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“Space Coast” Blasts Off 2025 Florida Shows

The 38th Annual “Space Coast” Patch and Coin Show kicked off 2025 for Florida collectors with one of the best shows ever hosted by Karen and Steve Bridges. It was a 75-table sellout that attracted 180 collectors from far and wide to Brevard County.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

COCOA, Fla. – If overwhelming response to the “Space Coast” Patch and Coin Show is any indication, 2025 will be a banner year for Florida insignia collectors.

Venerable hosts Karen and Steve Bridges welcomed a record crowd of eager hobbyists to their 38th annual swap meet on January 25 at the Walter Brown Community Center gymnasium in Cocoa, about 15 minutes south of their original venues in Titusville.

“Space Coast” traditionally kickoffs the East Coast collecting year, making it a good hobby barometer. With large, established shows in Tallahassee and Tampa Bay yet to come, and a new show a possibility, 2025 should be a very good year for Sunshine State collectors.

Not only was the Bridges’ show a 75-table sellout, but it attracted a massive turnout from throughout the Southeast and as far away as Quebec, New York and Wisconsin. In addition to well over 100 tableholders and assistants, nearly 80 non-tableholders signed in. Nearly every known Florida collector made the trip to Brevard County, which was six hours one way for hobbyists in southern Florida.

“We had a very good day. I found some patches I really wanted, and so did a lot of others from what I saw and heard. I got a lot of nice comments on the hall,” said Steve Bridges as the event began breaking up around 1:30 pm. “There were at least ten walk-ins that had never been to the show before. That’s really good because we need new collectors, as many as we can get.”

Table demand was so strong that Bridges had to scramble to find enough to accommodate everyone.

There were 18 more walk-ins than 2024, a dramatic 20 percent increase.

Walk-ins came from seven states, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, New York, North Carolina, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Florida was in the midst of a record-setting cold winter with as much as seven inches of snow in northern counties early in the week before the show, followed by temperatures freezing or below. It was 36 degrees as the hall opened at 8 am. Bridges and I speculated that perhaps “Space Coast” benefited from the weather because it was too cold to do anything else!

Even though the Bridges are long retired and have hosted their show on the last Saturday in January every year since 1987, they plan to continue for as long as they can.

“I had somebody contact me about taking over the show when I retire. He’s a young officer and fairly new collector. He was supposed to be here and help out. I told him I’d show him what to do. He never called me back. He didn’t show up today,” said Bridges.

Brevard County owns the Community Center, which offers a variety of recreation opportunities. The large hall is an excellent venue with easy access and adequate parking. It’s only drawback is there are no restaurants or convenience stores nearby.

“I had that food truck with the great BBQ at our show for years and everybody loved it, but they retired and went out of business, so I had to find someone to take over. I got our church youth group to serve breakfast and lunch this year,” said Bridges.

Holmes, Yarusso, Waldo win It was a clean sweep for Floridians in the “Space Coast” display contest. “Best Overall Display” went to John Holmes for his phenomenal



John Holmes (left) accepts the “Best Overall Display” award from host Steve Bridges (right). The retired Florida law enforcement officer was honored for a phenomenal exhibit of insignia, artifacts and memorabilia, mostly from New York City and New York State. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Steve and Karen Bridges have hosted their “Space Coast” show every year since 1987. That’s 38 consecutive shows! They welcomed about 180 tableholders, assistants and walk-ins to an outstanding swap meet on January 25. It was the second year at their new location in Cocoa. *Doug Sarubbi photograph*

New York City collection. Nathan Yarusso won “Best Badge Display” with his gorgeous Florida state agency badge collections, while Aaron Waldo captured “Best Patch Display” for an outstanding Saint Petersburg PD exhibit.



Doug Sarubbi warmed up a cold January Saturday with an outstanding exhibit of historic law enforcement insignia from Florida and throughout the United States. He showed Orange County SO patches, as well as several department collections, such as Orlando. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

The Holmes family has a long history of service with the New York Police Department. Seven family members in four generations have served on the NYPD, including his great-grandfather, grandfather, grandmother and three uncles. One of his uncle’s sons is presently on the job.

Think random attacks on police are a recent phenomenon? Think again. Holmes gave me a copy of a *New York Times* article from August 16, 1938 detailing an attack on NYPD officers on the Mall in Central Park during the annual Police Honor Legion Memorial Service during which his great-grandfather was injured.



“Space Coast” will be remembered for a plethora of outstanding displays. Among the best was this array of Florida state agency badges from Nathan Yarusso’s fine collection. (This is only half of his exhibit.) He specializes in state agencies and fire insignia. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Nate and Amber Yarusso went home with the “Best Badge Display” award. They were honored for their Florida state agency collection. Nate Yarusso said his best collection is from the Fish and Wildlife Commission. There was also a fine Highway Patrol collection. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Space Coast Show ...Continued

The headline read, “Maniac Shoots 5 At Police Service on Mall; Is Slain.” Sub-headlines were “Police-Hater, Wearing Armor, Blazes Away With 2 Shotguns at Rites for Heroes,” “Crowd Of 3,000 Terrified,” and “2 Policeman, 3 Civilians Are Wounded, 25 Shots Fired In Killing Assassin.”

Despite his wounds, Lieutenant James P. McDonnell refused to leave or be treated until all of his fellow officers were safe. The newspaper called him a hero.

“I took the NYPD test and passed it, but I didn’t take the job,” Holmes said. He went into the hotel business instead with an eventual transfer to Florida where he worked for the



John Holmes’s family has a New York City Police Department background. Seven family members over four generations were NYPD officers. Holmes is shown with a large display of emblems from NYC and state agencies. He also had a massive badge NYPD exhibit. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Orange County Sheriffs Department and became a sergeant.

Holmes has a very impressive NYPD badge, patch and artifacts collection with particularly strong representation from obsolete agencies amalgamated into the department, such as the Housing Police, Transit Police and others.

The longtime hobbyist showed some of his NYPD favorites:

...A Reserve sergeant shield used in the 1940s during World War II. It’s a gold-colored sunburst featuring the city seal and blue legends, “SERGEANT/ POLICE DEPT. CITY OF NEW YORK/ POLICE RESERVE/ 264.” The shield is in remarkable condition considering it’s age.

...A very rare Automobile Engineman shield and matching cap shield. It’s a patrolman-style silver shield with black legends, “AUTOMOBILE ENGINEMAN/ POLICE/ CITY OF NEW YORK/ 77.” These badges were worn by patrol wagon and other drivers from about 1900 to 1940.

...A beautiful first issue NYC Housing special officer shield worn from about 1935 to 1952 when these officers became the first members of the Housing Police, now a defunct agency. The silver-colored shield shows the city seal as the center design. The well-worn



Saint Petersburg police Officer Aaron Waldo (left) won “Best Patch Display” at “Space Coast” for his fine historic department collection. It was presented by Steve Bridges (right). Waldo is missing only a current canine and an old style from completing his SPPD emblem collection. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



(Left) A special officer shield from the NYC Housing Authority. Special officers were precursors to the NYC Housing Police formed in 1952. (Right) A fine old numbered City of New York Sheriff deputy badge with extensive filigree. It was made by United Insignia. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

raised silver legends read, “SPECIAL OFFICER/ NYC HOUSING AUTHORITY/ 262.”

The Housing shield is part of a nice collection of NYC Housing Police badges accented with their now-obsolete shoulder emblem.

...An old NYC deputy sheriff five-point gold-colored ball-tipped star made by United Insignia. The center design is the city seal on a bright blue background. Blue background is also used behind the gold legends, “CITY OF NEW YORK SHERIFF/ DEPUTY.” There are cutout numbers “125” on the bottom.

Holmes’s award-winning exhibit, which covered multiple tables, all nicely arranged and labeled, featured numerous specialty collections, such New York City railroad badges, New York State badge and patch sets, Kennedy Space Center police and security insignia, Royal Hong Kong police, Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police inaugurals, badge and patch sets from other states and an original Port Authority Police “Bridgeman” shield. The bridgemen later became the Port Authority Police.

Among my favorites was a shield and flashlight-shaped shoulder patch from the long obsolete New York City Merchant Police. These were private security company officers that



Simms Merchant Police Service offered patrol and protective services to New York City businesses many years ago. Their security officers wore shields with cutout numbers like NYPD. They wore a shoulder patch shaped like a flashlight with the company name. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

merchants could hire to protect their businesses. Holmes is uncertain whether they had any actual police authority but doesn’t believe they did.

Saint Petersburg is named after a city in Russia but that’s where the connection ends. Founded in 1888, the city established its police force in 1903 with the appointment of the first chief, who was paid \$100 a month. He as authorized to hire four patrolmen. The fledgling city had been policed by city marshals from 1888 to 1903.

Aaron Waldo is a city police officer and runs the department’s Public Safety Cadets program. He brought his all-but-complete SPPD emblem collection, a very impressive array going back to historic first issues. “It’s complete except for the current canine and one old



(Top) A gold-colored NYC Reserve Police badge worn during World War II is in excellent condition for its age. It shows the city seal. (Bottom) A very rare NYPD set from John Holmes’s collection, a badge and hat shield for an Automobile Engineman used in the 1900s. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



(Top) Aaron Waldo has an outstanding Saint Petersburg police collection. This display has cloth and metal badges, as well as Honor Guard and now-obsolete Police Explorer patches. (Bottom) Waldo knows little about the Public Safety patches at the top. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

style,” he said. “I don’t know why our new canine is so tough, but I’ll get one.”

Saint Petersburg wears a traditional emblem. It’s a semi-circle with a blue background and white and gold borders. A highly detailed depiction of an eagle in flight is superimposed over a large white letter “X” as the center design. Gold legends read, “ST. PETERSBURG/ POLICE,” at the top and bottom, respectively. Beneath the eagle is a gold three-part banner reading “LOYALTY/ INTEGRITY/ HONOR” in blue letters.

The design debuted in 1959 and has never been changed, although color schemes and lettering style have been revised. Patches had a gold on green motif for many years, according to Waldo’s display.

“I’m also missing a red and black triangle. It’s a very old style,” the collector said.

Waldo had two styles I hadn’t seen before, Public Safety and a round emblem with a smiling sun wearing a pair of glasses as the center design. “I don’t know much about the Public Safety patches, but they were only worn a short time,” he said. “Same with the round one [the smiling sun patch].”

Yarusso, fire chief in Midway, Fla., featured his fine array of Florida state agency badge collections. Departments and agencies represented included the Department of Corrections; Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Highway Patrol, Marine Patrol, Tampa Police Department and a few others.

“The FWC collection is my best one. Their badges are hard to track down. I’ve been able to get a lot of them,” said Yarusso. “We did the badge celebrating their 25th year after consolidating the Game and Fish Commission and Marine Patrol. That’s how the FWC started.”

There was also a collection of police and fire emblems from Sanibal Island. The collector is from the community and began collecting when the police chief gave him one of their shoulder patches.

Yarusso is the designer for Naps and Donuts, the insignia business he owns with partner Dave Teems. He won an award last year for one of his badge creations from a national organization of uniforms manufacturers.



(Top) A display of obsolete patches from the Saint Petersburg Police Department and the collection of Aaron Waldo. The smiling sun style is at the top. (Bottom) This segment of his collection shows special units and services emblems, as well as several worn rockers. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Ron Bartholome made the trip from Georgia with a large exhibit of badges in several specialties. He is shown with his outstanding collection of traditional Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police inaugural shields. It’s complete except for 2025. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

The display contest judge was a retired local law enforcement officer. Bridges never discloses his judges’ identities.

Holmes also won the patch drop. He was urged to buy a lottery ticket or stop at a casino on the way home because it was definitely his lucky day!

The number and size of displays has grown since the show moved to the current and much larger location in Cocoa two years ago, probably because the new hall has more room.

“Space Coast” tableholders Exhibitors in Cocoa hailed from seven states and Canada. There were 33 in all, many with multiple tables. Out-of-state tableholders are



(Left to right) Darryl Smith, Kelly Coopman and Aaron Waldo hosted the very successful Tampa Bay Area show late last year. They were “Space Coast” tableholders and told *PCNEWS* there will be another show this year. They will announce the date and details soon. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

noted on this tableholder roster.

Dick Almeter, West Virginia; Ron Bartholome, Georgia; Dennis Beyer, Mike R. Bondarenko, Wisconsin; Steve Bridges, Kelly Coopman, Xavier Dee, Quebec, Canada; Kimberly Elsholz, Daymon Ellsworth, Georgia; Bob Fischler, Lance Fisher, Jack Gillen, Sam Goldstein, Paul Goldstein, Dan Grau, Leonard Hanham, South Carolina; John Holmes, Rollin Kuch, John Kuch,

Sandra Leman, Ken Lucas, David Pate, Russ Penka, North Carolina; Dillon Puckett, Virginia; Steve Robertson, Doug Sarubbi, Gary Scott, Darryl Smith, Steve Srozinski, Ricky Suyono, Aaron Waldo, Eric Wollman, New York and Nathan Yarusso.

Four preregistered exhibitors canceled their tables, Bill Burks, Georgia; Dave Fox, Rob Jackson, Tennessee and Nancy Thompson, Alabama.



Nathan Yarusso, winner of “Best Badge Display,” brought some collections of Florida state agency badges. He is from Sanibal Island and showed his police and fire collection from his hometown. The police chief interested him in the hobby when he gave him a patch. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



A set of very old Tampa, Fla. Police Department shields in the Nathan Yarusso Collection. How many collectors have shields numbered “1” and “2” from a major department? Tampa has had a police department since 1886. The city had a marshal beginning in 1855. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Space Coast Show ...Continued

Sarubbi’s awesome exhibit Longtime Florida collector and former show host Doug Sarubbi brought an awesome exhibit featuring 21 frames of badge and emblem sets from across the USA, a nice set of gold presidential inaugurals and a wide variety of historic law enforcement artifacts and insignia.

“I like to show badges and patches together. It’s what officers wear on their uniforms. They don’t just wear a badge or just a patch. They wear both. At least most do. They look



Scott Leman and Sandra Leman offered remnants of the late Jay Leman’s massive Florida collection. A longtime Seminole County law enforcement officer, Jay Leman died in 2017. Sandra was his wife and collected with him. Son Scott is not a collector; he’s a high school educator. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

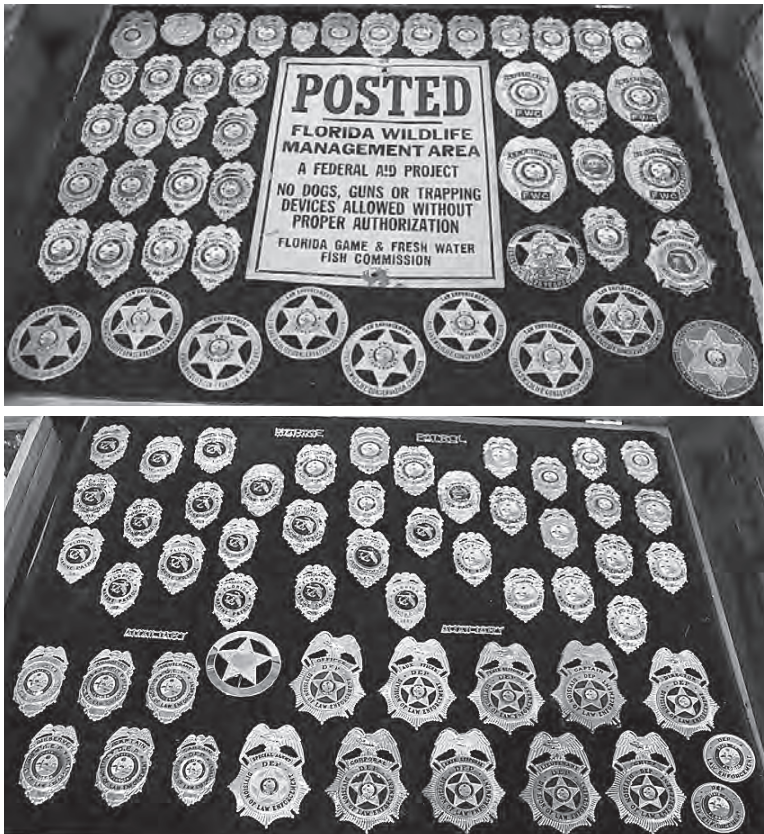
better together,” said Sarubbi.

His inaugurals were traditional Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police shields from Roosevelt/Wallace, Carter/Mondale, Reagan/Bush and Bush/Cheney. There was also a 1913 inaugural parking permit, an old press badge that I’d love to own, inaugural pins and a Metro PD inaugural button.

Sarubbi offered five department collections, all nicely framed:

...Seattle showed an obsolete badge with an old picture showing an officer wearing the style and a small old style cloth emblem.

...From his former department, the Orange County Sheriffs Department, there were multiple frames of colorful cloth emblems, mostly from special units and duty assignments.



(Top) Nate Yarusso’s incredible Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission is a highlight of his Florida state agency collection. The agency was created by a merger in 1999. (Bottom) Badges from the defunct Marine Patrol and Department of Environmental Protection. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Twenty-one frames of badge and patch sets from across the United States were highlights of Doug Sarubbi’s outstanding exhibit at the “Space Coast” show. His very impressive Georgia police and sheriff patch and badge collections appear in the foreground. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

...There was an old Cincinnati badge and patch with a picture of an officer wearing them on his jacket.

...He showed an old badge and patch from the Kentucky State Police with a photo of an early patrolman.

...Finally, he had a nice exhibit from the Baltimore City Police with an old badge, patch and a booking sheet from December 19, 1918 for Charles Turner, who had been arrested for assault and battery. Cops had great penmanship back then with flourishing letters and perfect capitalization.

His badge and patch displays were accented with old restraints, batons, an antique



A segment of Ron Bartholome’s eye-popping “Space Coast” exhibit was his federal law enforcement collection and a beautiful exhibit devoted to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial featuring Fraternal Order of Police shields from its 1997 opening. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

lantern, a certified speedometer head and other historic artifacts.

Sarubbi also had multiple frames of generic police and sheriff badges, including many very old so-called catalog-style generic badges. A few were made from precious metals.

If a police museum needs an exhibit builder, it would be wise to solicit Sarubbi. He puts together quality displays and does a beautiful job arranging them at every show.

Bartholome display expands Although I’ve written about Ron Bartholome’s outstanding Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department traditional inaugurals collection in the past, it bears repeating that it’s still available. He has one of every traditional issue, except for Trump/Vance, but considering the show took place five days after Inaugural Day, well, let’s cut him some slack. “I’ll get it,” he said confidently.

Bartholome, who is retired from the Orange County, Fla. Sheriffs Department and now lives in Georgia, greatly expanded his “Space Coast” displays this year, featuring a wide variety of federal agencies, Orlando and other Florida badges, antique badges and some nice department collections.

Among his federals were large collections from the United States Capitol Police and the United States Post Office Police from before the days of the current version of the postal service.



Steve Sroczynski is our hobby’s Mr. Jacksonville. His collection is devoted to the Jacksonville Sheriffs Office and its predecessors, the Duval County Patrol and the Jacksonville Police Department. He featured Duval County in his fabulous “Space Coast” display. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



(Top) The Duval County Road Patrol was responsible for traffic enforcement outside of Jacksonville. Traffic officer or deputy sheriff were their ranks. (Bottom) Duval County Patrol deputy sheriff and Duval County Sheriff deputy sheriff are two old shields in Steve Srozinski's collection. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

There were nice collections from Hartford, Conn. and Walla Walla, Wash. Bartholome had a nice rank set of gold and brown Orlando PD breast and hat badges. I was greatly impressed by his fine collection of Fraternal Order of Police commemorative shields, including a set created for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington. The set goes back to the opening of the memorial in 1997. The badges are shown with a photograph of the memorial in Judiciary Square.


Jacksonville police history Steve Srozinski is a walking encyclopedia of Jacksonville police history with a world class collection to match. His "Space Coast" exhibit was museum quality. Until a consolidation referendum passed in 1968, Jacksonville and Duval County had their own law enforcement agencies. Today, the combined agency is known as the Jacksonville Sheriffs Office. While Srozinski has extensive historic collections from both former departments, his "Space Coast" display focused on Duval County, which existed from 1822 to 1968. The agency policed the area outside the Jacksonville city limits and was headed by the sheriff. As the city grew, it's patrol area reduced with every city annexation. "They had a Road Patrol. Their primary function was traffic enforcement. They also had a county jail run by the sheriff and a stockade run by the county board," said Srozinski. "People with sentences three years or less went to the stockade; longer than three years



Duval County was responsible for its own law enforcement until 1968 when voters approved a merger with the Jacksonville Police Department and consolidating county and city governments. Steve Srozinski has an outstanding pre-merger Duval County collection. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Dennis Beyer featured his historic Newark, N.J. Police Department collection at "Space Coast." Beyer's father was a longtime Newark police officer and got him started in the hobby. Today, he specializes in Newark and has at least one of every style ever worn. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



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Dennis Beyer featured his rank set from the Newark PD. It begins with the rank of police officer (far left) and ends with director (far right). Only patrol officers wear silver-colored badges, all others are gold-colored. The city has had a PD since the mid-1800s. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Space Coast Show ...Continued

went to the jail. Duval was the only county that had both a jail and a stockade,” he said. The County Stockade goes back to about the 1940s. Guards didn’t wear uniforms; they pinned their badges to their civilian shirts. Prisoners wore white uniforms with blue stripes. “The prisoners did a lot of manual labor for the county, roads, buildings and such. They didn’t have much choice but work if they wanted to get along with the guards. Getting along with the guards was pretty important those days,” said Srozinski. Inmates who refused to



A very impressive array of ornate detective badges from the Newark Police Department in the Dennis Beyer Collection shows shields from several generations with very slight differences. Notice the cutout badge numbers on the bottom, which is unusual. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

work were punished, often severely. Srozinski offered four large frames showing some of his Duval County collection, including badges and patches from the Road Patrol, the County Patrol and the Prison Department, as well as several artifacts, including wooden batons. He has more but didn’t have enough room to show it. “I’ve got all the Duval County patches. Anything from there is getting hard to find because it’s been more than 50 years since they went defunct,” said the veteran collector and historian. “I’ve got most of the badges, but every once in a while, I find something a little different I don’t have.” The first patches were worn in the 1940s. Srozinski showed a frame with seven traffic officer badges, all eagle-topped shields, arranged around an early triangular black on gray shoulder emblem. Three gold badges belonged to supervisors, while the others were silver-colored and worn by traffic officers and deputy traffic officers. Duval County used both ranks. Among his gold badges is chief traffic officer. Srozinski plans to bring his old Jacksonville Police Department to the 2025 show in Tallahassee. He will be showing badges going back to the 1800s. If it’s anything like Duval County, it will be awesome! After the show, Srozinski sent a picture of a very rare South Jacksonville Police Department shield, a long obsolete agency that existed for only a short time. “It had city



John Kuch (left) and his father, Rollin Kuch (right) were tableholders. Rollin Kuch, 92, has been a “Space Coast” exhibitor since 1989. Despite health issues, he remains active in the hobby and recently inventoried his collection. He brought some nice displays. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Rollin Kuch was a communications officer for the Central Intelligence Agency during his long federal service. He was posted to Washington, D.C. and abroad. He showed his collection of law enforcement communications insignia from the United States and other nations. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

marshals and later a police department. Chief Steinhauser was a marshal and later the chief of police. I have seen a picture of his chief’s badge. Very ornate.” Srozinski is retired from Jacksonville S.O. He now works as a school police officer.

Beyer loves Newark If it’s from Newark, N.J. law enforcement, Dennis Beyer probably has it in his extensive collection devoted to his hometown. Even though he has lived in Florida since his retirement as a New Jersey probation officer, Beyer still specializes in his hometown.

“I guess I’ve got Newark PD in my blood. My dad was Herman Beyer. He was with Newark from the 1930s until he retired in 1968. He lived through every era of the department back then,” said Beyer, a popular *PCNEWS* columnist. Beyer’s “Space Coast” exhibit covered three tables and provided an extensive history of city police insignia going back to the first issue badge worn in the 1850s. “It’s an old city. They’ve always had traditional badges and patches. Not much flashy stuff,” he said. Officially, city law enforcement history goes back 340 years to the first elected constable in 1668, known badges only go back to the early to mid 1800s. Newark became the third-oldest major city in the USA when it incorporated in April 1836. The first mayor ordered formation of a City Watch with 24 members and a captain. They were responsible for patrolling the city during darkness. City Watch had been renamed the Night Watch by 1845.

While he has at least one badge from every issue ever worn in Newark, Beyer still needs numerous rank badges. He said he’s a long way from a complete set, which in no way diminishes the significance of his collection, after all, Newark PD has existed since mid-1800s. As years roll by and badges become older and increasingly hard to find, it remains highly unlikely that anyone will ever achieve a complete set of every issued badge. The first badge was a eight-point star with the city seal. Beyer said some old Newark badges have the state seal. There have been six distinct issues. He showed a set of three second issue badges, including one for a “chanceman.” The collector explained that when the city hired a new officer, he was on probation for the first year. He had to make at least three arrests to qualify as a full-time police officer. “Basically, the city took a chance on a new officer, so they called them chancemen,” he said. Among Beyer’s most impressive displays was a set of detective badges from the 1930s. Beyer showed numerous old photographs that document many of the oldest badges in his collection.

Still going strong! If I live to be 92, and I’ve got “only” 20 years to go, I want to be just like Rollin Kuch. Not only is he still active in the hobby, attending shows and putting up



Ever seen ceramic figurines from the legendary Pinkerton Investigative Services Company? Rollin Kuch showed two, a surveillance van and a Sherlock Holmes-type detective using a video camera. Pinkerton is a world famous private detective agency. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



John Holmes obtained a career collection of a New York State Corrections officer from the 1950s and '60s from a walk-in. It features his identification cards, gun permit, photo and badge wallet with his badge and shoulder patch. He traded a badge for the entire set. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

displays, but he also kept his girlfriend updated on his show activities using the video chat feature on his cell phone. Imagine a 92-year-old initiating a video chat, with his girlfriend, none the less!

"We marvel at how active he still is," said his daughter-in-law, Ethel Tijerino Kuch, who is married to his son, John, also a collector. "He's got health issues but just won't slow down. He surprises us almost every day."

Kuch is originally from Minnesota. He still collects Minnesota emblems and brought a couple nice displays to the show, along with collections from law enforcement communications, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Seminole County, Fla. and several others. Each was attractively framed.

Kuch also featured his historic Minnesota Highway Patrol collection, the precursor agency to the Minnesota State Patrol. His father was George J. Kuch, who served as the first Highway Patrol captain. He commanded the MHP from 1929 to 1933. The exhibit features his badges, photographs and newspaper clippings about his career.

Kuch has been displaying at "Space Coast" shows since 1989. Shortly after the show, his family inventoried his patch collection and found he has about 2500 different styles from agencies across the country that interest him.

John Kuch began collecting when he joined the Fairfax County, Va. Police Department where he spent 27 years as a detective working auto theft, child abuse, undercover narcotics and underwater search and recovery. He was lead detective in the Electronic Surveillance Unit for the final 17 years of his career.

He brought his exhibit of law enforcement underwater search and recovery emblems. He arranges them on large red and white diving flags.

Rollin Kuch was a communications officer for the Central Intelligence Agency and was posted in Washington, D.C. and other cities, including overseas, during his long career in federal service.

Who could be better than a retired communications officer to video chat with his girlfriend, even at age 92?

Very nice find As has been written numerous times on these pages, attending collector shows always gives hobbyists unique opportunities to add prize insignia to their collection. John Holmes offered the newest evidence that show attendance doesn't cost, it pays with what he called a "very nice find."

A walk-in collector Holmes didn't know wanted a badge he had available and asked if he wanted to trade for it. The walk-in showed him memorabilia from the career William A. Paterno, who served as a New York State corrections officer in the 1950s and '60s.

"He wanted to trade Paterno's badge, which was still in the original wallet with the ID still inside, another ID, his pistol permit and an old style patch for my badge," said Holmes. "I said, 'Heck, ya! You got a deal!'"

The badge is a vintage gold-colored eagle-topped circlet with a large New York state seal as the center design. Black legends read, "OFFICER/ DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS/ STATE OF NEW YORK." The shield shows a little wear but is in otherwise good condition.

Since Holmes collects NYS agencies, these new acquisitions will make a fine historic display.

"I was hoping to go home with something nice. I did!" he said.

Good year ahead Our hobby is red hot in Florida where collectors will have at least two more opportunities to attend large, well established shows in the state this year. There is also a strong possibility of a major new show as well.

Dave Teems and Nate Yarusso will stage their Second Annual "Southern States" Patch and Coin Show on Saturday, April 26 in Havana, a suburb of Tallahassee. Their first show was a sellout. Tables are already selling well for the 2025 edition.



Russ Penka recently found a high quality model of a Florida Highway Patrol fixed wing aircraft at an antiques shop in Virginia. It's black and white with FHP markings. The base has a FHP Flight Officer patch. Penka said the plane was made in the Philippines. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Nap and Donuts Designs will debut a new patch and challenge coin for the Monticello PD K-9 Team. All proceeds will be donated to the team to help with the cost of new dogs. The patch and coin will only be available at the show.

Please see "Swap Meet Calendar" for details. Aaron Waldo, Kelly Coopman and Darryl Smith are planning their second Tampa Bay Area show for later this year and will announce details as soon as they can finalize arrangements.

"We were really happy with the show last year. We got a lot of good comments. Everyone said they wanted us to do it again, so we will," said Smith. "We still need to make arrangements. As soon as we do, we'll let everybody know."

And, there is a very strong possibility there will be a third major show on the 2025 calendar. I agreed not to release any information until the host can confirm hall availability, but from what I was told and shown, it will be an excellent venue in a prime location in an area of Florida that has not been a show location in the past.

Sorry about publishing a tease, but I never burned an informant in 38 years on the job. I'm not about to start now!

"Space Coast" notebook ...Sandra Leman, wife of the late longtime Florida collector **Jay Leman**, who died in 2017, attended the show with their son, **Scott Leman**, to continue to liquidate the remainder of his collection. "We still have some things left we'd like to sell," she said.

"Mom and Dad collected together. They're both interested in history, like I am, so they worked on the collection together," said Scott Leman, who is an educator and athletic director at a Seminole County high school.

...**Eric Wollman** has retired from the New York City Controller's Office where he worked for 36 years while serving as an NYPD Auxiliary police officer. He now works part-time as general counsel for a union that represents some NYC workers.

Wollman said he is going on an International Police Association trip to Bali soon and intends to come home with some police insignia for his collection.

...Nine hundred eighty and counting! That's how many breast cancer awareness emblems **Kelly Coopman** now has in his unique collection. The largest segment is from California, where the Pink Patch Project began. He has about 400 different styles.

"Pink patch trading has slowed down quite a bit in Florida, but it's still growing nationwide," said Coopman. "Something that's hurt is that some departments are now only selling pink patches in person. They're not selling by mail. That makes it tough on the hobby."

...**Russ Penka** had a unique item on his table that caught my eye, a model of a fixed wing aircraft with Florida Highway Patrol markings. It's a black and white prop plane mounted on a wood stand with a FHP Flight Officer patch.

"I found it in an antiques store in Virginia. It was handmade in the Philippines. It has really good details," said Penka.

I wanted to take it home but had no way to get it on the plane and protect it from damage in an overhead bin. I've never seen one like it. It's pretty cool.

...I had a good day and came up with some great stuff. My best find was a large collection of conservation law enforcement emblems from Canada that includes several rarities. I collect Canadian federal and provincial agencies, so it will fit right in. I also found some Wisconsin and Minnesota patches I needed. I usually don't get much time to shop, but I managed to squeeze it in between interviews.

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (Baldwin, Wis)

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.

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 Hliebav, Bill Pace and Bob Blickensdorf are once again hosting the 2025 show and exhibit.

Eighty 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

Swap Meet Calendar ...*Continued*

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.
The Hilton Hasbrouck Hilton is offering special room rates. Use the code “PCA” when making reservations to receive the reduced rate. Early reservations are recommended.

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 at jchristmann23@gmail.com or (859) 743-5350.

Havana, Fla.

The Second Annual “Southern States” Patch and Coin Show will be Sat., Apr. 26 from 9 am to 4 pm at the Florida Public Safety Institute Conference Building, 75 College Dr., Havana, Fla. It will be hosted by Nap and Donuts Designs owned by collectors Nathan Yarusso and David Teems.
Admission is \$5.
Tables are \$20 each. The hall will open at 8 am for exhibitor setup.
Awards will be presented for the best displays.
Naps and Donuts will feature a new coin and patch honoring the Monticello Police K-9 Team. All proceeds will be donated to the Monticello Police K-9 Team to help with the cost of new dogs. The coin and patch will only be available at the show.
Table reservations can be made by contacting Nap and Donuts on Facebook, emailing to napsanddonuts@gmail.com, or telephoning the hosts on (850) 405-5290.

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.
The show is a 52-table sellout.
All proceeds will go the RSIC cadets and community programs.
Awards will be presented for the three best displays.
The host is working to add more tables. Make table requests 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.

Marshall, Minn.

The 2025 Marshall, Minn. Law Enforcement Show and Swap Meet will be Sat., May 3 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Marshall Merit Center, 1001 W. Erie Rd., Marshall, Minn. Kyle and Amy Helvig are the hosts.
Admission is free but donations are requested. This is a benefit show.
Tables are \$10 each. The hall opens at 8 am for exhibitor setup.
Awards will be presented for the best displays first and second place. The awards will be presented by the Lyon County sheriff.
Culinary delights and beverages will be served.
Show proceeds will be donated to the Lyon County Sheriffs Department and Marshall Police Department.
Make table reservations with Kyle Helvig on (507) 829-1569.

Edmonton, Alta.

The 2025 Edmonton Area Police Collectors Swap Meet will be Sat., May 10 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Royal Canadian Legion-Saint Albert Branch, 6 Tache St., Saint Albert, Alta. The International Police Association Canadian Section is sponsoring the show. Phil Bailey is hosting.
Free admission.
Tables \$10 each. Tableholder setup begins at 8:30 am.
Make reservations or inquiries to Bailey on crestcorp@shaw.ca.

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.
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.

Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

The 2025 Great Smoky Mountains First Responder Collectors Show will be Sat., June 7 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Pigeon Forge Junior High School, 300 Wears Valley Rd., Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Richard Stoffle is the host. This a non-profit show with all proceeds donated to the school and a local autism charity.

Admission is a \$5 donation.
Fifty-four tables are available for \$30 each or two for \$50. Tables are \$25 each after the first two. Only five tables remained as of March 6.
Black Rifle Coffee/Nine Line Apparel of Pigeon Forge will provide hot coffee to tableholders.
Tables can be reserved online through Pay Pal or Venmo to tgsmfrcs@gmail.com.
Questions should be directed to this email address or by telephoning (865) 388-1500.

Branson. Mo.

The Tenth Anniversary “Heart of the Ozarks” Police Collectors Show will be Fri., June 20 from 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 accept 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.
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 shown 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 have been sold. The show is a sellout.
A new exclusive limited edition show patch and coin will be available.
The Barn Resort offers free parking for show participants, a restaurant, full service bar, general store and arcade on site. The resort is only minutes from downtown Gettysburg.
The Barn Resort will not offer lodging as previously announced. There are now three host hotels. Please mention the Mason-Dixon Police-Fire Show when making reservations.
Aspire Hotel, 2634 Emmitsburg, Gettysburg is two minutes from the show site. Twenty rooms have been blocked for \$150 a night for June 25 to June 30. Make reservations by calling the hotel on (717) 334-2755.
Quality Inn, 380 Steinwher Ave., Gettysburg is ten minutes from the show. Rooms are \$165 on the first floor or \$155 on the second floor. There is no elevator. Thirty rooms are available. There is a two night minimum stay (Friday and Saturday). Additional days can be added. The telephone number is (717) 334-1103.
Best Western, 301 Steinwher Ave., Gettysburg is also ten minutes from the show. Twenty rooms have been blocked. Prices range from \$190 to \$200 a night. A two night Friday and Saturday night is mandatory. Make reservations on (717) 253-9053.
The show has a Facebook page, “Gettysburg PA Mason Dixon Patch Show.”
Email questions to the hosts on masondixonpatchshow@gmail.com.

San Luis Obispo, Calif.

The San Luis Obispo Police Memorabilia Show will be Sat., July 19 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 801 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, Calif. This show is sponsored by the California Law Enforcement Historical Society.
Admission is free.
Fifty-five eight-foot tables are available for \$40 each for CLEHS members and \$50 each for non-members. Early reservations are recommended. This show is always a sellout.
Awards will be presented for Best Patch Display, Best Badge Display, Best Historical Display, Best Educational Display and Best of Show awards.
The 2025 California Police Historian of the Year will be announced.
Table reservations can be made on the CLEHS website, CalPoliceHistory.Com. Tables can also be reserved by mailing a check to Gary Hoving, President, CLEHS, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875. He can be reached by telephone on (805) 441-4936 or by email through the website.

Bloomington, Ind.

The 2025 “Central Indiana” Law Enforcement Memorabilia Collectors Show will be Sat., Aug. 2 from 9 am to 2 pm EST at the Monroe County Fairgrounds Community Building, 5700 W. Airport Rd., Bloomington, Ind. Kyle Landgrebe will host it.
Admission is free.
Tables are \$25 each. The hall will open for exhibitor setup only from 5 to 7:30 pm on Friday and beginning at 7 am on Saturday.
Parking is free.
Food and beverages will be available on Saturday.
For table reservations and general information, contact Landgrebe on kc9agm@gmail.com or (812) 360-7641.

Chicago, Ill.

The Second Annual Chicago Police Collectors Show will be Sat., Sept. 6 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Chicago Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 7, 1412 W. Washington, Blvd., Chicago, Ill. Blue HQ will sponsor the event. Mike Chuchro is the host.
The FOP Lodge is a new location for 2025. The 2024 show was held in suburban Addison. The new venue is close to United Center with access from I-90 and I-290.
General admission is \$10. Children under 10 are free. Early access (8 am) admission tickets are \$20.
Forty-seven tables are available. Eight foot tables are \$45. Six foot tables cost \$40. An outdoor courtyard is also available. Six-by-six display spaces are \$20. Outdoor exhibitors must provide their own table, charis, etc.
This is a benefit show for the Chicago Police Memorial Fund. All proceeds will be donated to the fund which provides assistance to CPD officers in need and assistance to CPD Gold Star Families. It has made nearly \$22 million in donations thus far.
No concessions will be available at the hall.
Make table reservations or purchase tickets online only at ChicagoShow.Net.
Direct inquiries to info@chicagoshow.net.

Columbus, O.

The 2025 Ohio Public Safety Collectors Show will be Sat., Sept. 13 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Marriott Hotel, 5605 Blazer Pkwy., Dublin, O. Bill Swank and a team of local collectors including Guy Forberger, Bruce Muraco and JJ Mead, will host it.
Admission is \$5. Children 16 and under are admitted free.
One hundred eight tables are available for \$30 each before February 28 or \$40 after March 1. All 2024 tableholders will have their tables reserved until April 1. 2024 tableholders must confirm and make payment for their tables by March 31. Otherwise, those not nonfirmed and paid will be made available on April 1. A waiting list is being maintained. The hall will open at 8 am for exhibitor setup only.
Displays are encouraged. Awards will be present for the best exhibits. The judges will be a panel of Columbus area law enforcement administrators.
This show is a fundraiser for the Columbus Division of Police Junior Public Safety Cadets. Cadets will be available to assist exhibitors with display setup and take down. They will also handle admissions and sell door prize raffle tickets. Door prize donations are welcome. Please contact the hosts for information.
This show is once again expected to attract a large walk-in crowd. However, it is open only to active or honorably retired first responders with identification and known civilian collectors.
Lodging is available at the Marriott. The hotel number is (614) 791-1000. The four-star full service hotel offers free parking, a bar and restaurant, indoor pool and excellent amenities. The restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Early reservations are highly recommended.
An important change for 2025: All show business will be conducted by email. The address for all communications is OhioPCS@Gmail.Com.

Fairfax. Va.

The 2025 Fairfax Regional Badge and Patch Show will be Sat., Nov. 8 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Fairfax County Police Association Hall, 5625 Revercomb Court, Fairfax, Va. Virginia's longest-running show will be hosted by Bill Steinkuller in memory of the late Larry Wilkins.
This show is a benefit for the Fairfax County Police Public Safety Cadets and the Fairfax County Police Association.
Admission is \$5. Spouses and children are admitted free. Admission is restricted to current or former public safety personnel and known collectors. IDs will be checked at the entrance.
Sixty eight-foot tables are available for \$30 each. The fee includes admission for the tableholder and one designated table assistant. Tableholder setup begins at 8 am. Tables are assigned on a “first-come, first-served” basis with payment in advance.
Table reservations can be made by sending a check or money order to the Fairfax County Public Safety Cadets, 12099 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax VA 22035-5501.
The hall features plenty of free parking with easy access. Food will be available for purchase.
There are numerous hotels and restaurants close to the show.
A “Best of Show” trophy will be awarded. A “Judge’s Award” will also be presented.
The location is just outside of Washington, D.C. Explore our nation’s capital and the famous museums and sites, such as The White House, United States Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery and the Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials. Tour FBI Headquarters exhibits, the National Law Enforcement Museum and Memorial, DEA Museum, International Spy Museum, National Museum of Crime and Punishment and others available by your prior arrangement.
Guided tours of the Fairfax County Public Safety Headquarters featuring historic displays with lots of badges, patches and uniforms have been held before previous shows.
For further information or questions, email Steinkuller at fcpashow@aol.com.

Severna Park, Md.

The Eastern Shore Law Enforcement and First Responder Memorabilia Show is back! The next show is Sat., Dec. 6 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Earleight Fire Company, 161 Governor Ritchie Hwy., Severna Park, Md. Tyler Argubright, Ryan Abey and Frank Edward are the hosts.
Admission is \$5.
One hundred eight-foot tables are available for \$55 each. The new hall has 6000 square feet. Make table reservations through the Facebook page, “Eastern Shore Law Enforcement and First Responders Memorabilia Show 2025.” The hosts expect a sellout.

Swap Meet Calendar ...Continued

There will be a display contest with awards. Displays are encouraged. Discount rates are available at the Holiday Inn Express-Kent Island in Grasonville, which is about 25 minutes from the show site. Ten rooms have been blocked for Friday, Dec. 5 and Sat., Dec. 6 for \$119 plus taxes each. The reservations code is MCS. "This is going to be our biggest show ever..." Argubright said.

Hobby Mourning Loss Of Beloved Veteran Collectors

Our hobby has lost three longtime collectors and historians, Brian Dunn, 62, of Quincy, Mass.; Paul Johnson, 83, of Saint Paul, Minn. and Bob Mohr, 85, of Orangevale, Calif. *Police Collectors News* pays tribute to their never to be forgotten legacies.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

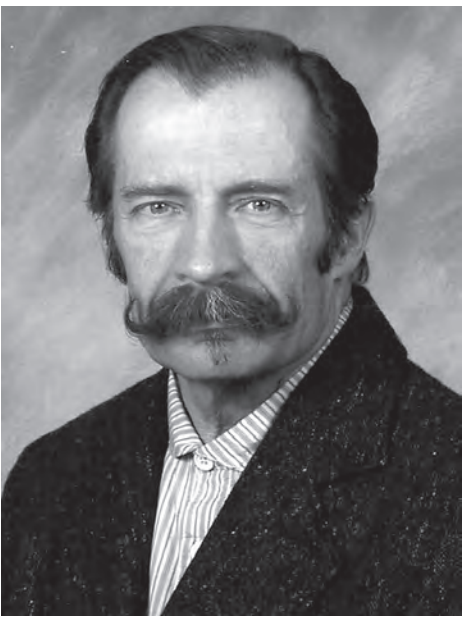
SPECIAL – Collectors across the nation are mourning the recent losses of longtime hobbyists Brian Dunn, Paul Johnson and Robert Mohr. Dunn, 62, of Quincy, Mass. succumbed to glioblastoma, an aggressive brain cancer, on February 2, only five weeks after being diagnosed. His sudden illness and death came as a shock to his wife, Meredyth, his family and a legion of collector friends. Johnson of Maplewood, Minn. was Minnesota’s first police forensic artist and a charter member of the Saint Paul Police Historical Society. He died on December 20 at age 83. Mohr was among the first serious badge collectors in the Midwest in the 1970s and was active in the hobby for more than 50 years. He died at a senior care center in Orangevale, Calif. on February 7. Mohr was 85.

MSP’s poster child Brian Dunn looked, talked and acted like a state trooper, so much so that he appeared in numerous recruitment posters and photographs for the Massachusetts State Police, the agency he proudly served for 33 years. "When the MSP would do recruiting photos, etc., Brian was usually in those photos. I nicknamed him the 'State Police Poster Child' because of them," recalled longtime friend and fellow Massachusetts collector and show host Richard Pontes. He appeared in uniform standing at rest in front of his cruiser on the front cover of the 1986 book, *Trooper*, by David W. Moran, a collection of stories from the author’s 20-year MSP career. The photo did not go unnoticed by his fellow Massachusetts collectors "Whenever a copy of the book, *Trooper*, came out at a show, we’d ask to see his royalty check for his picture on the cover. He gave us back as good as he got!" said another longtime friend Anthony Kalicki in Massachusetts. According to Dunn’s sister, Kristen Dunn Freeman, her brother became ill at home on Christmas Eve and was taken to the emergency department of a local hospital. After being hospitalized over Christmas, doctors diagnosed glioblastoma, an inoperable and very aggressive cancer of the brain.

Dunn spent the next month in hospice care at Freeman’s home, often fielding telephone calls from collectors and friends and greeting well wishers. Even though he tired easily, he never complained about his illness. Dunn lived in Quincy near Boston for 56 years. He graduated from Boston College High School in 1980 and Roger Williams College in 1984. Dunn was second generation Massachusetts law enforcement. His father, Robert E. Dunn, was a lieutenant colonel with the MSP. He began his 35-year police career as a patrolman in Falmouth on Cape Cod in 1983 before he joined the MSP in 1985. He spent the majority of his career in field services, serving at barracks in Andover, South Boston and the Massachusetts State House. Among his assignments were the Division of Investigative Services Special Services Section and the Violent Fugitive Apprehension Services. He was the recipient of numerous performance awards and commendations for his career accomplishments. Dunn started collecting police insignia in the late 1980s. He became a regular at Pontes’s New England shows and specialized in the MSP and Massachusetts insignia with

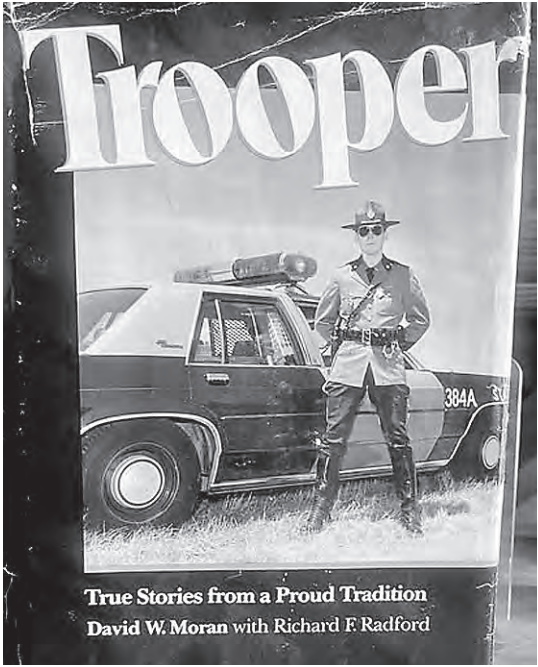


Meredyth and Brian Dunn hosted the very popular Metropolitan Boston Police Collectors Show in Boston for three years before his untimely death. Dunn died on February 2 in Quincy, Mass. of a brain tumor diagnosed last Christmas. He was only 62 years old. *Contributed photograph*



Paul D. Johnson, who died just before Christmas at age 83, was the first forensic police artist in Minnesota. His drawings helped solve dozens of felony cases. Johnson was a history buff and founding member of the Saint Paul Police Historical Society where he created displays. *Contributed photograph*

a special interest in Cape Cod agencies. He created large exhibits of Cape Cod police and fire emblems. "About 40 years ago, I first met Brian when he was a young trooper. He attended my swap meet and was very interested in patch collecting. He asked many questions and enjoyed himself immensely," said Pontes. "He attended most of my shows over the years and got to know and become friends with many of the other collectors, both law enforcement officers and bona fide [civilian] collectors..." Dunn was a founding member of the Massachusetts State Police Museum and helped create many of the exhibits preserving his department’s 160 year history. He served on the board of directors until his death. After Pontes retired as a show host and Dunn retired as a state trooper, he decided



Fellow Massachusetts collector Rich Pontes nicknamed Brian Dunn the "State Police Poster Child" because his friend often appeared in recruitment photos for the Massachusetts State Police. He appeared on the cover of the David W. Moran book, *Trooper*. A well-worn copy at his barracks is shown. *Contributed photograph*

to begin hosting a police insignia show in Boston. With Meredyth at his side, the couple hosted three Metropolitan Boston Police Collectors Show beginning in 2022. It quickly became one of the most popular East Coast shows. He had already announced the 2025 show scheduled for October 5 at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Hall. In addition to police insignia, Dunn was a fan of Irish music, lighthouses and the Boston Bruins. He was a member of the New England Black Sheep with Gary Provenzano, Anthony Kalicki, the late James G. Aitken, William Herald and the late Ed Montague. The group posed for a photo, fittingly with a Barney Fife impersonator, at the 1991 Kansas City National Show. The surviving members gathered for a reunion picture 27 years later at the 2018 show in Marlborough, Mass. Now, Provenzano, Kalicki and Herald are the only remaining Black Sheep.



Surviving members of the New England Black Sheep gathered for a reunion picture at the 2018 National Police Collectors Show in Marlborough, Mass. (Left to right) Gary Provenzano, Tony Kalicki, Jim Aitken, Willie Herald and Brian Dunn pose in of a 1978 MSP Ford cruiser. *Contributed photograph*



Pioneer badge collector Robert “Bob” Mohr died in senior care on February 7 in Orangevale, Calif. He was active in our hobby since the 1970s and specialized in precious metal badges, although he also collected Ohio, Columbus and Franklin County. *Contributed photograph*

“We were known as the Black Sheep due to our fun loving hard drinking, yet very serious memorabilia collecting, that somewhat existed outside of the ‘establishment’s’ idea of the hobby,” said Herald, a retired Kentucky state trooper. Hundreds of mourners, including many New England collector friends, attended his visitation on February 11. Dunn received full law enforcement honors at his funeral and burial in Quincy. The museum sent its 1978 Ford Crown Victoria to the funeral home and church in his honor. It was parked in front of the church as a silent sentinel to his memory. It was also the car the Black Sheep posed in front of in their 2018 reunion photograph. “The Dunn family is extremely grateful for the empathetic caregivers of Beth Israel Hospital and Old Colony Hospice. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Saint Jude’s Children’s Hospital,” read his obituary.

Dedicated to service Paul Johnson was never a cop, but he put a lot of criminals behind bars. As the first certified forensic police artist in Minnesota, he worked for the Saint Paul Police Department and Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and assisted dozens of law enforcement agencies in eastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin help victims identify suspects, leading to dozens of felony apprehensions. Johnson’s uncanny ability to draw lifelike images of criminal suspects based on verbal witness accounts helped solve hundreds of felony cases. He also helped identify bodies by recreating their natural images from autopsy reports and postmortem photos. “God gave me a gift. I can draw. I can put on paper what I see with my eyes and hear with my ears. It’s just something I was born with. Never went to school for it or anything like that,” he told *PCNEWS* during an interview at one of the Saint Paul Police Collector Shows hosted by the late Dave Pasicznyk, Jim Hart and Mike R. Bondarenko. “Now they do what I did with computers. I did it with pencils and a sketch pad. I guess I’m obsolete, but can a computer testify?” he said. Johnson received many awards and recognitions for his forensic artist mastery. Johnson had a passion for Saint Paul history. He was charter member of the Saint Paul Police Historical Society. “Paul was responsible for many of our historical displays and participated in his replica police uniforms as long as he was able,” said former society president Ed Steenberg. He was involved in numerous SPPD investigations over the years. He attended every Saint Paul show at Western District Headquarters, greeting tableholders and spending hours viewing the exhibits. He often helped identify old SPPD artifacts and memorabilia on display. Every tableholder was thanked for their efforts. Johnson also had a passion for the Boy Scouts of America. After becoming an Eagle Scout while attending North Saint Paul High School and serving in the United States Army for two years, he became a Scoutmaster for many years and attended World Jamborees in Australia, Japan and Norway. He hosted numerous trips to Scout camps in Minnesota and Wisconsin. He volunteered with the Saint Paul Police Explorers. Johnson was eulogized for his life of public service at his funeral in Saint Paul on January 23. He is buried in his beloved city.



Bob Mohr got his start in law enforcement as a military police officer, then spent 20 years as a patrol sergeant and detective with the Franklin County, O. Sheriffs Department. He retired to work in corporate security. Mohr lived in Ohio and Hawaii before moving to California. *Contributed photograph*

Pioneer badge collector Bob Mohr was among the pioneer badge collectors in the Midwest. When he started in the hobby in the 1970s, his peers were such notables as John J. Connors, Pat Olvey, George E. Virgines, Jack Watkins, Jim Kelledy and like, many of whom preceded him in death. Even though they were often rivals for badges, Connors and Mohr had great respect for each other and their hobby accomplishments. “Mohr has an elite collection. He is a serious collector,” said Connors. Mohr called Connors “one of the top badge collectors. He knows what he’s talking about.” Mohr began collecting badges when he was with the Franklin County, O. Sheriffs Department where he served for 20 years as a patrol sergeant and then a detective. A Columbus native and proud Ohio State University graduate, joined Franklin County after two years in the United States Army where he served as a military police officer in Korea. He retired from law enforcement to become a corporate security specialist for a company that insures credit unions. Mohr’s jobs caused him to travel throughout Ohio and the Upper Midwest, especially his security position. He utilized his travel experiences to seek out badges for his collection by meeting sheriffs and police chiefs. Initially, his collection centered on Ohio and Columbus and Franklin County in particular. However, he soon developed a passion for badges created from precious metals, especially gold presentation pieces. He added historic Hawaii badges to his interests after his wife retired and the couple moved to Honolulu. “I’d rather have one frame of quality badges than a couple tables full of common badges,” he once told *PCNEWS* at a Columbus area show. “These are the best badges ever made, especially the older ones.” Mohr moved to California following the death of his wife in 2018 where he befriended fellow Orangevale residents and badge collectors Jim Casey and the late Budd Johnson and Al Mize. They often gathered for coffee or lunch, swapping badge tales, the latest hobby happenings and, of course, war stories. Mohr’s health declined in the last few years. He spent his final days in a senior care facility. Casey visited him almost every day and took him to places he was interested in, such as Folsom Prison. Mohr was an occasional guest columnist for *PCNEWS*, most recently contributing stories on the most interesting precious metal badges in his collection. Quiet and unassuming, Mohr was the type of collector who let his badges speak for him. He exemplified the qualities of a serious, dedicated badge collector and historian. MIKE R. BONDARENKO (Baldwin, Wis.)



Donald E. Brockman, known around the world as “The Patch Man,” died in hospice care in Milwaukee, Wis., his beloved hometown where he served 30 years as a police officer. Brockman was 93. He had an extensive worldwide collection of law enforcement collection with a Wisconsin emphasis. *Contributed photograph*

Milwaukee’s Patch Man, Donald Brockman, 93, Died February 25

MILWAUKEE, Wis. – Donald E. Brockman, better known as “The Patch Man,” of Milwaukee, Wis., died on February 25 in hospice care at a nursing home where he lived the final years of his life. He was 93. “Donation made to [the] Academy of everything [left] in the basement,” announced Brockman in a handwritten note to longtime friend, Editor Mike R. Bondarenko, last November. “Having [health] problems. Not going home.” Brockman collected worldwide law enforcement insignia for more than 50 years, but Wisconsin was his specialty, along with 28 different categories. He was a serious, dedicated collector who maintained longstanding correspondences with fellow officers and collectors around the world, including Germany, England and Norway, among others. He was a popular *PCNEWS* columnist for more than 20 years, writing as “The Patch Man,” always encouraging new collectors to build displays and show their collections. Following the death of his wife, Jacqueline, in 2020, Brockman experienced health issues which necessitated moving into an assisted care facility. He donated most of his incredible collection to the Milwaukee Police Historical Society soon afterward. His final donation to the Academy included the last few remaining displays, his personal favorites, that he still kept in the basement of his Milwaukee home. Brockman was a second generation Milwaukee police officer, following in the footsteps of his father, William Brockman, who also retired from the department. He joined his beloved MPD as a patrolman in 1956 following his discharge from the United States Army. He was a veteran of combat in South Korea during the Korean Conflict. Brockman volunteered for Stars and Stripes Honor Flights in Milwaukee, meeting and greeting veterans at the airport when they returned home. He went on his own Honor Flight in 2016 with a retired MPD sergeant as his guardian. Brockman’s visitation will be Friday, April 4 from 9 am to 11 am at his beloved Our Lady of the Lourdes Catholic Church, 3722 South 58th Street, in Milwaukee. A Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 11 am. *PCNEWS* will publish a tribute to “The Patch Man” in the May-June edition. Our thanks to David Baker and the Milwaukee Police Historical Society for their assistance with this death notice. EDITOR



Georgia/Southeastern Regional co-host Elton Rosser (left) poses with Jeremy Henry, who founded the show, which was held in Norman Park in South Georgia. Henry and his wife, Selena, hosted the first three shows, then retired as hosts. He remains active in the hobby and the NPPD. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Huge Success Makes Georgia Shows Great Again

The Georgia/Southeast Regional Patch, Badge and Coin Show on February 15 in Forsyth south of Atlanta was the first in the Peach State in six years. Elton Rosser and Jay Etheridge hosted a hugely successful 60-table sellout at the Monroe County Conference Center.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

FORSYTH, Ga. – Elton Rosser came up with a catchy advertising slogan for the rekindled Georgia/Southeast Regional Patch, Badge and Challenge Coin Show, “Making Georgia Patch Shows Great Again.” Little did he know it would become prophetic.

Georgia surged back onto the hobby map like a Bulldog running back diving head first into the end zone with its first show in six years on Saturday, February 15 at the Monroe County Conference Center in Forsyth about an hour south of Atlanta.

Rosser and co-host Jay Etheridge put together an outstanding show, reminiscent of the 2018 event in Forsyth, the last previous Georgia show, and the great swap meets and exhibits that Jeremy and Selena Henry hosted in Norman Park.

Forsyth was a 60-table sellout and attracted badge, patch and challenge coin collectors from throughout the Peach State, as well as neighboring Florida, Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina and Tennessee. It was truly a regional event, but it also drew hobbyists from as far away as Kentucky, Maryland, Texas, Wisconsin and Montreal, Quebec.

Walk-in traffic was steady throughout the day. Rosser and Etheridge welcomed 67 walk-ins, bringing tableholders, assistants and non-tableholders total attendance to nearly 130! It’s been said many times it is difficult to bring a show back after a long hiatus, but Rosser and Etheridge more than accomplished their goal.

“The turnout was better than we could have hoped for! Everybody I talked with seemed to be happy,” said Rosser. “I saw a lot of familiar faces I was glad to see again, and some new ones, which was great.”

Henry and his wife, Selena, who hosted first three swap meets, attended Forsyth and were thrilled by the strong response. “It’s just great to see this. Elton did a great job. He did everything we did and added some things on his own. Good to see the Georgia hobby going again,” he said.

Henry is still with Norman Park PD, while Selena still teaches at the elementary school in town. And, yes, Henry is still collecting Georgia. “I still have everything. I’ve been adding some here and there. Might find a bunch today!”

While Rosser told me at the show that he and Etheridge would host an encore in February 2027, he revealed afterward that February 2026 is seriously being considered. “A lot of folks want us to do it,” he said.



Doug Sarubbi (right) of Orlando, Fla. was awarded the “Best Display-First Place” award. Elton Rosser made the presentation. Sarubbi was honored for his museum-quality exhibit of law enforcement insignia, artifacts and memorabilia from across the United States. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Georgia/Southeast Regional was another display contest win for Doug Sarubbi. He brought yet another beautifully-done exhibit, somewhat different from the showing he made on January 25 in Cocoa, Fla. His Orange County Sheriffs Office patch display is shown. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Perhaps he will consider a new slogan, “Keeping Georgia Patch Shows Great,” or something like that, for next time, whenever it is, because after February 15 in Forsyth, Georgia shows *are* great again!

Complete sellout Heavy demand put tableholder Palmetto State Coins in the foyer outside the hall near the main entrance to the building, which turned into a prime location. The hall could be expanded into an adjacent unused hall, which would create a much larger facility.

“We’re slam dunk full. We can’t get any room tables in here,” said Rosser shortly after the hall opened for tableholders at eight o’clock. “I’ve got some out in the foyer, but that’s it.



Alexander Hamilton founded the United States Revenue Cutter Service in 1790 when it was named U.S. Revenue-Marine and placed under the Treasury Department. It took on its new name in 1894. Doug Sarubbi has one of final badge issues in his fine collection. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

We are sold out. Feels great to say that!”

Tableholders were from Georgia unless noted on this roster provided by the hosts:

Hal Daniel, Leonard Hanham (South Carolina), Gary Teragawa, Dave Henry, Daymon Ellsworth, Mike R. Bondarenko (Wisconsin), Doug Sarubbi (Florida), Bill Charles, Billy Lashley, Bill Burks, Caleb Alexander, John Homa, Steve Bridges (Florida), Lance Fisher (Florida), Xaxier Oo, Dave Teems (Florida), Vince Mixon, Jay Bartlett, Pete Reid (Florida), Manny Rodriguez (Florida), Marty Bozeman, Jim Hardy, Noah Stubbs (North Carolina), Bob Gelb (Alabama) and Ron Bartholome.



(Top) A look at Doug Sarubbi’s recently expanded United States Customs Service collection shows his rare Revenue Cutter Service badge from the 1800s (bottom center). (Bottom) He has a very impressive collection from the United States Marshals Service. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Gary Teragawa put his outstanding Georgia law enforcement badge collection on display for the first time in Forsyth. The veteran collector got into Peach State badges in 2008 and has been working on his collection ever since. He is with his Columbia SO set. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

The Georgia Special Operations Radio Team, founded by Rick Wolverton, a retired Macon police sergeant, was also a tableholder and promoted the volunteer amateur radio organization. According to Wolverton and other members, SORT volunteers can respond to disasters and cataclysmic events throughout the state to provide emergency communications. Members have deployed to communities stricken by tornadoes, floods, fires and similar disasters.

Sarubbi award winner Florida collector and historian Doug Sarubbi of Orlando was presented with the “Best Display-First Place” award for another world class exhibit.



The holy grail in Gary Teragawa’s collection is the State Patrol-like Bureau of Investigation investigator badge on the left. It’s one of only two in private collections. On the right is the short-lived Division of Investigation shield from the early 1970s when Jimmy Carter was governor. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Rosser made the presentation about noon as collectors applauded the selection. Sarubbi covered four tables with beautifully done displays from his vast collection. His exhibit differed from the recent “Space Coast” show in Cocoa, Fla. He replaced several collections with exhibits not previously shown. “I picked up an old U.S. Revenue Cutter Service badge at Titusville and just put it in the collection. It’s a really old one. It’s in pretty good shape,” said Sarubbi. He added it as the centerpiece of his United States Customs collection. The Revenue Cutter Service was part of the Treasury Department. It was authorized by Congress in 1790, eight years before formation of the United States Navy. It was founded as the Revenue-Marine by Alexander Hamilton. Renamed the Revenue Cutter Service in 1894, the small fleet of armed sailing ships carried revenue agents who enforced tariffs and collected taxes for goods imported into the United States. Agents also ensured that incoming ships obeyed maritime laws while in U.S. coastal waters.



(Top) Oldies but goodies! Chief deputy sheriff from Ben Hill County and Bibb County sheriff’s patrolman, a unusual rank in a sheriffs office, are old style. (Bottom) Old and new! Augusta City Marshal and Chickamauga PD, which is a handsome, modern oval. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Gary Teragawa's Georgia collection covered multiple tables. His Columbia County SO patches are on the far left, followed by three frames of state agency, county sheriffs and municipal police stars and shields. Many of his badges are long obsolete and in high ranks. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

The Revenue Cutter Service was disbanded in 1915, so even its final badge issues are obviously very rare. Sarubbi said he was thrilled to come up with one at Karen and Steve Bridges’ show. Sarubbi had a nice collection of Florida Highway Patrol badges, as well as 21 displays of his signature badge and patch sets. There were also four frames of Orange County Sheriffs Office patches. Rosser said the display contest judge was a retired local Georgia law enforcement officer. His identity was not disclosed. The handsome award was a state-shaped wooden plaque with a smaller metal plaque



Hal Daniel offered several displays from Georgia. Among them were state agencies (left) and Cherokee County Sheriffs Department where he worked for nearly 30 years before moving to Pickens County. He has been collecting Georgia for 30 years and loves the hobby. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

reading, “This award is for the hard work and creativity for putting together the best patch display at the 2025 Georgia Southeastern Patch Show in Forsyth, Georgia.” A full color depiction of the show logo appears at the top.

Teragawa pitches change-up Major League Baseball’s spring training season was just starting the weekend of the show as Grapefruit League teams reported to camps in nearby Florida, so it was certainly appropriate that longtime collector and historian Gary Teragawa tossed a change-up. Having retired from California to Georgia, Teragawa has been actively collecting Georgia badges since 2008. He had never shown his collection before, always opting to display his extensive California Highway Patrol exhibit. But not in Forsyth, where he displayed Georgia badges. “[It’s the] first time I’ve ever shown it,” said Teragawa. “It’s not as big as California, but there are some nice pieces.” And how! Actually, Teragawa has a powerhouse collection with numerous old styles, rank badges and state agencies. Patches dominate the Peach State hobby, making his extensive badge collection even more significant. He chose two badges from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) as the best of his Georgia collection. The first is pre-1974 when the agency was part of the state public safety department. It’s a small silver-colored shield with blue enamel and the state seal in a style very similar to older State Patrol shields. “BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION” is lettered in silver on a blue enamel ring around the state seal in the center. “INVESTIGATOR” appears on the rank



Hall Daniel and his daughter, Chloe, are shown with his massive collection of Georgia sheriff department “round browns,” mostly from the 1970s. All 159 counties are represented, although he has placeholders for five counties he needs. A few counties used the style only briefly. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Ron Bartholome showed his fine badge collection from the Hartford, Conn. Police Department. It features one of each of the department's five badge styles, circa 1860-1921, 1921-1960, 1960-1982, 1982-1989 and 1989-present. He accents it with a hat wreath and patch. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Georgia Show ...Continued

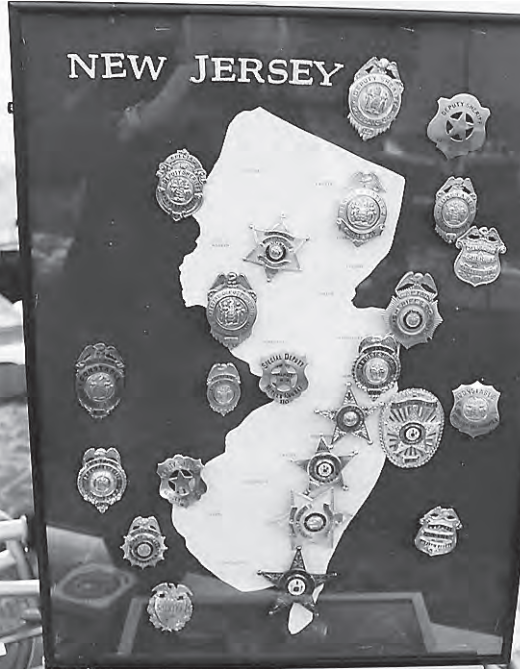
panel at the bottom in blue letters.

The other badge is from the brief period when the GBI was renamed the Division of Investigation (GDI). It's a large gold-colored shield with a small state seal, an eagle in flight and legends reading, "STATE OF GEORGIA/ DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION/ 153."

Teragawa obtained the old Bureau badge several years ago from longtime fellow Georgia collector Jim Hardy of Thomasville.

"What they did was copy the State Patrol. The one he [Teragawa] has is the only one I've seen like it, other than the one in my collection," said Hardy.

Hardy offered background on the large gold Division shield:



How about this for a great New Jersey badge display?! Pete Reid showed it in Forsyth. It features a wide variety of Garden State county sheriff badges, mostly obsolete styles. He added a few constables badges for good measure. NJ sheriffs wore a variety of styles. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

"When Jimmy Carter was governor [1971 to 1975], he renamed them from a bureau to a division. They changed back to bureau after he left office. That's what they were always called. They didn't like the name being changed."

Hardy got the badges from an investigator, "so they are the real deal," he said.

State government underwent a reorganization under Governor Carter, particularly the Department of Public Safety. The future president renamed GBI to GDI as part of the reorganization. Then, with approval from the Legislature, the Division of Investigation was severed from the DPS in 1974 to become an independent agency, which it remains today. It is headquartered in Dekalb County near Atlanta.

As Hardy explained, it is still known as the Bureau of Investigation today.

Teragawa featured a couple large frames of Georgia police and sheriff badges, all different styles, some current, but many obsolete. It was interesting to see that Georgia is all over the map badge-wise. Many departments wear very traditional, so-called catalog-style badges, while others, such as Chickamauga PD, sport colorful, modern ovals.

He had a big frame of mostly older styles from across the state. Many carry interesting



Pete Reid showed this collection from the Newark Police Department. It features mostly obsolete patches, a couple badges and a few awards. The telephone lineman patch is shown in the upper right. He said there are others in this style he's missing. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



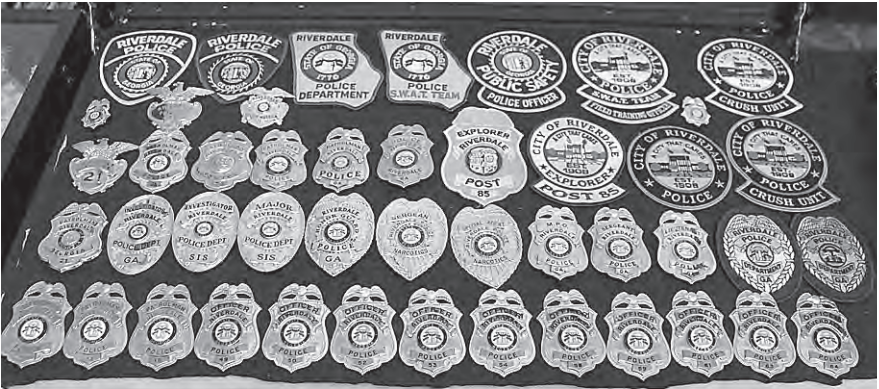
Daymon Ellsworth staged an excellent exhibit with frames devoted to Georgia police and fire departments. He also showed some industrial security agency emblems. Ellsworth is a retired firefighter and says he primarily collects fire but also has a nice police array. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

titles, such Board of Corrections guard from Lee County or Special Guard of the Infantry Center. I wonder if it came from the National Infantry Museum and Center in Columbus, Ga.? No matter where it's from, it's a neat piece.

There was a frame of sheriff department badges, many in the rank of sheriff. Georgia sheriffs don't have a badge standardization law like Florida sheriffs, so there are stars, shields, eagle-tops, sunbursts, etc. Pretty much anything and everything, which stands to reason since the state has 159 counties, second only to Texas with 254. So many counties means a lot of different styles. Georgia has them all.

His sheriff frame showed the often sharp contrast between old and new badges. There was a eagle-topped shield for a chief deputy in Ben Hill County and a large, modern six-point star from Grady County. It's gold with blue enamel.

Teragawa devoted two large frames to a wide variety of Georgia police and sheriffs departments, again illustrating the wide variety of badge styles around the state.



A look at Daymon Ellsworth's outstanding collection from the Riverdale, Ga. Police Department. The city is in the Atlanta area and close to the airport. He worked for the fire department. Ellsworth has an equally impressive Riverdale fire collection he also displayed. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

A display showed several different Georgia State Patrol shields, including some older styles and obsolete issues, including communications, examiner, senior examiner, chief examiner, the commissioner's badge with full color flags and GSP shield number "1," which is gold, among others.

Additional state agencies, obsolete and current, represented were Drivers Services, Ports Authority Police, Building Authority, Capitol Security, Corrections and several colleges and universities.

Teragawa works part-time for the Columbia County Sheriffs Office in Appling and has a great collection from the agency, a full set of patches and a complete rank set from sheriff on down. All are gold-colored seven-point stars with full color state seals.

I've been to quite a few Georgia shows over the years and have seen few extensive badge collections like Teragawa's on display. Great patch collections, yes, but precious few badge displays. I'm sure there are fine Georgia badge collections "out there," but they aren't seen at shows very often, so this was a treat for me and other Forsyth attendees.

Biggest Georgia display I didn't measure it, nor did I ask Hal Daniel how big it is, but the Pickens County deputy sheriff definitely had the largest single exhibit in Forsyth, size-wise, at least!

Daniel showed his nearly complete collection of so-called "round brown" Georgia sheriff patches on a large brown canvas attached to a massive frame. It's got to be about six feet high and five or six feet wide. Fortunately, it comes apart, so he can transport it.

"I've got a complete set of round browns, except for Bibb, Camden, Muskogee, Richmond and Warren. I put in generic sheriff patches for those counties. If I could find them, I'd have a set. I've been looking for years. I'll keep on until I find them," said Daniel.



Among Daymon Ellsworth's interests are industrial security patches and badges. Originally from Lansing, Mich., many of his family members worked for General Motors, so he collects GM Security and Fire insignia. He is also interested in other industrial security insignia. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Dave Henley showing of a rare Cobbstown, Ga. police patch created a hubbub among serious Peach State collectors. “A lot of guys want it,” he said. Henley got his prize from the son of the town’s only police officer many years ago. “COBBTOWN” was added to a generic. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

He explained that in the 1970s, the Georgia Sheriffs Association (GSA) came up with the round brown design and asked member sheriffs to adopt it for their departments. Many counties wore a variety of uniform colors in the ‘50s, ‘60’s, ‘70s, etc. GSA wanted sheriff departments to have a distinctive look emphasizing the color brown.

Of the 159 counties, four wore round browns only briefly, then went to different styles, Barien, Douglas, Jenkins and Houston. Daniel has Houston but still needs the others.

“Those are even harder to find. These departments are small and maybe had only ten or so patches made. They’re kind of like patch unicorns down here,” said Daniel.

The effort to urge sheriff departments to wear brown met with mixed results, although most counties did adopt the standard round brown patch, at least for a while, Daniel said. “It was kind of a mixed bag. Some went along. Some did not. You know how some sheriffs



Jim Hardy has set of gold-colored bullion badges from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (left) and the short-lived Georgia Division of Investigation (right). These badges are presented to retirees. Governor Jimmy Carter renamed the agency, but it changed back when he left office. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

are, ‘Nobody is gonna tell me what I can wear,’ and that kind of stuff.”

Daniel had other Georgia exhibits:

- ...a frame of mostly subdued SWAT and other tactical insignia.
- ...police departments in Cherokee County where he once worked.
- ...state agencies.
- ...Cherokee County Sheriffs Departments.
- ...agencies with “Cherokee” in their names from throughout the USA.
- ...traffic enforcement emblems. (The collector was a traffic deputy for 28 years in Cherokee County. Now he works at the Pickens County Jail.)
- ...Cobb County emblems.
- ...challenge coins statewide. (He enjoys challenge coins but doesn’t intend to become a serious collector. “I’m just a patch guy,” he said.)

There were several large binders displaying segments of his Georgia collections, municipal police, sheriffs and state agencies.

He also had some Georgia fire patches. His brother-in-law is a 30-year veteran firefighter, and his grandfather was a reserve firefighter and police officer, so he collects fire patches, but police is his primary interest.

“This is a labor of love for me. I’ve been a cop for 30 years. I want to save our history,” said Daniel.

Daniel had been collecting on his own for years. He was unaware of the organized hobby. He estimates 75-percent of his collection was obtained through trades he made in person. (That’s hand-to-hand or H2H for online abbreviation devotees. Sheesh...)



Veteran Georgia hobbyist and reference book publisher Dave Henley put up a nice display from his collection. Patch boards on either side flank an exhibit of police vehicle photos surrounding a set of license plates. Henley also brought some police jackets for show. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



State agency state shapes from Jim Hardy’s impressive collection. (Top) State of Georgia SWAT, a subdued style, and Georgia Probation from the Corrections Department. (Bottom) Old and newer Georgia Campus Patrol emblems from the Department of Campus Safety. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

It’s refreshing to meet a collector like Daniel, a true hobbyist, who enjoys trading in person with fellow law enforcement officers and is always on the lookout for things he still needs. He doesn’t sell anything and loves to show his collection, traits reminiscent of our hobby when I started collecting in 1980.

Fine Hartford collection Ron Bartholome showed an impressive collection from the Hartford, Conn. Police Department. It’s a complete badge style collection showing all five department issue badges, (approximate dates) 1860 to 1921, 1921 to 1960, 1960 to 1982, 1982 to 1989 and 1989 to present.

He augmented the shields with a gold-on-black square shoulder patch and numbered hat wreath, creating a fine exhibit from a state capital city.

The first issue is an ornate silver-colored shield that shows considerable wear. The city seal is depicted as the center design. An eagle with wings spread was added on top of the seal. Beneath the seal is the Latin motto, “POST NUBILA PHOEBUS,” which means, “After the clouds, the sun,” probably referring to the coastal climate. The legend, “HARTFORD/ POLICE,” is lettered above the eagle.

Long defunct manufacturer T.M. Parker in Hartford made police badges for the city in this era.

The second issue is also a silver-colored pinched shield. It has a raised dots background with a cutout number, “97,” as the center design. Legends appear on silver banners, “HARTFORD,” at the top, “POLICE” beneath the seal and “CONN.” on the bottom.

Bartholome’s third issue is a similar design, only the three-digit number, “204,” is applied to the badge face, not cutout as on second issues. It has a plain background.

Hartford’s fourth badge is a slightly differently shaped pinched shield with a brighter finish. The number is still applied to the front, “69,” in somewhat larger numbers.

The current badge is an entirely different style. It’s a silver-colored custom die with black top and bottom panels. A full color enamel seal comprises the center design, which is surrounded by a silver eagle-topped wreath in excellent detail. A blue field with five silver stars is wedged between the top panel and the eagle. “POLICE” is seen in silver legends on the top panel, while “OFFICER/ POLICE” completes the design on the bottom panel.

Hartford PD was founded in 1860, although the city had citizen patrols and constables back to 1636. The first police station opened in 1898.

Riverdale insignia collections Daymon Ellsworth is a former Riverdale



(Top) Subdued and full color styles from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division. (Bottom) Emblems from the Georgia State Patrol, Canine (left) and Radio Operator (right), are based on the state troopers’ shoulder patch. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Georgia Show ...Continued

firefighter who retired after 24 years on the job. Even though he is a serious Georgia police patch collector, he considers himself primarily a fire insignia collector.

Ellsworth’s Forsyth exhibit was a mixture of police and fire. He showed his extensive Riverdale police and fire collections, as well as industrial security emblems, particularly from General Motors.

“I’m from Lansing, Michigan. A lot of my family retired from GM, so I started collecting their security patches and badges. I’ve got quite a few,” he said.

His exhibit was reminiscent of the Ford Motor Company security emblems often displayed by the late Anthony Rzucidlo of Dearborn Heights, Mich., only Ellsworth’s are from Ford’s arch rival, GM.

Ellsworth’s fire interests include Georgia, the military, airports, industrial, Florida, North and South Carolina and Alabama.

His police collection includes Georgia, universities and college, hospital police and security and industrial security.

Another interest is what he calls “oddball security,” meaning private industrial security emblems with unusual names or designs.

Ellsworth apologized that some of his displays looked like “they were thrown together, but I was up ‘til 12:30 last night putting some together for this show,” he said. If they looked “thrown together” to him, I didn’t see it. His displays looked just fine to me.

Riverdale is adjacent to Atlanta. It’s near Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the nation’s busiest with the highest number of takeoffs, landings and passengers, 108 million in 2024. an all-time record.

“The place runs 24 hours. It never stops. We were always responding to something at or near the airport. I liked the job, but it’s always busy,” said Ellsworth.

Cobbtown Police Department Longtime Georgia collector and reference book publisher Dave Henley tantalized attendees with a very rare emblem in one of his displays, Cobbtown Police Department. It’s an obsolete style from a small town one-man agency that went defunct years ago.

“Everybody’s interested in it. Most guys have never seen one,” explained Henley. “It’s from a little town in Tattnall County in southeast Georgia.”

Henley was on a patch collecting trip years ago and stopped in Cobbtown, a town of less than 350 people. “I did some looking round and found a man whose father was the town police officer. He cut a patch off of his dad’s shirt and gave it to me,” he said.

The yellow and gold tombstone shape has a red, white and peach-colored state seal on a light blue background bordered in gold as the center design. It’s a generic style. It appears as though “COBBTOWN” was sewn into the emblem at the top above “POLICE.” “GA.” appears at the bottom.

Cobbtown was among two frames of Georgia police patches and a large frame showing police vehicles and license plates. He had a panoramic picture of his Georgia patch displays arranged side-by-side.

Henley also had some law enforcement jackets displayed on a large state flag.

Another Newark exhibit Former New Jersey police officer Pete Reid, who had a second law enforcement career after moving to Florida, brought several outstanding New Jersey insignia displays. His first service as a police officer was in New Jersey.

Reid put together a large frame with a green state outline on a blue background showing about 25 mostly obsolete county sheriff badges, including very old styles, as well as some constable badges.

He had a state agency badge exhibit and a nice Newark Police Department collection, mostly old emblem styles and a couple badges.

There was a round gold-on-black patch for a Newark PD telephone lineman. I had never seen a police telephone lineman patch before, but it certainly makes sense since police relied on call boxes for communications long before radios. Call boxes are actually direct line telephones. Repairmen and lineman would have been needed to maintain them, especially in a large city like Newark.

Reid showed two others in this style, identification officer and property room. He knows of two others he is missing.

He had a large display of law enforcement forensic emblems, such as crime scene investigation and the like, as well.

Hardy’s state shapes Jim Hardy had a nice exhibit highlighted by his large (as in about four feet high and three feet wide) state-shaped display of Georgia state shapes. It’s a wooden plaque upon which are mounted patches from police, sheriff and state agencies that wear state shapes. It garnered a great deal of attention.

Rather than show the entire plaque, I noted a few of the most interesting designs:
...State of Georgia SWAT shows a round black background emblem attached to the large state shape, also with a black background. The design appears on the round emblem; it’s green, yellow and red and shows a green state outline, yellow lightning bolt and red rifle scope crosshairs. The legends are “STATE OF GEORGIA” in red at the top and “SWAT” in yellow at the bottom.

...Georgia Probation features the Department of Corrections logo depicting the state seal in gold on black. It has a black background and gold outer border.

...A duo of campus police patches show old and new styles.



Floridians Naps and Donuts Designs created this handsome commemorative emblem for the Georgia/Southeastern Regional Patch, Badge and Challenge Coin show. Georgian Jay Bartlett produced the official show badge. It’s a unique design with a state shape center. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

The old style is all yellow-on-black except for the round state seal center which has a white background. The legends read, “GEORGIA/ STATE” at the top and “CAMPUS/ POLICE” on the bottom.

His newer style closely resembles the State Patrol insignia with a full color state seal on a peach-colored background. “STATE OF GEORGIA” surrounds the seal at the top with “DEPARTMENT OF CAMPUS SAFETY” at the bottom.

...Two state conservation emblems have full color and subdued styles.

The full color design has a gray background with green legends and black border. The round center design is the state seal in gold bordered in black with “1776” in black numerals. There is a black ring around the seal with “LAW ENFORCEMENT/ DIVISION” in green. Large green letters at the top read, “GEORGIA” at the top and “DEPARTMENT OF/ NATURAL RESOURCES.”

The subdued version is identical, except the design is black on light green. The center design is dark green. The round state seal has a gray background.

...Two Georgia State Patrol styles are canine and radio operator.

Canine is subdued with a dark green background and black borders. A black, tan, brown and white German shepherd head is depicted on a tan background as the center design surrounded by an outer ring upon which appears “STATE OF GEORGIA/ DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY” in tan letters. “GEORGIA” is shown at the top, and “STATE PATROL” at the bottom, all in black letters.

Radio Operator is identical to the troopers’ patch, except the lettering reads “RADIO” at the top and “OPERATOR” at the bottom in white lettering.

...Ashburn Police Traffic Enforcement and Berlin Police Department are municipal state shapes.

Ashburn’s traffic unit is known as S.T.E.P., which abbreviates Safety and Traffic Enforcement Patrol. It’s black with white legends. The state seal appears in blue as the center design. It is bordered in blue inside a red-bordered outer ring upon which is seen “CITY OF ASHBURN/ GEORGIA” in red letters. “ASHBURN/ POLICE/ S.T.E.P. UNIT” comprises the top, while “TRAFFIC/ ENFORCEMENT” is lettered at the bottom. These are white legends.

Berlin PD has a Kelly green background bordered in gold and gold legends. It features the state seal as the center design in gold with green letters and a light blue center. It is surrounded by a green rope border. “CITY OF BERLIN/ GEORGIA/ ESTABLISHED 1910” is shown at the top, while “POLICE/ DEPARMENT” completes the design at the bottom. There is a gold border.

After I asked him about the Division of Investigation badge, Hardy told me agents wore suits with armbands, much like United States Marshals. He has blue and black bands that have the agency’s cloth badge on them in his collection.

He also showed a set of beautiful bullion thread Division of Investigation and Bureau of Investigation badges that the agency presented to retirees. These are very high quality pieces and not easy to find. The Division piece is even harder to obtain.

Georgia show notebook Random thoughts, news and bits and pieces scribbled in my Forsyth notebook:

...**Adam Green**, a longtime subscriber from Alabama, stopped by the *PCNEWS* table to introduce himself. He revealed he is considering organizing a new show in his state.

“Right now, it’s just in the thinking stage. I’d have to find a good location somewhere in the state, then get a place to have it, but I’m looking at it. It would be nice to have an Alabama show,” said Green. He promised he will keep us posted if he is able to put one together.

Green lives in Gallant in Etowah County in northeastern Alabama.

...**Patches** dominated Forsyth and were up for grabs by the thousands, at mostly reasonable prices. A great thing about shows in the South is prices are far lower than on either coast, especially the West Coast.

Some badges were available but paled in comparison to patches.

...Challenge coins were well represented as well. The largest display was by **Palmetto State Coins** from South Carolina. Unfortunately, I didn’t get a chance to interview their representatives, but they had some really pretty coins for sale on their tables.

Like pretty much everywhere else, challenge coins are red hot in the South and have evolved into a sub-hobby all their own. A few tableholders offered nothing but coins. Prices ranged from about \$10 to \$25. A few premium coins commanded higher prices.

Interestingly, there were only a handful of coin displays. Many collectors show their challenge coins on racks, rather than inside frames, which makes them difficult to transport and show. “I’d have to tear down my racks and put them back together twice, once here and once back at home,” a collector told me. “Plus, they’d be uncovered. I don’t like that.”

...**Dave Teems** is the Leon County, Fla. Sheriffs Office historian. He showed badges belonging to Sheriff J.R. Jones, the only sheriff in state history ever removed from office. He provided a lot of background information on the sheriff and his badges, so much so that it deserves a story all its own. It will appear in the May-June edition. Be on the lookout for it; it’s a great piece of Florida sheriff history.

...When I saw **Robert Matia**, a Maryland collector, checking out the tables, I couldn’t help but ask him, “Are you as crazy as me?,” since we both traveled long distances to attend the show.

“Yup! My wife and I drove 15 hours to get here, but we took our time. We’re making a long weekend of it,” responded Matia. “I’m having a great time. This is a good show.”

...Naps and Donuts Designs created the official show patch, a handsome Georgia state shape. The oversize center design is a gold star denoting Forsyth with green lines representing the major interstate and major highways most hobbyists drove to attend, I-20, I-75, I-16 and I-85. It’s very nicely done.

...Georgia collector **Jay Bartlett** created a neat state-shaped challenge coin for the show, as well as a commemorative badge. The coin shows the show patch on one side with the state seal over the state flag on the other. The show badge is a five-point circled silver-colored star style, but the star is replaced by the state outline showing the state seal. He did a fine job on both insignia.

...A very positive comment from North Carolina collector **John Styron** was posted on the show Facebook page: “I wanted to tell everyone involved at the show thank you. It was definitely worth the drive from Coastal Carolina, and we look forward to attending again. We met some great folks...”

...Paula and I stayed near the airport in Atlanta, so we didn’t get to the Friday evening table setup and get-together at **Buckner’s**, a very popular restaurant in Jackson near Forsyth. Rosser said the place has the best genuine Southern cooking he’s ever had. That’s a mouthful coming from a native Georgian because there are an awful lot of places offering “real Southern home cookin’.”

...We drove by the **Georgia Public Safety Training Center** just off I-75 in Forsyth. The place is a massive thousand acres in size and looks like it has everything and anything for quality training, such as a big driving track, firearms building and ranges, a mock village and much, much more. It provides basic and advanced training for all state and local agencies around the area.

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (Baldwin, Wis.)

Robert Beath Honored Robert Beath, longtime Australian collector and owner of Hunter Insignia in New South Wales, Australia has been honored with the 2025 “Best Patch and Badge Manufacturer-New South Wales” by *Corporate Vision*, an Australian business development digital magazine. The award was presented to Beath in January. He designs and produces metal badges, cloth emblems and challenge coins for public safety agencies across New South Wales, Queensland and elsewhere Down Under.



The untimely death of longtime collector and retired Massachusetts State Trooper Brian Dunn on February 2 sent shock waves through the tightly knit Massachusetts collecting community. Dunn and his wife, Meredith, hosted three successful shows in Boston. *Contributed photograph*

Massachusetts Hobbyists Remember Brian Dunn

SPECIAL – The tragic death of Brian Dunn sent shock waves through the tightly knit Massachusetts collector community, as well as to his numerous hobby friends throughout the East Coast and beyond.

As news of his sudden illness and subsequent untimely death spread far and wide, tributes poured in immediately. These include poignant remembrances, heartwarming anecdotes and acknowledgments of sincere, longstanding friendship.

A sampling of tributes from his fellow Massachusetts collectors and his sister, Kristen Dunn Freeman, who welcomed him into her home during his final days in hospice care, underscores the affection his friends and family held for him.

Richard Pontes welcomed Dunn to his long-running New England shows and knew him for 40 years:

“About 40 years ago, I first met Brian when he was a young trooper. He attended my swap meet and was very interested in patch collecting. He asked many questions and enjoyed himself immensely.

“He attended most of my shows over the years and got to know and become friends with many of the other collectors, both law enforcement officers and bona fide collectors. He was always polite and respectful with a dry sense of humor.

“The Massachusetts State Police would do recruiting photos, etc., and Brian was usually in those photos. I nicknamed him the “State Police Poster Child” because of them. I would see him at various shows, and we’d talk for a few minutes. At the National in Massachusetts, I met Meredith, his girlfriend who later became his wife, a very nice lady.

“As the New England swap meets started to wind down, he decided to start it up again in the Boston area. It was an immediate success. He always referred to me as a legend because I started the hobby in New England and many of my ideas were incorporated into other shows. At his first show, he honored me with a plaque which I proudly display in my home.

“When I heard news of his illness, I was in shock and when he passed, to say I was devastated is an understatement. The law enforcement community, the collecting community, his family and numerous friends have all suffered a tremendous loss.

Rest in peace, my friend, and may God be with you!”

When Pontes posted Dunn’s death announcement on Facebook, he received more than 800 responses from only five sites.

A fellow New England Black Sheep, Anthony Kalicki offered that Dunn had a wicked sense of humor:

“I learned that my friend, Brian Dunn, passed away. We lost one of the good ones. He was a dedicated trooper, a good son, a brother, a husband, a founding member of the New England Black Sheep and a friend. He had a wicked sense of humor.

“We would rib him every time his picture was in the paper or name was in the news, asking ‘Hey, Brian, who’s your press agent?’ And whenever a copy of the book *Trooper* came out at a show, we’d ask to see his royalty check for his picture on the cover. He gave back as good as he got!

“My heart goes out to Brian’s wife, Meredith, and his sister, Kristen.

“You will be missed, Brian. Lift a glass with Eddie [Montague] and Jim [Aitken]!”

Gary Provenzano was feeling sad when he wrote of his friend:

“A piece of my heart broke today. My friend Brian Dunn died last night. I’ve known Brian for 40 years and thinking back, I can’t ever remember him calling me Gary. It was always ‘G-Man.’ I kinda liked that.

“Brian was an original member of the New England Black Sheep. Now that he’s gone, only Tony Kalicki, Willie Herald and me are left.

“Brian was also a longtime trooper with the Massachusetts State Police and even though I was a ‘local,’ I liked him anyway.

“Brian recently got married and although I don’t know Meredith well, she has to be an incredible person to have nailed down that longtime bachelor.

“I’m really going to miss his laugh.

“I never told Brian that I loved him. Guys don’t do that. So, better late than never, I love you, Brian.”

Finally, a moving remembrance from his sister, Kristen Dunn Freeman:

“They say everything happens for a reason and that time heals all wounds, but neither reason nor time will ever comfort me on the loss of my sweet brother, Brian. We were raised side-by-side as siblings, but even more importantly, we were the best of friends. I am forever thankful for the 55 years worth of beautiful memories we shared together. Thank you for moving me, protecting me and being my confidant. You have absolutely no idea how much you will be missed.”

Compiled by Richard D. Pontes

British Show Canceled The Police Insignia Collectors Association of Great Britain reports the first ever cancellation of a scheduled collectors show in England. Chairman Dave Wilkinson reported in the latest PICA-GB magazine a swap meet planned for last October in Wirral Borough in Merseyside in northwestern England was called off “due to lack of interest.” He called the cancellation disappointing. Only three or four collectors indicated they would attend, the chairman wrote.



Mike and Matt Ihnken’s extensive law enforcement canine collection took “Best Patch Display” award honors at the Tampa Bay show. It was the first time they had won an award at a major law enforcement insignia show. Police and sheriff departments were represented. *Darryl Smith photograph*

First Tampa Bay-Gulf Coast Show Masters Disasters

Despite widespread flooding and extensive damage from two hurricanes, the first Tampa Bay-Gulf Coast Police Collectibles Show was a resounding success. Aaron Waldo, Kelly Coopman and Darryl Smith welcomed more than 100 hobbyists from seven states to New Port Richey on November 9.

By Darryl Smith, Guest Writer

NEW PORT RICHEY, Fla. – After a lengthy hiatus for a major police collectibles show being held in the Tampa Bay Region, enthusiasts flocked to a local Elks Lodge hall in New Port Richey on November 9 for a busy day of patch and badge trading. Many collectors expressed enthusiasm for the opportunity to gather again on Florida’s West Coast to swap emblems and challenge coins.



Mike Ihnken (center) accepted the “Best Patch Display” award from co-hosts Kelly Coopman (left), Aaron Waldo (rear) and Darryl Smith (right). He collects with his brother, Matt. They specialize in canine law enforcement insignia and offered a large and colorful exhibit. *Darryl Smith photograph*

The first Tampa Bay-Gulf Coast Police Collectibles Show provided a much needed break to the region’s first responders, many who had been working weeks of long shifts to stabilize the area after facing immense flooding and damage from back to back Hurricanes



Doug Sarubbi has an extensive badge and patch collection and put part of it on display at the Tampa Bay-Gulf Coast Police Collectors Show in New Port Richey on November 9. He featured his usual museum-quality exhibit of badge and patch set displays from around the nation. *Darryl Smith photograph*



“Best Overall Display” honors at the Tampa Bay-Gulf Coast show last November went to longtime New Jersey hobbyist Dennis Beyer, a popular *PCNEWS* columnist, for his very impressive badge collection from the Newark and N.J. agencies. Beyer grew up in the city. *Darryl Smith photograph*

Tampa Bay Show ...Continued

Helene and Milton, which struck Florida and the southeastern United States a mere six weeks apart.

Some collectors began swapping the night before at local hotels. Trading and selling of collectibles were non-stop throughout the day. And even as the show wound down, a group of enthusiasts continued to swap coins as the hosts started to break down the hall.

Show hosts Aaron Waldo, Kelly Coopman and I welcomed 70 tableholders and assistants and another 30 walk-ins. The hosts were strategizing the night before to ensure that all tableholder requests were met as additional interest in tables continued to come in



A segment of Dennis Beyer's at the Tampa Bay-Gulf Coast Show in New Port Richey features not only badges from the Newark Police Department, his primary focus, but other Garden State police departments as well. He has been collecting for 50 years. *Darryl Smith photograph*

as November 9 approached.

Collectors came from such states as Massachusetts, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Virginia and South Carolina, joining Florida collectors from approximately 35 counties.

I originally approached Waldo and Coopman to help develop the show. The idea quickly moved to become a fundraiser for the Saint Petersburg Police Public Safety Cadets, which Waldo oversees. Many collectors commented on the professionalism and assistance the cadets provided. Besides manning the entry table, handling raffle prizes and selling post memorabilia, they provided invaluable help to many collectors as they brought in their displays and collection boxes.

Virginia collector Jack Gillen stated what many others did as well: “Very impressed with the majority of these future police officers.”

Because of their efforts, and those who attended, over \$1000 was raised for the cadets. These funds will help them get to the Public Safety Cadets Conference in California next year.

Winners of our sharp-looking plaques were:

“Best Patch Display,” Mike and Matt Ihnken

“Best Badge Display,” John Holmes

“Best Overall Display,” Dennis Beyer for his extensive New Jersey badge collection. Holmes also won our patch drop.



The Saint Petersburg Police Public Safety Cadets received high marks for their professionalism as they helped tableholders and ran events for the inaugural Tampa Bay-Gulf Coast Police Collectibles Show. Many collectors told the hosts they are impressive future officers. *Darryl Smith photograph*

Margie Haworth won approximately 175 patches in the patch raffle.

Melody Shattuck won over 40 coins in the coin raffle.

This West Coast show created a great opportunity for collectors, many who had only previously made trades through Facebook pages, to finally meet their counterparts in person.

Jim Shattuck said, “Thanks to the hosts. Fun show and great to see friends in Florida.”

“This was a totally awesome show! Many old-time collectors came and quite a few from out of state. I hope we can do it again next year,” said Jake Schwalb.

The hosts want to extend a big thanks to all the collectors who made our first show a success! It exceeded our expectations, and hopefully those who attended.

We also want to recognize the energetic Public Safety Cadets, Naps and Donuts (Nathan Yarusso and Dave Teems) for their generous donations to the patch and coin raffles and also Engrave With A Purpose for their assistance with our prize winner plaques.

We would also be remiss if we did not thank fellow Florida show hosts Steve Bridges and Doug Sarubbi for their ongoing insight, suggestions and support.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the next show this year!

DARRYL SMITH (Spring Hill, Fla.)

Smith, Coopman and Waldo will host another Tampa Bay show in 2025. Details have not yet been announced. EDITOR



The Maine State Police Troopers Foundation Women in Law Enforcement Scholarship Fund is selling a red and gray version of the troopers' emblem as a commemorative fundraiser for the 2024 conference in Rhode Island. It is now available to collectors. *Maine State Troopers Foundation photograph*

Maine State Police Foundation Offering Commemorative Emblem

SPECIAL – Collectors have an opportunity to add unique patches from a New England state police agency and support a scholarship fund for women in law enforcement.

The New England State Police Administrators Compact (NESPAC) hosts an annual Women in Law Enforcement Leadership Conference. The event rotates between the New England states and is hosted by state police in each state. The Vermont State Police will host the 2025 conference later this year.

When the Maine State Police hosted the conference in 2021, a commemorative emblem was issued and sold as a fundraiser.

During the 2024 conference, the Maine State Troopers Foundation sold a red and gray version of the state trooper emblem honoring the colors of the host agency, the Rhode Island State Police. It also shows a Rhode Island outline. The emblem is now available to collectors.

“All proceeds from fundraisers at the conference went to create a scholarship fund to support the young women of Maine in their pursuit of careers in law enforcement. These patches have been created as a fundraising effort to sustain the scholarship fund,” wrote Jodie Morabito of Troop G in Portland.

“The 2025 conference will be held in Vermont, so next year their state will be depicted on a patch. By the time Maine hosts the conference again, there will be a full set of patches representing each New England state.”

The emblem is a \$10 donation to the scholarship fund. An order form can be found online at mainewomeninlawenforcement.com/patch-fundraiser. Checks or money orders are accepted for payment. The mailing address is Maine State Police Troop G, Attn: Jodie Morabito, 2360 Congress Street, Portland ME 04102.

Direct inquiries to mspwomeninlawenforcement@gmail.com.

JODIE MORABITO, Maine State Troopers Foundation

Wisconsin Agencies Merge Police departments in the Town of Oconomowoc and Village of Lac La Belle in Waukesha County, Wis. have merged and are now known as the Village of Lac La Belle Police Department. Township police officers will wear village uniforms, patches and badges. Vehicles will also be rebranded over time.

Harris And Krdzalic Announce End To Quad Cities Public Safety Shows

DAVENPORT, Iowa – Peter Harris and Damir Krdzalic announced in early February they will no longer host their Quad Cities Public Safety Collector Shows. They cited changes in their personal circumstances as reasons for ending the show.

“Much has happened since the successful 2023 show, followed by our spectacular National Show in 2024. I have embarked on a new and exciting second career in the airline industry. Damir has decided to leave Iowa within the next month,” wrote Harris in their announcement.

“I know many of you have been wanting to hear when the next Quad Cities show will be held. Damir and I have been discussing this show for weeks because we hate disappointing you; however, due to our circumstances, we have decided not to host another Quad Cities show.”

Their 2023 swap meet was the first Quad Cities show since 2007. It attracted 70 tableholders from 13 states in mid-September. Krdzalic previously hosted three local shows beginning in 2005.

Harris, a retired Los Angeles police officer and noted LAPD collector, recently took a job with Piedmont Airlines, a regional carrier for American Airlines.

Krdzalic has married and will relocate to the Chicago area where his wife is a physician.

MIKE R. BONDARENKO, Editor

Federal Agents Visit Collector Over Online Badge Sale

SPECIAL – The United States Capitol Police recently confiscated an agency badge sold on eBay by Jack Berkus, a Southern California collector. Later, special agents met with Berkus in California to inquire about the badge.

In a Facebook post he titled “A Cautionary Tale,” Berkus urged collectors “to be careful with federal badges you come across.”

Berkus related he came across a Capitol Police badge encased in Lucite at a local swap meet. “I bought it, removed it from the Lucite and sold it on eBay,” he wrote.

“Two months after the sale, I received a call from a United States Capitol Police Special Agent (I think that’s what they call their detectives). Anyway, she wanted to know how I obtained the badge, etc., etc., and that I might be hearing back from her. I did.”

Two months later, Berkus met with the federal agent and her partner at a local restaurant. The officers were in San Diego and asked to meet with him.

“I asked if I was being considered a witness or suspect, to which she replied, ‘Depends.’ Everything turned out okay. They confiscated the badge from the eBay buyer, but I came away unscathed,” the collector posted.

Berkus added, “What’s the take away from all of this? I live in Southern California and got a visit from East Coast federal cops.”

In response to the post, collector Lester Chew asked, “Is the issue removing it from the Lucite leaving you with an authentic badge that wasn’t supposed to be removed?”

Berkus replied, “Yes, it appears so. It would be difficult to portray yourself as an agent by showing a badge mounted in a hunk of plastic. No Lucite is, in fact, the badge of an agent. Yikes.”

PCNEWS commends Berkus for sharing this incident to help make other collectors aware of the potential legal exposure involved with the sale of federal badges.

Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor



The new location for the Maryland Eastern Shore Police Memorabilia Show this December is the Earleight Volunteer Fire Company in Severna Park. The show hall is 6000 square feet and can accommodate 100 tables. Co-hosts are Tyler Argubright, Ryan Abey and Frank Edward. *Tyler Argubright photograph*

Maryland Eastern Shore Show Will Return This December 6

SEVERNA PARK, Md. – The Maryland Eastern Shore Police Memorabilia Show will be back this December. Co-host Tyler Argubright made the announcement in late January, nearly 11 months before the December 6 show.

Argubright, Ryan Abey and Frank Edward moved the event to a new location, the Earleight Volunteer Fire Company in Severna Park, a community of 40,500 in Anne Arundel County. The hall is 6000 square feet and has room for 100 tables.

“This is going to be our biggest show ever, and we are going all out on this one!” said Argubright.

Severna Park is eight miles north of Annapolis, 17 miles south of Baltimore and 39 miles east of Washington, D.C.

There is a show Facebook page at Maryland Eastern Shore Police Memorabilia Show 2025. Additional information will be announced later this year.

There was no Eastern Shore show in 2024.

Submitted by Tyler Argubright

Hawaii State Department of Law Enforcement Traffic Unit Proposed

HONOLULU, Hawaii – The Hawaii State Department of Law Enforcement has asked the legislature to approve more than \$8.3 million in federal funding over the next two years to form a new traffic unit.



Hawaii State Sheriff deputies would enforce traffic law throughout Oahu if the State Legislature approves using \$8.3 million in federal money for creation of a traffic unit and fund it for two years. Deputies would emphasize drunk drivers and commercial vehicles. Would it mean new insignia? *Mike Lucas photograph*

According to Director Jordan Lowe, two dozen deputy sheriffs would enforce traffic law on Oahu with emphasis on drunk driving and commercial vehicle enforcement. The federal money would cover salaries and benefits, equipment and vehicles for two years.

Currently, deputy sheriffs conduct traffic enforcement only in areas in which they already operate, such as Daniel K. Inouye International Airport.

The Honolulu Police Department opposes the proposal. The city averages about 400,000 traffic citations a year, although the number has declined in recent years.

A spokesperson for Chief of Police Joe Logan said, “HPD does not support the DLE conducting traffic enforcement on our roads and highways. However, he is open to meeting with stakeholders to discuss the use of technology, such as cameras, and how the DLE can assist with that technology.”

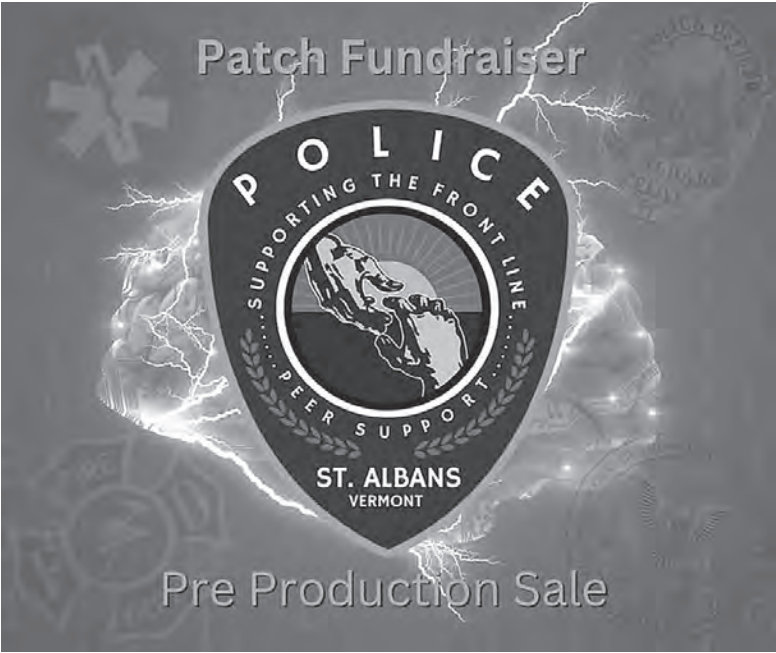
Hawaii is the only state without a statewide traffic enforcement agency. Generally, counties are responsible for traffic within their jurisdictions.

Hawaii had 102 traffic-related fatalities in 2024, a ten percent increase over 2023. However, on Oahu, deaths dropped slightly in 2024 to 50.

Director Lowe said the state transportation department requested addition island-wide commercial vehicle enforcement. DOT personnel can stop and inspect CMVs but cannot issue citations or take other enforcement action.

If the new unit is formed, it is possible there could be additional DLE insignia for its members.

Submitted by Mike Lucas



The Saint Albans, Vt. Police Department will soon be selling a mental health and wellness emblem as a fundraiser for the Front Line Foundation, a non-profit which provides counseling and other resources to first responders and veterans. The patches will cost \$10 each. *Saint Albans PD photograph*

Saint Albans Planning Patch Sale For Front Line Foundation

SAINT ALBANS, Vt. – The Saint Albans, Vt. Police Department has a new commemorative patch coming out soon. It will be sold as a fundraiser for Front Line Foundations of North America, which provides officer and veteran wellness and mental health services.

“Officer wellness and mental health is very important to us at Saint Albans PD,” according to a news release. “We hope this fundraiser will assist first responders and veterans get the assistance they may need.”

The emblem is the same general design as the agency’s CHP-shaped insignia. However, the center design shows a hand reaching out to another hand and the motto, “SUPPORTING THE FRONT LINE/ PEER SUPPORT.”

Saint Albans expects delivery of the fundraiser by early to mid March. It will be sold for \$10. Payment options will include Venmo.

Front Line Foundation is a non-profit organization.

Submitted by Saint Albans Police Department

Letters To The Editor

IPA Hosting Alberta Shows

We will be holding the usual two police collectors shows in Alberta again this year.

The Edmonton area show is Saturday, May 10, and the Calgary show is to be held in September. Due to the Calgary Police Association building, the venue for the Calgary show, we can only nail down the exact booking date a couple months in advance, but are shooting for Saturday, September 25.

The three International Police Association regions in Alberta merged into one provincial region in late 2023, leaving me as the provincial president. We have committed to continue to host two shows in Alberta, as we have done for a few years now.

Alberta shows are much smaller than USA shows. However, we still get close to 40 to 50 collectors.

We are seeing a trend of lower table bookings but more walk-in collectors. Good to see those collectors, but it’s hard to have a “show” without the table displays.

I have shown some of the IPA Region 5 members at the September 21, 2024 Calgary show, Mike Oleynick; Calgary travel and social liaison; Phil Bailey, president; Larry Doucet, webmaster; Medicine Hat member Ken Montgomery; Jason Hiscock, Calgary Police Service liaison; Alex Brann, show organizer and Gerry Vercammen, social vice president.

PHIL BAILEY (Saint Albert, Alta.)

Storino Chronicles NYPD History



The International Police Association in Alberta will host two collector shows in 2025, Edmonton in May and Calgary in September. Members include (left to right) Mike Oleynick, Phil Bailey, Larry Doucet, Ken Montgomery, Jason Hiscock, Alex Brann and Gerry Vercammen. *IPA photograph*

Letters to the Editor ...Continued

In 2016, I began researching, authoring and posting well researched and written articles on the lesser known history of policing in the City of New York. My focus on the lesser known history has resulted in several articles that have not been covered in much detail by authors literally making history.



Al Attanasio says this New Jersey Motor Vehicles Highway Patrol plate is a unicorn! It is black on straw-colored with “MV OFFICER” at the top. It’s the only one Al Attanasio has seen that has a fully reflective front. He obtained it from survivors of a deceased inspector. *Al Attanasio photograph*

Several months ago, Martin A. Greenberg, a professor, author and president of the Virginia Association of Law Enforcement Educators, and the author of seven books, contacted me and asked if I would like to work together with him on his eighth book. Greenberg was particularly interested in my two articles on the NYPD’s Junior Police Force (1914 to 1918) as the information I wrote about does not exist anywhere else but on my website. He informed me that my work will fill a huge void in the history of youth involvement in law enforcement. We collaborated on one chapter; hence, I am a contributing author, rather than a co-author. The result is *Youth Involvement in Public Safety in the United States*, a book full of citations, credits and a bibliography that can be used as a college textbook. PAT STORINO (New York, N.Y.)

Attanasio Finds Locates A Unicorn

I believe I’ve located a unicorn!
I’ve been a collector of defunct New Jersey Motor Vehicle Highway Patrol memorabilia for 40 years now and a co-author of their history book.



New Jersey Motor Vehicles Highway Patrol artifacts and memorabilia are Al Attanasio’s passion. In 1999, he obtained this set of non-reflective black on straw color license plates from the inspector who displayed them on his cruiser. The “MV” prefix stands for Motor Vehicles. *Al Attanasio photograph*

Prior to 2019, I had only seen a sample 1959 to 1960s license plate titled “MV OFFICER.” The sample plate, “MV-A000,” was featured on Jim Moini’s website. I finally obtained an issued set of two plates, “MV-A311,” from the inspector they were issued to. Both the sample and the “A-311” set had non-reflective black lettering on a straw-colored plate. Today, I obtained another plate from the family of a deceased inspector. This plate, which is also a 1959 to 1960s black on straw “MV OFFICER,” is numbered, “MV-A435,” and was issued to the deceased inspector. The reason I called this one a unicorn is because it is only the third one I have seen with the title, “MV OFFICER,” and is the only one I have seen with a full reflective front. The rear of the plate is non-reflective straw color. The reflective material was adhered over the base plate. I have shown photos of all three plates. The New Jersey Motor Vehicle inspectors are my main area of collecting interest. If you have any of their plates or other memorabilia for sale, please contact me. I’m on Facebook. AL ATTANASIO (Mountainside, N.J.)

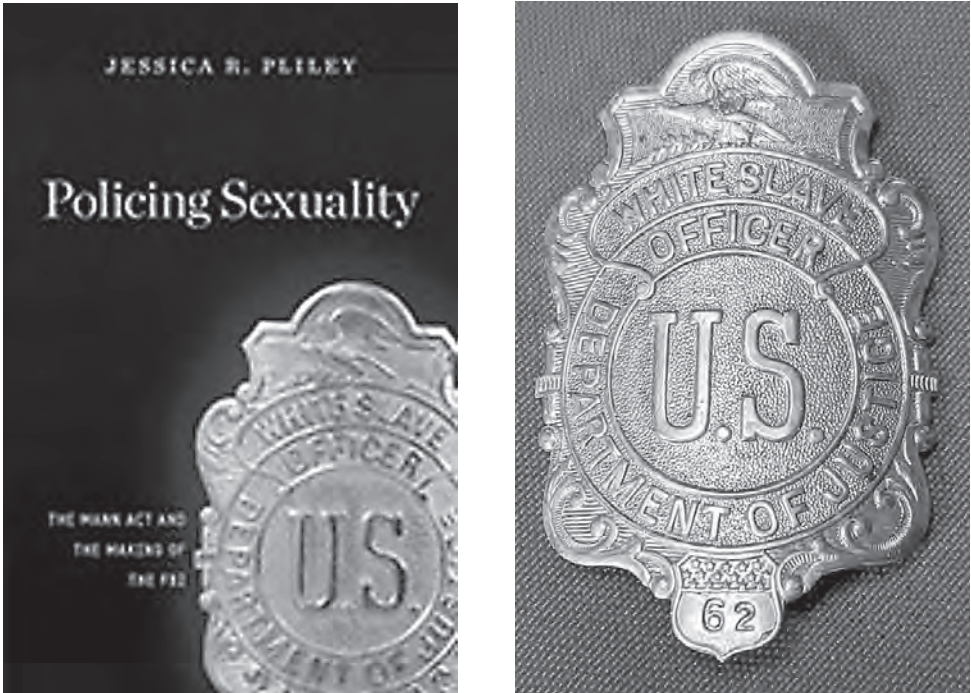
It Takes Big Bucks

Our hobby is getting more expensive all the time. A couple recent eBay auctions proved it takes big bucks to collect vintage police artifacts these days. More power to the buyers, but I can’t afford prices like these for police collectibles. Someone just paid \$2129 for a fifth issue Washington State Patrol patch. The seller tacked on \$4.49 to ship it. There were 42 bids for this patch. *Worn With Pride* says on page 129 that it was worn only a short time in 1938 and 1939: “In 1938, a uniform change occurred, including blue jackets and maroon trousers and ties. The trousers were referred to as ‘pink pants.’ To adorn the new colors, a new patch patch was designed as a half-circle maroon patch with gold lettering. Due to the strong negative feelings toward the new colors of the uniforms, this change lasted only one year.” A San Francisco Patrol Special badge and ID got 12 bids and sold for \$1632.76. It’s a sterling silver Ed Jones badge with the number “2606.” The ID has the name of the officer, Leslie Cleveland. Looking at Rick Uland’s columns on San Francisco Patrol Specials, these were sworn officers who hired out to private businesses to patrol their properties. Some of them also worked as backups for regular officers. Patrol Specials are now defunct. Like the patch, the badge is nice. But, \$1632.76 is a lot of money, especially for a new collector. I’m not complaining about these sales. That’s supply and demand. I get it. The point I’m making is this hobby is getting more expensive all the time. DAVID QUINNETT (Batavia, N.Y.)

DOJ White Slave Officers

Mike R. Bondarenko asked me to do some research into white slave officers of the United States Department of Justice. We met at the “Central Jersey” show. I mentioned that I collect DOJ history. He sent me a picture of a badge another collector sent him of a white slave officer badge that sold for \$9600 online in late December. I didn’t have to do much research. I had information on this badge from a book I have in my DOJ collection, *Policing Sexuality*, by Jessica Pliley. It shows one of these badges on the front cover. Human trafficking has been in the news a lot, but it’s nothing new. In 1910, Congress passed the Mann Act, which made it a federal crime to transport women across the state lines “for the purpose of prostitution or debauchery, or for any other immoral purpose.” It was also known as the White Slave Act. The law gave the Federal Bureau of Investigation jurisdiction to investigate and refer white slavery cases for prosecution. The BOI, which later became the Federal Bureau of Investigation, created the position of white slave officer and issued badges assigned this duty. These shields are long obsolete. An interesting note is the Mann Act was originally intended to end commercial prostitution operations. Most were run by organized crime. However, an interpretation of the “for any other immoral purpose” language in the law by the Supreme Court in 1917 gave the BOI wide latitude to also apply it to noncommercial, consensual sex between unmarried people or perceived sexual impropriety by anyone. After J. Edgar Hoover became the FBI director in 1924, he made broad enforcement of the Mann Act a priority and actually led some raids on houses of prostitution himself. He liked the positive publicity the FBI got as guardian of the nation’s morality. The Mann Act is still on the books, but it has been greatly diluted by several federal court decisions over the years. Now, it is applied mostly to interstate human trafficking and child pornography cases. TED GORSHAM (Trenton, N.J.)

Unique Historic Fire Badge



(Left) Jessica Pliley’s book, *Policing Sexuality*, traces federal enforcement of the 1910 Mann Act which was intended to combat enslaving white women as prostitutes. (Right) The Department of Justice issued white slave officer badges to Mann Act investigators. *Contributed photographs*



A fifth issue Washington State Patrol emblem worn for a year (1938 to 1939) recently sold for \$2129 on the internet. The seller added \$4.50 for shipping. A buyer paid nearly \$1633 for a San Francisco Patrol Special sterling silver star and identification card in another online auction. *Contributed photographs*

In the 1800s, the most elite unit of the French Army was the Zouaves serving in Algeria, almost like the French Foreign Legion of today. The Zouaves copied those of the Moroccan Royal Guard: red billowing trousers, short jackets with red trim and often a fez or turban for headgear.

The Zouaves were famous for their precision drill, precision marching, manual of arms and cadence marching along with as military band. Their equal today would be the precision drill teams and silent drill teams of the United States and Marine Corps.

In the 1850s, the Zouaves toured and gave performances and demonstrations of their skills across America. When the Civil War broke out, many volunteer militia regiments adopted their uniforms and mannerisms. There 70 Union and 25 Confederate regiments that copied the Zouaves style, with units formed in nearly every state. A regiment was 600 to 1000 men which decreased to only a few hundred by the end of the war due to casualties and desertions.

Many Zouaves units were formed by men who had worked and served together in dangerous careers so there was unit cohesion. A common example was entire police and fire departments would go off to the war and serve together, leaving their community behind, thinking that the war was not likely to last more than a few weeks. In reality, some



Ed Sachs's Philadelphia collection features this unique historic badge from the Philadelphia Fire Zouaves during the Civil War. The Zouaves were an infantry unit of the Pennsylvania State Militia and later known as the 72nd Infantry. The shield shows an eagle in flight. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

units were decimated down to a fraction of their strength by the end of four years of war.

This badge, issued in 1861, is for the Philadelphia Fire Zouaves, later known as the 72nd Infantry after the first years of war when units were given standardized numbers rather than names. The letters on the badge are PFZ/ PSM, which stands for Philadelphia Fire Zouaves Pennsylvania State Militia. The badge is made of brass and specific for this unit.

The PFZ existed from August 1861 to August 1864, missing the last year of war, serving in most of the major battles, including Anietam, Gettysburg and multiple encounters in Virginia, suffering 264 casualties.

ED SACHS (Columbus, O.)

Metro PD Inaugural Badges

In the March-April 2024 issue, Ron Bartholome said he had a complete set of District of Columbia inaugural badges. The set is incomplete because some years there were two or three badges, bronze, silver and gold.

I have shown a complete set with some extra badges.

CRAIG KONTRA (Huntingtown, Md.)



Craig Kontra has a very impressive collection of Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department traditional inaugurals going back to the original issue in 1937. He reports some years badges were made in bronze, silver and gold. His frame is arranged around a large presidential seal in the center. *Contributed photograph*



Rick Aguirre (left) and Maria Chavez (right) will be among the hosts of the National Police Collectors Show in Phoenix this summer. They will join the dedicated volunteers who donate their time to the Phoenix Police Museum, one of the leading department museums. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Think Summer And 40th Annual National Show

Volunteers at the Phoenix Police Museum are busy preparing for the 2025 National Police Collectors Show, now only less than three months away. Meet Maria Chavez and Rick Aguirre, two co-hosts who represented Phoenix at the National Show in Davenport last summer. You'll see them in Phoenix in June.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

PHOENIX, Ariz. – As winter begins releasing its icy grip, it's time to think summer and the 2025 National Police Collectors Show in Phoenix, Ariz.

The hobby's 40th annual convention is Friday, June 13, Saturday, June 14 and Sunday, June 15 at the sprawling Phoenix Convention Center at 100 Third Street in downtown Phoenix. The show venue is Exhibit Hall "E" on Level 300 in the North Building.

The three-day weekend show will be hosted by the Phoenix Police Museum. While museum volunteers Bryan Richards and Mike Lucas have often represented the show to fellow collectors, they will be joined as co-hosts by the staff of dedicated museum volunteers. Among them will be Maria Chavez and Rick Aguirre.

Chavez is now serves as museum curator after Richards, the previous curator, resigned last year. She is retired from Phoenix PD.

"It's a challenge because I have no experience working in a museum, but it's been okay so far," said Chavez. "Basically, I make sure everything is good."

She described her duties as performing exhibits maintenance, collecting donated artifacts and working with other volunteers.

Chavez said a tour of the museum for out of town collectors will be offered. The museum is about a half mile from the convention center. It takes between ten and 15 minutes to walk to it from the convention center using Washington Street.

Aguirre, a retired Phoenix lieutenant, said collectors and their families will enjoy the museum. "We're very proud of it. It's growing all the time, and we think it's getting better all the time," he said. "It'll be especially interesting for collectors."

Aguirre credited retired Lieutenant Mike Nikolin with founding the museum in 1993.

"Mike was the driving force. He organized others on the department who were interested in saving our history. He worked hard to get the top people to support it," he said. "In a big department like Phoenix, Mike did a lot of work behind the scenes to make it happen. He knew we had to get department support."

Nikolin served as curator for 30 years before his death in 2020. He previously served as department historian, a job he volunteered for because he was dedicated to preserving Phoenix police history.



The sprawling downtown Phoenix Convention Center is the venue for the National Police Collectors Show in June. The show will be held in the North Building on Level 300 in Exhibition Hall "E." The convention center is one of the largest venues in National Show history. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

National Show Preview ...Continued

Aguirre said the museum had humble beginnings but has grown steadily over the years. It moved into its current location, the former City Hall building, about 15 years ago. The address is 17 South Second Street.

Chavez said the museum has its own fleet of vintage police cars and motorcycles. There is even a retired helicopter on static display. “The cars are really nice. They’re all like they were out on the street. People love to see them,” she added.

The National Show is a major fundraiser for the museum. “We’re always fundraising because that’s how the museum is paid for,” said Chavez. “We have a small gift shop, but it’s donations that really help us. We’re always looking for donors.”

Collectors attending the National can help fund the museum by purchasing the commemorative and novelty Phoenix police emblems created by the museum as fundraisers. Patch sale profits are earmarked for museum operations.

Currently, seven novelty emblems, as well as Velcro-backed versions of the current patrol officer and tactical wear patches, are being sold for \$6 each: Halloween, Autism, Star Wars, Veterans Day, Christmas, National Police Week and Fourth of July. All are the identical size and shape as the standard uniformed officer issue except for Halloween, which is shaped like a pumpkin.

Halloween is black and orange with purple lettering. The left side looks like a pumpkin with “HAPPY/ HALLOWEEN” in black letters bordered in purple. The right side is a black background rendition of the shoulder patch with a gold phoenix and purple letters, “PHOENIX” at the top and “POLICE” across the center on a black bar bordered in gold and “ARIZONA” at the bottom. There is a black outer border.

Autism uses the autism awareness puzzle as the background with red, green, gold and blue pieces and multi-colored lettering for “POLICE” at the top. A large red phoenix appears on a round black ring bordered in green. “PHOENIX” is lettered in blue on the center bar, also bordered in green. “ARIZONA” is seen in blue letters beneath the bird on the black center ring. The emblem has a black border.

Aguirre said the Star Wars emblem was created “just for fun” to commemorate May 4, which is Star Wars Day for millions of fans of the popular film franchise. “May the fourth be you!” is the phrase of the day.

The patch has an intergalactic motif using the colors black, white, gold and red. The background is deep space black with a galaxy of tiny white stars sprinkled across it. A futuristic phoenix is seen in red on a plain black circle bordered in gold. “POLICE” at the top and “ARIZONA” at the bottom are in black letters bordered in gold. “POLICE” is superimposed in gold cutout letters surrounded by a gold bar outline. There is a gold outer border.

Veterans Day is a camouflage version of the uniform insignia. It is dark green, light green, white and tan with a dark green outer border. “POLICE” at the top is dark green, while “POLICE” and “ARIZONA” are light green. Tan is used for the phoenix. It appears on a round light green circle. Inner borders are also light green.

Christmas has a festive holiday theme with red, white and light green colors. The background is red and white candy cane diagonal stripes, while the center ring is white. The phoenix is light green. “POLICE” appears at the top in light green cutout letters. “PHOENIX” is shown on a red bar bordered in green across the bird. “ARIZONA” is done in bright red letters at the bottom. There is a light green border.

The red, white and blue United States flag dominates the 2024 edition of National Police Week. Old Glory comprises the background of the otherwise blue, gray and black emblem. The phoenix appears in black on a gray circle in the center. “POLICE/ WEEK 2024” at the top is blue bordered in black. A blue bar bordered in black carries the legend “POLICE” in black letters. “ARIZONA” appears at the bottom in light blue letters. A black outer border completes the design.

This Police Week emblem took on added meaning for Phoenix PD because the name of Officer David Lee “Star” Johnson, a Black officer killed by a White officer in 1944, was added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Wall last May. Officer Johnson’s name did not appear on the memorial until research conducted by the department proved his death occurred while he was on duty.

Fourth of July is all about patriotism and so is the PPD emblem with a red, white and blue United States flag as the background. The phoenix is depicted in bright red on a gray center circle with “POLICE” in red letters bordered in white at the top. “POLICE” is shown in red on a gray bar bordered in red superimposed horizontally over the center. “ARIZONA” is also red at the bottom. The outer border is blue.

All of these commemorative and novelty emblems will be available at the National Show. They are \$6 each. They are also sold at the museum.

Chavez and Aguirre said some additional 2025 versions will also become available. It will be a golden opportunity for state capital cities and Arizona collectors to add to or update their collections.

Phoenix show schedule The official schedule for the 2025 National Police Collectors Show:

Friday, June 13 is setup day for exhibitors only. Only tableholders, table assistants and VIP pass holders will be admitted to the hall. Setup hours are 9 am to 5 pm.

A tableholders meeting will be held after setup day closes. The hosts will provide any last minute updates in the events schedule during the meeting. Bids for future National Show venues will be solicited. (Saint Louis has the 2026 show.) Open show dates are 2027 and beyond. Bidders are requested to prepare basic information on their proposed location, dates and other pertinent information. A brief summary of show experience will be helpful in the event there are multiple bids for a particular year.

A tableholders reception is scheduled for 6 to 8 pm on Friday. The location will be announced.

The National Show opens to the public on Saturday, June 14 beginning at 9 am and continuing until 6 pm.

Tableholders will be admitted at 8 am for last minute setup.

An opening ceremony will start at 8:30 am.

No events are scheduled for Saturday evening.

On Sunday, June 15, the public will be admitted from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. However, tableholders may enter the hall for setup starting at 8 am.

Display contest awards will be presented at 2 pm.

The 2025 National Show takes its rightful place in hobby history when the doors close at 3:30 pm.

National Show updates Chavez reported in late January that only four commemorative show badges and a handful of patches remain available. When the remaining stock is sold, no more of these highly valued collectibles will be available. “Purchase yours before they are all gone,” she said.

Lucas announced six display awards for the 2025 show: Best Coin Display, Best Badge Display, Best Patch Display, Best Overall Vehicle and Best of Show. “Get those displays ready for some tough competition,” he said.

Since vehicles will be exhibited inside the show hall, the hosts felt it’s appropriate to present an award for the vehicle judged best overall.



Phoenix Police Museum commissioned these commemorative and novelty emblems (top to bottom, left to right): Halloween, Christmas, Veterans Day, Star Wars Day, Police Week, Autism Awareness and Fourth of July. All will be available at the National Show. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

A few previous National Shows have had indoor vehicle shows, including mostly recently San Bernardino, Calif. The first indoor show was in Kansas City in 1991.

As of February 1, 160 tables had been rented. Although the hall can accommodate 265 tables, Lucas said the hosts’ goal is 200 tables in order to leave plenty of room for vehicles. Plans are for at least three vintage Phoenix PD cars, two from the Arizona Department of Public Safety and the Fire Department’s Wall of Flame apparatus. There may be additional vehicles on display.

“Realistically, we have about 40 tables left,” said Lucas. “We don’t want to get crowded.”

Twenty VIP passes allowing Friday admission for non-tableholders are available. Passes cost \$75 each. Eighteen remained available as of February 1.

The hosts said VIP passes are ideal for collectors who don’t need table space but want to get in early when the most desirable collectibles are available. It was established years ago that Friday is the best day for finding “the good stuff.”

The National Show is being held in the Convention Center North Building on the 300 Level. The venue is Exhibition Hall “E” on the south end of the building. The show hall is 57,700 square feet.

There is a drive up ramp accessible from Washington Street on the east side of the building. It leads to a loading dock for easy exhibitor unloading and loading.

Collectors will enter through the main doors to Exhibition Hall “E” on the west side of the building.

Lucas said the best parking option for attendees is the garage beneath the North Building. It will be accessible off Monroe Street, which is the next street north of Washington Street. “It’s covered parking, out of the sun, which everyone will appreciate because it’s going to be hot,” he said. “Remember, it’s summer in the desert.”

The Phoenix Convention Center is one of the largest facilities ever utilized for the National Police Collectors Show. A considerable amount of walking is required to reach the hall from either the parking garage or outside building entrances. Collectors with mobility issues should plan accordingly.

Out of town collectors who still have not made hotel reservations should do so immediately to avoid commuting long distances. The San Diego Padres play a weekend series with the host Arizona Diamondbacks at Chase Field near the convention center, so hotels are selling out.

Hobbyists and their families interested in seeing a Major League Baseball game should secure tickets soon. The two teams are American League West rivals and each game will attract a large crowd. Game times are 6:40 pm Friday, 4:15 pm Saturday and 1:10 pm on Sunday.

Baseball fan collectors arriving early could see the Seattle Mariners take on the DBacks on Monday, June 9 at 6:40 pm, Tuesday, June 10 at 6:40 pm or Wednesday, June 11 at 12:40 pm.

No game is scheduled for Thursday, June 12.

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (Baldwin, Wis.)

U.S. Presidential Inaugural Badge Beginners Primer

Presidential inauguration badges are very popular among federal law enforcement insignia collectors, especially during an inaugural year like 2025. John Seay presents a beginners primer on presidential inaugurals.

By John Seay, Guest Writer

STAFFORD, Va. – My introduction to presidential inauguration police badges began with Richard Nixon’s first inaugural parade.

My government agency was invited to volunteer to assist the United States Secret Service via the venerable Presidential Inauguration Committee.

The Secret Service was practically in shambles after President Kennedy’s assassination. They adopted a pledge of “Never Again” with a vengeance and started hundreds of new policies and procedures. One of those was never hesitating to ask for assistance in any area of presidential protection outside the White House.

Presidential inauguration festivities had always been traditionally a joint operation between the Secret Service, Metropolitan Police Department and United States Capitol Police with the Secret Service being the lead and commanding authority...and also picking up the tab associated with law enforcement for the inauguration.

But America was in turmoil when Nixon was elected. The Vietnam War was in full bloom with the draft age possibilities mostly in opposition. Civil rights efforts were still ongoing and actively engaged in nationwide demonstrations and demanding changes in multiple civil right laws.

Nixon won the election as President and selected Spiro Agnew, the former Governor of Maryland, as his Vice President.



(Left) The Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department 1941 presidential inaugural shield honored Franklin D. Roosevelt and Henry A. Wallace. It was Roosevelt’s third inauguration. (Right) A famous counterfeit of the inaugural rumored made by a MPDC gunsmith. *John Seay photographs*

So, the election was over and the Presidential Inauguration Committee met to plan for events. The Secret Service announced at the initial meeting that they wished to augment previous policies by seeking assistance from many other local agencies. Within the specter of Kennedy, civil rights and anti-war demonstrations, their request was quickly granted. My agency offered any assistance possible and the Secret Service quickly accepted. Since United States Marshals Service had no uniform, our attire was described for the attendants as “appeals court attire,” nicknamed by us as “full bib and tucker,” defined as a dark suit, white shirt, polished black or brown shoes and fedora-style hat! For the seniors reading this, that boiled down to a Robert Hall men’s suit with a vest and a Baltimore-made

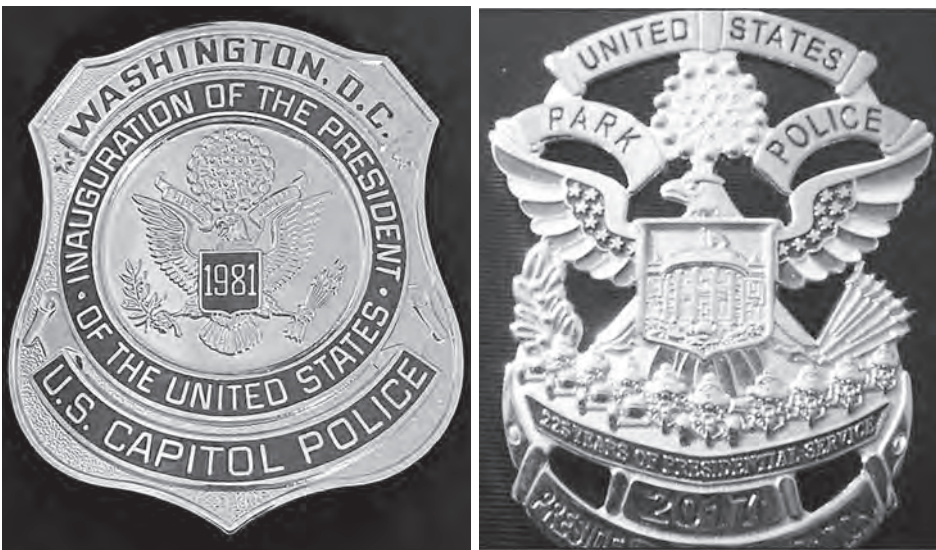


(Left) The White House Police celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1997 with a gold-colored badge with red, white and blue banners. (Right) A traditional Metropolitan Police inaugural shield from 1968 when President Richard M. Nixon and Vice President Spiro T. Agnew took office. *John Seay photographs*

London Fog trench coat.

Washington Metro Police The Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, D.C. has a wonderful history of traditions, public relations presence and solid professionalism. MPD started in 1937 with striking a special and unique badge for its officers celebrating the arrival of a new president and his vice president. There are in circulation some MPD badges from the 1930s era that merely state “Presidential Inauguration.” The badges were stamped by a company in Baltimore and cost the city 95 cents each. Each badge was numbered by hand punch by the department for record keeping purposes. I have shown an example of a 1941 Washington Metropolitan Police inaugural for Franklin D. Roosevelt and Henry A. Wallace. Also shown is an example of one of the most famous counterfeits of president inauguration badges for 1941. This counterfeit is rumored to have been made by the MPDC gunsmith from melted dimes.

Presidential inaugural preparations For the novice collector, just think of



(Left) 1981 marked the inauguration of Ronald Reagan and George Bush. The United States Capitol Police wore this handsome commemorative. (Right) The United States Park Police is the oldest uniformed federal law enforcement agency going back to 1801. *John Seay photographs*



Presidential inaugural badges are very popular among federal law enforcement insignia collectors, especially the so-called traditional shields from the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department. The first MPDC inaugural debuted in 1937 under President Roosevelt. *John Seay photograph*

Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. One end of Pennsylvania Avenue includes 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, which is the White House address, the official residence of the President of the United States. Pennsylvania Avenue runs almost in a straight line for three miles, then climbs a small hill, more commonly called “Capitol Hill,” home of the Congress of the United States. Modern history has evolved from several minor alterations over the centuries. Traditionally and routinely, the president-elect and his family are guests of the federal government at the official United States government guest residence across the street from the White House. This home is named Blair House. For sure it is not like any other house, covering half a city block and well over 100 rooms! Its street address is 1651 Pennsylvania Avenue. The house is customarily ready for the president-elect’s use the week before the inauguration.

D.C. law enforcement The White House Police force was placed under the command of the United States Secret Service in 1930. In 1970, its name was changed to the Executive Protection Service, and once again changed to Uniformed Division of the United States Secret Service in 1977. Essentially, the uniformed USSS protects the White House and other government properties and their occupants as directed. I have shown the 75th anniversary shield from the White House Police. It shows the dates of the name changes. Step outside the White House grounds onto the sidewalk and you then transfer from the Uniformed Secret Service Division to the Metropolitan Police Department, the District of Columbia’s premier law enforcement agency. The District of Columbia’s legal authority expires once you enter the grounds of the United States Capitol. Law enforcement authority on Capitol Hill is held by the United States Capitol Police. It has a rich history starting from a watchman in 1801 and continuing through a myriad of changes over the years. Recently, authority changed to protect any member of Congress anywhere in the United States by this law enforcement agency controlled by the legislative branch of the United States government.

Presidential inaugurations Think of a huge party for politicians and hundreds of thousands of observers with a few legal events thrown in and you have the inauguration of the President of the United States. On the surface it is simplicity itself. The President-elect is picked up by an armored limousine and driven 450 feet to the front door of the White House. The President and the First Lady welcome their guests and conduct a personal tour of the White House. Beverages and pastries are offered and taken. The guests are then invited to ask any questions about the residence that they may have. The President and the President-elect enter the presidential limo and their wives follow in another armored limo. A parade is conducted east on Pennsylvania Avenue, which has been shut down to all traffic, prepared for a huge afternoon parade and bleachers provided for the public. The actual convoy of vehicles can easily exceed one hundred! The convoy arrives on Capitol Hill and the Metropolitan Police Department seamlessly relinquishes authority to the Capitol Police. The inauguration takes place at the Capitol. What you have just witnessed is the Secret Service, as undisputed lead agency, choreograph a dignitary movement from the Uniformed Secret Service jurisdiction to the Capitol Police.

U.S. Park Police Providing a major supporting role in this movement is the United States Park Police, a quiet powerhouse of dignified professional law enforcement. It is America’s oldest uniformed federal law enforcement agency. The Park Police is charged by law with the protection of federal officials. Their specific jurisdictions start at the front lawn of the White House and culminate at the foot of Capitol Hill where Central District of Columbia Park, otherwise known as the National Mall, begins.

Additional articles I have had so much fun writing for this paper that it is my intent to publish three more articles. The next will focus on the protection zone being extended from Pennsylvania Avenue to the Potomac River and other governmental agencies in the District of Columbia. JOHN SEAY (Stafford, Va.)

The author retired from the United States Marshals Service in 1989 as a chief inspector. He represented the USMS at every presidential inauguration from 1969 to 1991. Among his career accomplishments were assisting in the development of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, serving six tours in the office of Chief Deputy Howard Safir in Washington and serving as a supervisory deputy on a special unit created to protect the United States Supreme Court during the impeachment of President Richard M. Nixon in 1974. EDITOR

Tennessee Correction Badge State and local authorities are trying to figure out how a convicted felon ended up possessing a stolen missing Tennessee Department of Corrections badge and handgun. Ashland, Tenn. police arrested the man after the badge and gun were discovered during a traffic stop. He admitted the gun was stolen in Nashville, but the man would not disclose how or where he got the badge. Officials have determined it is a stolen badge but not how it went missing.



California Police Historian

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

CLEHS News Updates

2025 Membership Renewal Thank you to all those members who have renewed their CLEHS membership for 2025. If you have not yet renewed your 2025 membership, you still can.
You can renew online at the CLEHS website by going to "Membership." If you prefer, you can renew by sending a check to California Law Enforcement Historical Society, PO Box 284875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875.
Submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Brian Smith

2025 California Police Historian of the Year Nominations are still 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 contribution for the good of the order.
Nominations should be emailed to President Gary Hoving no later than April 1. His email address is CalPoliceHistory@AOL.Com.
The presentation of this prestigious award will be made at the annual show in San Luis Obispo on July 19.
Submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Brian Smith

2025 San Luis Obispo Show The San Luis Obispo Police Memorabilia Show will be held on Saturday, July 19 from 9 am to 1 pm. The show will be held at the Veterans Hall, 801 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, and is sponsored by the California Law Enforcement Historical Society.
There are 55 eight-foot tables available for \$40 each for Society members or \$50 each for non-members. Reserve your table early as the show sells out every year! Free admission.
Awards are presented for Best Patch Display, Best Badge Display, Best Historical Display, Best Educational Display and Best of Show.
To reserve a table and make payment online, go to CalPoliceHistory.Com and click on "Collector's Shows."
If you wish to reserve a table and pay by check, please send payment to Gary Hoving, President, CLEHS, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875. His telephone number is (805) 441-4936.
Checkout our website, CalPoliceHistory.Com, and Facebook page, "Friends of the CLEHS," for show updates.
On Friday, July 18, the California Law Enforcement Historical Society will hold its annual corporate meeting at our new headquarters in Arroyo Grande from 5 pm to 6 pm. The address will be released as we get closer to the meeting.
Submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Brian Smith

2025 Ripon Show Announced The 2025 Ripon Public Safety Collectors Show will be held on Saturday, October 4 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Ripon Community Center, 334 Fourth St., Ripon.
This show is a fundraiser for the California Law Enforcement Historical Society and the Ripon VIPs. It is sponsored by the California Law Enforcement Historical Society.
There are 50 eight-foot-by-36 inch tables. Seller tables are \$40 each; display tables are \$20 each. Reserve your table early as this show sells out every year. Free admission.
To reserve a table and make payment online, go to CalPoliceHistory.Com and click on "Ripon Public Safety Collectors Show."
To reserve a table and pay by check, please contact President Gary Hoving, CLEHS, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875. His telephone number is (805) 441-4936.
Submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Brian Smith

"Porky" A Huge Success Despite Historic Wildfires

Driving in from Colorado a week before the Porky Show, I decided to base in San Diego away from the fires and smoke plaguing Los Angeles. When I arrived in San Diego, the air



Porky Show display contest winners and Claremont Police Explorers gathered as the show ended. Mike Lucas (second from left), Mike DeVilbiss (third from left) and Kelly Mayfield (sixth from left) won awards. Dennis Smith (third from left) was one of the show co-hosts. *Arthur Fox photograph*



A replica of Broderick Crawford's black and white from the 1950s show, *Highway Patrol*, greeted show visitors on a beautiful Saturday morning in Claremont. The 1955 Buick Century is owned by Southern California collector Gary Goltz and was shown at the 2023 National. *Arthur Fox photograph*

quality was good at a rating of 33, but around Claremont, the site for the Porky Show, it was an unhealthy 112, which is harmful for those with a chronic breathing issue.
A few days later, Dennis Smith, co-host of the show, sent out a message saying the weather was looking better and that the show was a go. The Porky Show has for a long been acknowledged as the largest and longest running police and fire memorabilia show in the USA. It wasn't long after Smith sent his text that a few eager show-goers began texting that they were going.



An outstanding exhibit of Los Angeles Police Department artifacts and memorabilia was among the many fine displays at the Porky Show. The collection features a lightbar and an officer in uniform. LAPD displays like this are always a highlight of the L.A. Area show. *Arthur Fox photograph*

The day before the show, the air quality in San Diego began to worsen but had improved significantly in Claremont. The air quality improvement was enough for me to make my way to the host hotel, the Double Tree by Hilton, which is just a mile or so from Porky location.
While I was checking in, two other tableholders arrived, Jim Casey and Robert Kohlstedt. Once we were all settled in, we began a mini show and tell of the badges that



Mike DeVilbiss is the hobby's go-to guy in all things Sacramento County Sheriff's Department. He won the Best of Show award at Porky this year. He specializes in the department and has a vast collection of badges and patches along with other artifacts and memorabilia. *Tomoyuki Okoshi photograph*



Darryl “The California Car Guy” Lindsay set up his usual exhibit outside Taylor Hall. The longtime host of the Ripon car shows offered signs, vehicle equipment and all sorts of all things emergency vehicle. Lindsay offers positive proof that our hobby is much more than badges and patches. *Arthur Fox photograph*

they brought to sell, trade and display. All three of us thought it was a little eerie that we weren’t seeing other collectors or tableholders checking in and hoped this wasn’t some kind of omen leading up to the big show the next day at Taylor Hall.

Saturday in Claremont turned out to be a beautiful day with nearly clear skies. It was hard to imagine that one of the most of the most horrific wildfires in Los Angeles history that was not yet contained was just 30 miles from our location.

I arrived a couple hours early to the show so I could get a good parking space. Smith and his crew were not yet ready for tableholders to start setting up. Once members of the Explorer group 411 arrived, they began to check in the tableholders and the show was officially underway. As usual, the Explorers did a great job throughout the day.

Within 30 minutes of the show doors opening to the public, the show area was packed with people. However, it was very apparent there were lots of no show tableholders. I noticed some of the empty tables were taken over by collectors working deals with each other. In talking with the buyers and sellers, I didn’t find anyone disappointed with the show.

The *Claremont Courier*, a local nonprofit newsroom, reported that the 43rd annual Porky Show would return to Taylor Hall and be hosted by the Claremont Police Explorer Post 411. Smith reported that \$8000 was raised during this year’s show which will go to fund training



Mike Halasi made a nice find at the Porky Show, a vintage, authentic department-issue detective’s shield from the New York Police Department. It features the city seal as the design with a four-digit number at the bottom. Real NYPD badges are very hard to find. *Mike Halasi photograph*

and equipment for the Explorer program.

This year’s display winners were announced by Smith and their awards were presented by a Claremont police officer. Mike Lucas won Best Badge Display and Kelly Mayfield won for Best Patch Display.

The winner for Best of Show had to be tracked down in the parking lot as he had already packed his vehicle and was ready to leave the show when he was told he had just won. Mike DeVilbiss was all laughs as he reentered the hall to accept his award from the officer.

Collectors posted positive comments on Porky.

“Great to see so many of the old guard, and meet some new ones!” wrote Phil Colonnelli.

Mark Pyne, a regular even though he lives on the East Coast, commented, “Another fantastic Porky show. It was a great time had by all who attended. Saw some amazing items on display and for sale along with old friends.”

A Washington hobbyist offered, “Spent ten times what I sold, but it was well worth it. Was able to pick up a long sought after badge that made the four-hour drive inconsequential.”

Japanese collector Tomoyuki Oksohi, who regularly attends and includes ride-alongs with LAPD, posted, “Enjoying reconnecting with friends has become more a priority than finding a badge these days. I’ve been able to reconnect with friends.”

Green Bay, Wis. LAPD collector Mike Halasi wrote, “Was a good show and a good trip to L.A. Just wanted to share an acquisition from the show, a duty issued and worn NYPD



Tomoyuki Okoshi (left) and Mike Halasi (right) are dedicated Los Angeles Police Department collectors. Okoshi and Halasi are show regulars; Okoshi travels from Japan, while Halasi journeys from Wisconsin. The Porky Show is the hobby’s best show for LAPD collectibles. *Contributed photograph*

detective shield.”

Submitted by Arthur G. Fox

The California Police Historian thanks Art Fox for once again reporting on the show. His contributions are greatly appreciated. EDITOR



Stan Berry’s collection of University of California-Irvine badges includes a framed commemorative worn during the 2022 Super Bowl in Inglewood. Berry is well known for volunteering to show his collections at agency events throughout Orange County and surrounding area. *Stan Berry photograph*

Stan Berry Shows Collection At UC-Irvine Awards Ceremony

Stan Berry kicked off another year as the hobby’s unofficial goodwill ambassador by setting up a beautiful exhibit of agency insignia, artifacts and memorabilia for the annual awards ceremony at the University of California-Irvine in mid-January.

“I am grateful to the UCI Police Department for having me participate in their 2024 awards ceremony,” said Berry. “Congratulations to the winners.”

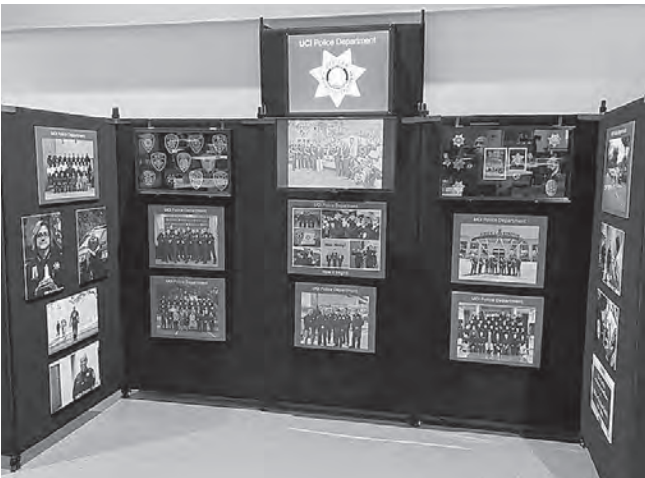
Chief of Police Elizabeth “Liz” Griffin honored employees for outstanding achievements over the past year, including presentation of five lifesaving medals.

Berry is known throughout Southern California for volunteering to display his collections of specific department insignia and artifacts at special events, such as open houses, awards presentations and others. He even puts them up at hockey games!

His UCI collection features badges, patches, photographs and historic memorabilia.

Berry’s most recent exhibit was at the Westminster Police Department Promotion and Awards Ceremony on February 19.

Compiled by Editor Mike R. Bondarenko



Stan Berry exhibited his collection of University of California police insignia, artifacts and memorabilia at a recent awards presentation ceremony at the U.C. Irvine. He was invited by Chief of Police Elizabeth Griffin. Berry shows his collection for agencies throughout the area. *Stan Berry photograph*

CLEHS Hosts San Luis Obispo Show On July 19

The San Luis Obispo Police Memorabilia Show returns to the Veterans Hall, 801 Grand Avenue, again this year, California Law Enforcement Historical Society Secretary-Treasurer Brian Smith announced. The popular event takes place on Saturday, July 19 in San Luis Obispo from 9 am to 1 pm.

Admission is free.

Fifty-five tables are available. Society members get a \$10 discount price of \$40 for each table. Non-members must pay \$50 per table. “Reserve your table early as the show sells out every year,” said Smith.

Table payment can be made online or through the mail. Go to CalPoliceHistory.Com for online reservations and click on the “San Luis Obispo Police Memorabilia Show” link, or mail checks payable to CLEHS to Gary Hoving, President, CLEHS, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875.

Awards are presented for the Best Patch Display, Best Badge Display, Best Historical Display, Best Educational Display and Best of Show.

The winner of the 2025 “California Police Historian of the Year” award will also be announced. Nominees for the prestigious honor are submitted by the membership.

On Friday evening before the show, CLEHS will hold its annual corporate meeting at 5 pm at headquarters in Arroyo Grande.

Submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Brian Smith

San Diego Police Museum Updates

San Diego Police Museum Vice President Steve Willard recently published an update on



The San Diego Police Museum has offered this replica of a 1974 Ford Gran Torino patrol car for sale. It features authentic agency markings and emergency equipment. San Diego was among many agencies that drove Gran Torinos during the early to mid-1970s. *S.D. Police Museum photograph*

recent activities.

“If you haven’t been to your police museum lately, you haven’t seen it all. We have spent the last two years completely revamping the museum by adding new exhibits and upgrading many of the ones already there,” said Willard, a city police sergeant who volunteers at the museum.

The most recent project is the Medal of Valor Room, which is now open for visitors. Willard said the next project is an exhibit highlighting department employees who have been awarded either a lifesaving citation or medal. It will be titled “Cops Save Lives.”

The museum is working to raise \$3500 to pay for the exhibit. Those who contribute at least \$250 will be recognized on a plaque. Contributions can be made online at SDPDMuseum.Com or by mailing a check to San Diego Police Historical Association, 1401 Broadway-MS 734, San Diego CA 92101.

“For those wishing to do a credit card over the phone, you can call me at (619) 726-6151, and I can help,” said Willard.

Submitted by Steve Willard

San Diego Police Museum Selling 1974 Ford Gran Torino

The San Diego Police Museum has put a car from its vintage fleet on sale, according to Mark Mendelsohn, a member of the board of directors. It’s a white 1974 Ford Gran Torino replicating a San Diego police car.

The Gran Torino is a four door with a blue interior. The emergency lights are a round blue dome on the roof and red lights in the grille. The siren speaker is mounted on the roof. The vehicle has minimal markings with “SAN DIEGO POLICE” on the front fender and a small round front door decal with “YOUR SAFETY...OUR BUSINESS” lettered above it. It is being sold for \$5900 with proceeds going toward the museum.

Ford produced the Gran Torino as a midsize sedan from 1972 to 1976. Many law enforcement agencies began using it as a patrol vehicle, mainly because it cost less than the Ford LTD Crown Victoria. However, even though it proved less popular, the car performed well and had good stability. Seven engine options were offered with the police packages.

Mendelsohn said the car is being sold because the museum is short on space and needs to make room. “We have a space issue and need to downsize,” he said.

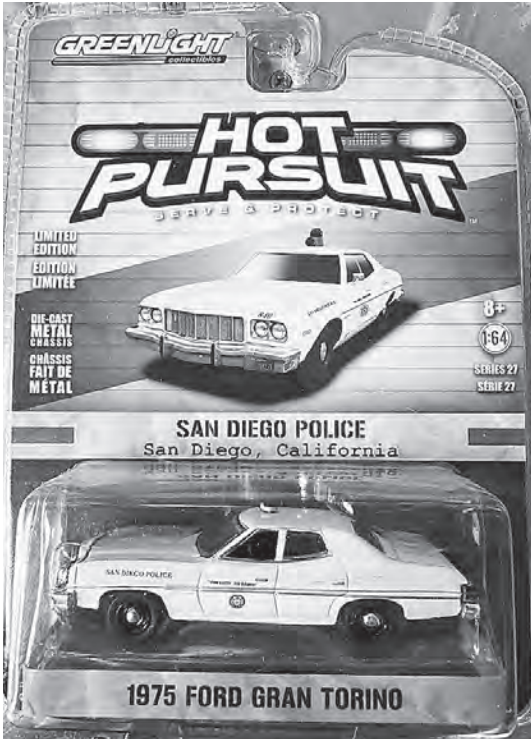
Compiled by Editor Mike R. Bondarenko

Reno-Sparks Show Makes Hobby History

Hobby history will be made on Saturday, April 26 in western Nevada.

The Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Police Department will host the first law enforcement collectors show ever held on a Native American reservation or sponsored by a tribal police department. Chief of Police Jarrod Nunes will host this history making inaugural show at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Gym in Reno, Nev. as a fundraiser for his agency. It’s already a 52-table sellout.

Chief Nunes is a longtime, well known California collector. His show is expected to attract a large contingent of California collectors. Traditionally, Reno-Sparks shows,



Greenlight Collectibles included a diecast replica of a San Diego Police Department 1975 Ford Gran Torino in its Hot Pursuit “Serve and Protect” series. It’s an authentic model of the actual patrol car in 1:64 scale. In comparison, a Road Champs SP/HP car is 1:43 scale. *Contributed photograph*



Longtime, well known California collector Jarrod Nunes is chief of police at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony in Reno, Nev. He will host the tribe’s first ever law enforcement collectors show on Saturday, April 26 on the reservation. The show is expected to attract a large turnout. *RSIC Police photograph*

including four Nationals (1992, 1994, 2007 and 2020), have seen a significant California presence among displays and insignia available for trade or sale. The show was formerly known as the Silicon Valley Collectors Show and was held in California.

Current Reno-Sparks Indian Colony insignia is highly desirable, especially their mirror image shoulder emblems. The very colorful design is a dark blue Nevada state shape accented by a die-cut chief headdress. Legends read, “RENO-SPARKS/ INDIAN COLONY/ POLICE.” Reno-Sparks and Police appear in white block letters, while “Indian Colony” is shown in white cursive letters. Headdress colors are white, black, red and brown. There is a white star denoting the colony location in western Nevada, as well as three brown and white native baskets representing the Washoe, Shoshone and Paiute peoples.

A mirror image is a set of emblems created so the design always faces forward when



Reno-Sparks Indian Colony PD emblems are highly desirable collectibles due to their unique design and Native American symbolism. This mirror image set shows the current design. Chief Jarrod Nunes is planning a few minor updates for the next version. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

applied to both shoulders of a uniform garment.

Chief Nunes said there were two previous similar designs, one for police and another for rangers. The tribe no longer has rangers.

Police had a white, black, red and gold headdress. “RENO/ SPARKS/ INDIAN/ COLONY” was shown in yellow cursive letters. “POLICE” and the five-point star were also yellow. The design appeared on a light blue state shape.

Ranger was identical except for the color scheme. It had a subdued look with dark tan lettering on a dark green state shape. The headdress is tan, dark gray and brown.

The agency uses Will’s Patches, a California-based producer owned by collector William Tully. “We used him because he’s quick,” said the chief.



(Top) The now obsolete previous shoulder emblem set from the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Police Department. It has a different color scheme and lettering style than the current design. (Bottom) RSIC Ranger is another obsolete style. It has mostly subdued colors. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

The Reno-Sparks Indian Colony is three distinct peoples, the Numa (Northern Paiute), Washeshu (Washoe) and Newe (Shoshone). In each language, these names mean “the people.” The Newe banded with the Nuwuvi (Southern Paiute) to form the Numa.

These tribes lived in cycles with the seasons of the land. The Washeshu gathered annually at Lake Tahoe, dispersing in a radius of several hundred miles throughout the remainder of the year. The Numu, taking their band names from their main food staples or geographic spots, occupied the land strip known as Western Nevada, Eastern Nevada, Oregon and Southern Utah. The Newe were found in what is today Eastern Nevada, Utah and Southern California. They inhabited the Colorado River Basin where they farmed corn, squash, wheat and beans.

After surviving the Spanish and then white settlers taking over their lands and causing many Reno-Sparks members to become homeless, the federal government purchased 20 acres of non-reservation land for the tribe to live on in 1917. This purchase comprises the core of today’s Indian Colony land.

A nurse and a Bureau of Indian Affairs police officer were assigned to the colony beginning in the early 1920s. Further, in 1938, the United States Supreme Court ruled there was no distinction between a colony and a reservation, which meant that the superintendence of the colony fell to the federal government.

Colony governance was established with formation of a six-member tribal council in 1934 after receiving permission from the government under the Indian Reorganization Act. The colony charter was approved in 1939. It was officially recognized as the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, the name it still has today.

In 1970, President Richard Nixon developed the latest national policy toward Indians, self-determination. Self-determination gave autonomy to tribes, allowing them to control their own affairs and be independent of federal oversight without losing federal support.

Today, the RSIC has expanded its original land base to 15,292 acres with 1157 tribal members. The colony employs over 300 employees and more than half are colony members.

The tribe maintains a tribal court system, police force and health clinic. It offers full government services to its membership.

The historic inaugural show will begin at 8 am and run until 3 pm. The hall opens at 7 am for tableholders only.

All proceeds will go to RSIC police programs.
Nunes is trying to add additional tables to accommodate table requests.
Please see “Swap Meet Calendar” for additional information.
Submitted by Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor and Chief of Police Jerrod Nunes, Host



Marla and Darryl Lindsay have hosted the Ripon Police and Menlo Park Police Emergency Vehicle Show for 35 years. It has grown into one of the largest public safety vehicle shows on the West Coast. Lindsay works at Menlo Park PD, a San Mateo County agency. They are retiring as hosts. *Contributed photograph*

Darryl Lindsay Announces Ripon Vehicle Show Host Retirement

Darryl Lindsay announced on February 5 that he is retiring as Ripon Police and Menlo Park Police Emergency Vehicle Show coordinator after this year’s show on October 4.

Lindsay and his wife, Marla, have managed the vehicle show for an incredible 35 years. Ripon has grown into one of California’s largest police vehicle exhibits. It is highlighted by best vehicle judging and a parade through the city.

“After much consideration, I have made the decision to have 2025 be my final year as coordinator for the Ripon car show. Coordinating this show since 1990 alongside my wife, Marla, has been one of the highlights of my life. However, after 35 years, it’s time to pass the baton to someone else,” said Lindsay.

He is happy to have helped put the restored vehicle hobby on the map.
Lindsay is looking for a new coordinator. The role involves overseeing event logistics, managing vendors, coordinating volunteers, liaising with attendees and ensuring everything runs smoothly on show day.

Anyone interested in succeeding him as coordinator can contact Lindsay at inpursuitmmpd@yahoo.com.
Submitted by Darryl Lindsay



Ripon is the place to be for California emergency vehicle enthusiasts on the first Saturday in October. Darryl and Marla have hosted the popular Ripon Police and Menlo Park Police Emergency Vehicle Show for the last 35 years. 2025 will be his last year as coordinator and host. *Contributed photograph*



The murder of Paul Hanson in 1932 made front page news in San Francisco. Newspapermen coined it the “Tryst Killing,” even though Hanson was engaged to be married to Alice Olson. Hanson was killed in a robbery turned murder as he and Olson parked along Lake Merced. *SF Chronicle photograph*

1932 “Tryst Killing” Still Baffles San Francisco

When a time capsule from 1934 was unearthed last year at Mount Davidson in San Francisco, the estimated 200 people present listened to a live inventory of its contents as they were removed. But even historians there didn’t recognize the top story in the copy of the *San Francisco News* that emerged.

In 1932, however, the so-called “Tryst Killing” of Paul Hanson, who fought to save his fiancée from three attackers, sparked a major police investigation and received banner headline treatment.

Police, who called it a defend her honor slaying, employed an unbending theory of who was responsible as they immediately hauled in seven suspects, all golf caddies, and declared the case solved. Decades later, though, identifying who killed Hanson isn’t any clearer than it was on that foggy night on a desolate road near Lake Merced.

Hanson, 21, was the son of a local small business owner. He picked up Alice Olson, 20, a stenographer originally from Salt Lake City, for a ride the night of March 23, 1932. From her home near the Presidio, they drove southwest to what was then a mostly undeveloped part of San Francisco that was still full of sand dunes. The couple was engaged.

Near the southeast shore of Lake Merced, they parked under a tree on a small rise on a quiet road connecting two golf courses, the San Francisco Golf and Country Club and the Olympic Club. Close by was the lake’s water pump station, where a newer one stands today.

“The lake was beautiful in the moonlight, and we stopped near the water to admire the reflection of the clouds scudding across the face of the moon,” Olson said a day later.

Soon after the couple parked, a car parked behind them. Out of it stormed three men, two of them armed and wearing masks. They ordered Hanson and Olson to hand over any money they had. Olson said Hanson had only 50 cents in his pockets, which angered the attackers. They seized Olson’s purse and forced her out of the car while telling Hanson to “stay in the machine and not pay any attention to what he heard.”

One of the three men grabbed Olson and began carrying her away as she screamed her for fiancée. Despite having a gun pointed at him at close range, Olson said Hanson sprang out of the car to help her. “He fought like a wildcat,” Olson said of the struggle that followed.

Outnumbered three to one by the attackers, Hanson didn’t stand a chance. An autopsy found that he was knocked unconscious by a blow to the head, possibly by the butt of a rifle one of the men was carrying. He was shot twice, once in the shoulder and once in the abdomen.

A terrified Olson had shaken free and was hiding behind a tree when Hanson was killed. Upon hearing the gunshots, she said she ran into the night, falling down several times, until she could find a house in the nearest neighborhood and pound on the door for help. The Parkmerced address she stumbled upon was over a 30-minute walk from the pump station.

Olson led police back to the scene of the crime that night, but they were unable to come away with much evidence, other than one of the bullets shot into Hanson. Olson said she got a good look at one of the men who was unmasked and believed she could identify him.

By the following morning, the robbery-killing was the top story in local newspapers. “Pet bandits slay youth saving girl,” was the headline that blared across the top of the *San Francisco Chronicle*. News coverage called the parking area near the lake a “petting party” and referred to the crime as a “tryst killing,” even though these were two adults engaged to marry each other.

Authorities profile of the suspects was heavily informed by the killing’s outlying location, where using a rifle a rifle to hunt squirrels wouldn’t have attracted as much attention as it would in the city. They ruled out more seasoned criminals and settled on a theory that local amateurs had to have done it.

One day after Hanson’s killing, Olson was asked to identify three suspects who had been arrested in the robbery of a nearby restaurant the same day. She quickly cleared them. However, the San Francisco Police Department sent over a dozen detectives from homicide, robbery and other details on the hunt.

Two days after Hanson’s slaying, Captain of Inspectors Charles Dullea declared the case solved with the arrests of seven young men ranging from 17 to 24 years old, all of them caddies at golf courses that neighbored the attack. Their large mug shots were spread across the local papers.

Authorities based their arrests not on evidence from the killing or Olson. Rather, they were identified by a young Daly City couple who said men with a rifle had robbed them from their car in the same area a week earlier.

However, while Olson said two of the seven men resembled the attackers, she couldn’t say with confidence they were the ones. All of them had alibis, and they were cleared within a day.

Within a week of the killing, over 300 young men in the Ocean View area, most of them caddies or former caddies, were questioned as police continued homing in on local amateur hoodlums. None were arrested, however.

“One of them will eventually talk,” Dullea told the *San Francisco Examiner*. “There were too many involved.”

The investigation spiraled outward from there, with many suspects questioned for the slightest resemblance to the killers’ profiles. The suspects included a cannery worker named James Dorbello and two brothers named Segal and Lloyd Upton, who were brought in for owning rifles and promptly released.

In the fall of 1932, authorities once again declared the Hanson killing solved as they staged a manhunt for another suspect, a counterfeiter named Danny Wolff. Up to this point,



A *San Francisco Chronicle* photo shows the principles in the March 23, 1932 murer of Paul Hanson. The accompoanying story provides details on the murder scene along the shore of Lake Merced and shows Paul Hanson’s car. The murder remains unsolved despite extensive investigation. *SF Chronicle photograph*

Wolff had never been implicated in any killings, but he was suddenly suspected in three; all based on the account of convicted burglar and bootlegger William “Stumpy” Linehan. Linehan said that while he was still free the night after Hanson was killed, Wolff had sought his help with finding and killing Olson. Even as they were declaring the case solved, authorities hadn’t yet captured Wolff, who was already wanted for counterfeiting. Linehan said Wolff had been hiding out for weeks near McLaren Park in a hilltop house belonging to “Uncle” Johnny Brizzolare. As he confirmed this, Brizzolare told the press, Wolff was hiding there against his will; he later got police protection because he was afraid of being harmed by gangsters who had hidden there.

After a widely publicized three-day search, San Francisco police caught Wolff and his wife, Marie Dale Wolff, as they hid in a Sixth Street lodging house. There, they found equipment for making counterfeit half-dollars. But they still had no firm evidence linking Wolff to the Hanson killing, other than Linehan’s account. They need a positive identification from Olson, who was photographed standing face to face with Wolff at the city jail. “Do I look like the man?” Wolff reportedly asked Olson. “No, you do not. I believe you are innocent,” she replied. Then the two shook hands. While she was there, Olson was also unable to identify the 14 other men who stood in a lineup with Wolff. Wolff would be convicted on five federal counts of counterfeiting, but would never again be linked to the killing of Paul Hanson.

The last highly publicized suspects in the Hanson killing were two teenagers, George Gernandt, 18, and Ernest Ruiz, 16. Gernandt was in jail having reportedly confessed to two shootings that Ruiz was also a suspect in. One of them was a robbery that led to a shooting at Lakeside Golf Club, where Ruiz had been a caddy. Gernandt was scheduled to be questioned again, but on the morning of March 23, 1933, he was found hanging in his jail cell, and he died soon after. That day, officials told reporters, “There is a strong chance that both Gernandt and Ruiz were implicated in the Hanson murder,” but before Gernandt could be buried, both had been cleared. The pursuit thinned out from there. Other suspects were questioned and quickly cleared, and an August 1933 United Press report said police “pursued a maze of false claims for five months.” One of them, a truck driver named Robert McNeese quickly recanted his confession after police turned skeptical of his story.

By 1935, authorities had moved on. A story on cold cases by the *Chronicle* in October of that year noted that “police invariably ran up against a stone wall. Suspects have been arrested, questioned, then freed. Paul Hanson has never been avenged.” That year, Alice Olson married George Leidecker, a pallbearer at Hanson’s funeral. She continued living in the Bay Area, volunteering with the Cub Scouts, the Boys Club and a church group clothing poor people. She died in August 2006 at the age of 94. A 1959 *Chronicle* perspective on the cold case speculated that Olson had moved away: “She would be a matron now, perhaps with a daughter of her own.”
Written by Greg Kerahosian, San Francisco Chronicle

New Hampshire Crown Victoria Donated To California Museum

It went on a long journey from Portsmouth, N.H. to the San Francisco Bay Area, but Cruiser 18 has a new home, The Crown Victoria Museum in Northern California. The Portsmouth Police Department recently donated the black and white 2011 Ford Police Interceptor to the museum after 14 years patrolling the streets of the southeastern New Hampshire city. The car arrived at the museum on February 12 after being shipped across the country. The donation was approved by Police Chief Mark Newport, the Police Commission and the City Council. The Crown Victoria Museum is a non-profit organization established in 2023. It’s dedicated to restoring, preserving and displaying Ford Crown Victorias used by law enforcement agencies and run by active and retired Bay Area law enforcement officers drive the completely restored vehicles to local community events, car shows and other events. It’s nostalgia on wheels. “At this time, the Museum is not open to the public. Vehicles are instead brought out for display at shows and events,” said Board of Directors President Clark Vineyard. The Museum has entered cars in the annual Ripon-Menlo Park car shows held in conjunction with CLEHS insignia show in Ripon. President Vineyard said donated cars are kept in a secure 2400-square foot private warehouse. In addition to Portsmouth, the current collection includes Crown Victorias from the Texas Department of Public Safety Highway, Burlingame, Calif. Police Department and others that are presently being restored.



Cruiser 18 was retired from the Portsmouth, N.H. police fleet earlier this year after the iconic black and white patrolled the city for 14 years. Chief Mark Newport donated the car to The Crown Victoria Museum in the San Francisco Bay Area. It arrived safely in California in February. *Portsmouth PD photograph*

“Our Cruiser 18 will be displayed with its original markings and emergency equipment as it was while serving our city,” said Chief Newport. “By far, Portsmouth’s cruiser will be the furthest traveled cruiser to be donated to the museum. We are happy to see a useful life ahead for this cruiser and for the city and police department to be recognized over 3000 miles from home!”

According to the Museum website, Ford briefly debuted the name Crown Victoria as a trim option in 1955. The name reappeared in 1980 as a distinct full-size line, the LTD Crown Victoria. It was an upgraded model of the popular Ford LTD. The LTD Crown Victoria included police package options. The large, high-powered rear wheel drive sedan skyrocketed in popularity and became a law enforcement workhorse throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico. It was the most popular police car in the USA for nearly 20 years.

Ford rebranded the line as the Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor in 1992. The name was used throughout the rest of its production life until it was discontinued in 2011. “Seeing the difficulties others had trying to restore vintage police cars and watching the beloved Crown Victorias rapidly retiring from police service, the Museum was founded in 2023 to restore and preserve these future classics while they are still available,” said President Vineyard.
Compiled by Editor Mike R. Bondarenko



Among the cars in the growing The Crown Victoria Museum fleet is this fully restored cruiser from the Burlingame, Calif. Police Department. The non-profit museum is dedicated to the restoration, preservation and exhibition of retired law enforcement Crown Vics. *Crown Victoria Museum photograph*

Where Is The O.J. Simpson White Ford Bronco Today?

It was the most famous pursuit in American law enforcement history. On a sunny Southern California afternoon in June 1994, accused murder and former collegiate and professional football star O.J. Simpson, driving a shiny white Ford Bronco, led Los Angeles police on a two-hour slow speed pursuit on the 405 Freeway as 90 million people watched on live television. Ultimately, Simpson was arrested on a warrant and tried for the murder of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman. He was found not guilty after a lengthy show trial which captured national attention. It was televised live worldwide. Whatever happened to the white Ford Bronco? It must be considered as a significant piece of Los Angeles law enforcement history since the LAPD investigated the brutal murders and arrested Simpson and the case played out on the international stage.



The eyes of the nation were transfixed on the 405 Freeway on June 17, 1994 as Los Angeles police, trying to arrest accused murder O.J. Simpson, pursued a white Ford Bronco. The Bronco was owned and driven by friend Al Cowlings, while Simpson rode in the backseat. *Contributed photograph*



The world’s most famous 1993 Ford Bronco is now displayed at the Alcatraz East Crime Museum in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. It was owned by at least three others after its original owner, Al Cowlings, sold it in 1996. The so-called “O.J. Bronco” has a estimated worth of \$500,000 today. *Contributed photograph*

The 1993 Bronco was owned by Simpson friend and fellow football player Al Cowlings. Although Simpson owned an identical Bronco, it was Cowlings’s vehicle he was in that day. Cowlings was driving while Simpson sat in the backseat with a loaded gun on his lap. In November 1994, just as jury selection for Simpson’s jury was about to begin, Cowlings decided he no longer wanted the Bronco and let it be known he wanted to sell it. Michael Kronick, a memorabilia collector, reportedly offered him \$75,000. Even though Cowlings accepted the offer, when it came time to pick up the check and turn over the keys, Cowlings never showed up. He must have changed his mind. Cowlings changed his mind again and sold the white Bronco to Michael Pulwer, owner of an adult film production company, for \$200,000 in 1996. Pulwer reportedly stored the rig in an underground garage at his Los Angeles condo for the next ten-plus years. It wasn’t until 2012 that the Bronco was seen again. It made a surprise appearance at the Luxor Hotel in Las Vegas where it was used to promote the opening of a sports museum. Later, it was displayed outside an art exhibit in Greenwich, Conn. by an artist who used images of a topless Nicole Brown-Simpson in some of his canvases. Today, after ownership changed at least twice more, the world’s most infamous Bronco is on permanent exhibit at the Alcatraz East Crime Museum in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. It shares a showroom with John Dillinger’s 1933 Essex Terraplane and Ted Bundy’s Volkswagen Beetle. “It’s one of our most popular attractions,” said Ally Pennington, the museum’s artifacts and programs manager. “People come from all over to see it.”
Compiled by Editor Mike R. Bondarenko

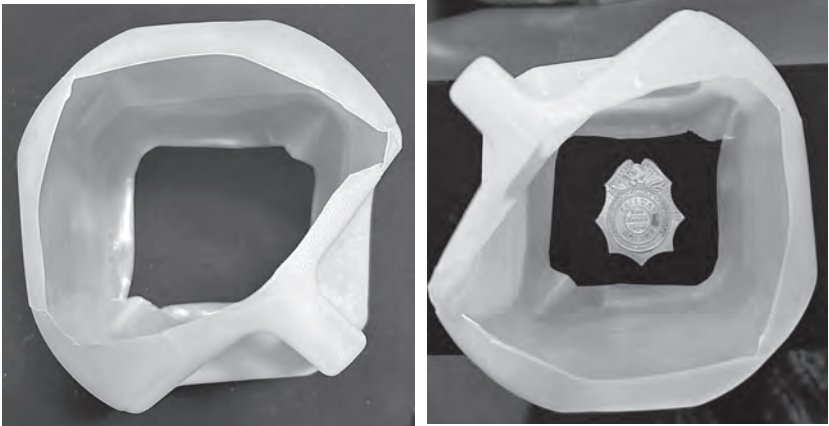
End California Police Historian

How To Take Professional Badge Photos

The secret to taking top quality, professional closeup badge photographs is not thousands of dollars worth of hard to use high tech equipment. It’s an opaque plastic milk jug. Use it to take great pictures in less than two minutes. It’s as easy as drinking a glass of ice cold milk!

By Chip Greiner, Staff Writer

BOGOTA, N.J. – I was recently surprised and not surprised to run into our preeminent *PCNEWS* editor, Mike R. Bondarenko, and his lovely wife, Paula, at the November “Central Jersey” show. I was surprised by the fact that he had driven 15 hours from Wisconsin to attend the show and not surprised because that is who Mike is and always has been, a strong supporter of our shows, even a small one in Central Jersey. Bondarenko asked me an interesting question, “How do you take such professional badge photos?” My simple answer was Milk Jug Photography. He said he hadn’t heard the term before and asked me to explain it. He then asked if I would be willing to do in article on it for *PCNEWS*. I started collecting badges in 1972. Back then, if you wanted to trade a badge to someone, you had to hand write or type a badge list, then do a “pencil rubbing” of the badge. This was done by taking a piece of writing paper and placing it over the face of the badge, using a lead pencil to create a rather accurate but negative image of it. In the 1980s when Xerox copiers came into widespread use, things became much easier! We had a large office copier outside the chief’s office, and on my day off, I would



(Left) An opaque plastic milk jug is all a collector needs to take professional looking badge pictures. (Right) The top and bottom of this jug have been cut away to create a hollow light defuser. Chip Greiner left on the plastic handle so it’s easy to position the jug over a badge. *Chip Greiner photographs*



Milk Jug Photography! This New Jersey railroad police badge shown in a previous photograph is now captured on Chip Greiner’s smartphone. The closeup is a highly-detailed professional looking picture that can be used for any purpose a collector desires. It was photographed in an empty jug! *Chip Greiner photographs*

show up with my cigar box of badges, bring the chief’s secretary some famous B&W Crumb Cake and ask her if I could use the copy machine for a few minutes. Today, things are much easier and faster. With the Internet and Facebook, we can now list and post our badges in the matter of just a few minutes. After I started writing articles for *PCNEWS*, it soon began to morph into other writing endeavors to include two railroadiana organization magazines, six books on railroad police badges, and now several Facebook badge groups. Obviously, I was taking a lot of badge photographs. Now, just about everybody owns a smartphone, either an Android or an iPhone. If you don’t, then I’m sure your wife or kids have one. These devices are equipped with great high resolution cameras that take awesome instant photographs. The problem I was having, and the one Bondarenko was having, was reflective glare. Badges are shiny. They reflect light badly. Glare makes the badge hard to see in photographs. I had mentioned this to a friend who takes jewelry photographs. He said I needed to use a milk jug. I was a little confused and asked him what he meant. My friend said you need to use a one gallon plastic milk jug. You simply cut off the top and bottom, place the hollow jug over the item you want to photograph and shoot the picture. The opaque milk jug acts as a light defuser and eliminates any glare. So, I obtained a gallon milk jug and tried it. It worked! Actually, it worked great. It now only takes me less than a minute to take professional pictures of both sides of a badge. After I take the photo, I go to the photo settings on my iPhone and crop it. I can also filter the image a bit. The entire process from start to finish is less than two minutes for me. A milk jug cut off at the top and bottom is all it takes to take professional looking badge photographs. I use a dark color base, either a Navy blue or black cloth, foam insert or pad as a background. I use a cheap \$6 black velvet jewelry pad that I bought on Amazon. It works great. It’s simple. Place the badge on the pad, put the milk jug over it and then position your smartphone over the top, focus and click. Don’t worry if your image includes part of the milk jug. You can crop it out using your phone’s task bar or photo app. That’s all there is to it. Sometimes, I might use the filter setting on my iPhone photo app to adjust the color a bit. So, the next time your wife calls you on the smartphone as you are driving home exhausted from a rather busy midnight tour and asks you to stop and bring home a jug of milk, you can smile and say, “I’d love to, honey!”
CHIP GREINER (Bogota, N.J.)

Don DeDiemar Family Selling Huge Police Insignia Collection

DAVENPORT, Iowa – Disposition of a large law enforcement insignia collection following a collector’s death is often an arduous task, especially for non-collector family members. Such is the challenge facing the children of veteran hobbyist and insignia designer Don DeDiemar of Bennett, Colo. Fortunately, a fellow collector stepped forward to help the family. As reported in *PCNEWS*, DeDiemar, 76, died in October 2022. He began collecting in the 1970s and amassed a significant collection of badges from across the United States, especially from Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico and tribal agencies. Badges from the Southwest were his primary interest. He also collected patches, challenge coins and historic documents and photographs. In addition, there was the remaining stock from his longtime insignia business which included unsold badges, cloth emblems and challenge coins. Neither DeDiemar’s son, Jonathan DeDiemar, or his daughter, Elizabeth Carlson, share their father’s passion for police collecting, even though Jonathan has been an Aurora, Colo. police officer for 17 years. Along came Jeremiah Herderich, a Denver collector. “I knew Don; he lived in Bennett, I live in Denver,. We got to know each other. After he died, I reached out to the family to see if they needed help disposing of his collection,” said Herderich. “I wanted to make sure they got a fair price for everything. You know how it is in this hobby after a collector dies.” While the family offered some items on an internet auction site, neither DeDiemar’s son or daughter has time to process mail order sales. Herderich suggested they rent tables at the National Police Collectors Show and offer the collection for sale. Last summer, he joined the family in manning multiple tables in Davenport, Iowa, providing advice and counsel on pricing and sales. “Jeremiah has been great. We knew Dad was a big collector, but we never got involved in his hobby. We know nothing about this or how to sell everything. Jeremiah has helped us a lot. I don’t know where we’d be without him,” said Carlson. Jonathan DeDiemar said his father inspired him to become a police officer but not a collector. “I just never got into this. It’s just something that’s ever appealed to me,” he said. Carlson told *PCNEWS* National Show sales went well, but because the DeDiemar Collection was so large, much remains to be sold. “We’ll just keep trying. Like I told you, there’s is a lot left, especially patches, pictures and old papers,” she said. Herderich offered to be the contact person to reach the family. He can be reached through Facebook. “One thing every collector should do is make some advance arrangements in case of death. Unless there is a collector in the family, it’s better to plan ahead than leave things up to your family. Let them know what you want done with your collection,” he added. MIKE R. BONDARENKO (Baldwin, Wis.)



Elizabeth Carlson (left) and Jonathan DeDiemar (right) asked Jeremiah Herderich (center) to help them liquidate their late father’s law enforcement insignia collection. Don DeDiemar died in 2022 and left them with a massive personal collection and unsold insignia. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Collecting Memories

By Dennis Beyer, Staff Writer

NAPLES, Fla. – My father gave me my first badge 60 years ago. I had a few more given to me in the next couple of years. I placed them on my wall to show them off. I had no idea



(Top) The hat badge worn by a Newark police chanceman between the 1890s and 1914. It carries a patent date of April 10, 1888. (Bottom) “C 93” is a radiator worn by a Newark police chanceman as designated by the “C” in front of the number on both badges. *Dennis Beyer photographs*

that this was the beginning of my collecting and displaying badges for a hobby. Dad was a detective when he retired in 1969. He served 37 years. Because he became active with the retired officers group, he was able to obtain small retirement badges, lapel pins and regulation badges.



(Top) Newark police hat badge number “175” does not have a “C” in front of the number, so it was worn by a regular officer. It also carries the patent date of April 10, 1888. (Bottom) Radiator badge number “175” accompanied the hat piece on the patrolman’s uniform. *Dennis Beyer photographs*



(Dennis Beyer was attracted to this patrol officer radiator from the Newark Police Department in New Jersey because of the low number, “11,” and the excellent condition with no apparent damage other than normal year, even though it was used between the 1890s and 1914. *Dennis Beyer photograph*

In the early years in this hobby, I got badges from all over. At one point I had badges from the East Coast, West Coast, Europe and so on. After 25 to 30 years, I started to get more a New Jersey focus, particularly Newark.

My goal was to obtain one of every Newark badge dating back to 1850. There have been five editions, starting with the Newark star and ending with the current badge. In trying to achieve my goal, I plastered my walls with a variety of NPD badges, including a trio of the Newark radiator badges.

I now have these fine specimens in a nice oak case that definitely is locked. On the left and right sides are my radiator parade of two sets of badges, shirt and cap.

One is a chanceman radiator numbered “93” with the matching hat badge. A chanceman was the equivalent of a rookie or probationary patrolman. Back in the day, the city took chances on new hires for a year, hence the title chanceman. If the officer successfully completed his training, he became a regular officer.

On the right side of this display is the officer radiator numbered “175.” It has a matching hat badge that also completes a set. This is the badge that would have been worn by a regular police officer.

In the center of the group is the newest radiator badge to join the collection. It is numbered “11.” The low number was one of the reasons that attracted me to it. It makes a fine addition to the other pair.

These badges were in service roughly from the 1890s to 1914. All are in good condition. There are no blemishes, scratches or dents on any of these shields. Hopefully, they will stay that way.

I get to view them just about every day. While I wasn’t alive when these badges were used, their history ignites many fine memories of my city, Newark, N.J.

DENNIS BEYER (Naples, Fla.)

Davenport Police Patrol Wagon Popular At National

Retired Davenport, Iowa Traffic Sergeant Jerry Behning labored three years to completely restore and recreate a vintage early 1950s police patrol wagon. The gleaming black and white panel truck was a big hit at the National Police Collectors Show.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

DAVENPORT, Iowa – Jerry Behning spent 32 years with the Davenport Police Department but never drove a patrol wagon on duty. He does now, but not on duty.

Long retired after serving in Davenport from 1969 to 2002, Behning, a motor officer and traffic sergeant, painstakingly restored a stock 1951 Chevrolet 3100 panel truck, then skillfully transformed it into a replica of an actual patrol wagon that his department once used to transport prisoners more than 70 years ago.

Behning’s sparkling black and white wagon was a popular attraction at the 2024 National Police Collectors Show in Davenport last summer. It was displayed in the foyer near the main entrance, alongside displays of DPD and other local artifacts and memorabilia he collected during his career. The exhibit garnered a great deal of attention. It was easily the most photographed exhibit of the show.

Festival of Trees Davenport kicks off the Christmas season in late November each year with the ten day “Festival of Trees” celebration, a fundraiser for Quad Cities Arts. Events include the largest helium balloon parade in the Midwest.

“I’ve been going to the parade for a long time. One year, I saw the Fire Department had an antique fire truck. The Police Department didn’t have anything like that. So I thought, ‘Why not do a paddy wagon?’” said Behning.

Behning knew what he wanted and began searching for the “right” old truck. He didn’t



Jerry Behning spent three years restoring a 1951 Chevrolet 3100 panel van and converting it into a replica of a patrol wagon driven by the Davenport, Iowa Police Department from the 1950s. It was displayed at the National Police Collectors Show last summer. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



A closer look at Jerry Behning’s fine Davenport, Iowa Police Department insignia and challenge coin collection. It shows the colorful custom state shape shoulder patch and eagle-topped badge, as well as a hat badge, three coins and two business cards. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

know much about the real DPD patrol wagon other than what he had seen in old photos, but he knew it had a cherry red roof light and fender-mounted growler siren.

“I wanted it to have the big cherry on top and that siren,” he said. “I also wanted to show the patch I had on my shirts in 1969.”

It’s been 70-plus years since panel trucks in this vintage were manufactured, so he knew his search would take time. But, he finally found the “right” one! “It wasn’t a police vehicle, but it was in pretty fair shape when I got it,” said Behning.

Labor of love The retired police officer began painstakingly restoring the patrol wagon in 2012. It was finished a full three years later in 2015.

Behning said the only things he didn’t work on were the motor and the black lettering on the white rear side panels, which he farmed out. Gold and silver numbered DPD badge decals augment the lettering, “DAVENPORT/ POLICE.”

A standout feature is a red lighted police sign on the right front quarter panel. (The growler siren is mounted on the opposite panel.) Like everything on the truck, it works perfectly.

Behning used old photographs to determine not only the correct lettering and decal styles but also interior and exterior equipment placement. Considerable effort was made to make the patrol wagon as authentic as possible.

The driver compartment has a bench seat. There is a period correct two-way radio, a toggle switch to activate the siren and red lights and a place for a battery-operated flashlight and wooden baton.

A metal screen separates the driver from the rear prisoner compartment. A vintage replica sub-machine gun, also known as a Tommy gun, is attached to it. He found the weapon at a gun show and thought it would look great in the wagon. It certainly adds a great deal. He doesn’t know whether the real wagon was so equipped but doubts it. “They probably didn’t carry a Tommy in it,” he said.

Prisoners sat on two facing wooden benches behind the screen. They were handcuffed in front. Handcuffs were strung beneath a heavy gauge metal bar to secure the prisoner during transport. “He wasn’t going anywhere,” said Behning.

The interior was decorated for the show with displays of historic DPD photographs, a helmet and another decal.

Behning keeps the patrol wagon at his Donahue, Iowa home. He drives it to a few police and fire vehicle shows, as well as showing it at police memorials and an annual Mothers Against Drunk Driving fundraiser in Davenport.

Davenport insignia exhibit Behning featured his impressive framed collection of personal Davenport, Scott County S.O. Posse and military police insignia alongside the patrol wagon.

He showed current and obsolete DPD badge and patch collections. There were also three challenge coins. Prominent was the gold-on-black rounded triangle emblem worn in 1969.

His Scott County Posse collection shows current and obsolete badges and patches.

The military police segment comes from the United States Army and features an armband, patch, badge and collar pin.

A family tradition The Behning family has a strong law enforcement tradition. Five members have served as a law enforcement officers in three states. His son, Greg, is a Davenport PD captain currently in charge of patrol.

“I guess being a cop runs in the family,” Behning said.

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (Baldwin, Wis.)



Jerry Behning has a fine personal collection of Davenport Police Department, Scott County Posse and United States Army Military Police insignia. It was displayed in front of his replica patrol wagon during the National Police Collectors Show last summer. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Geno’s Steaks has been a Philadelphia institution since Joey Vento opened it in 1966. It’s always been a popular stop for street cops because of the pro-police stance of the owner, now Geno Vento. Police from all over the world stop by to see the massive patch collection. *Contributed photograph*

Patch Collections Decorate Walls Of Geno’s Steaks

Geno’s Steaks is one of the oldest and most popular cheesesteak restaurants in Philadelphia. The late Joey Vento, who founded Geno’s in 1966, was a strong law enforcement supporter. Police and sheriff patches from around the world decorate the walls. A memorial to fallen Philadelphia police and firefighters stands near the main entrance.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

PHILADELPHIA, Penna. – Cheesesteaks are synonymous with Philadelphia, so much so the incredibly popular sandwich is called a Philly cheesesteak everywhere. It was invented here in the 1930s.

Among the oldest and most popular cheesesteak restaurants is Geno’s Steaks. Joey Vento opened it in South Philly in 1966. Even though he died in 2011, his son, Geno, now runs it. It remains as popular as ever with locals and out-of-towners alike. He has continued family traditions. After all, the restaurant was named after him!

Geno’s is not only known for great sandwiches but its massive collection of law enforcement officers from all over the world. Every restaurant wall is covered with frames containing hundreds of emblems donated by Philadelphia and visiting officers.

“We stopped counting a long time ago. There’s a lot of them, that’s for sure. We still get a lot when officers come in, so we’re thinking about a virtual album to show the new ones,” said Kevin Bardy, one of the store managers.

Joey Vento was an ardent supporter of not only the Philadelphia Police Department but all law enforcement. There was always a “police discount” for uniformed patrol officers and plainclothes detectives. He was always among the first to donate to police charities or help an officer and his family in time of need. His generosity is legendary.

His politics were apologetically arch conservative. He put up a controversial sign where customers place orders that read, “This is America When Ordering Speak English.” It stayed up for ten years before it was taken down after his death when the city threatened



Law enforcement officers from all over the country and around the world donated their agency’s shoulder patch to the large framed collection that covers the walls of Geno’s Steaks in South Philadelphia. Now, there is no more room to show new patch donations. *Contributed photograph*



When Joey Vento opened Geno’s Steaks in 1966, among his most loyal customers were Philadelphia street cops and firefighters who stopped for food and a cop-friendly atmosphere. He was a law enforcement supporter and donated large sums of money to help officers. *Contributed photograph*

Geno’s Patch Collection ...Continued

legal action against the restaurant for discrimination.

In nearby Gloucester Township, N.J., when police K-9 “Schultz” was killed in the line of duty in 2010, Vento donated \$30,000 to fund a memorial for the fallen canine hero at a township park in Sicklerville. Vento read about a drive to fund the memorial, called the police chief and told him he would pay for it. He didn’t care how much it would cost.

“Joey Vento was a man who greatly respected the law enforcement profession. He unselfishly offered his support to many police agencies, including the Gloucester Township Police Department,” said then-Chief of Police W. Harry Earle. “We are very thankful for the generous support from Mr. Vento.”

Geno’s has a “Path of Honor,” a memorial to fallen law enforcement officers. It shows photographs and memorials to their memories. A large metal remembrance plaque near the main entrance names every Philadelphia police officer and firefighter killed since 1930.

Less than two months before his death, Joey Vento made K-9 “Schultz” the first dog memorialized on the “Path of Honor.”

His son, Geno, has continued the pro-police traditions established by his father, including the patch collection, although there is no longer room inside the building for additional patch displays.

“We welcome police officers from all over the world here. They come in and have our steaks. And, they walk around looking at all the patches and just shake their heads. They can’t believe it,” Bardy said. “A lot of them are brought in by local cops. They really appreciate a cop-friendly place. We are cop-friendly. Always have been, always will be.”

Like many patch displays in cop bars or restaurants, the collection at Geno’s Steaks began when an officer gave Joey Vento one of his shoulder patches in appreciation for his support of law enforcement. It grew from that humble beginning many years ago to the largest publicly-displayed collection in the city.

One of the most impressive displays honors Philadelphia Officer Daniel Faulkner killed on duty on December 9, 1981 while making a traffic stop in South Philadelphia not far from Geno’s. The shooter was apprehended and is serving life in prison. The exhibit shows his photograph surrounded by police patches.

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (Baldwin, Wis.)

Geno’s Steaks is located at the triangular corner of Ninth Street and Passyunk Avenue in South Philadelphia. The street address is 1219 South Ninth Street. The restaurant is open 24 hours seven days a week. EDITOR

Steenberg Steps Down Ed Steenberg has stepped down as president of the Saint Paul, Minn. Police Historical Society. Kevin Reinke, a longtime city police officer who served as department historian for many years, became president on January 1. Steenberg will remain as immediate past president. He told members it was time for a new generation to take over the society, which is dedicated to preserving Saint Paul police history. Under Steenberg’s skillful leadership, the SPPHS officially sponsored and co-hosted five annual police collector shows in Saint Paul.

PICA-GB Elects Wilkinson The Police Insignia Collectors Association of Great Britain recently elected longtime United Kingdom insignia collector Dave Wilkinson as its new chairman. He takes over from Keith Tucker who retired. Wilkinson began collecting badges in 1966 even before he became a police officer. He served on four different U.K. forces before he retiring in 2006 after 35 years. Wilkinson pointed out that 2025 marks PICA-GB’s 50th anniversary. Sadly, most of its founding members are now deceased, he said.



Philadelphia police and fire command staff gathered at Geno’s Steaks for the unveiling of a new memorial plaque to fallen officers. It honors city police officers and firefighters who have been killed on duty since 1930, a tradition that founder Joey Vento began in the 1960’s. *Contributed photograph*



Chip Greiner has collected these historic United States Railroad Police badges from World War I during his long collecting career. The badges are identical except for the ranks shown across the center, patrolman, lieutenant, captain and superintendent and the numbers. *Chip Greiner photograph*

Railroad Police Badges Worn During WW I

President Woodrow Wilson created the United States Railroad Administration to federalize railroads during World War I. The USRA consolidated more than 3100 railroad police agencies into the United States Railroad Police. Chip Greiner collected a set of their unique badges and shares their history.

By Chip Greiner, Staff Writer

BOGOTA, N.J. – This is a history of the United States Railroad Administration and United States Railroad Police.

Railroad police in the United States during World War I had federal authority for the first time in history. It didn’t happen again until in the 1980s with enactment of 49 CFR 28101, which gave us interstate federal authority.

It was a dark period in United States history as we entered World War I. It was April 4, 1917 and Woodrow Wilson was president.

Railroad workers were threatening a nationwide strike over shorter work days and higher pay.

Questions lingered over the railroads abilities to serve the war effort with some lines already facing bankruptcy and revenue to improve infrastructure in short supply.

Congress stepped in and passed the Adamson Act which set the eight hour workday as the new standard.

Railroads created the Railroad War Board to help coordinate their joint efforts in the face of war. Still problems existed with congestion in freight yards and ports by competing railroads.

Finally, in December 1917, the Interstate Commerce Commission stepped in and recommended federal control of the nation’s railroads. On December 26, 1917, President Wilson acted and issued an order for the nationalization of our country’s railroads. The United States Railroad Administration was born.

Change happened quickly with railroads being divided into three separate divisions, East, West and South. On March 21, 1918, the Railway Administration Act became law. President Wilson promptly appointed his son in law, William G. McAdoo, who was Secretary of the Treasury, as the new head of the USRA. His title was director general.

Soon focus turned to how to keep the railroads safe during this national war emergency. Questions arose about hiring additional “qualified” railroad policemen and special agents. Director General McAdoo soon realized he had a major problem to deal with: How was he going to coordinate all the 3000 different railroad company police departments into a single unified front?

He reached out to a trusted friend, William J. Flynn, who was former chief of the United States Secret Service, Bureau of the Treasury, in New York City. Flynn was appointed director of the United States Railroad Police on September 7, 1918.

After Director Flynn’s appointment, a discussion ensued as to how to commission all the railroad police officers and what type of badges and credentials they would carry. On October 3, 1918, a round metallic badge was approved. It read “UNITED STATES RAILROAD POLICE” with a locomotive and two crossed United States flags as the center design. Badges would be issued and numbered in the ranks of Superintendent, Captain, Lieutenant and Patrolman.

A memorandum issued on October 8, 1918 also refers to the appointments of regional directors and inspectors, but the USRA circular dated October 3, 1918 does not make mention of badges being authorized in those titles or ranks. It appears that no ranks of sergeant or special agent were ever authorized.


The United States Railroad Police was dissolved on March 1, 1920.

I have pictured the USRA badges that I have collected over the past 40 years, which include four issued badges and others that were made and issued by individual railroad companies.

You will noticed that my patrolman badge is in the 4100 serial number range. Literally thousands of these badges were produced, yet only a handful have surfaced. Where are the rest?

I have visions of many 55 gallon steel drums filled with them, just sitting in some nondescript government warehouse basement for the past 100 years.

CHIP GREINER (Bogota, N.J.)



PCNEWS
POLICE COLLECTORS NEWS

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

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

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)

WANTED: White House police badges. Contact: WILLIAM SHIELDS, 269-207-0982 Email: info@thesignshopkazoo.com, 4302 South Westnedge Ave., Kalamozoo, MI 49008

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2392 USH 12 BALDWIN, WI 54002

Centennial Commemorative Personalized License Plate



Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Shipping Address: _____

Barracks/Unit: _____ Shipping: YES ☐ NO ☐

On April 2, 2025 it will be 100 Years: In the Service of the State. The Rhode Island State Police Museum & Educational Center is celebrating our Centennial with customized commemorative souvenir license plates. The license plate measures 6 x 12 and are manufactured flat with embossed characters. Your plate can be personalized with up to 4 characters which can only be letters or numbers; no special characters.

The cost for each customized plate is \$25 and \$7 if you would like it shipped to the address you provide on this form above. Kindly forward your form to Lori Tellier at Lori.Tellier@risp.gov or Kimberley Asselin at Kim.Asselin@risp.gov.

Personalization (print clearly; max. 4 characters):

Payment Method

Please provide the following information so that your order can be processed.

____ Cash ____ Check ____ Charge ____ Venmo (Venmo code: @rispmuseum)

Checks Payable to: RISP Museum and mail to: 311 Danielson Pike, North Scituate, RI 02857.

Credit Card:

Name on Card: _____ Billing Address Zip Code: _____

Card Number: _____ 3-Digit Code: _____

Exp. Date: _____

Second Annual
Mason Dixon
Police / Fire Patch & Memorabilia
Show

Saturday, June 28th, 2025
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Location

The Barn Resort
75 Cunningham Rd
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Admission

Kids Are Free
\$5.00 for Adults
\$10.00 for Early Admission at 8AM

Times

Show: 9AM - 3PM
Set up: 7AM

Plan your 2025 vacation around the SECOND ANNUAL Gettysburg, PA Mason Dixon patch and memorabilia show! Enjoy the beautiful and historical sights of this great town. The show is located at the beautiful full accommodation Barn Resort with free parking for show patrons and plenty to keep your family entertained. Farmhouse Restaurant, General Store, Arcade and Full Service Bar all ONSITE. Only minutes from downtown Gettysburg!

ALL 60 TABLES SOLD OUT!!!

NEW exclusive limited edition show patch and coin will be available!
You won't want to miss this show!

Discounted host hotels with room blocks: Aspire Hotel, Quality Inn, Best Western. Use code "Mason Dixon police/fire show" for the discount when you call!

For more information email: masondixonpatchshow@gmail.com

Follow on Facebook: Gettysburg PA Mason Dixon Patch Show

Hosted by: Adam Reid and Lou McAlexander

WANTED !



Badges, Patches, License Plates,
all memorabilia related to both
Trooper and Inspectors of the
Wisconsin State Patrol

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WANTED



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I WILL PAY TOP DOLLAR FOR
PHOTOGRAPHS AND AUTHENTIC ARTIFACTS.
CONTACT:
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YUBA CITY CA 95991
(916) 838-1907
OR KDEVILBISS08@COMCAST.NET

WANTED!
BY JERSEY COLLECTOR

Looking for Badges, Handcuffs, Whistles or Pictures from
Municipal Police or County Probation Departments with a
particular interest in all items from Newark, N.J.

DENNIS BEYER
(Collecting N.J. For 50 Years)

Producer: badgecollector.blogspot.com
email denb22@GMAIL.COM
BADGE COLLECTOR -- FOCUS ON NJ !

June 7, 2025
Pigeon Forge
Junior High School
Pigeon Forge TN
8:30am - 3:30pm
300 Wears Vally Rd P.F.



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MARSHALL MERIT CENTER
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MARSHALL, MN 56258

MAY 3RD, 2025
Setup 8AM
Show: 9AM - 2PM

About Our Event!

Patches, license
plates, badges,
challenge coins,
anything law
enforcement related

\$10 PER TABLE

Event Highlights

Fundraising Initiatives

Proceeds from the show will be presented as a
donation to the Lyon County Sheriff's Department
and Marshall Police Department

Delectable Cuisine

Savor a delightful array of food and beverages
prepared by our amazing co-host Amy

Awards Presented for Best Display

Awards will be presented by our
illustrious Lyon County Sheriff for
1st and 2nd place winners



To reserve a table or for more information
contact Kyle Helvig (507) 829-1569

TRI-STATE

POLICE COLLECTOR'S SHOW

**Challenge coins, patches,
badges, lights, photos and
everything else law
enforcement related**

**Law enforcement in
uniform get free
lunch/breakfast**

Music with DJ Chip

**Live trivia, drawings for
prizes and lots of cool
giveaways!**

Host: Dustin Carlton 479-381-4088

Made with PosterMyWall.com

SHOW DATE AND TIME

SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2025 @ 8AM

SHOW LOCATION

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH GYM
200 SW A ST, BENTONVILLE, AR**

Table Info \$20 (Non refundable)

MORE INFO: 479-381-4088

**Scan QR code for
more show
information**



***Food and Beverage available**

WANTED

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION POLICE BADGES

Buying at top current market prices. Substantial budget in hand. I am hoping to acquire 70 to 100 more badges before April 1st, 2025.

My collection has been accepted as a donation to a law enforcement charity next year.

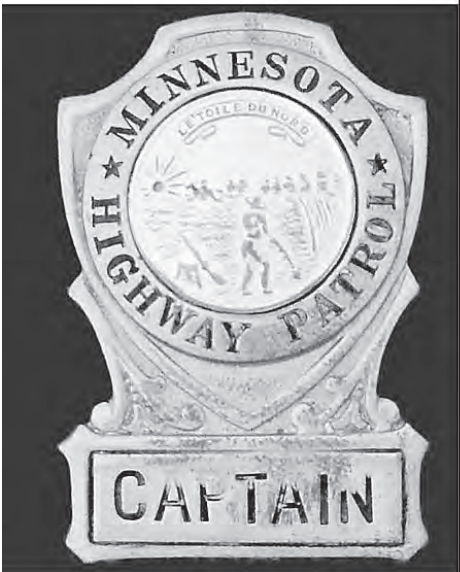
JOHN SEAY
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or email for telephone numbers.

BADGES WANTED

Minnesota Highway and State Patrol

- Numbered and rank badges
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218-689-4626



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Fairfax Regional Badge and Patch Show

*Benefiting the Fairfax County Police Association
and the Fairfax County Police Public Safety Cadets*

"The Larry Wilkins Show"

Saturday, November 8, 2025

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**Fairfax County Police Association Hall
5625 Revercomb Court, Fairfax, VA 22030-5802**

\$5 - General Admission at 9:00 a.m.
(Spouses and children free)

Sixty 8 Ft Tables Available at \$30 each
(Admission for Table Holder and 1 Designated Assistant included)
Table Holder Set-up begins at 8:00 a.m.



The Longest Running Show in Virginia

For table reservations, make checks or money orders payable to:
Fairfax County Public Safety Cadets* and mail to:
Fairfax County Public Safety Cadets
12099 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035-5501

Note "Fairfax Regional Show" on the memo line of your check.
Tables assigned on first-come, first-serve basis with payment in advance.

- ✓ Food and drink available for purchase
- ✓ Plenty of free parking with easy access
- ✓ Numerous hotels / restaurants close to show
- ✓ Trophies for Best of Show & Judges' Award

Email show host Bill Steinkuller at: FCPASHow@aol.com

*Public Safety Cadets is recognized by the IRS as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3)

- The Show is located just outside of Washington, DC.
- Explore our nation's capital, famous museums, the White House, U.S. Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln memorials.
- Tour the FBI HQ Exhibits, National Law Enforcement Museum & Memorial, DEA Museum, International Spy Museum, National Museum of Crime & Punishment, and others, *available by your prior arrangement.*
- A guided tour of the Fairfax County Public Safety HQ historic displays of badges, patches, etc. is planned for Friday afternoon before the show. Contact show host at FCPASHow@aol.com to register.



2025

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY POLICE COLLECTORS SHOW



SUNDAY APRIL 13TH

TABLE HOLDER SET UP 8:00AM

DOORS OPEN TO PUBLIC 9:00AM

USE SHOW CODE "PCA"
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650 Terrace Ave

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TABLES **\$70** EACH

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IDENTIFICATION IS A MUST.

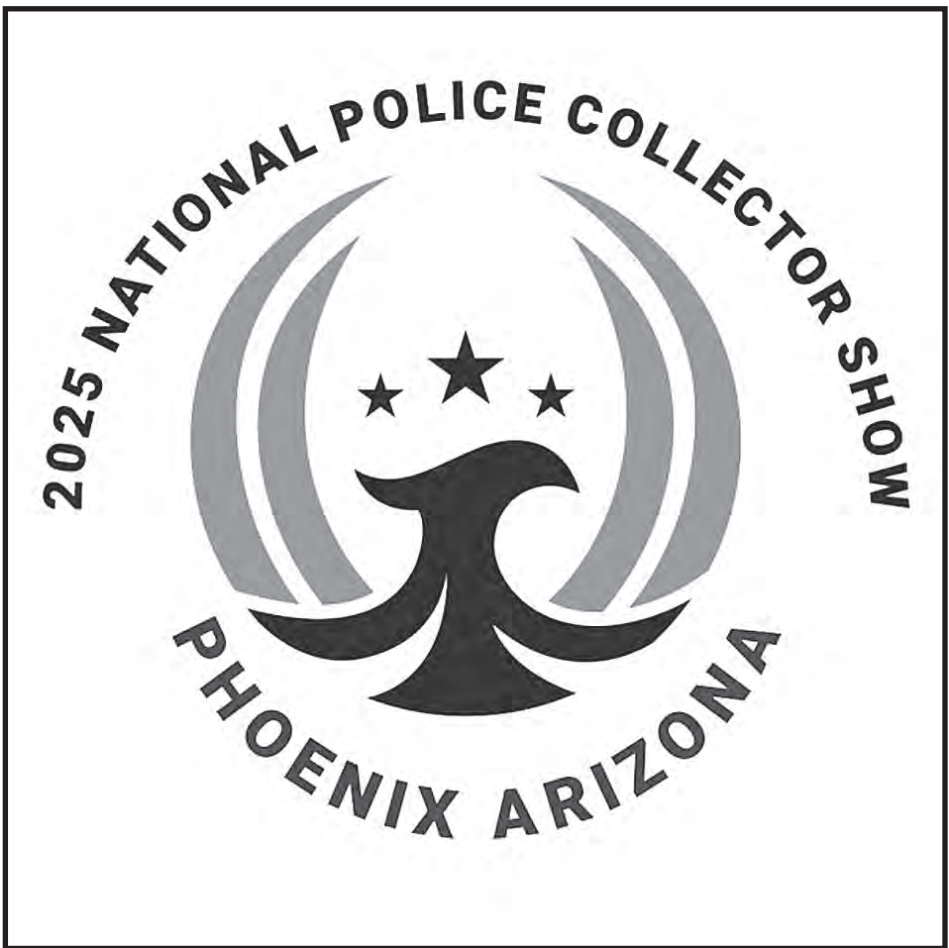
IDS will be checked prior to entering the show

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JUNE 13-15, 2025

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SATURDAY, JUNE 14 **9 AM – 6 PM**
SUNDAY, JUNE 15 **8:30 AM – 3:30 PM**

ADMISSION \$5.00

RESERVE TABLES, HOTEL INFORMATION,
COMPLETE SHOW SCHEDULE ONLINE

PHOENIXPOLICEMUSEUM.ORG

Early table and hotel reservations highly recommended!