **Mike Novak**. He is in the initial stages of retiring from the hobby and plans to liquidate his massive, one of a kind Garden State patch collection, which is shown on his outstanding website, NJPatches.Com. The collection includes about 12,000 different emblems, an incredible accomplishment.

“I’ve been in this [hobby] for 40 years. I’ve got to look ahead. My kids don’t want my collection. I don’t want to burden my family with it, so I’m going to sell it,” said Novak. One can only image the feeding frenzy among Garden State collectors when he does!

Novak’s would love to donate his collection to a museum so it would remain intact and be enjoyed in the future. “However, there’s no avenue for that. It hurts. I don’t want to sell. But, it’s about the only option I have,” he said.

He offered odds and ends at his table, such as police license plates, empty display cases, miscellaneous artifacts and memorabilia and even a real Carlstadt Police Department horse blanket. Everything was priced to sell. I managed to pick up some neat stuff after asking twice, “Are you sure, Mike?”

While we were chatting, Pennsylvania collector **Gerry Lindenhaut** joined our conversation. He saw the horse blanket. He knows an autistic child who loves horses and reacts positively to anything horse-related. He bought the blanket to gift it to the young man, a very generous gesture during the holiday season.

...I’ve seen Quebec’s **Xavier Dee** at a lot of shows but never had much of a chance to talk to him until “Central Jersey.” He is a transit police officer in Montreal and an avid collector of United States emblems, especially from transit-related agencies and special units. Dee is always among the most active collectors at every show.

I know his last name is incorrect. He had a job-related identification issue and requested I change it for publication. I did because it was a legitimate request. ‘Nuff said.

...“The Grumpy Collector” columnist **Greg Hatzis** was among the New York contingent. He told me about the latest eBay fiasco for Empire State patch collectors. A recent new style change was sold for a whopping \$78. While that may be small change for a California style change, it’s megabucks for a current New York patch.

“God, please don’t let this become a trend! The New York hobby has taken enough of a hit with our state law. You can still afford to collect New York if you know how to shop around. Please, please, please don’t let us become the next California,” said Hatzis.

...A couple **personal notes**: First, I love authentic New York-style bagels. I got hooked on them while attending **Eddie Miller’s** Long Island shows years ago. We can’t get the real thing in Wisconsin. Now, I overdose on authentic N.Y. bagels every time I get to New Jersey. Botteri brought amazing bagels for breakfast. I had to send an apology to my cardiologist for eating that many, but they were absolutely delicious!

Second, a bunch of additions to my collection went back to Wisconsin. I found time to shop and gobbled up a few big helpings of Turkey Day deals, such as a 50-piece **New Orleans Police Department** patch collection collected in person by the former owner, a nice set of New York City Transit Police emblems, including a hard-to-find Revenue Protection, and a handful of **New York Police Department** patches I didn’t have. No turkeys among these acquisitions! Nothing beats leaving a pre-Thanksgiving show with a belly full of bagels and a bulging bag stuffed with great stuff!

...Finally, no one has attended more New Jersey shows than legendary railroad police insignia collector **Chip Greiner**, who is now into his second century in the hobby. He said “Central Jersey” is always one of his favorite shows of the year.

“It’s always the start of the holiday season. This show is the way the hobby used to be when I started. It’s small but always has a nice crowd, lots of friendship, lots of trading and good prices,” said Greiner. “Big shows are great, but I really like these smaller shows, especially this one. Dom always does a great job.”

I agree! So does the New Jersey-New York hobby!

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (Baldwin, Wis.)

Former Virginia Sheriff Convicted In Badges For Dollars Scheme

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. – Scott Jenkins, the former Culpeper County, Va. sheriff accused of deputizing wealthy, untrained civilians who authorities said paid him tens of thousands of dollars for badges, was convicted of federal bribery and fraud charges on December 18, ending a week-long trial.

A jury in Charlottesville returned the verdicts after deliberating for less than three hours, finding Jenkins guilty on all 12 counts he faced. The 53-year-old defendant, who was sheriff of the rural county from 2013 through 2023, will be sentenced March 31, court records show.

Prosecutors said Jenkins enriched himself and his campaigns by swearing in well-heeled business owners from the District of Columbia area as unpaid auxiliary deputies, giving them police powers for bribes ranging from \$5000 to \$25,000, more than \$60,000 in all, often in cash-stuffed envelopes.

In addition, two undercover Federal Bureau of Investigation agents who posed as wannabe auxiliary deputies testified that they gave Jenkins a total of \$15,000 in cash for badges.

The bribe-payers rarely visited Culpeper County, 70 miles southwest of Washington, and devoted few, if any, hours to volunteer public safety duty, according to prosecutors, who said the men wanted law enforcement credentials so they could drive fast, flash their badges to avoid traffic tickets and carry concealed weapons without permits.

Some of the money went into the sheriff’s campaign fund, prosecutors said, but most of it he kept for himself. Jenkins, an outspoken advocate of Second Amendment gun rights, served three terms before being indicted in June 2023 and was defeated at the polls four months later. He ran once as a Republican and three times as an independent.

When his successor, Sheriff Tim Chilton (I), took office early last year, he said he discovered that about 50 people, almost none of them trained or experienced in law enforcement, were on the department’s books as auxiliary deputies sworn in by Jenkins under circumstances that remain unclear. Sheriff Chilton said he has ended the auxiliary deputy program.

The trial, which began on December 11 in United States District Court, focused largely on six auxiliary deputies, most of them from Northern Virginia, who were appointed by Jenkins in recent years. Three of the six have pleaded guilty in the case and agreed to cooperate with authorities while they await sentencing, scheduled for January.

One of the three, Rick Rahim, of Fairfax County, who owned restaurants, food trucks and laser tag amusement centers, told the jury that he has an old felony record for passing bad checks and was banned from possessing a firearm. He testified that in 2019, he gave Jenkins \$25,000 in cash and a \$17,000 home construction loan that has not been repaid. He said Jenkins used his influence in the Culpeper courthouse to get Rahim’s gun rights restored, then deputized him.

In his opening statement, defense lawyer Joseph P. Caleb said prosecutors had no credible evidence of bribery. As sheriff, Jenkins vehemently opposed gun limits passed by Virginia lawmakers, Caleb said, and he “came up with creative ideas” to legally get around them, including deputizing citizens so they could carry firearms unfettered.

The money he received was through legitimate political donations, said Caleb, who declined to comment on the verdict.

Jenkins, who testified for nearly five hours, denied any wrongdoing, saying authorities wrongly perceived a quid pro pro involving the auxiliary deputies. Clad in jeans, cowboy boots and a blue blazer with a gold star sheriff’s lapel pin, he told the jury that “accepting donations for campaigns is certainly okay,” and “swearing in deputies is something a sheriff has the complete right to do.” There was no connection between the money and the

Ashworth Chronicles Virginia Game Warden Insignia

Virginia Game Warden Badges, Patches and Buckles is a great new reference book by collector Mike Ashworth, a retired Department of Wildlife Resources captain. He chronicles the history of Virginia game warden insignia, belt buckles, firearms and miscellaneous equipment. The book is now available from the author.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

RICHMOND, Va. – “Hollywood Buck” was well known throughout Richmond, Va., especially among children whose parents drove them to his happy place to find him. People spotted him often, much to the delight of his legions of admirers.

The majestic whitetail deer lived in historic Hollywood Cemetery. The buck was unmistakable with 29 points on his massive, regal antlers. He was a natural treasure in a state known for boundless natural resources.

Suddenly, one day during the 2023 autumn hunting season, “Hollywood Buck” disappeared, never to be seen again.

Richmond’s beloved whitetail hadn’t found a new happy place or gone into hiding. “Hollywood Buck” had fallen victim to a serial poacher, a frequent game law violator who not only robs people of precious resources, but, this time, saddened an entire community.

Virginia Department of Natural Resources game wardens suspected “Hollywood Buck” had been poached. Hunting is not allowed at the cemetery or in the city limits. While the deer wasn’t tame, Hollywood Cemetery was its habitat. Everyone knew where the deer could be found. So did the poacher.

Then, the wardens got a break. Jason Walters, 36, posted a picture of himself on Facebook in camouflage hunting gear, a rifle by his side, posing next to “Hollywood Buck.” He claimed he had shot the deer 70 miles from Richmond in Price Edward County when in fact he killed it in Hollywood Cemetery. Wardens executed a search warrant and recovered the buck’s unmistakable antlers. Walter confessed he had killed “Hollywood Buck” on the cemetery grounds, his happy place.

Walters and an accomplice faced multiple game law violations. Recently, he pled guilty to all 20 criminal charges. Walters was sentenced to six months in jail, fined \$2500 and ordered to make \$11,000 restitution for “Hollywood Buck” and two other deer he shot illegally in 2023. His hunting privileges were revoked for 24 years. It was among the harshest sentences ever handed down to a poacher in Virginia.

State game wardens relentlessly pursued the case, not because “Hollywood Buck” was a popular local celebrity, but because that’s what they do. They protect our natural resources from people like Jason Walters.

“I worked serial poacher cases. We worked them pretty hard because these are the worst game law violators,” said collector Mike Ashworth of Bedford, Va., a retired Wildlife Resources captain who spent his entire 30-year law enforcement career with the agency.

A dedicated collector of Virginia natural resources insignia, artifacts and memorabilia, Ashworth has published a great new book, *Virginia Game Warden Patches, Badges and Buckles*. It’s a must-have for game warden insignia collectors and historians. The professionally done volume serves as an accurate, well documented reference guide.

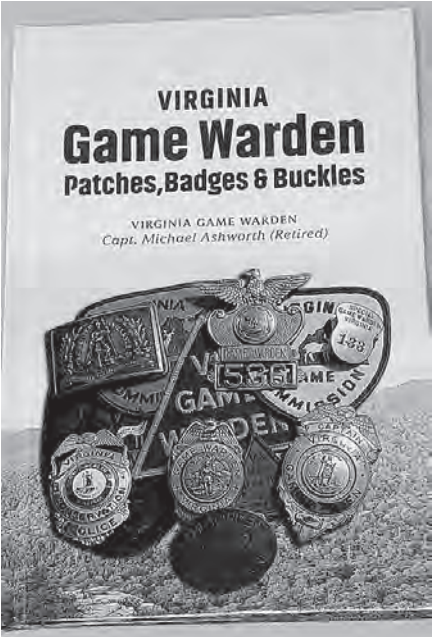
“I started collecting after I started with the state in 1974. I’ve always been interested in history. I talked to old wardens about how things were when they were working. Pretty soon I was collecting our issued items like badges and patches. I’ve been collecting ever since,” said Ashworth.

Ashworth discovered a treasure trove of historic information in past editions of Virginia Wildlife, a magazine published by the state. He has a set of monthly hardbound editions from 1946 to 2008 that he refers to often. “They had pictures of wardens that showed me their uniforms. There were also articles about retired wardens who worked back in the ‘20s and ‘30s. I got to see their badges and patches,” he said.

The author spent three years researching his book. It was a labor of love. His goal was to record Virginia game warden insignia and equipment history.



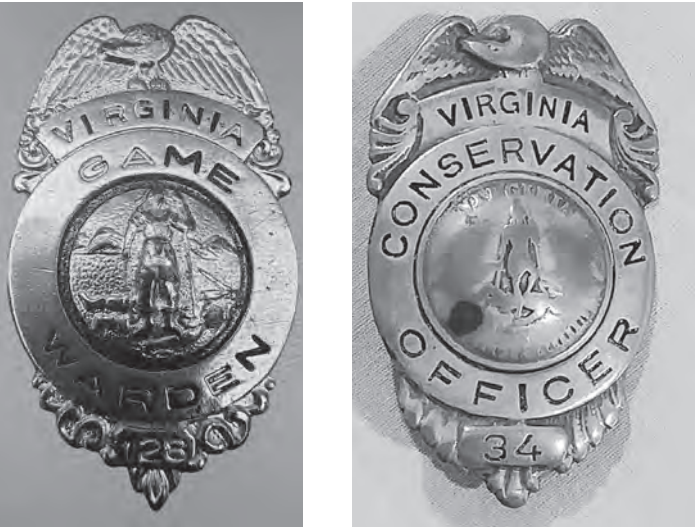
“Hollywood Buck” was a beloved whitetail deer frequently seen and photographed in its habitat at historic Hollywood Cemetery. The magnificent animal was shot and killed by a serial poacher during the 2023 hunting season. Virginia game wardens convicted the shooter. *Contributed photograph*



Virginia Game Wardens Patches, Badges and Buckles is an authoritative, profusely illustrated reference guide by retired Captain Michael Ashworth, a dedicated agency collector. Chapters cover badges, patches, belt buckles, firearms and other equipment. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Ashworth opted for a hardbound book in full color over less costly alternatives. “I could’ve put everything online, but that’s not a book, something you can hold in your hands and refer to any time. A computer is just not the same as a book,” he said.

Back to 1903 The Virginia Legislature authorized counties to hire game wardens to enforce conservation laws beginning in 1903, even though few such laws existed. It wasn’t until 1916 when the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries was created that Virginia became more serious about conservation law enforcement and created an agency with



(Left) A rare Virginia Game Warden badge distributed by Charles Greenblatt Company in New York City in the 1940s. Gold plating wore off to reveal a silver-colored shield. (Right) Members of the “Flying Squad” of wardens wore this badge titled “Conservation Officer.” *Mike Ashworth photograph*

statewide authority. Games wardens have worked under four agency names in their history: Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, 1916 to 1926; Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, 1926 to 1987 and then back to the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries from 1987 to 2020. In 2020, the agency moniker changed to the current Department of Wildlife Resources. There are 180 sworn officers.

Badges and emblems The first official emblem debuted in 1930 and was worn until 1963. It was a plain triangle with the legends, “VA/ GAME/ WARDEN.” There are three types.

The current insignia is a rounded shield shape. The design is green-on-white. It debuted in 1963. Initially, rank or assignments were designated on rockers worn beneath it. Today,



(Top) First issues of Virginia game warden emblems were plain triangles. This is a rare 1947 to 1960 conservation officer variation. (Bottom) Virginia wardens wore this style shoulder patch from 1977 to 1985. A variation with “LAW” added was used between 2001 and 2005. *Mike Ashworth photograph*



(Left) A very rare early game warden supervisor emblem which was only worn by each district commanding officer. There were three, then five districts. (Right) Another rarity: A Virginia National Rifle Association Hunter Safety Education patch worn in the 1960s to 1972. *Mike Ashworth photograph*

Virginia Wardens ...Continued

ranks and assignments are shown on the emblem.

The earliest badge Ashworth has found is a small brass-colored egg-shaped disk. The warden's number appeared as the center design. Otherwise, the legends are "GAME WARDEN" at the top and "STATE OF VIRGINIA" at the bottom.

"This badge is absolutely the first issue. I haven't found anything before it. It does not have a maker's mark," he said.

Today, wardens wear a handsome eagle-topped gold-colored shield with a full color commonwealth seal as the center design. It carries their current title, Virginia Conservation Police. Blackinton manufactures and hallmarks it.

Ashworth estimated about 90 percent of the insignia shown in *Virginia Game Warden Patches, Badges and Buckles* is from his collection. Many older pieces came from retired wardens. Pieces shown that he doesn't own either came from other collectors or publications in his collection.

Several rare pieces During an interview with *PCNEWS* about the new book, Ashworth pointed out a few rarities in his collection.

He said the first issue egg shape is his rarest badge. The author obtained historical notes written by a retired major who served from 1938 to 1978 that indicate it was worn from 1918 to 1924. It debuted only two years after statewide game law enforcement began.

"This badge must have been pinned to a jacket or shirt because we didn't wear uniforms until 1930," said Ashworth.

A rare badge he doesn't have yet but has found pictures of was sold in the early 1940s by the Charles Greenblatt Company, a firearms and police supply distributor. It's an old style eagle-topped game warden shield that carries the Greenblatt name on a panel soldered on the back. However, the company was not a badge manufacturer.

"It was probably made by Everson-Ross in New York City. It had gold plating when it was new, but over the years the gold wore off from use. It's now silver-colored," said Ashworth. He wants it because of the Greenblatt designation on the back.

He has never seen the badge, a only photo. One became available on an online auction site with a \$1000 minimum bid but Ashworth did not bid for it. Like a true collector, he would rather find one on his own rather than buy one.

An interesting shield was worn by members of the "Flying Squad," even though it was not airborne. Executive Director I.T. Quinn created the six-warden squad in 1947. It expanded to 15 members two years later. He gave members the title Conservation Officer which appeared on their badges instead of Game Warden. There is no hallmark.

Ashworth said the Flying Squad was a mobile force that responded to special problems around the state that could not be handled by wardens assigned to counties, such as serial poachers or offenses committed in multiple counties. It was considered a prestigious assignment.

His rarest patch is for a game warden supervisor. It is a triangle to which the title was added. The emblem has a dark green background and brown borders and legends. It was worn between 1930 to 1963 only by district supervisors. There were three districts from 1930 to 1947 and five districts between 1947 and 1963, so the number of emblems made and worn is small.

Another rarity is a green-on-red triangle worn in the 1960s and early '70s by wardens who doubled as National Rifle Association Hunter Safety instructors. It was worn on the right sleeve of long sleeve shirts. The legends read, "VA./ NRA/ HUNTER/ SAFETY/ INSTRUCTOR." Virginia dropped the NRA course in 1972 in favor of a course developed inside the agency.

Issued service firearms Virginia did not provide handguns to game wardens until 1968. Wardens had to buy their own weapons, so personal preferences prevailed. The Colt .45 1911 was very popular.

The firearms chapter shows pictures of every department issue weapon. The current



Only 84 of these beautiful Smith and Wesson Model 66 .357 revolvers exist. Mike Ashworth has one of them. It has the agency badge engraved on the frame. These were offered to wardens in 1986 when the agency celebrated its 70th anniversary. It has a nickel finish. *Mike Ashworth photograph*

handgun is the Glock Model 45 9mm.

In 1986, the warden's association commissioned a beautifully engraved commemorative 70th anniversary (1916 to 1986) handgun, a Smith and Wesson Model 66 .357 revolver. It has the gold game warden badge engraved on the side plate.

"Only 84 guns were ordered, which was a surprise. They are numbered '1' to '84,'" said Ashworth. "Now, a lot of former wardens regret they didn't buy one. The engraving is really a work of art."

Book now available *Virginia Game Warden Patches, Badges and Buckles* is available only from the author. It costs \$30 plus \$6 shipping and handling. Payment can be made with cash, check, money order or through Pay Pal. Contact Ashworth by email for additional information or to place orders. His address is mikeashworth52@gmail.com.

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (Baldwin, Wis.)

Lee Hutcheson Collection Ready For March Auction

A&S Auction Company of Waco, Tex. has been selected to dispose at auction the fabulous collection of noted Georgia resident and vintage badge collector Lee Hutcheson. The sale takes place in Waco on March 22 and 23. Art Fox offers a sneak preview.

By Arthur G. Fox, Staff Writer

WACO, Tex. – Lee Hutcheson Jr. was born in Georgia and has spent his life in a state he loves. Now, because of health issues, this former attorney and his family have decided to put his entire collection up for auction. The collection includes over 200 high-end badges, many Colt collector quality handguns and beautiful Old West leather holsters.

At a young age, Hutcheson had a fascination with cowboys and the Old West and enjoyed watching television shows like the *Rifleman*, *Gunsmoke* and *The Lone Ranger*. As he grew up, he began collecting, and eventually ended up with a sizable Old West collection. That collection is now headed for the auction block. The sale will be March 22 and 23 at A&S Auction Company in Waco, Tex.

Hutcheson liked to travel to collector shows, especially the ones in Las Vegas and Colorado. He has many collector friends around the country who have fond recollections of dealing with him.

West Coast collector Jim Casey said he first met Hutcheson in the 1980s at one of the National Police Collectors Shows and quickly realized that he loved collecting badges from Oklahoma, as well as old Colts, spurs and antique leather.

East Coast collector Chip Greiner told me he also first met Hutcheson in the 1980s. He said he even remembers his first trade with him, explaining he had an old Buffalo city detective badge that he traded to him for an old railroad badge he had.

Fellow hobbyist Vic Elliott was sorry to hear that his old friend wasn't doing well and wished him his best. He told me that Hutcheson is an avid golfer and likes playing with his friends and watching Atlanta sports teams.

Bob Blom said he traded regularly with Hutcheson up until a few years ago and knew that he was a big Old West collector and likes to search for old Oklahoma artifacts.

His friend Jim Pecora said Hutcheson was a corporate lawyer by trade and definitely searched hard for old Oklahoma badges. As a side note, there are several early Oklahoma badges that will be in the auction.

I was told he spent a great deal of time researching and documenting his fabulous collection and continued to add to it up until early 2020 when his health became a concern.

When you see the Hutcheson Collection, it's obvious that he had a great eye for collecting and added only the very finest artifacts. Besides over 200 antique and vintage law enforcement badges, of which some are sterling silver and 14-karat gold, his collection contains many fine Colt and Winchester firearms. It also includes an incredible selection of well marked Old West leather.

Hutcheson's entire collection will begin on March 22 at A&S Auction Company, 900 East Loop 340, in Waco. The telephone number is (254) 799-6044. (Remember, this is a two-day sale.) Make sure you are on the mailing list by calling A&S Auction. You can also pre-order the full color catalog for the Hutcheson auction by calling the same number.

While in Waco, don't forget to spent an entire extra day at the Texas Ranger Museum, which is located only a couple miles from A&S Auction.

ARTHUR FOX (Montrose, Colo.)



Lee Hutcheson of Jonesboro, Ga. is selling his entire collection of vintage law enforcement badges and Old West weapons and artifacts at auction in Waco, Tex. in March. He is leaving the hobby due to health issues. Hutcheson began collecting as a young man in Georgia. *Art Fox photograph*



Two hundred or so vintage law enforcement badges from mostly the United States Marshals Service, Oklahoma and states west of the Mississippi River collected by Lee Hutcheson of Jonesboro, Ga. over a lifetime of interest in the Old West await a March auction in Texas. *Art Fox photograph*



The United States Coast Guard Heritage Museum in Barnstable, Mass. is home to the massive Steve Petro USCG Collection. The veteran collector, historian and author recently donated his entire 4200-piece acquisition gathered over 50 years of non-stop collecting. *USCG Heritage Museum photograph*

Steve Petro Donates USCG Emblem Collection

Steve Petro has donated his massive, one-of-a-kind United States Coast Guard cloth insignia collection to the USCG Heritage Museum in Barnstable, Mass. Relentlessly gathered over 50 years, Petro’s donation represents the largest private USCG emblem collection in the world. It will be on permanent exhibit.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

BARNSTABLE, Mass. – Longtime New York federal insignia collector Steve Petro recently made one of the largest donations in hobby history to the United States Coast Guard Heritage Museum in Barnstable, Mass. He gifted his entire 4200-piece USCG cloth emblem to the Cape Cod museum.

Petro and his fiancé, Wendy Carrier, delivered and officially turned over the world class, one-of-a-kind collection to museum officials on November 22 in the name of his late brother, Bruce Petro, a member of the USCG Auxiliary, and his son, Mark Petro, a Coast Guard reserve. It will be on permanent exhibit for visitors to enjoy. No other private USCG patch collection can be considered even close to the size and scope of this collection.

Petro’s incredible achievement represents 50 years of an ongoing aggressive effort to accumulate all emblems and additional cloth insignia related to the Coast Guard. His donation includes armbands, back, breast, shoulder and cap patches. Over 90 percent are in new and mint condition.

“However, two percent or less show some degree of wear because they were probably worn on uniforms, similar patches are not available or may not be in existence,” said Petro.

The donation includes patch variations created over the course of history for numerous USCG units and over 32 billion-styles and prototypes, which are considered one-of-a-kind.

Petro purchased several thousand patches from collectors and auction sites prior to the appearance of several foreign and domestic patch manufacturers over the last few years.

The Coast Guard has a diverse mission tradition dating back to 1790 with a historical association with the United States Navy during wartime. In the past, it has been assigned to the Treasury Department, Department of Transportation, and more recently, under provisions of the Homeland Security Act of 2003, it is currently part of the Department of Homeland Security.

Petro’s collection is cataloged in 36 three-ring binders under ten binder designations: Designated USCG Headquarters and associated patches (two binders)



Lee Hutcheson is well known in our hobby as a leading collector and historian of vintage law enforcement badges from throughout the United States. He has documented many pieces, such as a pound master star from Sioux City, Iowa with a picture of it being worn. *Art Fox photograph*



(Upper left) A generic City Police shield in the Lee Hutcheson Collection. (Upper right) A Boise, Idaho police officer wore this fabulous numbered shield long ago. (Lower left) A Butte, Mont. chief’s star with a center jewel. (Lower right) Colorado Springs, Colo. special police. *Art Fox photograph*



Coast Guard Heritage Museum staff members happily accepted Steve Petro’s unparalleled insignia collection for a permanent exhibit. Petro (second from left) and Wendy Carrier (center) delivered the massive collection filling 36 three-ring binders on November 22. *Steve Petro photograph*



California Police Historian

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



An eBay online seller recently began selling this bogus California Law Enforcement Historical Society emblem online for \$9.99 plus shipping. It is not authorized by CLEHS. President Gary Hoving has asked it not be purchased. The origin of this counterfeit is unknown. *CLEHS photograph*

CLEHS News Updates

Board of Directors Election The California Law Enforcement Historical Society is governed by a nine-member, volunteer Board of Directors who meet annually to set policy for the Society.

The Board of Directors consists of five elected at large directors and four appointed directors who represent specific areas of the state, Northern, Central, Central Coast and Southern.

It is election time and nominations for five elected at large directors for the 2025 to 2029 term are now being accepted.

Eligible members who would like to serve on the board or nominate others to serve are asked to submit their nominations via text or email by May 25 to Secretary/Treasurer Brian Smith. Email casigns@outlook.com. Text (916) 709-5209.

After nominations are received and validated, a ballot will be sent to all eligible members by May 20. Please note: Article 12-Section 1 of the CLEHS By-laws does not allow associate or corporate members to vote; therefore, no ballots will be sent to those members.

In order for your vote to count, completed ballots must be returned no later than June 20. Election results will be announced in July.

Submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Brian Smith

Ways to Support Your Historical Society There are many ways to support the California Law Enforcement Historical Society: membership dues, in kind contributions, grants and cash donations.

A cash donation makes it possible to take the California Police Museum to various venues up and down the state, publish the *California Police Historian*, host the San Luis Obispo Police Memorabilia Show and operate our new headquarters office in Arroyo Grande.

You can donate online at the CLEHS website. On the right side of each page is a black and yellow "DONATE" button below the page settings. Click on it to make a safe and secure donation in any amount through PayPal. All donations are listed on the "Donate to the CLEHS" page also found on the right margin.



Looking for CLEHS merchandise like this beautiful California Police Museum emblem with the motto, "Honoring the past, present and future"? It is available at the online CLEHS store at CalPoliceHistory.Com. The store also has a variety of other CLEHS merchandise. *CLEHS photograph*

You can also create a birthday fundraiser on Facebook with all donations going to support CLEHS. Find more information on the CLEHS website.

Thank you for supporting the California Law Enforcement Historical Society.

Submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Brian Smith

2025 Membership Renewal Have you renewed your 2025 membership in the California Law Enforcement Historical Society? If not, please take a moment to renew your membership with a payment of \$40 for one year or \$500 for a life membership!

You can send a check to: California Law Enforcement Historical Society, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875.

If you prefer, you can make your payment online at the CLEHS website, CalPoliceHistory.Com.

Submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Brian Smith

2025 Historian of the Year Nominations are open for the 2025 California Police Historian of the Year.

The selected candidate will have distinguished themselves through dedication and action in preserving law enforcement history, publishing material, service to the Society or other contributions for the good of the order.

Nominations should be emailed to President Gary Hoving no later than April 1. A link of his email address can be found on the CLEHS website.

The presentation of the prestigious award will be made at the San Luis Obispo Police Memorabilia Show on July 19.

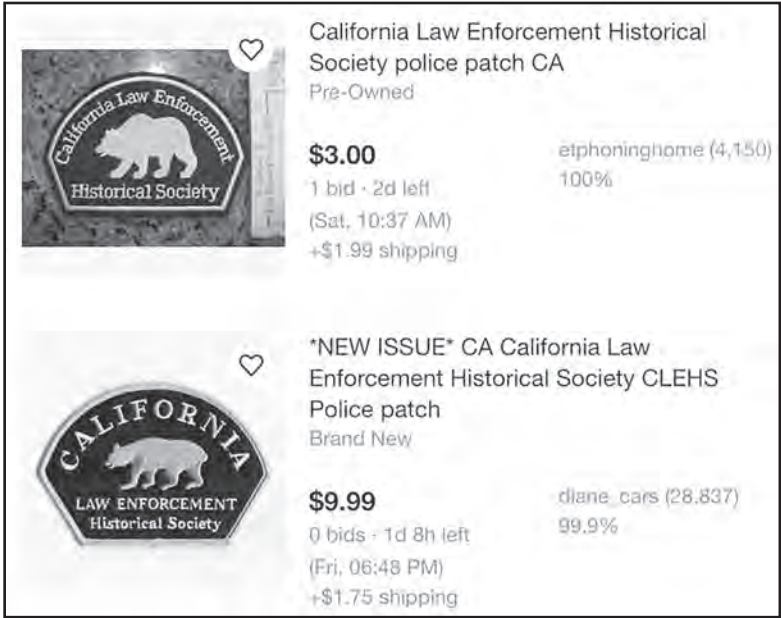
Submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Brian Smith

CLEHS Store Open for Business Looking for some CLEHS items to purchase?

You can find them at the store on our website, CalPoliceHistory.Com. Once on the home page, just click on the "STORE" tab.

You can then purchase the CLEHS baseball hat, museum patch or challenge coin.

Submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Brian Smith



(Bottom) This is the eBay listing for the counterfeit California Law Enforcement Historical Society emblem by seller "Diane_Cars" who blatantly describes it as "New Issue." It is phony. (Top) A real CLEHS emblem was also being offered on the eBay site. *Contributed photograph*



California Law Enforcement Historical Society members who participate in the current California Police Museum sponsorship program are eligible to purchase this top quality museum sponsor program. It costs \$250 plus \$10 shipping. One hundred dollars goes to CLEHS. *CLEHS photograph*



The California Law Enforcement Historical Society gave California insignia collectors an opportunity to buy themselves an early Christmas present at the second Virtual Collectors Show of the year on Saturday, December 7. Eighty collectibles went up for sale. *CLEHS photograph*

Stories and Articles Needed The *California Police Historian*, included with each issue of *PCNEWS*, would not exist without stories or articles written by local historians and CLEHS members.

Have you written a story on California peace officers, departments, collections or events? Or, do you know someone who has? If so, please reach out the Mike R. Bondarenko, editor of the *California Police Historian* by emailing pcnews@baldwin-telecom.net.
Submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Brian Smith

Fake CLEHS Patch Sold Just when I thought we'd seen it all, another surprise popped up!

There is an Ebay dealer selling fake California Law Enforcement Historical Society patches. These patches are not authorized by CLEHS. Purchase of these fakes has the end effect of taking away our revenue to keep the operation working. Please do not purchase these fake patches.

The eBay listing for the so called "new issue" CLEHS emblem was posted under the seller name diane_cars. The minimum bid was \$9.99 plus \$1.75 shipping. A California Police Historian attempt to contact the seller for comment was unsuccessful. EDITOR Submitted by President Gary Hoving

California Police Museum Badge Available CLEHS will be placing an order for full size badges with the Ed Jones Company of Berkeley. The special badges are for California Police Museum supporters.

The unique sequentially numbered badges are black seven-point stars with white legends. "SPONSOR" appears on a panel across the top two star points. The California state seal comprises the center design. "POLICE MUSEUM/ CALIFORNIA" appears in white legends on a ring surrounding the seal.

Only CLEHS members active in our museum sponsorship programs are eligible to purchase this high quality Ed Jones production. It costs \$250 plus \$10 shipping. One hundred dollars of the cost is retained as a donation to CLEHS.

Orders can be placed through the CLEHS website. Click on the "DONATE" button on the right side of the homepage.
Submitted by President Gary Hoving

CLEHS Sponsorship Programs The California Law Enforcement Historical Society California Police Museum sustainability plan offers two levels of donations.

The first level initiated was the Gallery Sponsor program seeking one donor to support each of the 13 galleries within the California Police Museum. Our membership rapidly stepped up and all galleries were funded, for which we are very grateful.

The secondary funding source was then provided by a Museum Sponsor program which provides funding for general operations and museum improvements.

Both programs are critical to provide the police museum experience to our communities in an effort to improve the understanding of the role of California peace officers.

While the 2025 Gallery Sponsor program is full, we have plenty of opportunities to participate through the Museum Sponsor program. After a silent launch of the program, we have three sponsors that we would like to introduce, Lester Chew, Patchbook University (Randy Grago) and the Kiwanis Club of Greater Pismo Beach, who were the first to participate. All of our donors will be recognized through plaques mounted inside the police museum.

A newly added benefit of either sponsorship is the opportunity to purchase a California Police Museum sponsor badge. This opportunity is a great way to display your support during collector shows, car shows or other events supporting the history of this profession. The sponsor badges are available only to those active in the sponsorship programs. In addition, the badges are provided at cost (\$141 each) and are not intended to become another active funding source, but a manner to recognize our supporters.

We thank all of those who continue to support the CLEHS. Museum sponsorship is available only to dues paying members of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society at \$150 per year and may be accessed through the "DONATE" button at CalPoliceHistory.Com.

2025 Gallery Sponsors: Brian and Karen Smith, Gary and Crystal Hoving, *Police*



A beautiful numbered San Francisco City and County District Attorney investigator star was offered and quickly sold during the CLEHS Virtual Collectors Show on December 7. It has the custom District Attorney's Office seal is the center design. The legends are self-explanatory. *CLEHS photograph*



Stan Berry offered this rare emblem and rocker from the Valley of the Falls San Bernardino County Sheriffs Office Search and Rescue Team. It was among about 80 collectibles offered during what may have been the last CLEHS virtual show unless members want them to continue. *CLEHS photograph*

Collectors News (Mike R. Bondarenko), William Tully, Dennis Lovejoy, Kim and Phil Colonnelli, Doug Brimmer, Stab Berry, Dennis Shell, Jake Bushey, Gary Teragawa and Robert Tanaka.

2025 Museum Sponsors: Lester Chew, Kiwanis Club of Greater Pismo Beach and Patchbook University (Randy Grago).
Submitted by President Gary Hoving

President Announces 2024 CLEHS Statistics President Gary Hoving has released a statistical summary of California Law Enforcement Historical Society activities in 2024:

- Total members: 156
 - Facebook members: 1042
 - Host collector shows: 2 (San Luis Obispo and Ripon)
 - Host virtual collector shows: 2 (April and December)
 - Sponsor "Historian of the Year": 1 (Andrew Scott)
 - Museum exhibitions: 4
 - Museum visitors (2024): 2139
 - Museum visitors (all time): 34,322
 - Hosted "Friday Favorites": 43 weeks
 - Museum gallery sponsors (new program): 13
 - Museum sponsors (new program): 3
- Opportunities remain available for museum sponsorship. Anyone interested in becoming a sponsor is urged to contact us for information.
Submitted by President Gary Hoving

CLEHS May End Virtual Shows The California Law Enforcement Historical Society implemented a virtual collectors show during the height of the COVID pandemic on our Facebook page. With the mandated prohibition of shows across the country, collectors were primarily limited to commercial auction houses such as eBay. Our virtual shows were a well received alternative and provided a venue for the purchase, sale or trade of public safety-related memorabilia.

Today, in person collectors shows are back in business with even more annual shows than before the pandemic. On the West Coast, we are looking forward to new venues, such as the upcoming Reno and San Diego shows.

With the preface provided, CLEHS hosted a Virtual Collectors Show on December 7 which was still well received. There were a total of about 80 items offered for sale with 301 buyers viewing the event. This is reasonably a good participation level for a show during the holiday season, and we greatly enjoyed the event.

In review, it was clear that the participation level was lower than previous shows, and the amount of revenue derived was minimal. There is no cost for participating, but we had asked for five percent of the proceeds strictly as a donation. Our loyal followers were very



Leonard R. Haywood served as a reserve deputy sheriff in Riverside County a long time ago. His undated badge and identification card were among the collectibles that went up for sale at the CLEHS Virtual Collectors Show on December 7. *CLEHS photograph*

Southern California Tribal Chief Sentenced In Badge Sale Case

Anthony Reyes Vazquez, the former Southern California tribal police chief who sold badges and police commissions to civilians wanting national concealed carry privileges, has been sentenced following his guilty plea in United States District Court to a variety of charges.

A federal judge in San Diego sentenced Vazquez, 52, to a variety of custody, home confinement and probation. He was also ordered to pay more than \$328,000 in restitution to the Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation in San Diego County.

Vazquez served as Manzanita police chief from 2012 to 2018 during which time federal prosecutors said he sold fake tribal police badges and commissioned purchasers as police officers, allowing them to carry concealed nationwide.

Prosecutors said Vazquez and other tribal police officers recruited wealthy people from the Los Angeles area to become so-called officers.

Despite these individuals having little or no law enforcement experience, the United States Attorney's Office said they paid anywhere from \$5000 to \$100,00 in "donations" to join the police department.

Those recruited people, known as the "VIP Group," were not expected to perform any law enforcement services. Many had never visited the Manzanita Band reservation.

More than \$700,000 in "donations" were solicited during the scheme, with Vazquez keeping about \$328,000 of those payments. He also paid kickbacks to recruiters and paid himself around \$2000 a month as reimbursement for travel expenses from his home to the reservation.

Vazquez pleaded guilty in 2021. He was sentenced in September by District Judge Gonzalo Curiel three years later to ten months home confinement, 12 consecutive weekends in jail and three years of probation. Restitution will go to the tribe.

The Attorney's Office proposed six months in custody and six months in home confinement. However, prosecutors acknowledged Vazquez has admitted his wrongdoing, demonstrated remorse and agreed to reimburse to tribe.

It is possible the Internal Revenue Service may pursue tax evasion charges against the former chief.

The case led to federal charges against two other men from Los Angeles for buying or selling the phony badges. Both have pleaded guilty for their part in the scheme.

One of the defendants, Akiva Grunewald, was also sentenced in September. He had pleaded guilty to bribing Vazquez by giving him \$20,000 in exchange for a badge and tribal police officer commission. Grunewald admitted he paid Vazquez solely so he could legally carry concealed. He has no law enforcement training or experience and never served as a police officer.

Submitted by Editor Mike R. Bondarenko

New Show Benefits San Diego Police Museum

The San Diego Police Historical Association and Absolute Victory Insignia announced plans to sponsor their first police and fire collectors show benefiting the San Diego Police Museum, a non-profit organization.

The San Diego Police and Fire Collectors Show is scheduled for Saturday, May 17 in the hall at the Holy Trinity Church, 405 Ballard Street, in El Cajon about eight miles east of the city. Jake Bushey, Steve Willard and Phil Colonnelli will host what they hope will become an annual event.

"It's been a long time since there was a show in San Diego. Steve and I decided it was about time to have one," said Bushey, a longtime California collector and retired law enforcement officer. "Everything is donated, so all proceeds go directly to the police museum."

Sixty eight-foot tables are available for a \$25 per table donation to the museum. About a third of the tables had been reserved as of January 1, Bushey said.

"We can expand the hall to add more tables if we need them. We'll have plenty of room,"



Steve Willard, a San Diego police sergeant, Jake Bushey and Phil Colonnelli will host the 2025 San Diego Police and Fire Collectors Show on May 17 in El Cajon. The show is a fundraiser for the San Diego Police Museum and sponsored by the historical association. *Contributed photograph*



CLEHS member and noted California collector Ed Godfrey and Los Angeles Police Chief James McDonnell at his badge pinning ceremony on November 14. Godfrey served under Chief McDonnell when he was sheriff of Los Angeles County and gives him high praise. *Ed Godfrey photograph*

said Bushey.

The show will be open to the public from 8 am to 3 pm. The hall will open at 7 am for exhibitor setup.

San Diego Police Chief Scott Wahl is scheduled to attend.

A pre-show gathering will be held at the San Diego Police Museum, 4710 College Avenue in San Diego, on Friday evening, May 16. Collectors can socialize, enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks and view the museum collection. Additional information will be forthcoming for this event, Bushey said.

A barbecue lunch and soft drinks will be available in the church hall. There is no need to make other arrangements.

El Cajon is close to an abundance of hotels in all price ranges throughout the Mission Valley area.

Willard and partner Ed Lavelle own Absolute Victory Insignia, a producer of law enforcement insignia in San Diego. He is a San Diego police sergeant and serves as vice president and founding member of the historical association.

"Steve turns out some beautiful challenge coins. He's not really a badge collector but dabbles in them once in while. He is a historian and has written six books. We've been friends for a long time," said Bushey, who serves on the museum board of directors.

An invitation is extended to hobbyists who own vintage law enforcement vehicles to bring them to the show for static display in the parking lot. While there will be no car awards, the event gives owners a chance to sparkle and shine in front of an appreciative audience of public safety professionals and supporters.

"We want to have a good turnout. It should be a great show. Everyone is welcome," he said. "We want this to become an annual event."

Please see "Swap Meet Calendar" elsewhere in this issue for additional information and table reservations.

Submitted by Jake Bushey

Ed Godfrey Attends Historic Badge Pinning

On November 14, I had the distinct honor of attending the badge pinning of the 59th chief of the Los Angeles Police Department, Chief Jim McDonnell.

While I have been acquainted with the Chief for several decades and we share many mutual friends, I also had the honor of serving under his leadership at the Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department when he served as our 32nd sheriff.

As I reflected on his accomplishments, it occurred to me that he had the distinction of being only the third man to hold the position of both sheriff and chief of police. It mentioned it to him at the podium, and he was not aware of the fact, but believed he might be the oldest man sworn in as the LAPD chief. [The chief is 65.]

George E. Gard was the fourth LAPD chief (1880 to 1881) and 16th sheriff of LA County



(Left) William A. Hammel was the second man to serve as Los Angeles County sheriff and Los Angeles police chief. He is credited with innovations at both agencies. (Right) The first was George E. Gard, LAPD chief from 1880 to 1881, then county sheriff 1884 to 1886. *Contributed photographs*

(1884 to 1886).

William “Billy” A. Hammel served as sheriff for two non-consecutive terms (1899 to 1902) as the 22nd sheriff and as the 24th sheriff (1907 to 1914). He served as the 18th LAPD chief from 1904 to 1905.

Coincidentally, Gard and Hammel were brothers-in-law.

Under Chief Hammel, LAPD used automobiles for the first time in approximately 1904. He is credited for the inclusion of motor vehicles in law enforcement, including motorcycles for deputies. I encourage members to review the writings of J.R. Sanders, specifically for an outstanding article about Chief Hammel in *True West Magazine*. [“Hero of Horsepower” July-August 2024]

Sheriff Hammel had many accomplishments, including but limited to, hiring the first Black deputy, Deputy Sheriff Julius Loving, and the assembly of other deputies, some of whom would also become legendary sheriffs of Los Angeles County, such as Martin Aguirre and Eugene Biscailuz.

I believe Chief McDonnell was under appreciated during his term as LA County sheriff and many deputies continue to ask why, but I know him to be one of the finest men I have served under. It was my opinion that his subordinate leadership did not always serve in his best interests for absolute success.

I know for sure that the LAPD is blessed to have him back as their chief. Of note, he also served as the chief of Long Beach PD and his qualifications and experience to lead are unmatched.

Submitted by Edward Godfrey



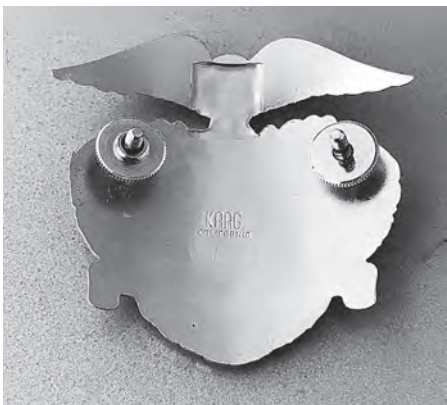
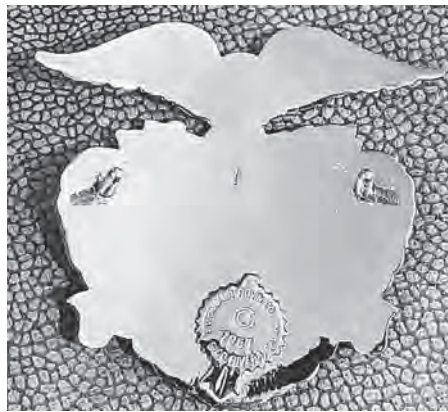
The Los Angeles Police Department cap badge is second only to the iconic City Hall oval as an iconic symbol of law enforcement in the United States. Peter Harris reports Blackinton, Entenmann-Rovin, Sun and Kaag have manufactured these badges for the LAPD. *Peter Harris photograph*

Los Angeles City Police Badges: 1869 To Present

Recently, an LAPD cap with a police officer cap piece hit one of the “deal-no deal” Facebook pages. The cap piece is an Entenmann-Rovin with one of the signature applied rosettes that E-R used for hallmarks in the past. I started getting some inquiries about the cap piece and its authenticity, so thought I thought a post on police officer rank cap badges might be appropriate.

There are a lot of misconceptions about the department ordering and the issuing of badges and cap pieces. My police officer issuance experience was over 30 years ago, and some things have changed slightly.

Then, as today, the police officer cap piece is issued at the beginning of the academy training and worn through training and into service as a police officer.



A look at hallmarks on LAPD cap pieces. (Upper left) An old Entenmann-Rovin dated 1957. (Upper right) The simple “KAAG/ CALIFORNIA” hallmark. (Lower left) A later Entenmann-Rovin hallmark dated 2011. (Lower right) A dated Blackinton hallmark badge from 9-75. *Peter Harris photographs*



Warning: If you are an LAPD badge collector, do not look at this photo! Sadly, Personnel Records personnel boxed up dozens and dozens of used custom-ordered cap pieces to ready them for destruction. A shining example of government waste or a poor policy decision? *Peter Harris photograph*

My academy experience when we were issued the cap piece, civilians from the Personnel Division came into our classrooms and passed a shopping bag around that was filled with used cap pieces. We were instructed to take one and pass it on. One of my classmates, who had been a police officer in another state, had the presence of mind to go through the badges and actually found an old policeman cap piece, which, of course, he selected for his own issue. Today, recruit officers are issued brand new cap pieces still in the original Sun Badge packaging.

Of course, companies started producing the police officer cap pieces when the police officer rank replaced the ranks of policeman and policewoman in the early 1970s. The first two companies producing both the Series Six badge and the police officer cap piece were Kaag and Blackinton. I am unaware of which came first, or if orders were placed at both companies simultaneously. It seems I have seen dates on both of their products which would indicate an intermingling of dates. Further research would be required to determine that.

Just because the badge contract was held by a certain company does not mean cap pieces were not ordered from some other vendor. I am not sure why this occurred, but cap pieces in the police officer rank were obtained from Sun Badge, Entenmann-Rovin, Blackinton and Kaag. The dates of these orders are unclear, and it would be interesting to see the purchase orders from all those years ago.

It is also difficult to determine the dates from the cap pieces themselves, as not all the cap pieces are dated. Some early Blackinton cap pieces from the early 1970s are dated and later hallmarks have dates or date codes, but many in between have no indication of when they were produced.

Entenmann-Rovin did supply cap pieces to the departments with the applied rosette hallmark. This order had to have occurred prior to 1990 as many of them were issued to officers who predated my hiring in 1990.

A photo I took on my desk when I still worked at Personnel shows 17 cap pieces. Over half are old Entenmann-Rovins. These E-R cap pieces have the applied police officer panel and then an applied city seal on top of that. It would be important to note that I believe this edition of cap piece was only produced in the police officer rank; I have never seen any other rank with the E-R rosette that was authentic.

It is pretty obvious Sun Badge has been supplying the department with police officer cap pieces for many years. Just looking at the changing hallmarks on the reverse of their product tells the story. From the “LA County” to “San Dimas” to the current “Ontario” hallmark, the Sun Badge police officer cap piece was pretty consistent in the construction up to a few years ago. The police officer and city seal were all one panel and applied to the base. In the current issue, however, the police officer panel is applied and the city seal is applied on top of that. That would probably tend to indicate the prior die has worn out, and they have gone with the applied city seal in a cost saving measure.

The newer Blackinton police officer cap piece is pretty standard for their company. The base is a thinner shell back construction, and I have seen them unhallmarked, hallmarked with just “Blackinton” and just “Hi-Glo” or hallmarked with both. Older 1970s era cap pieces were also hallmarked in different ways, mostly in block letters with either just “Blackinton” or “Blackinton, Attleboro Falls, Mass.”

From 2009 to 2011, Entenmann-Rovin had the LAPD contract and did supply police officer cap pieces. These cap pieces had the police officer and city seal applied to the base in a one piece construction and were hallmarked with their newer stamped and dated rosette.

I have included several photos of the backs of some police officer cap pieces for you to compare. The photo of the two boxes of cap pieces was taken as personnel from Personnel Records were packing these used cap pieces for destruction. It seemed like a huge waste of money to me as most were still completely serviceable, but I didn’t make those decisions.

Submitted by Peter Harris

Wide Spot In The Road

Nilektsnoma was what the local Wappo Indians called the area where the City of Calistoga would later be located. In the Wappo language, the word means chicken hawk place.

Nilektsnoma’s location in the Coastal Mountain Range and an abundance of oak trees with their acorns, and the healing qualities of the nearby hot springs, created an ideal atmosphere for numerous Indian villages in the region.

In the 1830s and ‘40s, the Mexican government disposed of much of its land in the Napa Valley, creating large ranches. As these large ranches grew, more and more white people moved into the area. The number of Wappo in 1770 was estimated to be about 1600; by 1910, the census showed only 73 Wappo.

It was 1846 when Samuel Brannan’s ship landed in Yerba Buena, later renamed San Francisco. Yerba buena in Spanish means good grass. One hundred twenty years later, San Francisco would again be called yerba buena!

Brannan published the *California Star*, the first English language newspaper in San Francisco.

After gold was discovered in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, Brannan became California’s first millionaire. With his new found wealth, he bought 2000 acres near the hot springs. His plan was to build a resort and make it comparable to the famous Saratoga Springs in New York.

Brannan’s Hot Springs Resort took up the land around Mount Lincoln and was located at what we know as Indian Hot Springs today. In 1862, the resort was opened for the rich and



Calistoga PD is located right across the street from City Hall. The inside of the building is well appointed with holding cells and a booking area when an officer makes an arrest. The city of 5228 is located in Napa County in the heart of California Wine Country. *Mike DeVilbiss photograph*

famous. Calistoga quickly became the hub of development in nearby Lake and Sonoma Counties.

Calistoga was attached to the name of the resort in 1867. Evidently, according to Brannan, when someone made a slip of the tongue or had too many adult beverages, and tried to say “Saratoga of California,” it came out “Calistoga of Sarafornia.”

The economic base for Calistoga came from walnuts, prunes, grapes and tourism. Famous writer Robert Louis Stevenson honeymooned at nearby Mount Saint Helena. While he was there, he is said to have written his work, *Silverado Squatters*. There is Robert Louis Stevenson State park 13 miles north of Calistoga.

A cold water well was being drilled by Giuseppe Muscante, a candy store and soda fountain owner, in 1910. Instead of the water he was looking for, Muscante tapped into a hot water source. In 1924, he started a bottling line and stated selling Calistoga Sparkling Mineral Water, which has gone on to become one of the most recognized bottled waters in the country.

Calistoga is located about 75 miles north of San Francisco, 44 miles east of the Pacific Ocean and approximately 200 miles west of Nevada in Napa County. The population in the 2020 census was 5228.

The city was incorporated in January 1886. Before the incorporation, marshals took care of the law enforcement needs of the area. They were responsible for collecting gold taxes, supervising chain gangs, investigating and enforcing business law violations, street repairs, collecting property taxes and animal impoundment fees, impounding stray animals, collecting dog license fees and even sweeping the sidewalk on the bridge in town! The first name of a city marshal in April 1878 was G.W. Millett. Besides his duties as the marshal, he was also a night watchman.

In 1885, when the city voted for incorporation, the people installed Cornelius H. Nash as the city marshal, making him the first city law enforcement officer. Nash received a silver badge made by J.L. Multer. Marshals and night watchmen were still on the payroll for many years to come.

The first police chief was David Rose in 1904. In October 1934, a police signal was installed over the main intersection. When the light was flashing, everyone knew there was a call for the police. The fire department liked the idea so much, they added their own light.

Wide Spot comes calling When it was time to meet Chief Mitchell Celeya III, he suggested that since it was lunch time, we meet in a local restaurant. He gave me a warm welcome to Calistoga and made me feel like we had known each other a long time.

Chief Celeya began by telling me he came from the University of California Berkeley Police Department where he worked his way through the ranks and most of the divisions to become the chief.

He became the Calistoga chief in 2012. What a change! From the middle of a hot spot for law enforcement to a small town in Wine Country!

Chief Celeya went on that all he saw and experienced in Berkeley would fill a book. I encouraged him to start his memoirs because thousands of people would buy that kind of book written from a firsthand perspective.

I asked the chief if he knew how many badges have been worn by officers in Calistoga. He said no records he has seen indicate how many badges have been worn. He told me an officer's badge number is also their city employee number. He volunteered that the number of uniform patches is also unknown, but the first one went on uniforms in 1953.

After talking with Chief Celeya for a while, it was obvious he has basically appointed himself as the department historian. I suggested he contact the Sharpsteen Museum in town and try to arrange a small display area to represent his department's history.

Currently, Calistoga has 11 sworn officers, including the chief. Currently, the city is down three officers. There is the chief, one lieutenant, two sergeants and seven police officers. There are two police technicians who work special events, parking and code enforcement. A community manager has four full-time and three part-time dispatchers. The city shares dispatching with the nearby town of Saint Helena.

Calistoga had 4000 calls for service last year. That breaks down to a little more than ten calls a day. Compare this to the month of September 1940 when a busy day saw 11 citations issued with one arrest made for a warrant.



Calistoga police drive two F-150 Ford pickup trucks as part of their patrol fleet. Evidently, the pickup has what it takes to be used as a patrol vehicle, like room for the bad guy, the officer's equipment and enough horsepower under the hood for emergency response. *Mike DeVilbiss photograph*



(Left) The current Calistoga police badge is a yellow metal seven point star with nice etching on the star points. (Right) The men and women of Calistoga PD were proud to wear this historical representation for the department's quasiquicentennial celebration, a six star. *Mike DeVilbiss photograph*

Chief Celeya told me his department covers an area about 2.6 square miles. Officers drive two Ford F-150 V-6 pickup trucks, three Ford Explorers and a Dodge Charger to patrol their town. The department also has a small sedan and a Chevrolet Colorado pickup in its fleet.

Calistoga purchased its first police patrol vehicle in December 1945. It was a 1945 Ford De Lux with a price tag of \$1274.26. There is no canine unit.

Officer Samantha Arlen is assigned as the school resources officer, although Chief Celeya said every officer pitches in as needed at the three schools in the city.

The city contracts for animal control with North Bay Animal Services in Petaluma. I was surprised to learn the city uses the ALPR system. ALPR stands for automatic license plate reader. And, Calistoga is the first department I've been to that has body cameras. Talk about the 21st century! Wow!

Chief Celeya was asked which agencies might respond to a request for coverage by his department. He said the Napa County Sheriffs Department and the California Highway Patrol are always available.

Calistoga has three holding cells available. When an arrest is made, the Napa County Department of Corrections jail is about a 37 mile trip south of town. That translates to over an hour round trip away from an officer's beat, a long time for a small city to be without an officer on duty.

Incidentally, the Napa County Department of Corrections is unique. It is not part of the County Sheriffs Office. They are their own entity with a director appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

Chief Celeya was asked about noteworthy incidents in his city. He told me the first recorded homicide took place on March 3, 1878. It seems Leopold Bazzini's wife bought a new dress which he believed made his wife look too pretty. After they argued, Mrs. Bazzini refused to cook Bazzini his dinner. Bazzini shot and killed his wife, then committed suicide...all over a dress!

On July 20, 1940, Calistoga had its first line of duty death. Officer Henry O. Rockstroth collapsed and died of coronary thrombosis after breaking up a bar brawl. He was 52 years old.

In October 1917, what became to be known as the Tubbs Fire roared through the area, causing the evacuation of almost the entire city. At the time the Tubbs Fire was the most destructive fire in California history, killing 19 people and burning 36,810 acres in three separate counties. To give you an idea of the size of the fire, it was 6538 acres more than the size of the City of San Francisco.

Calistoga was evacuated again in October 2019 for the Kincade Fire, which destroyed 76,825 acres and 206 structures. A year later, the city was evacuated because of the Glass Fire burned 67,000 acres and 113 structures. I'm guessing people here have a “bug out” bag ready to go at all times, just in case.

I wanted to know what special events or attractions would make a worthwhile visit to Calistoga. Chief Celeya said the Lighted Tractor Christmas Parade is extremely popular, drawing between 10,000 to 12,000 people annually. During the first week in December, the parade displays vintage and modern tractors brightly lit up. It makes for quite a memorable occasion.

The Fourth of July celebration is another popular family function. There is a parade with food vendors, maker's market, music, carnival and an awe-inspiring laser light show. I learned the city has its own racetrack, Calistoga Speedway.

The chief brought up the world-famous Calistoga Sparkling Water and the Calistoga Geyser as must-sees while visiting the area.

I asked Chief Celeya to be direct and tell me what he thought was the best thing about working for the city. Without hesitation, he said it was having people and the City Council thanking him for what he is doing. The support he receives from the City Council and most importantly from the people in his community is very fulfilling.

Of course, I wanted to know the best place in town to eat. He had to think about that question because he said there are many excellent places. He gave me a partial list, which he said was by no means all that is available. The Four Seasons Resort is known for world renown appetizers. Places he mentioned were Sam's Social Club, Pacifico, Cafe Sarafornia, Sushi Mamgo, Hyrdo Grill and the high-end Calistoga Inn Restaurant and



Out behind the old City Hall is the old City Jail. It was built in 1915. The building is only about 20 feet wide from front to back. It is a simple stucco style with a big red entry door. Calistoga has preserved the historic structure, displaying the city's pride in its long history. *Mike DeVilbiss photograph*



One of two cells in the old City Jail in Calistoga. Spartan accommodations of a bed, sink and toilet were all the inmates had to get through each day of incarceration. Chief of Police Ken Hively declared the City Jail obsolete in 1963 and began using the county jail. *Mike DeVilbiss photograph*

Brewery.

My ride-along It was time for my ride-along. During this part of my time with each police department I visit, I feel like the old race horse feels when they put the saddle and harness on him after he has been put out to pasture! I don't think that sense of excitement and wonder will ever go away when I am in a patrol car.

Chief Celeya made a call on the radio and a few minutes later, Officer Amanda Vannetti arrived at the police station. We seemed to hit it off immediately.

Officer Vannetti was very knowledgeable about the city and shared numerous pieces of history and previous incidents.

She and I met the chief in a lot across the street from the police department to share with me the old city jail built in 1915. Of course, the jail has not been used for many years, but it shows the pride the city has in this piece of history by how it has been preserved and watched over all these years.

Piece of paradise So, if you ever find yourself in California Wine Country, consider visiting Calistoga or even staying a night or two in this quaint, remote piece of paradise. There are so many wineries and such a wide variety of restaurants, you could stay a week and not take it all in.

Might I suggest a designated driver if you take a wine tasting tour? *Cin cin!*
Submitted by Mike DeVilbiss



The ranger station at Joshua Miller Park was home to the now defunct Oakland Rangers who protected and served city parks and recreational facilities for a century before they were disbanded. Today, Joshua Miller is policed by volunteer civilians. *Scott Welch photograph*

Rise And Fall Of Oakland Rangers

In the 1850s, patrolling the city parks in Oakland was the responsibility of the Oakland Vigilance Committee first and then later in 1853, the Oakland Police Department. Hills surrounding the city were patrolled by various families and servants of the Miller's and Peralta's, who owned much of the incorporated hills of Oakland.

As time went on, the unincorporated areas of Oakland, as well as the townships of Brooklyn, San Antonio and Temescal, became part of the city, while Piedmont and Emeryville became their own cities.

Oakland was still part of the Contra Costa County (Alameda County had yet to be formed) and the parks in the city were small and fragmented, most to centerpiece some war hero's statue.

Park keepers were hired to help clean up and patrol the parks and open areas. As the city expanded, so did the responsibilities of park keepers. In 1890, Ordinance 1178 was acted enabling keepers of public parks in the city of Oakland to perform the duties of special police officers.

Besides the day to day crimes, park keepers would regularly enforce fishing rules in Lake Merritt where bass were limited to two a day. Ordinance 3269 allowed them to discharge their weapons with reasonable care as part of their official duties for the purpose of "destroying noxious animals."

Park keepers were busy as the city population grew and grew. Migration only multiplied following the 1906 Great Earthquake, which moved thousands of people across the Bay, while also increasing the populations of small towns like Piedmont fourfold.

California Section 817 PC was enacted, which included the special police officer park keepers: "A peace officer is a sheriff of a county, or a constable, marshal, or policeman of a township, city or town..."

With expanded park keeper duties in the 1920s, they became officially recognized as peace officers, with the titles of park rangers, deputy head rangers and head ranger under



(Top) A rare Oakland Ranger Division Fire and Rescue shield shows an old fire truck. (Lower left) A numbered Ranger star with an oversize California state seal. (Lower right) A variation of the City of Oakland Ranger badge with a full color state seal as the center design. The agency is long defunct. *Scott Welch photographs*

a new Penal Code section, 830.31(b) PC.

The rangers were always in flux, sometimes taking direction from the Parks and Recreation Department and sometimes from the Oakland Police Department.



Two long defunct City of Oakland Rangers cloth emblems. (Left) An early star shows a large green and brown tree as the center design. (Right) A more modern version of the ranger emblem with a full color seal and "OFFICE OF PARKS AND RECREATION." Both are pieces of Oakland history. *Scott Welch photographs*

At its highest point, there were 28 employees, mostly rangers, working out of the Ranger Station in Joaquin Miller Park, responsible for more than 200 parks and recreational facilities. The rangers had a fleet of marked units built at the Oakland Corporation Yard that



(Upper right) A plain early numbered star worn by Oakland park rangers. (Upper right) Early Oakland rangers wore special police officer stars. (Lower left) A plain state seal highlights this star worn by Oakland Rangers. (Lower right) A Park Department ranger badge variation. *Scott Welch photographs*

matched the appearance of Oakland police units, except with the distinctive Border Patrol green colors, not to be confused with the green cars of the East Bay Regional Parks Department. The cars had two sets of radios, one on VHF to communicate with OPD, who they were dispatched through and ran their checks through, and one on UHF that connected to the Ranger Station and Oakland Fire Department. There was also an off-road motorcycle, a fire truck and unmarked cars, all light green. The cars carried shotguns and fire extinguishers.

Officers carried .357 Magnum Smith and Wesson Model 66 revolvers. These weapons became semiautomatics when OPD converted.

Oakland parks were always busy. Larger parks in the hills were subjected to body dumps, drug deals, rapes, locations to strip cars and a place to try out a newly acquired gun. Lake Merritt and other city parks were busy with all types of crimes as well. And, there was the Oakland Zoo, multiple recreations centers, Kaiser Center and Skyline Boulevard that ran from Hayward to Berkeley.

But in the 1990s, as the city budget tightened, so did staff at the Ranger Station. Finally, there were only two rangers left. They were offered other city jobs. The 100-year department closed.

Now, the only park regularly patrolled is Joaquin Miller Park. It is patrolled by the Oakland Volunteer Park Patrol founded in 2015. The rest is just another page in the history of the City of Oakland.

Submitted by Scott Welch

Income Tax Change May Impact Collectors

Did you have a side hustle or freelance gig in 2024 and get paid through PayPal, Venmo, Cash App or another third-party payment app? If so, you may have new rules to follow when you file your tax return this year.

You'll receive tax form 1099-K if you earned more than \$5000 in untaxed income in 2024 and were paid via a third-party payment app. This rule has been delayed two years in a row, and 2024 serves as a transition year to help payment apps prepare for the new reporting requirements.

The Internal Revenue Service confirmed in a press release on November 26 that the \$5000 minimum would remain in effect for your 2024 taxes, which you'll file in 2025. In 2025, the minimum will drop to \$2500, and then \$600 in 2026.

"The U.S. Department of the Treasury is still moving forward on the 2024 rules that came from the Inflation Reduction Act," said Mark Steber, chief tax information officer for Jackson Hewitt. "Prior to 2024, the earnings threshold was \$20,000 and 200 transactions to receive a 1099-K tax document, and in 2026, the income threshold earned from a third-party platform will be \$600."

If you're self-employed, you should already be paying taxes on your total income, even if you don't receive a 1099 form for all of your earnings. This isn't a new rule, it's a tax reporting change. The IRS will be switching the reporting requirement to payment apps so it can keep tabs on transactions that often go unreported.

If you were paid through third-party payment apps in 2024, here's what you need to know.

What is a 1099-K? A 1099-K is a tax form that reports income received via a third-party payment platform from a non-permanent job, such as a side hustle, freelance agreement or contractor position where taxes are not withheld.

The IRS currently requires any third-party payment apps like PalPal, Cash App and Venmo to send a 1099-K to the IRS and individuals if they earned more than \$20,000 in commercial payments across more than 200 transactions. If you regularly make over \$20,000 in freelance income, are paid through Venmo and receive more than 200 transactions in payments, you may have received a 1099-K tax form before.

What is the new IRS 1099-K reporting rule? Under the new reporting requirements first announced in the American Rescue Plan, third-party payment apps will eventually be required to report earnings over \$600 to the IRS.

For your 2024 files (which you'll file in 2025), the IRS is planning a phased roll out, requiring payment apps to report freelancer and business owner earnings over \$5000 instead of \$600. The hope is that raising the threshold will reduce the risk of inaccuracies, while also giving the agency and payment apps more time to work toward the eventual \$600 minimum.

"The taxation and tax treatment requirements for taxpayers has not changed," said Steber. "This taxable income has always been considered by the IRS to be taxable and should be reported on a tax return. The new change requires online platforms to provide 1099-Ks to both their users and the IRS at a lower threshold as previous years."

Why was the 1099-K rule delayed? Originally set to kick off at the beginning of 2022, the IRS planned to implement a new reporting rule that would require third-party payment apps like PayPal, Venmo, Cash App or Zelle, to report income of over \$600 per year to the tax agency. The IRS delayed this new reporting requirement in 2022 and again in 2023.

Why? Distinguishing between taxable and nontaxable transactions through third-party apps isn't always easy. For example, money your roommate sends you through Venmo for dinner is not taxable, but money received for a graphic design project might be. The delayed roll out gave payment apps more time to prepare.

"We spent many months gathering feedback from third-party groups and others, and it became increasingly clear we needed additional time to effectively implement the new reporting requirements," said IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel in a November 2023 statement.

Which payment apps are included in this rule? All third-party payment apps where freelancers and business owners receive income are required to begin reporting transactions involving you to the IRS in 2024. Some popular payment apps include PayPal, Venmo, Zelle and Cash App. Other platforms freelancers may use, such as Fivver or Upwork, are also on the hook to begin reporting payments that freelancers receive throughout the year.

If you earn income through payment apps, it's a good idea to set up separate PayPal, Zelle, Cash App or Venmo accounts for your professional transactions. This could prevent nontaxable charges, such as money sent from family or friends, from being included on your 1099-K in error.

Is the IRS taxing money sent to family or friends? No. Rumors have circulated that the IRS was cracking down on money sent to family and friends through third-party payment apps, but that isn't true. Personal transactions involving gifts, favors or reimbursements are not considered taxable. Some examples of nontaxable transactions include:

- ...Money received from a family member as a holiday or birthday gift.
- ...Money received from a friend covering their portion of a restaurant bill.
- ...Money received from your roommate or partner for their share of the rent and utilities.
- Payments that will be reported on a 1099-K must be flagged as payments for goods or

services from the vendor. When you selected "Sending money from family or friends," it won't appear on your tax form. In other words, that money from your roommate for her half of the restaurant bill is safe.

"This is only for self-employment income," said Steber. "You should not receive a 1099-K for personal transactions but be aware that some platforms could accidentally include personal transactions in the 1099-K and that will need to be corrected on the users tax return.

Copied from an internet article. Not independently verified not should it be considered as tax advice.

Submitted by President Gary Hoving



A vintage California Highway Patrol traffic officer's hat now on display at the CHP office in San Luis Obispo. It is adorned with the easily recognized CHP winged wheel hat badge upon which is lettered "CALIFORNIA" at the top and "HIGHWAY PATROL" at the bottom. Gary Hoving photograph

San Luis Obispo CHP Historical Display

There had been a recent post on Facebook about the family of an early California Highway Patrol officer who had donated his uniform and display in the San Luis Obispo CHP office.

Dropping by the office, I asked to see the donation and was led into the main interior hallway with multiple built-in display cases. Sure enough! There was a green CHP jacket with the single round patch, badge and multiple documents from the man's career.

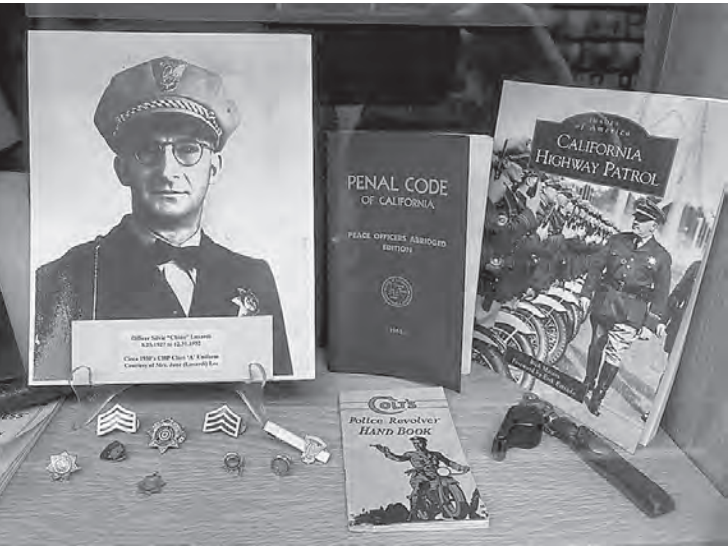
Unfortunately, the items are not visible to the public; I had to show my badge to get into the office. However, they serve as a reminder of the historical significance of the CHP as an organization by the current staff. Overall, I was impressed with the display.

In addition to the CHP uniform, the California Association of Highway Patrolmen produced a challenge coin recognizing of the law enforcement agencies in southern San Luis Obispo County. Yes, of course, I had to add one to my growing collection of challenge coins.

Submitted by President Gary Hoving



The California Highway Patrol retired badge and identification card that once belonged to a state traffic officer. His family recently donated his jacket, hat and other artifacts to the CHP office in San Louis Obispo. The items are now on permanent exhibit at the station. Gary Hoving photograph



One of the historical displays inside the California Highway Patrol office in San Luis Obispo. It shows artifacts from the career of Officer Silvie "Chino" Lusardi, who served from August 25, 1927 to December 31, 1952, and other memorabilia, such as an old Penal Code book. Gary Hoving photograph



A collection of badges and patches worn by the late father of columnist Greg Hatzis. It shows his Burns Security guard badge and patches, as well as a badge from another security company. Hatzis found this insignia following his death last August, along with his uniforms. *Greg Hatzis photograph*

The Grumpy Collector

By Gregory Hatzis, Staff Writer

NEW YORK, N.Y. – “I...look forward to once again bringing some reading enjoyment to both *PCNEWS* subscribers, as well fellow collectors. And I want to give a special thanks to Mike R. Bondarenko for his patience and understanding...”

The quote was lifted from Rick Uland’s open letter to the editor to fellow collectors that appeared in Issue 103. I, much like Mr. Uland, feel an obligation to explain my absence from the last four issues (eight months) of this fine publication.

As you may recall, my elderly mother passed away in April after a six-plus year battle with dementia. I had an article in the can with our editor to cover me while I dealt with her estate issues. It did not appear in the July-August 2024 edition, for which I am now thankful, since the topic of that submission warrants a much more in depth look.

On what would have been the day of my parent’s 56th wedding anniversary in August, my father had a stroke and passed away due to complications from it less than two days later. The type of devastation brought on family and friends by the passing of parents, grandparents, etc. in such relatively quick succession is indescribable.

Beside the obvious emotional toll taken over these last few months (think the first Halloween, first Thanksgiving, first Christmas, first New Years, etc. without them), there is an ongoing massive economic toll as well, since neither of my parents had life insurance.

Believe me when I tell you that dealing with the banks, the funeral home, the cemetery, the utilities, everybody, even the churches, as executor of an estate has been an eyeopening experience that has caused me to completely reorganize my affairs to minimize the impact of my own demise on my children.

The word “cathartic” comes to mind when I think back to the weeks that were spent preparing my parents’ house to be on the real estate market. I don’t want to use the term hoarders to describe my parents, but when you’ve been around for 84 and 90 years, respectively, you get the chance to accumulate a lot of “stuff.”

I have the honor of having possession of my father’s uniform from when he was employed as a security guard. I have shown picture of some of the mementos I’ve kept from that era in his life.

Let’s catch up Hey, enough about me and my trials and tribulations. I’ve got a lot of catching up to do with you.

I can’t wait to share my experience after I concocted a phony Facebook profile and signed up for their police collector groups. Wow! You’ve read my rants about eBay in past issues. But Facebook? Just wow. But I hope you will understand that with this issue, I’d like to just ease back into writing my column.

NYC emblem updates Let’s reach back to Issue 97. I listed the 163 agencies that have enforcement powers within the City of New York. It turns out it’s 164. I found a tiny one buried deep inside the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. More on it to come.

I’d like to call attention to a few changes:
First, the Waterfront Commission of New York and New Jersey Police is now defunct. The United States Supreme Court, after New York failed miserably with its litigation in an attempt to prevent it from happening, allowed New Jersey to back out of the 70-year-old bi-state agency. New Jersey, in turn, assigned waterfront enforcement duties to the State Police.

New York restructured what remained of the agency into the New York Waterfront Commission and opted to keep its now stand alone Police Division intact. A new shoulder



Emblems from the New York City Department of Environmental Protection. The agency insignia is shown at the top. An obsolete style is shown on the left. The current law enforcement emblem, DEP Police, appears on the right. The city seal appears as the center design. *Greg Hatzis photograph*



There have been changes in the backgrounds of these New York State agencies: Emergency Medical Services, Park Police and the State Police. However, as far as the public can tell by looking at their uniforms and vehicles, everything remains as it was before. *Greg Hatzis photograph*

patch was introduced for the new agency. Shortly afterward, I visited their uniform shop and held their new patch in my hands but wasn’t allowed to photograph or acquire it.

Wondering to yourself, “What exactly does the Waterfront Commission do?” Surf on over to Waterfront.NY.Gov, click on “About” on their pull-down menu and select “Jurisdiction and Authority.” While it doesn’t quite say so out loud on the website, the main thing they try to do is contain the Mob’s influence over the ports. (Beware: Waterfront.NY.Gov is the correct website. The site for the defunct agency is still online.)

Second, there’s an old saying, “You’ve got to give credit where credit is due.” New York Governor Kathy Hochul has terminated the previous occupant of the State Executive Mansion’s misguided attempt to absorb the State Park Police into the New York Division of State Police. The State Park Police is now the Division of Park Police and back under the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation where it belongs.

Third, the New York State Department of Health restructured itself. As part of this restructuring, the component that has enforcement powers over ambulances is no longer the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems (BEMSTS). It’s now the Division of Emergency Medical Services (DSEMS). No change in patches or vehicle liveries took place.

NYC environmental enforcement Environmental law enforcement is the key item I want to call attention to. A discussion about this very topic occurred yet again just days before I sat down in front of my laptop to compose this missive.

To this day, there seems to still be a lot of confusion over all the different local environmental law enforcement agencies that there are in New York City. It doesn’t help that there are profiteers out there who don’t understand the differences themselves and create novelty patches that are not just totally bogus, but completely confused as well.

Let’s step into the Way Back Machine and set it for Thursday, August 13, 1987.

It’s the peak of the summer season. People are flocking to the tri-state area to swim, sunbathe and just have fun. Suddenly, they can’t.

Not just the cool ocean water is lapping onto the shores. “Syringe tides” are coming ashore as well. New Jersey was hit especially hard. Used hypodermic needles and other medical waste, such as vials and bloody sponges, starting washing up onto Jersey’s beaches, which are a key part of their tourism industry.

The source of this hazardous waste was hotly debated. Some claimed it was from the historic Fresh Kills Landfill on New York City’s Staten Island. New York Mayor Ed Koch flatly denied this, famously stating NYC wasn’t missing any garbage. Others alleged it was from illegal dumping taking place in the Atlantic Ocean from carting companies looking short circuit the process associated with properly disposing of such waste onshore.

The Department of Sanitation of the City of New York (DSNY) is the primary agency charged with getting rid of the city’s garbage. DSNY’s Law Enforcement Division has Sanitation Police Officers (sworn, armed New York State peace officers) and Sanitation Enforcement Agents (unarmed civilian summons writers). Each has their own tasks.

SPOs address such matters as vehicles (often stolen) abandoned on city streets and in lots, illegal dumping of construction debris, and the like.

SEAs address simple violations they observe, such as failure to sweep sidewalks and gutters in front of a shop at least once a day, or dumping commercial waste in public curbside trash cans.

Needles, on the other hand, are something different. Remember that syringe tides started during the height of the AIDS crisis. It’s one thing to be walking along and stepping on dog poop, which is a summonsable offense that’s the responsibility of the Sanitation Police Canine Unit – not that kind of canine! – to enforce against. It’s entirely different to be walking along and be pricked by a needle.

The “tides” garnered significant media attention at the time, so a new unit was created within DSNY’s Law Enforcement Division, the Environmental Police Unit, to get to the bottom of where this hazardous waste was coming from. It took them a while to get a handle on the problem.

The 1988 beach season was marred by syringe tides as well, and, to a lesser degree, is



The New York City Department of Sanitation has a law enforcement component responsible for protecting the city’s environment. It also collects garbage, deals abandoned vehicles and the like. The current Environment Police patch is shown on the lower right. *Greg Hatzis photograph*



A progression of New York City Department of Sanitation Police emblems from the Greg Hatzis Collection shows the current style in the lower right. Environmental law enforcement became big news when medical waste washed up on tri-state area beaches. *Greg Hatzis photograph*

still an ongoing problem. Bruce A. Smith wrote a great article, "Untidy Beaches: An Update," for the MountainNewsWA.Net website. It's a great read on the history of this event.

The Environmental Police Unit mission has since branched out into investigating illegal dumping of other hazardous substances as well, namely asbestos and contaminated fill. In other words, these officers aren't looking into the theft of the recyclables that you put out in front of your house before going to work (another Sanitation Police job). EPU police officers are looking to keep stuff that could possibly kill you from being thrown away the wrong way.

Department of Environmental Protection I'd like to introduce you to a completely different agency, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection. This agency has four responsibilities: supply potable water, manage wastewater, keep air clean and abate noise.

DEP's law enforcement component is different from the Sanitation Department. While DSNY has personnel assigned to enforce the city's lesser (for lack of a better word) laws and other department rules and regulations, DEP relies heavily on outside agencies to enforce laws and its rules and regulations. For example, specially trained NYPD officers equipped with sound meters can write summonses for vehicles with ridiculously loud exhausts or sound systems.

The DEP does have its own Bureau of Police and Security (BPS). The bureau's most public face is its Police Division charged with protecting city reservoirs, the watershed system around them, the aqueduct systems that connect them to the city and treatment plants and related facilities. To get an idea of the vastness of areas patrolled by the DEP police, almost all of which are outside the city, visit NYC.Gov/Site/DEP/Environment/Police-and-Security.Page.

You'll note when you get to the bottom of the page that the division has an Aviation Unit. There are two helicopters in the fleet to help cover the nine county area that DEP officers patrol.

There is a small, lesser known part of the DEP BPS, the Division of Emergency Response and Technical Assessment (DERTA). It's DEP's combination hazmat team and enforcement arm. Staffed by 18 civilian members, this group specializes in inspecting factories, schools, laboratories, hospitals, garages, auto body shops or any place in the city that needs to use bulk quantities of hazardous materials to make sure they are being stored in compliance with federal, state and most particularly stringent city laws. If there should be a spill or leak, they assist with remediation and punishing the offender.

The powers these folks have range from educating the premises holder of the correct way that all products should be handled to issuing violation notices to seizing mishandled products. I've seen their shoulder patch once, but only from a distance.

The tiny agency? The tiny agency previously mentioned is within the city Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. It's the Office of Environmental Investigations. It's also staffed by a total of 18 civilians, but I couldn't find out much about what they do. They occasionally work with the DERTA in some capacity. If I find out anything worthy to police collectors, I will pass it along in a future issue.

Helping understand NYC I impart this information in the hope you will be able to distinguish who is who when you spot a patch and are able to recognize the parent agency, their role and realize if it's a fake or novelty.

GREG HATZIS (New York, N.Y.)



National Police Collectors Show badges and emblems have become popular collectibles, as well as lasting mementos of memorable prior shows. Most Nationals since the early 1980s have had their own show patches, badges or both beginning with the 1987 Chicago National. *Mike Lucas photograph*

Collecting News From Arizona

By Mike Lucas, Staff Writer

MESA, Ariz. – It's only six months away! All of us at the Phoenix Police Museum are working hard to bring you a great 2025 National Police Collectors Show.

The official show patch and badge are now available. You can purchase yours through the show website, PhoenixPoliceMuseum.Org. The badge costs \$90 plus shipping. Patches are \$10 each plus shipping.

The badge is a takeoff on the current Phoenix Police Department shield. It's a silver oval with gold panels and a red phoenix as the center design. The legends read, "PHOENIX NATIONAL/ POLICE COLLECTORS/ 2025," on a ring around the center. "2025" is shown on a bottom panel.

The patch is a cloth version of the metal oval.

Collecting National Show badges and patches is popular. They make nice event souvenirs, too. I have shown a picture of a nice collection.

Phoenix Police Museum We hope to see you at the Phoenix Police Museum during your trip to the National Police Collectors Show.

The museum was established in early 1993 and the premier opening held on October 6, 1993. It began as a small exhibit located in the Barrister Place Building at 101 South Central Avenue.

Retired Lieutenant and Curator Mike Nicolin (now deceased) and Commander Bob Demlong (now retired) were the driving forces who led to the creation of the fledgling museum. They worked tirelessly to bring the department command staff, City Council and business community leaders to the table in support of the museum project.

Overwhelming popularity and a need to expand led to the relocation of the museum. During June 2012, the museum moved to the original location of police department headquarters (circa 1920 to 1950). On June 6, it officially reopened at the historic Phoenix City Hall at 17 South Second Avenue.

The changing displays and historical offerings of the museum contribute to the increasing number of daily visitors from across the United States and numerous other nations. Our motto, "For the benefit of all" is without a doubt! The museum has a four-star rating.



The Phoenix Police Museum is staffed entirely by volunteer docents who help guide visitors through the exhibits and are always available to answer questions. The museum will be open for tours during the National Show in downtown Phoenix this summer. We can't wait! *Mike Lucas photograph*



(Left) The 2025 National Police Collectors Show badge is now available. It is silver with gold panels. The centered phoenix is red. The badge resembles the Phoenix PD oval. (Right) The show patch is a cloth version of the metal badge. Both insignia are now available. *Mike Lucas photograph*

Arizona News ...Continued

The accompanying picture tells the story of kids and adults enjoying the historic interaction and educational displays.

Admission is free and a variety of collectibles can be purchased at the gift shop.

It is the popularity of the museum by members of the law enforcement community and memorabilia collectors that led to us to host the National Show. We look forward to meeting you!

MIKE LUCAS (Mesa, Ariz.)



Monsignor Robert Romano (left) and Eric Wollman (right) pose before the green NYPD 1930 Mack Emergency Service Unit at the 2024 REMA car show. The department purchased four of these repainted red fire trucks and assigned them to the Riot Squad. *Eric Wollman photograph*

New York Minute

By Eric Wollman, Senior Staff Writer

NEW YORK, N.Y. – Greetings to readers of this column in the post-Christmas and New Year season.

REMA car show The Fourth Annual Retired and Active Emergency Service Members Association (REMA) Car Show was held at Floyd Bennett Field in September. This airfield in southern Brooklyn was built between 1928 and 1930 as a commercial aviation airfield. In 1941, Floyd Bennett became part of the New York Naval Air Station. Now, the decommissioned field has been absorbed into the Gateway National Recreation Area, although a portion of the property is used as a Reserve training center.

Floyd Bennett is the home of the Aviation Unit and Special Operations of the NYPD.

REMA's car show is annual event drawing both active and retired members of the service and their families. Since it is an active NYPD facility, all participants sign in in advance so everyone is safe and secure.

In addition to classic cars, such as a 1967 Cadillac Deville convertible, collectors and Fleet Services brought several popular RMPs (radio motor patrol cars) that prowled the streets of New York and were seen on both the big screen and television sets of the 1950s and '60s.

The pride of the fleet is a 1930 Emergency Service Unit built by Mack Trucks. When it was originally designed, it was painted fire engine red and sold as a light duty fire truck. The PDNY ordered several and told Mack to paint them green. They were put on the street to serve with the Riot Squad. (Founded in 1900 by Jack and Gus Mack in Brooklyn, Mack is now one of the largest manufacturers of medium and heavy duty trucks.)

I have shown a photo of Monsignor Robert Romano, deputy senior chaplain of the NYPD. The NYPD flag adorns the truck.

Godfather of Homicide I have reprinted part of a fascinating article from a recent issue of the magazine The Chief in New York City, "He Wrote the Book on Murder." It's a fascinating story about the career of NYPD Lieutenant Commander Vernon Geberth by Robert Mladinich. Now retired, three members of his family are NYPD members.

"Throughout the international law enforcement community, retired NYPD Lieutenant Commander Vernon Geberth is known as the "Godfather of Homicide" and "the cop who wrote the book on murder."

Over the course of his stellar career, which began with his appointment to the NYPD in 1965, he personally investigated, supervised, assessed or consulted on over 8000 death cases. As commander of the Bronx Homicide Task Force, his unit averaged 400 murder investigations a year.

Geberth was the longtime primary instructor at the NYPD's fabled homicide training course and in fact had written not one but several books on all aspects of murder investigation. Among the titles of his ten textbooks are *Practical Homicide Investigation: Checklist and Field Guide*, *Practical Homicide Investigation: Tactics, Procedures and Forensic Techniques* and *Sex-Related Homicide and Death Investigations and Auto-erotic Deaths: Practical and Investigative Perspectives* with co-author forensic pathologist Amy Sauagean.

Geberth spent his childhood in Mount Vernon where he developed his fierce work ethic. He served as an altar boy who once traipsed through a blizzard to get to church on time, and worked as a newspaper delivery boy and lifeguard. He was also a Boy Scout and a bugle player for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

For as long as he can remember, Geberth's primary goal was to join the NYPD. To that end, he got himself appointed to the New York World's Fair Police Department as a wide-eyed 21-year-old in 1964. The provisional department was comprised of retired NYPD superior officers who told the ambitious young Geberth "not to screw up" because he might get on the real job when his name came up.

Geberth was sworn into the NYPD in April 1965. Before he established himself as one of the nation's leading authorities on homicide, he was a street cop, compiling a dizzying array of experiences. This included his tenure as a young officer on the NYPD's legendary Tactical Patrol Force (TPF), an elite and incorruptible unit specifically created in 1959 to augment precinct personnel in crime-ridden communities and maintain crowd control during the violent protests of the 1960s.

"I absolutely loved the spit and polish of the TPF," said now 81-year-old Geberth. "It was one of the only units you didn't need a hook to get into. It was filled with gung-ho cops dedicated to doing good police work. It was like being in the Green Berets as opposed to the regular Army. In my opinion, it was the best unit the NYPD ever put together."



Vintage radio motor patrols like this were on display at the New York Police Department Retired and Active Emergency Service Members Association Car Show at Floyd Bennett Field in South Brooklyn. This 1986 Plymouth Gran Fury is blue and white with a full size lightbar. *Eric Wollman photograph*

In April 1971, Geberth was in his personal car returning from court on his day off when he witnessed three mobsters abduct a diamond merchant on a Little Italy street corner. He engaged the kidnappers in a high-speed car chase that ended with a shootout and the merchant's rescue. One suspect was arrested at the scene. The other two, one of whom was wounded by Geberth, managed to escape and were never apprehended.

About six years later, Geberth was contacted by a friend in the Intelligence Division who was monitoring an organized crime wiretap. According to written accounts, the subject of the wire, a still relatively unknown up and coming mobster named John Gotti, "alluded to his near capture by some crazy cop with a siren in his personal car that chased him and his partners through Little Italy after a jewelry heist. He couldn't believe the balls of this maniac."

Geberth was promoted in 1971 and returned to TPF as a squad sergeant, before moving onto the Organized Crime Control Bureau's Special Investigations Unit and onto Manhattan North Narcotics. He was ultimately assigned to the Homicide Division in the South Bronx. Comprising six square miles covering just four precincts, the unit handled up to 225 homicides a year.

"I was like a kid in a candy shop," said Geberth. "I was fascinated by the work. I learned from the A team of investigators and began going to the library on my days off to learn all I could about gathering forensic evidence and investigating all aspects of homicides. I created checklists which would later be the nucleus of my first book. There was no Google then and everything was on index catalog cards."

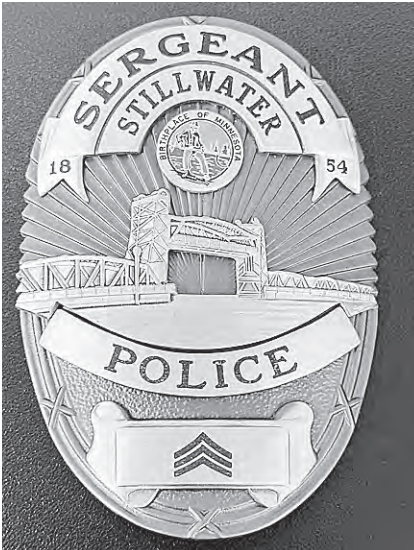
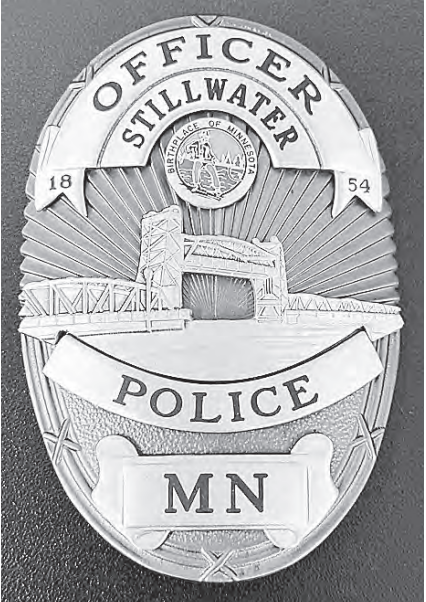
After being assigned to two Bronx detective squads, Geberth was promoted to lieutenant commander of Bronx Homicide, which he describes as "the epitome of my career."

"I got better and better at understanding the psychology associated with murder and the follow-up investigation," said Geberth. "It was my passion."

Geberth headed up the investigation involving Larry Davis, a suspect in multiple homicides, who shot and wounded six police officers who came to question him in November 1986. David managed to escape from the scene of the shooting but was captured after a 17-day manhunt. The politically charged case caused an abundance of internecine squabbles, so Geberth chose to retire on a high note after Davis's apprehension.

ERIC WOLLMAN (New York, N.Y.)

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Fabulous new ovals from the Stillwater, Minn. Police Department: (upper left) Community Service Officer, (upper right) police officer, (lower left) sergeant and (lower right) captain. Each rank has a different color combination ranging from all gray to silver and gold. *Stillwater PD photographs*



(Left) This sketch shows old and new shoulder emblems from the Saint George, Utah Police Department and outlines the changes between them. (Right) The finished product! A Saint George police officer models the agency's colorful new custom design emblem. *Saint George PD photographs*

Hot New Insignia Turns Up Heat On Frigid Winter

It may be cold outside, but inside hot new badges and patches are making this winter far more tolerable for law enforcement agencies across the country. Warm up with the latest creations.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

SPECIAL – It's cold outside! As winter rages across the United States, law enforcement agencies are melting the ice and snow by turning up the heat with hot new insignia.

Minnesota-Wisconsin Lift Bridge Badges The Stillwater Lift Bridge over the Saint Croix River connected Minnesota and Wisconsin for 86 years from 1931 until it was replaced in 2017.

Now a popular pedestrian walkway to riverside parks on both sides of the scenic border river, the lift bridge remains an iconic landmark in historic Stillwater.

The lift bridge highlights a series of handsome new badges now being worn by the Stillwater, Minn. Police Department. Chief Brian Mueller announced the unique custom ovals debut just before Christmas.

The custom ovals culminated a year-long process during which Stillwater police spent considerable time designing and finding the right look. Three new styles are being worn, Chief Mueller said, each with color and slight design variations.

Community service officer shields are all silver. Police officer badges are dark gray and silver; sergeants, dark gray and gold; and captains silver and gold. All gold is reserved for the chief.

In addition, Stillwater opted to make its new cap piece a gray redesigned replica of its first issue badge with the addition of the lift bridge.

"We also felt it important to keep the original 1854 badge in our current uniform somehow. This was done by making our hat badges into the original badge the first Stillwater officers wore in 1854," said Chief Mueller.

"We are very connected to our history and tradition and wanted to be sure to respect and remember the original officers. We felt this was a great way to do that."

Courtesy of Stillwater Police Department

Saint George Wears Utah's Newest It took a half century, but police in Saint George are wearing Utah's newest uniform emblem.

"Some years ago, the city updated their logo, and so it's just something that we needed to update to get consistent with what the new city logo was," said Lieutenant Aaron Bergquist. The new emblem debuted in late autumn.

For five decades, the Police Department sported a blue and yellow patch in the shape of a shield that had the city's old logo on it set against a multi-pointed star. The city's emblem was a circle with the sun rising over the hills on the bottom half with "City of St. George"



(Left) The all-gold chief of police oval from the Stillwater Police Department features a black star on the rank panel at the bottom. (Right) Stillwater wanted to remember its original 1854 badge, so it modified the design and now uses it as their new hat shield. It is silver on gray. *Stillwater PD photographs*



(Left) A striking center design highlights the new Prosser, Wash. badge. It features a steam locomotive, galloping horses, a fisherman and the Horse Heaven Hills. (Right) Branson, Mo. are wearing this custom die gold on black shield with a Missouri state shape center. *Smith and Warren photographs*

written on the upper half set against an orange sky.

The city changed its logo in 2016 to a yellow sunburst after using the same one since the 1970s.

The sunburst is incorporated in the new patch, along with other elements connected to area history and geography.

Taking the center position on the new emblem, which maintains the shield shape, is the historic Saint George Courthouse. Given its long ties to local law enforcement since the 1870s, Lieutenant Bergquist said the old courthouse is considered a symbol of "who we are and where we came from as Saint George police officers."

Over the top of the courthouse is the city's sunburst logo.

Behind the courthouse is the Red Hill and the Sugarloaf with "DIXIE" painted on it.

"We like to think of it as looking over our city," said Lieutenant Bergquist of the iconic rock formation. "Our charge as law enforcement officers is to look over the citizens of our city and keep them safe and protect their rights and property."

The new patch design had been in the works over the last couple of years, Lieutenant Bergquist said, and involved a design committee of up to 20 people from different parts of the Police Department. Chief Kyle Whitehead had the final say on the new design.

"I think what the Patch Committee really wanted to do was to capture something that is our history and is who we've always been," said the chief. "So being able to put our date and iconic pioneer building, Sugarloaf and the city's logo on there has been, I think, a real success. We're excited to get a new patch."

The new patches have Velcro backing so they can easily be removed from a garment and transferred to another. This has an added benefit eliminating the cost of multiple patches for multiple garments, Lieutenant Bergquist added.

While the patches are already in use, it'll take a while for the department's fleet of vehicles to catch up. Current vehicles will continue with the old logo, while new vehicles gradually replacing them will show the new logo.

Saint George also plans a new breast badge in the near future.

Courtesy of Saint George News

New Smith and Warren Creations Smith and Warren, a leading law enforcement insignia designer and manufacturer in White Plains, N.Y., has announced creation of new custom design badges for the police departments in Prosser, Wash., Branson, Mo., Hinesville, Ga., Cobb County, Ga. and Spring Hill, Tenn.

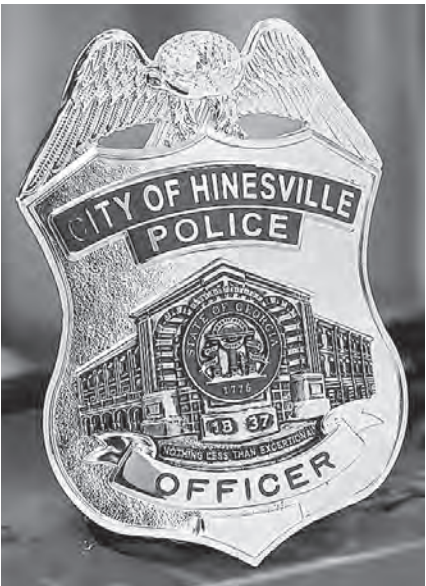
Prosser's rich history and natural beauty highlights the agency's handsome oval. The center design is an outdoor scene depicting a fisherman on the Yakima River, a steam locomotive and hills in the background.

The Yakima represents the vital role the river has played in the region's growth and development. The hills are the Horse Heaven Hills and depict the landscape surrounding Prosser and its natural beauty. Three galloping horses denote the area's wild horse population of years gone by. The locomotive pulling a train recognizes the Northern Pacific Railroad, which sparked city development in the 1880s. The fisherman netting his catch symbolizes sport fishing on the Yakima.

Prosser's small city seal at the top shows the historic Old Prosser Bridge over the Yakima and a cluster of grapes representing Prosser's legacy as the "Birthplace of Washington Wine" and its agricultural heritage.

The city is the Benton County seat. It has a population of 6100. John Markus is chief of police.

In Branson, home to the popular "Heart of the Ozarks" show, the Police Department opted for a new badge after finding unauthorized reproductions of the previous design being offered for sale online. The new badge is a copyrighted custom die production.



Smith and Warren creations for the police departments in Hinesville, Ga. and Spring Hills, Tenn. Ironically, both feature buildings. (Left) Hinesville depicts City Hall with it arched front. (Right) The new Police Headquarters is featured on Spring Hill's shield. *Smith and Warren photographs*



The Cobb County, Ga. Police Department celebrated its 1924 to 2024 centennial last year with a new shield created by Smith and Warren in White Plains, N.Y. It features the Police Memorial and honors seven officers, including a canine, killed in the line of duty. *Smith and Warren photograph*

New Insignia ...Continued

It is a uniquely shaped shield with a black background and gold borders and legends. A gold Missouri state outline appears as the center design. It carries a detailed Ozark landscape scene. Full color United States (left) and Missouri (right) flags are seen on either side. Gold legends on black panels bordered in gold read, “(RANK)/ BRANSON/ POLICE/ EST./ 1913/ (NUMBER).” The chief’s badge has “MO” in place of a number on the bottom panel.

“One of the things we wanted to do was eliminate the possibility of somebody impersonating a police officer,” said Chief Eric Schmitt. “Our old badge was a simple design. You can order those online from a number of companies and have them write whatever they want on there. There was nothing unique about the badge.”

Chief Schmitt had the department’s Uniform and Equipment Committee design the badge.

Generous private donations paid for the new shields. Branson is located in Taney and Stone Counties on the Missouri-Arkansas stateline. The popular tourist destination is home to about 13,000 permanent residents but hosts more than ten million tourists a year.

Hinesville, Ga. opted for a modern version of a traditional eagle-topped shield as their new badge. It is silver-colored with silver on blue enamel legends on double top panels and in blue on a silver panel at the bottom.

The large center design is a highly detailed Georgia state seal in black and gray surrounded by a blue enamel ring upon which appears “STATE OF GEORGIA” in silver. A corner view of Hinesville City Hall shows its archways in gray on black. “18” (left) and “37” (right), the year Hinesville was founded, is shown on a panel beneath the building. Finally, the department motto, “NOTHING LESS THAN EXCEPTIONAL,” completes the design in gray letters on a black bottom panel.

“We really like this badge. We just started wearing it, but everyone thinks its pretty special,” a Hinesville police officer told *PCNEWS*. “Our old one was okay, but this one is better, I think.”

Hinesville is the county seat of Liberty County in far eastern Georgia. It has a population of more than 35,000. Chief Lloyd Slater commands one of the largest police departments in the state.

A local landmark highlights a new oval being worn by the Spring Hill, Tenn. Police Department. The colorful highly detailed oval depicts the new Police Headquarters building in gray, black and white. Above it are full color United States (left) and Tennessee flags (right) in high relief. The background features sunburst filigree.

Gold legends are shown on black panels with the wearer’s rank across the top and “SPRING HILL/ POLICE” on the bottom.

Spring Hill is about 30 miles south of Nashville. The city straddles the Maury and Williamson county lines. It’s one of the fastest-growing cities in Tennessee. The population topped 50,000 in 2020, up 10,000 over 40,000 in 2018. Don Brite is the chief of police.

Early last year, Smith and Warren created a fabulous shield for the Cobb County, Ga. Police Department commemorating the department centennial, 1924 to 2024. It’s a colorful gold on silver eagle-topped shield.

The custom design features the county police memorial over sun rays symbolizing the seven county officers, including a canine, killed in the line of duty. Stars represent the agency’s two original officers. A round gold state seal surrounded by a black ring is shown at the center. Full color unfurled United States (left) and Georgia (right) flags complete the design.



Baldwin and Cameron are new police shoulder patches from western Wisconsin. (Left) Baldwin in Saint Croix County features a steam locomotive, the USA flag and a Dutch windmill. (Right) Cameron’s subdued CHP shape is a tribute to Officer Hunter Scheel killed in 2023. *Contributed photographs*

Legends appear in gold on black panels, “RANK” at the top, “COBB/ COUNTY/ POLICE” outlining the memorial in the center, “CENTENNIAL” beneath the memorial and “1924” (left) and “2024” at the bottom.

Courtesy of Smith and Warren

Western Wisconsin Welcomes New Emblems Two western Wisconsin police departments have new shoulder patches. Officers in Baldwin in Saint Croix County and Cameron in Barron County started wearing the custom designs in late 2024.

Baldwin replaced a longstanding rectangular blue and yellow design that had been worn since the early 2000s. It’s a mostly white on black CHP shape. The custom center design honors the village’s Dutch heritage and its origin as a railroad stop between Chicago and Saint Paul.

“It was a group effort. Everyone got a chance to say what they wanted on a new patch. It kind of came together through sharing those ideas,” said Chief of Police Kevin Moore, who took office last year. “Everyone on the department likes it. I’ve gotten some good feedback from the community, too.”

The colorful center design shows a black and gray steam locomotive, a full color United States flag and a gray and black Dutch windmill on a green and blue background. “POLICE” appears at the top with “BALDWIN” (left) and “WISCONSIN” on the sides. It has a white outer border.

Cameron shows the community’s remembrance of Officer Hunter Scheel, who was killed in the line of duty in April 2023. The subdued gray on black CHP shape features his badge number, “608,” which has been retired never to be worn again.

The design features a white, blue and dark red eagle with a gray star on its chest superimposed over a gray United States thin blue line flag held by a dark red staff. A crude state seal is also superimposed over the flag with “STATE OF WISCONSIN” on a ring around it. The legends are “CAMERON” at the top and “POLICE” on the bottom. Officer Scheel’s badge number appears to the right of the eagle in small numerals.

Baldwin is a village of 4400 along Interstate 94 in central Saint Croix County, while Cameron is located near the intersection of Highways 8 and 53 in central Barron County. The village population is 1900.

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (Baldwin, Wis.)

Memorial Badge History It was 2017 when V.H. Blackinton introduced the first memorial badge for fallen first responders. Now popular nationwide, the eagle-topped shields with black backgrounds and thin blue line flags were first made for the Methuen, Mass. Police Department. According to the company, Methuen wanted a special badge to wear during National Police Week, so Blackinton designers went to work and created the unique shield.

Henry Custom Rifles Henry Repeating Arms of Rice Lake, Wis. has designed and produced special commemorative rifles for law enforcement agencies across the USA. Among their custom creations are handmade rifles for the Tennessee Sheriff’s Association 50th Anniversary, Michigan State Police 100th Anniversary, California Department of Corrections, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and American Association of State Troopers. Each weapon has custom engraving identifying the agency. California DOC shows their gold badge on the stock.

Sheriff Judd Bobblehead Grady Judd is one of the most popular and well respected county sheriffs in the USA. He is a living legend in Polk County, Fla. where he has been sheriff since 2005. The Lakeland Flying Tigers Minor League Baseball team honored Sheriff Grady with his own bobblehead five years ago showing him in full uniform. Initially, 1200 bobbleheads were given away as a promotion. The giveaway proved so popular that it has been repeated. Sheriff Grady bobbleheads are also very popular among Florida collectors and often displayed at shows.

South Lyon’s Witch South Lyon, Mich. isn’t Salem, Mass., but a witch’s hat nevertheless appears on their colorful police shoulder emblem. The hat is actually the top of the Witch’s Hat Depot Museum, a prominent local landmark. It takes its name from the unique peaked roof, which resembles a witch’s hat. The hat is centered between United States and Michigan flags and a state outline. A former South Lyon high school student designed the insignia.

Dalles Downtown Obelisks Downtown Dalles, Ore. once had concrete obelisks, or pillars, in four main street intersections as a way to route traffic. The obelisks are long gone but a large replica stands in the center of a roundabout. The landmark is depicted on the Dalles police patch. The colorful emblem also shows the Columbia River, Mount Rainier, a church steeple, city skyline, cherries and wheat. It debuted in 2019 and was designed by officers and their spouses. It replaced a patch showing The Dalles Dam that had been worn since the late 1950s.


Louisiana Juice Badges A former Opelousas, La. police chief was into handing out juice badges and ID cards. City records show \$5000 was spent on about 50 official badges that the chief issued to prominent friends and political supporters for over four years in a variety of ranks, including captain, lieutenant, sergeant, minister, physician and nurse. The city recalled the badges and credentials after numerous misuse complaints, such as a civilian was photographed in a full police uniform wearing an Opelousas police captain badge during an event in Washington, D.C.

Topeka Police Mural It’s not often a police headquarters building wall is a tourist attraction, but it is in Topeka. Kan. A gigantic mural 330 feet long covers the north wall and can be seen from the street. The very colorful art work, which was painted by local artists in 2019, is listed under Arts and Culture in the official city visitor guide. It depicts officers in uniform, the first canine handler and dog, past and present badges and patches, the police station then and now and much more. It is called “The Common Ground.”

Sailboat And Jet The Oak Harbor, Wash. police emblem depicts a striking contrast in conveyances, sailboats and a jet fighter! The colorful custom design shows a three sailboats near the Deception Pass Bridge as a Navy fighter flies over the span. It also features a Garry oak tree after which Oak Harbor is named. The emblem debuted in 2019. The city of 25,000 is located on Whidbey Island in Island County.

NJ Highway Patrol The first New Jersey Highway Patrol shoulder patch was designed by Chief Inspector James A. Sherwood in 1939, according NJHP historian and author Allan Attanasio. The chief designed it in the shape of a federal highway sign with the legends, “INSPECTOR/ DEPT. OF/ MOTOR VEHICLES/ NJ/ HIGHWAY PATROL.” A set of wings is shown as the center design. The emblem is blue on gold.

OPP Hat Badges Members of the Ontario Provincial Police in Canada wore nine different hat badges from 1910 to 2008. The first style was introduced in 1910. Dates of use are 1910 to 1921, 1921 to 1923 (maple leaf shape), 1923 to 1953, 1953 to 1963, 1963 to 1983 (command and NCO), 1983 to 1997 (command and NCO) and 1997 to 2008 (command).



PCNEWS
POLICE COLLECTORS NEWS

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

AMAZING: “BADGECOLLECTOR.BLOGSPOT.COM” offers pictures and stories regarding Police Memorabilia with a focus on Newark, N.J. The view of this blog is free, however if you have New Jersey items for sale or trade contact: DENNIS BEYER, email: jerseychief@gmail.com (104)

I AM LIQUIDATING MY COLLECTION! Hundreds of patches from around the country are available and more are added daily as I update the list. Please e-mail me for a current list. DAVE KAWUCHA, dkawucha@yahoo.com

IN SEARCH for any badges, patches, and coins relating to Chattanooga/Hamilton Co., Tennessee. Contact: ADAM WETZEL, (651) 440-4984, disc_satis2020@outlook.com, “Minnesota Patch Loon” on Facebook. (104)

LEAVING THE HOBBY and selling off my collection and traders consisting of pins, coins, badges, patches, decals, flags, etc. depicting the Federal Protective Service. Let me know your desires and hopefully we can work something out. USA only! RICH PONTES: tyall@comcast.net or Rich Pontes on Facebook. (109)

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: 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)

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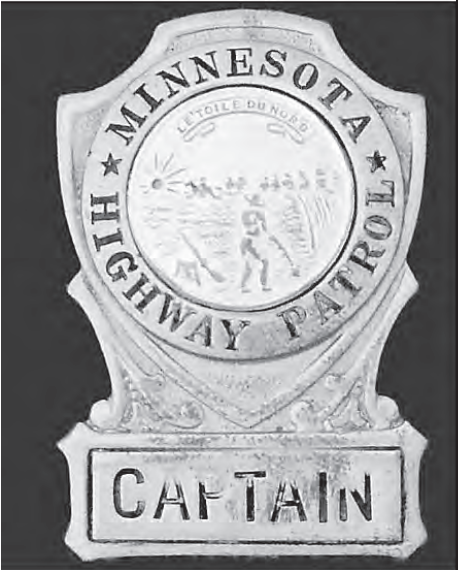
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March 22, 2025

9 am to 2:00 pm

(Set up for table holders at 7:30 am)

St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church
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25 tables available at \$15 each.
Walk-ins \$10 and a patch for the drop box,
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Awards for best South Carolina badge display and best of show for items not from South Carolina.

Fire, EMT and Public Safety collectors are welcome.
Last year, we had collectors from South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky and Pennsylvania.

Coffee and snack food will be available.

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Questions? (410) 935-2878



San Diego Police Museum



PRESENTS

2025 POLICE & FIRE COLLECTORS SHOW

\$5.00 admission. (Free w/purchase of table & 1st Responders w/ID)
Tables are \$ 25.00 each, includes admission.
First come, first served.

Saturday, May 17, 2025
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Holy Trinity Church
405 Ballard St.
El Cajon, CA 92019

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For information, terms and conditions, available tables and OR to register online:
Visti: www.sandiegopolicemuseum.com/badge-show.html

Questions?

Email: 911badges@sdpolicemuseum.com OR call (619) 726-6151
US Mail: San Diego Police Historical Association
1401 Broadway, MS 734
San Diego, CA 92101

“Few, But Proud. Then...”



WHEN VISITING the Grand Canyon State...

Be sure to stop by the Arizona Rangers State Museum in Tombstone* - a “stone’s throw” from the historic O.K. Corral, where you can also strut the same famous “creaking Boardwalk” patrolled over a century ago by gunfighter Wyatt Earp and his legendary lawmen!



*Chronicling the history, exploits and activities of the Territorial Arizona Rangers, (who fought in the Apache Wars [1860], shot it out with train robbers and stage coach hold-up bandits [1882], and “tamed the territory” for statehood in 1912 with only “26 Men” [yep - their gunfights celebrated in *that* TV show!] during our storied 1901-09 era), as well as the “Modern-Day” Arizona Rangers, a law enforcement auxiliary with over 500 dedicated volunteers in 23 Ranger “Companies” statewide - from Kingman to Yuma, Tombstone to Flagstaff! For more information and operating hours, visit museum@azrangers.us.

“...And Now!”



Lt. Nick “Colorado” Cain, the 8th Ranger State Historian since 1956, invites you to join his Worldwide Listing of Law Enforcement Historians. If you are your agency’s historian, write: Nick Cain, Box 20825, Sedona, AZ 86341 USA; or e-mail: RVN197273@GMail.com.

Originally established and located in Nogales in 1998, the Arizona Rangers Museum opened the J.R. Hilburn museum annex in Tombstone in 2016. Then, in July 2021, all Arizona Rangers museum operations were consolidated in Tombstone at 121 S. 4th Street when the massive archival project was dedicated as the Arizona Rangers State Museum. Lt. Joe Moramarco is the current museum curator. Visit museum@azrangers.us for more information.

WANTED !



Badges, Patches, License Plates,
all memorabilia related to both
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Wisconsin State Patrol

PETER HILL
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Free admission. All are welcome!

Table Holder Information

Set-up 8:00– 9:00 a.m. day of show \$20 per table

Purchase 2 or more tables get 1 display-only table free

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Bill Margolin, Founder, Editor & Publisher

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April 25 & 26, 2025

Location: Historic Riverfront Community Center

123 S. Esplanade St.

Leavenworth, Ks 66048

Early Set up Friday April 25th, 2025 begins at 10:00 am

Saturday doors open for the show at 0800 with the show
concluding at 1500.

Table fees: \$35 for the first table \$5 each additional.

Fees cover venue cost. No upcharge for wall space displays.

General Admission \$5 donation Children 14 & under Free

Retired and Active Duty First Responders may also donate their agency
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* * * * *

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Police, Sheriff, Fire, EMS - Public safety memorabilia

February 15th, 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,

* * * * *

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

or visit us on Facebook;

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Table Info \$20 (Non refundable)

MORE INFO: 479-381-4088

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2025

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY POLICE COLLECTORS SHOW



SUNDAY APRIL 13TH

TABLE HOLDER SET UP 8:00AM

DOORS OPEN TO PUBLIC 9:00AM

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TABLES **\$70** EACH
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IDS will be checked prior to entering the show
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WACO, TEXAS

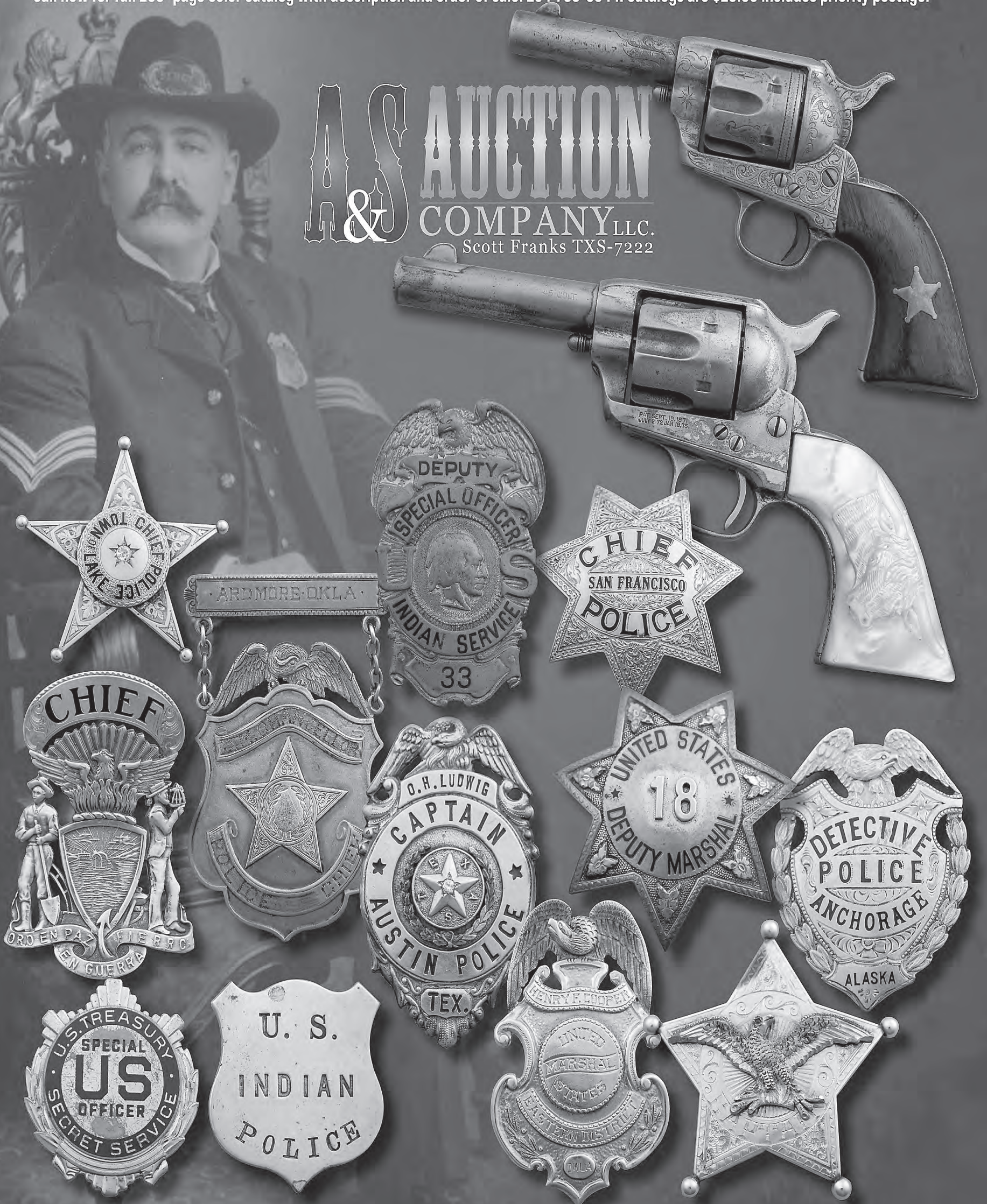
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ADMISSION \$5.00

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