



**Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor and Publisher**  
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# New York-New Jersey Shatters Tableholder And Table Records

The 2025 New York-New Jersey Police Collectors Show set new records for tables and tableholders on April 13 as Gerry Tibbs, Brian Lyons and Ed Zitek hosted their extremely popular annual show in Hasbrouck Heights, N.J.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

HASBROUCK HEIGHTS, N.J. – With towering skyscrapers of New York City as a backdrop, the 2025 New York-New Jersey Police Collectors Show in Hasbrouck Heights, N.J. on Sunday, April 13 shattered records for tables and tableholders.

Brian Lyons, Gerry Tibbs and Ed Zitek welcomed a massive gathering of law enforcement insignia collectors from as far away as Canada, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Tennessee and Wisconsin to the Hilton Meadowlands Hotel only minutes from the Big Apple. It was their largest show with 115 tables and 75 tableholders.

The popular swap meet and exhibit attracted 207 registered walk-in collectors, down somewhat from 230 in 2024. Overall attendance was 282 as compared to 300 a year ago.

“We had a real good day. We sold out the main hall and filled another room. We’ve never had so many tables before,” said Lyons, a retired New York trooper. “Walk-in was down a little but, but it was still a great show.”

Tibbs said it had been a long time since he experienced a show as busy. “Everybody I talked to said they had a real good time buying, trading and selling. It was crazy busy all day,” said the New Jersey state trooper. “There were a lot of happy people.”

The hosts were particularly pleased by an increase in displays, some of the largest and most impressive ever seen at the reborn NY-NJ show, which began in the mid-1980s.

Insignia, artifacts and memorabilia from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and other northeastern states dominated the walk-in crowd, displays and trading activity.

Yet, New York-New Jersey was far more than a patch and badge show. Hobbyists featured a wide variety of other collectibles, such as uniforms, headgear, photographs, equipment, restraints, signage, old books and magazines and much, much more.

Challenge coins, especially from the New York Police Department, were everywhere, easily setting a record for the volume of challenge coins bought, sold and traded at the Hasbrouck Heights show.

“We saw a lot of new people, especially coin people. We never got a single complaint from anybody all day. That’s saying something when you’re dealing with cops,” said Lyons.

The hosts thanked collectors Liam Foley, Greg Hatzis and Savannah Lyons for their work at the show. Foley made sure only tableholders used the rear entrance, while Hatzis handled parking in the loading and unloading area with the skill of a no nonsense traffic cop in midtown Manhattan! Savannah Lyons did her usual fine job with table reservations and registration desk admissions.

New York-New Jersey 2026 is tentatively scheduled for April 12. “It’s going to be hard to beat this show, but we’ll try,” said Lyons. Tables will go on sale late this year or early next year, he said.

**Seventy-five tableholders** With a record-setting 115 tables, New York-New Jersey may be the second largest show of the year. Thus far, only the National Police Collectors Show has announced more tables than Hasbrouck Heights.

There were 75 tableholders on the roster compiled by Savannah Lyons.

Rob Arsenault, John Baker, Dale Beckman, Josh Beede, Robert Blom, Mike R.



Gerry Tibbs, Brian Lyons and Ed Zitek (left to right) hosted another outstanding New York-New Jersey Police Collectors Show in Hasbrouck Heights, N.J. on April 13. The show set records for the most tables (115) and tableholders (75). Attendance was 282. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Meet the display contest winners at the New York-New Jersey show! (Left to right) Ernie Nandori, Best Badge; Pat Minutillo, Best Overall; John Baker, Best Patch and Nick Leary, Best Historical. The popular show enjoyed a substantial increase in displays this year. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Bondarenko (Wisconsin), Jeff Bowman, Dave Brink, Marty Cassidy, Andy Castro (Hawaii), Richie Chan, Tom Chennette, Chris Conte, Russ Crimmins, John Davenport, Lucca Del Guidice, Xavier Dee (Canada), James Durkin, Tom Engelmann, George Farrell, Liam Foley, Roger Gauthier, Eugene Geissinger, Mashell Gellman (Tennessee), Robert Goepfert, Chip Greiner, Jay Heldman, Andrew James, Steve



Pat Minutillo’s award-winning Hasbrouck Heights display included three tables covered with beautifully-framed and documented antique police restraints and prisoner control devices, such as handcuffs, nippers and come-alongs, leg irons and the like. No Tasers found here! *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Kelly, Ed Kelly, Nick Leary, Danny Lee, Ernest Leves, Ken Lucas (Florida), Brian Lyons, David Maddes, William Margulies, Mike Matkowsky, Pat Minutillo, Lee Mooney, Lenny Morino, Joe Morrison, Ernie Nandori, Herman Naring, Mike Novak, James Papamanuel, Russ Penka (North Carolina), Steve Petro, Sal Piccolo, Rich Pontes, Mark Pyne (Florida), Richard Reip, Fred Repp, Mark Rodgers, Paul Samas, Ramon Santos, John Schroeder,



State police and highway patrol badges and patches from the Ernie Nandori Collection captured “Best Badge” honors in the New York-New Jersey display contest. The veteran hobbyist offered 36 frames of badges and several patch collections on his crowded tables. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





The handcuff displays shown in the background are among the newest exhibits in Pat Minutillo's incredible collection. He said several of the cuffs and prisoner chains are extremely rare and date back to the Civil War-era of the 1860s. In the foreground (right) is a rare Oregon Boot. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

## New York-New Jersey Show ...Continued

Ned Schwartz, Mike Scott, Joe Serylo, Robert Statler, Bill Steinkuller (Virginia), Eric Stolzman, Kevin Stone, Troy Steiger, Gary Teragawa (Georgia), Brian Thomson, Gerry Tibbs, Kerri Walsh, Robert Yuchniuk, Bob Zimick, Joe Zuppardo and Ed Zitek.

**Outstanding display contest** The uptick in exhibits resulted in a particularly outstanding, hotly contested display contest. A three judge panel recognized four longtime hobbyists for premier exhibits from their incredible collections. Interestingly, three of the four winners hail from Connecticut.



Law enforcement officers began using come-alongs and nippers in the 19th century. Devices such as the Iron Claw (center, middle row) allowed an officer to control a prisoner by clamping the cuff onto a wrist and turning the handle to tighten the grip. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

“Best Overall” went to Patrick Minutillo of New Jersey for his museum-quality collection of antique law enforcement restraints and prisoner control devices. The retired New Jersey police officer has one of the largest and finest private collections in the world.

“Best Shield” was won by Ernie Nandori for his massive exhibit of state police and highway badges from every state, as well as specialty collections from Bridgeport, Conn. PD and the Connecticut State Police. He is a former Connecticut police officer.

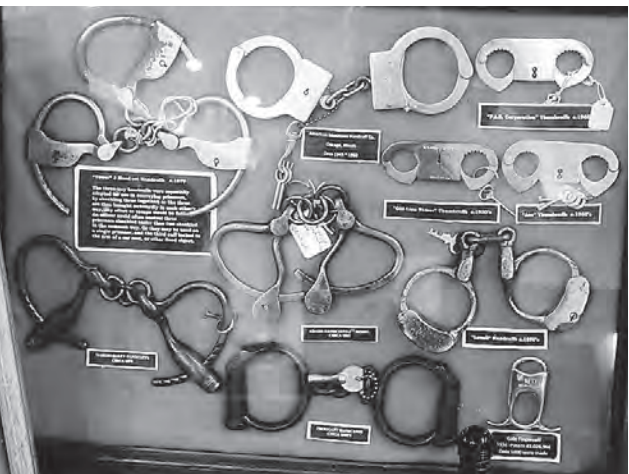
Connecticut hobbyist and retired police officer John Baker received “Best Patch” honors with his world class exhibit of cloth insignia from the Connecticut State Police. He showed virtually every official and unofficial emblem in CSP history.

Former Connecticut state trooper Nick Leary was honored with “Best Historical” for his fine New York State Police collection, as well as an outstanding exhibit of other New York artifacts, all beautifully framed and labeled.

Minutillo expanded his display over last year, having added several recently obtained



“Best Overall” display winner Pat Minutillo, a retired Harrison, N.J. deputy chief, is one of hobby’s most dedicated researchers, historians and collectors of law enforcement restraints and prisoner control devices. His collection dates back to the very early 1800s. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



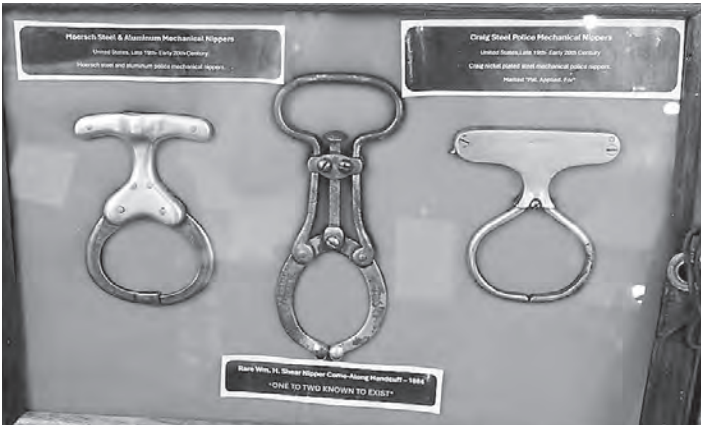
A variety of antique handcuffs from the Patrick Minutillo Collection. In the upper left is a rare set of three-handed Tower cuffs from 1879. These allowed the officer to cuff both hands of his prisoner, then handcuff the prison to one of his wrists to prevent possible escape. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

extremely rare pieces, including the first American-made handcuff and several antique leg irons. He also revamped and enhanced some previously shown collections. “I’m always trying to improve my exhibits, make them more interesting,” he said.

According to Minutillo, the first handcuffs produced in the USA were made by Elias Richards in the early to mid 1800s. “For history buffs, these handcuffs were said to have been used on John Brown in 1859 when he was on his way to his execution as an abolitionist just before the Civil War,” he said. “My set has the original key, which makes them even more rare.”

Elias Richards also made leg irons and padlocks, all of which are now extremely rare collectibles and becoming increasingly difficult to obtain.

Minutillo put together three new leg iron exhibits featuring a variety of Civil War-era rarities. One was a set of Lilly Irons made in 1875. Leg irons made by Lilly were used on several people arrested for conspiring with John Wilkes Booth to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln. He showed a photo of conspiracy defendants David Herold and Lewis Powell wearing them during their trials.



These iron nippers or come-alongs are among the rarest pieces in Patrick Minutillo’s restraints collection, (left) a Moersch Mechanical Nipper (late 1800s-early 1900s), (center) William H. Shear Come-along Handcuff and (right) a Craig Police Mechanical Nipper. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Minutillo covered three tables with beautifully framed and documented exhibits of handcuffs, nippers and come-alongs, thumb cuffs, leg irons and chains and a few unusual restraints, such as McKenzie Mitts and the infamous Oregon Boot.

“I’m really proud of the Delestatious handcuffs,” said Minutillo, as he pointed out the rarity in a glass-covered frame. “These are from the Civil War. I have the original key. Very few of these cuffs still exist. Original keys are even harder to find.”

Minutillo has a set of extremely rare handcuffs made by Wisner-Hoyt in 1869. Very few of these still exist as well, he said.

He also has a set of rare Bean Giant handcuffs. Magician and escape artist Harry Houdini used these large cuffs in his act, making them very popular.

Minutillo was asked several questions about his nippers and come-along displays during our interview. “Nobody uses these any more because they can cause serious injury, but they were very common back in the day,” he told a curious collector. “A few old-timers like



“Best Badge” display winner Ernie Nandori is shown with his massive insignia collection from the Bridgeport, Conn. Police Department, his former agency. Even though he was honored for his state police and highway patrol badges, Nandori is proudest of this display. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





The other half of Ernie Nandori's "Best Badge" award-winning exhibit in Hasbrouck Heights. He has individual collections from all 49 state police/highway patrol agencies, as well as large exhibits from the Connecticut State Police and Maryland State Police. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

me remember using them."

He also collects antique batons and nightsticks, uniforms, hats, and historic artifacts and memorabilia, including badges. "I love history, especially police history. I'm impressed how large a community collectors like us are part of, but I'm truly amazed at how many people are into old restraints. And, it's not all cops either. It's a really big hobby all by itself," said the collector and historian.

Minutillo has always been a history buff, but his interest in restraints was sparked by an assignment he got several years ago when he was deputy police chief in Harrison, N.J. just outside of Newark.

"The chief called me into his office and asked me to clean out a storeroom. He wanted to use it for another purpose. When I got in there, I found all kinds of old things, like handcuffs, prisoner chains, hats, uniforms and so on. All kinds of things from Harrison police history," he recalled.

"I told the chief what I found and asked what he wanted it done with everything. When he told me to put it in the garbage, I asked if I could have it. He told me I could. That's how I started. Thirty-five years later, I'm still collecting."

Nandori has built one of the hobby's largest and most complete collections of state police and highway patrol badges and emblems. His extremely impressive multi-table exhibit included an incredible 36 frames, large and small, of badges and several more large frames of patches. The collection needs to be seen to be fully appreciated.

"It's taken a lot of time and work," he said of his exhibit. "I don't know if I could find all of these badges again if I had to. A lot of the early badges are getting very hard to find now."

His best SP/HP exhibit was from the Connecticut State Police. He shows it in a huge frame that is six feet tall! It contains complete collections of badges and emblems, as well as special units, rank insignia and other uniform accouterments. Another display features



(Top) Ernie Nandori collects the Texas Department of Public Safety, parent agency of the Highway Patrol. (Center) The Alaska State Troopers is a tough agency to collect because it's small and badges are hard to get. (Bottom) A fine exhibit of New York State Police insignia. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



(Left) A nice collection of cloth insignia from the Vermont State Police was one of the exhibits that Ernie Nandori showed in Hasbrouck Heights. (Right) The Connecticut State Police celebrated its centennial in 2003 with badges and a pennant. Nandori has them all. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

badges, patches and a pennant created for the 1903 to 2003 CSP centennial anniversary.

Other large and impressive SP/HP exhibits came from the Vermont State Police, Texas Department of Public Safety, New Jersey State Police, Maryland State Police, New York State Police, Alaska State Troopers and Alabama State Troopers.

An exhibit was devoted the centennial anniversary of the Maryland State Police with a full set of commemorative badges and emblems. He also has the centennial license plate.

Nandori collects major city and large department badges, too. He featured frames from such agencies as Hartford, Conn., Los Angeles County, Calif., Phoenix, Ariz. and a few others.



Nick Leary won "Best Historical" display honors at the New York-New Jersey show for his fabulous collection from the New York State Police. The former Connecticut state trooper specializes in antique state police and highway patrol insignia and uniforms. *Chip Greiner photograph*

He also has a large collection of Connecticut police badges, old and new.

Among Nandori's favorites is his huge Bridgeport patch and badge collection, which is also shown in a six-foot tall frame. It's his former department, so it means a lot to him.

Baker, another retired Connecticut police officer, featured his phenomenal Connecticut State Police collection. He showed 13 frames of historic photos and artifacts and six frames of patches, including official and unofficial issues. There was also a small badge collection, as well as an old uniform complete with the appropriate badge.

Baker's patch collection is one of the largest and most complete in the hobby, although he revealed he doesn't agree with some of it. "I don't like the fantasy patches that are coming out these days. They're not official. They're not worn on uniforms. They are fantasies," he said. "I thought about it a lot before I decided to put them in my collection. I put them in because some people like them and collect them, so decided to show them."

A most interesting CSP artifact is an old black-on-white pennant reading "STATE/ POLICE" in large letters. "They used these like warning flags in the 1920s to let troopers know they had a call and needed to contact headquarters," Baker explained.

"People who had phones in their houses were asked to keep pennants and put them out when asked. They'd get a call from headquarters to put out the pennant, which meant the trooper on patrol in their area needed to stop and use their phone to take a call from headquarters. That's how they were dispatched."



A closeup of part of Nick Leary's New York State Police exhibit. The uniform is from 1939 and includes an ivory whistle. The frame in the center represents historic transportation from horseback to automobiles. The collection features badges and artifacts. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





Daniel Francis McCrea was a special officer for the Buffalo, N.Y. Police Department assigned to the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburg Railroad Police as a detective. He was killed in 1908 after he was shot by a man he and another officer had removed from a train. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

New York-New Jersey Show ...Continued

Baker revealed he is selling most of his non-CSP patches and plans to donate his Hartford and East Hartford collections to the departments.

“I’m getting old. No one in the family wants this,” he said. “So, I’m starting to sell things off, little by little, starting with patches.”

Leary put on a fabulous historical New York State Police exhibit featuring a rare antique uniform, antique badges, uniform insignia and accouterments, documents, a rare license plate from 1936 and much more. The 1939 uniform includes a rare ivory whistle.



Two award-winning displays from the Nick Leary Collection shown at the New York-New Jersey show. (Top) Transportation transition for the New York State Police, stirrups to an automobile license plate. (Bottom) A 1917 *Troopers Manual*. Only two others are known to exist. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

There were two frames devoted to early NYSP transportation showing stirrups used by mounted troopers, an old motorcycle license plate, a fender sign and a very early license plate. The artifacts are augmented with historic photographs of troopers in action.

Leary showed a nice selection of antique NYSP badges, many with very low numbers. New York is one of five states where troopers do not wear badges while in uniform. They



John Baker returned home to Connecticut with the “Best Patch” display award for his off the charts collection of Connecticut State Police cloth insignia. He also collects antique CSP photographs and memorabilia, like the rare pennant used to summon troopers in the 1920s. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



If a Connecticut state trooper wore it on his or her uniform, it can be found in John Baker’s incredible State Police insignia collection. He has it all from standard issues to special units to novelties, old and new. Troopers wore a state shape patch for several years. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

are issued a wallet badge but no hat badge. The agency has issued the same basic wallet badge design throughout its history.

He had a collection of items from the career of Trooper Otto A. Baker showing his certificate of qualification from the New York State School of Police issued in 1925. Documents show he was assigned to Troop “A.” His honorable discharge document was also shown.



A better look at John Baker’s collection of historic photographs from the Connecticut Police. He has pictures of troopers in vintage uniforms, antique vehicles and troopers working notable cases. Some are official photos, while others were taken by newspapers. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Among the many rarities in Leary’s exhibit was a copy of the first *Trooper Manual* issued in 1917. He said he has never seen another copy, but the state police museum told him two other copies are known to exist.

Leary featured a beautifully-framed display from the career of New York lawman Daniel Francis McCrea. He served as a Buffalo special police officer assigned to the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburg Railroad Police, where he worked as a detective.

“McCrea was killed in 1908. He and another officer ordered some guys off a train. He



(Top) John Baker’s fine collection of obsolete style Connecticut State Police emblems, beginning with the diamond shapes in the top row, followed by large triangles. (Bottom) Today, troopers wear a large rounded rectangle which was preceded by a two-color state shape. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





Chip Greiner (right), the hobby's leading railroad police collector, shows fellow badge enthusiast Pete Belos (left) a badge in his New York-New Jersey display. Greiner has been collecting railroad police insignia and artifacts for more than a half century. Belos also collects railroads. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

got on the train to make sure they were gone. One of the guys got back on the train and shot him. He died a couple days later," said Leary.

The exhibit features McCrea's appointment certificate and unnumbered Buffalo special police badge. It's a great piece of Buffalo and railroad police history.

Display contest judges were longtime New England show host and federal collector Rich Pontes, veteran collector and show-goer John Carroll and Mike R. Bondarenko.

**Railroad police heaven** Railroad police collectors are in heaven every time Chip Greiner shares segments of his incredible collection at a show. He outdid himself once again, showing several new and redone exhibits of railroad polices and artifacts. There



Just three of the nine large badge frames that Chip Greiner featured at the Hasbrouck Heights show. In addition to badges, he also collects hats, uniforms and even patches. Greiner has specialized in railroad police for more than 50 years and is our hobby's leading expert. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

were nine large frames of badges, old and new, including many rare antiques.

"I try to bring something a little different every year. I've added some things and changed a few things around to show some of the newest badges I've come across," said Greiner, who has been collecting railroad badges for more than 50 years. ("I started when I was a baby," he quipped.)

Among the highlights of Greiner's nine frame exhibit:

- ...A large frame of very old so-called catalog or generic stars and shields. "A lot of the railroads in the 1800s and early 1900s didn't issue badges. In fact, many early officers didn't have badges, they only had commission or ID cards," said Greiner. "Some officers got their own badges, or the railroad bought them for the officer, from catalogs."
- ...Rank sets from the Long Island Railroad, the New York Central Railroad and many others.
- ...A frame of California railroad police agencies with lots of Southern Pacific Railroad badges.
- ...A collection of Chicago-style pie plate badges, mostly from the Midwest.

Greiner showed some individual antique favorites:

- ...An unusual personalized nine-point ball-tipped silver-colored star once worn by George C. Lutz, who was a Steamboat and Railroad agent for the North Western Pacific Railroad Company. The badge shows his employee number, "51."
- ...A plain six-point silver-colored star with the hand-engraved title, "SPECIAL AGENT/ LAW DEPARTMENT/ UNION PACIFIC/ RAIL ROAD CO." What makes this one interesting is the title Law Department. Also, rail road is two words, not one.
- ...A silver-colored five-point ball-tipped circled star from the Oregon State Police for an officer of the O.W.R. & N. Co., which abbreviates Oregon Washington Railroad and



(Left rear) Chip Greiner's complete collection of styles worn by the New York Central System. Their badges feature a custom center seal. (Right rear) An impressive collection of old styles from such railroads as Boston and Maine, Erie, Baltimore and Ohio and others. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Navigation Company. Oregon commissioned railroad police as state police officers to give them statewide jurisdiction. It is assumed they had special officer status.

Greiner's collection is so advanced that when he finds a piece or two to add at a show, it's news. Thanks to Ernie Leves, he was able to obtain a gold-colored five-point circled nickel star from the Sonoma Valley Railroad in California. "It's from 1877 to 1908. It's hallmarked 'American Railway Supply, New York.' A real nice piece and a welcome surprise. Made the show for me," he said.

**Fifty-two years ago** Richard Nixon was president, Telly Salvalas debuted in *Kojak* and the Miami Dolphins finished a perfect 17-0 by winning the Super Bowl. It's also the year that Joe Serylo started his patch collection.

Serylo, a retired Jersey City, N.J. police captain, is slowly whittling down his patch collection, mostly from the '70s and '80s, and concentrating on what he describes as "not regular police stuff," such as badges worn by major security providers, special investigators, bank examiners, insurance investigators, city inspectors, utility personnel and the like.



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Retired Jersey City, N.J. police Captain Joseph Serylo has been collecting for more than 50 years. He is selling off most of his large patch collection to concentrate on non-police state, county and municipal badges, such as inspectors, investigators and the like. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

New York-New Jersey Show ...Continued

“These are low demand badges because not too many people are interested. They’re pretty easy to find,” said Serylo, who added he often finds them in so-called junk boxes at bargain prices. He said he is not leaving the hobby he has pursued for 52 years but is cutting back. Serylo wishes new collectors would take greater interest in old style patches and badges. “It seems the young guys want all current stuff. I’ve got bags full of older styles



Richard Chan featured a large exhibit of housing police emblems from across the USA at the New York-New Jersey show. He said he can now count on one hand the number of still operational stand alone housing police agencies. The largest is Philadelphia. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

here, but they don’t seem very interested. That’s too bad because it’s the older stuff that makes every department’s history,” he said. Most veteran collectors couldn’t agree more.

**Housing police collector** When NYC collector Richard Chan began his career with the New York City Housing Authority Police (NYCHAP) in 1985, little did he know that his agency would be absorbed into the NYPD ten years later. It still makes him sad when he thinks about it. “I’ve always thought we did a pretty good job,” said Chan, who is now retired. “We signed on to be housing cops, and we knew our jobs. We also knew the projects and the people. It’s not like that anymore.” Chan collects housing police patches from not only New York but across the country as well. His display featured eight large display boards of these emblems, both current and obsolete styles. Actually, more of these are obsolete than current now because many cities have shut down their housing police, merged them into police or sheriff departments or hired private security contractors. Chan said he can count on one hand the number of stand alone housing police departments still in operation. He believes Philadelphia is the largest. Former Mayor Rudy Giuliani closed the Housing Authority Police and created the NYPD



(Upper left) Chip Greiner picked up this Sonoma Valley RR badge at the show. (Upper right) G.C. Lutz was a steamboat and railroad agent. (Lower left) Law Department is an unusual title on a special agent badge. (Lower right) Oregon made RR cops state police officers. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Richard Chan collects housing police insignia from across the United States. He is a retired New York City Housing Authority Police Department officer. He joined the agency ten years before it became part of the NYPD. Chan also collects other NYC insignia. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Housing Bureau in 1995. The department was created in 1952 to combat increased crime in the city’s public housing projects and apartment buildings. When it was absorbed into the NYPD, Housing had 2700 sworn officers. Chan brought a nice selection of colorful NYCHAP emblems, including standard issues and special units, of which there were many. “We had pretty much everything we needed as a stand alone department,” he said.



When the New York City Housing Authority Police Department was taken over by the NYPD in 1995 during the Rudy Giuliani administration, it had 2700 officers. The full service agency had a wide range of special units and services, each with its own colorful insignia. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

It’s up to history to determine whether disbanding housing police agencies was in the public’s best interests. However, for housing authority collectors like Chan, it means most of what they collect is obsolete and getting harder and harder to find.

**Larry Wilkins Collection** Virginia show host Bill Steinkuller is helping the family of the late collector Larry Wilkins sell the remainder of his incredible collection, mostly from the Fairfax County, Va. Police Department. Wilkins died of cancer in 2022. Steinkuller brought Wilkins’s pride and joy, a complete collection of Fairfax County badges, beautifully framed in a museum-quality display. It’s up for sale as a 26-piece set only. “Whoever buys this will have one of the best Fairfax County collections in the hobby, if not the best. It would be hard to get another set like it,” Steinkuller said. “Larry was meticulous about his badges. Every one is absolutely perfect and guaranteed authentic.” The collection features a complete rank set in gold and silver, along with milestone and presidential inaugural pieces. It includes the very difficult to obtain chief of department badge, as well as a rare investigator rank shield used for only a short time. Investigators are now called detectives. Wilkins spent 20 years with Fairfax County after a 17-year career with the county sheriffs department where he attained the rank of major. He also served as a military police officer in Vietnam for three years. Steinkuller can be contacted through Facebook. He asks that only serious inquiries be made. “This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for someone,” he said.



The pride and joy of the late Larry Wilkins’s collection was his badge set from his former department, the Fairfax County, Va. Police. Bill Steinkuller is selling the one of a kind collection to benefit his family. Each and every badge is department issue and authentic. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





Two very desirable badges in the late Larry Wilkins Fairfax County Police collection that Bill Steinkuller is selling for the family are chief of department (left) and investigator (right), which was a short lived rank. Chief is gold-colored, while investigator is silver-colored. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

**NJSP School Safety** Host Brian Lyons featured a small but impressive collection from his former department, the New York State Police. He brought a frame of current troop patches and collar badges.

There was an interesting historical piece, a display devoted to Leon Robbins, who was appointed as a school safety patrol officer for the New Jersey State Police in 1936. "They took school safety patrols pretty seriously," said Lyons. "He got a certificate discharging him from the patrol that's signed by the State Police superintendent. I thought that was pretty cool."

The exhibit also shows a copy of state school patrol rules and regulations and Robbins's rectangular badge, which was worn attached to a belt. It's well worn with considerable patina but nevertheless readable, "NEW JERSEY/ STATE POLICE/ SCHOOL SAFETY/ PATROL." The NJSP badge comprises the center design.

"I got this and thought it was pretty unique, so I put it in my collection," said Lyons

**Hasbrouck Heights notebook** Notes, comments and errata from the NY-NJ show.

...**Show festivities** started on Friday afternoon as collectors began arriving at the Hilton and continued all day Saturday with in room and lobby buying, selling and trading, as well as non-stop war stories, show and tell, and camaraderie. Many collectors gathered together for lunches and dinners at area restaurants. The hosts provided a hospitality room both Friday and Saturday evenings. It became a popular hangout.

...The hosts placed framed tributes to longtime collectors and attendees **Rick Vanderclack** and **Brian Dunn** on the registration tables. Ironically, both were state troopers and died way too young of cancer. They are sorely missed.

...**Lee Mooney** brought two very colorful patch displays. He had an exhibit devoted to the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice and another featuring emblems worn by New Jersey Prosecutor Offices. Unfortunately, I didn't get a chance to talk to him about them.

...**Underdog Patch Design** and **Zombie Patch and Coin** were well represented at the show. They were joined by at least two major producers who only make New York City challenge coins. Every vendor offered large selections of their wares for sale.

...Westchester County, N.Y. collector **Andrew James** featured the best license plate exhibit at the show, a collection of 42 different state police and highway patrol tags. He also had a collection of municipal police patches from the county.

...**Tom Englemann**, who is among our hobby's most dedicated advocates for preserving the memories of fallen officers, said a new organization has been formed in Nassau County, N.Y., the Nassau County Fallen Officers Association. Not only are its members, mostly retired NCPD officers, dedicated to researching law enforcement deaths, but they also maintain the graves of officers killed in the earliest days of the county. It's a great group dedicated to a very worthy, noble cause.

...**Mashell Gellman** made the trip from Tennessee with a large exhibit of railroad police badges, five frames in all. There were badges from railroads large and small, old and new, as well as some artifacts and historic memorabilia. "I try and bring a different display every time," said Gellman.

...**Gary Teragawa** took a year off from setting up one of his usual outstanding displays. His table feature only badges and other items for sale or trade. "I needed a break. Bringing those displays up from Georgia is a lot of work," he said. "Maybe next year..."

...New York-New Jersey is the hobby's only regional show held on **Sunday** in keeping with the tradition established by founder the late Ed Miller in the 1980s. Miller believed strongly that Saturdays should be reserved for family events. He always said Sundays are recreation days and the best day of the week for shows. The hosts have no plans to break with tradition.

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (Baldwin, Wis.)



Zombies on the loose in Hasbrouck Heights! (Left to right) Mike Allen, Eric Goldstein, Ernie Nandori and Skye Nandori comprise the crew at Zombie Patch and Coin in Connecticut. They offered a variety of authentic and novelty patches and coins for sale at their tables. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

# 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.

## 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 Second Annual "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 show is a non-profit fundraiser for Pigeon Forge schools and sponsored by G-Man Emblem, HD Coins, Black Rifle Coffee, Stooksbury's Towing, Nine Line Apparel and Smash.

Admission is a \$5 donation to the school.  
All 54 tables have been sold in advance.

Questions should be directed to this email address, tgsmfrcs@gmail.com, or the host on (865) 388-1500.

## 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



## Swap Meet Calendar...Continued

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, to make table reservations or ask questions.

## Branson. Mo.

Due circumstances beyond control of the hosts, changes have been made to the Tenth Anniversary “Heart of the Ozarks” Police Collectors Show. The first day, Fri. June 20, has been canceled. The show will now be one day only, Sat., June 21 , from 8 am to 3 pm at the Thousand Hills Resort Hotel, 120 Wildwood Dr., 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 may be available at the Thousand Hills Resort Hotel. Please contact the hotel directly on (417) 334-8404 with availability inquiries.

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.

## 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 CLEHS 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, chairs, 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 \$40. The show is a sellout but 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.

## New Port Richey, Fla.

The Second Annual “Tampa Bay-Gulf Coast” Police Collectors Show is set for Sat., Sept. 27 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Elks Lodge No. 2284, 7201 Congress St., New Port Richey, Fla. It will be hosted by Darryl Smith, Aaron Waldo and Kelly Coopman as a fundraiser for the Saint Petersburg Police Cadets.

Admission is \$5.

Six-foot tables are \$25 until August 31 and \$30 afterward. One table assistant is included with table fees. The hall will open at 8 am for exhibitor set up only.

All public safety insignia is welcome. Reproductions should be marked as such.

Two local hotels are offering discounted lodging for this show: Hampton Inn, 11050 U.S. 19, Port Richey (727) 869-4900 and Homewood Suites, 11115 U.S. 19 North, Port Richey (727) 819-1000. Please mention the police collectors show when making reservations.

For table reservations, payments or questions, please email the hosts on tampabaygulfcoast@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.

One hundred eight-foot tables are available for \$55 each. The new hall has 6000 square feet. Make table reservations on the Facebook page, “Eastern Shore Law Enforcement and First Responders Memorabilia Show 2025.” The hosts expect a sellout.



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 night. The reservations code is MCS.

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



Longtime North Carolina and Virginia collector and historian David Martin died of cancer on March 11. He was 73. Martin specialized in both states, with an emphasis on Richmond Police Department insignia and memorabilia. He served the city for 39 years and retired in 2011. *Contributed photograph*

# David Martin And Peter Reid Latest Deaths

Our hobby has lost two more pioneer collectors, David Martin of Richmond, Va. and Peter Reid of Windner, Ga. Martin, 73, died on March 11. Reid was 81 when he died on March 19. Both were highly respected and widely admired hobbyists with incredible collections. They represent a century of hobby experience.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

SPECIAL – Beloved veteran law enforcement insignia collectors and historians David Martin and Peter Reid have died.

Martin, a retired Richmond, Va. police captain, died of cancer on March 11. He was 73.

Reid died on March 19 after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. The longtime New Jersey and Florida lawman was 81.

Both hobbyists amassed admirable collections. Martin specialized in North Carolina and Virginia, with particular emphasis on Richmond, while Reid was an avid New Jersey and Florida badge and patch aficionado.

Their deaths represent well over a century of combined law enforcement insignia collecting knowledge and experience.

**Lifetime of service** David Martin was meant to be a police officer. His legacy of public service and dedication to community will never be forgotten. He devoted his life to the service of others.

Martin spent 39 years with the Richmond Police Department. He served in several capacities and rose to the rank of captain before retiring in 2011. It was during his RPD career that Martin began collecting police insignia.

“I knew David since the 1980s. We have traveled together to many patch shows far and wide,” recalled fellow North Carolina and Virginia hobbyist Jim Thomas. “David never met a stranger, was always the consummate gentleman and the best road trip buddy you could ever ask for.”



Pete Reid (foreground) attended the “Space Coast” show on January 25 and chatted with host Steve Bridge (left rear) and Doug Sarubbi (right rear), both long-time friends. Sadly, it was his last show. Reid had been a “Space Coast” regular from the beginning and will be missed. *Alta Romo photograph*



Flagler County, Fla. Major Pete Reid shows some of his badges in a photo taken by a local newspaper for a story announcing his appointment as chief deputy by Sheriff Robert McCarthy in 1984. Reid and McCarthy got to know each other when they worked together in New Jersey. *Contributed photograph*

Martin had a keen ability to connect with people which almost certainly enhanced his law enforcement career and made him very popular among his many hobby friends.

“Some of his funniest stories revolved around his undercover drug work, and boy, could he spin a tale!” Thomas said. “He will be greatly missed. The hobby was better because of him.”

Martin built large collections of North Carolina and Virginia insignia. He grew up in North Carolina before relocating to Virginia. Most of his collection focused on these two states.

He was also interested in other law enforcement antiques, including restraints, headgear and uniform equipment. “If it interests me, I collect it, especially if it’s from the South,” he said during an interview at the 2024 Gettysburg, Penna. show. “I like Civil War stuff too.”

Even after his retirement, Martin was a constant presence at Richmond police headquarters, creating new patches and challenge coins for the department and its many special units, and researching agency history. He was the driving force behind the opening of the Richmond Police Museum in 2012. Sadly, it closed in 2018 or 2019, he said.

It was Martin’s interest in police history that inspired him toward creation of the museum. “I’m a history lover. That got me interested in our [department] history. I started looking around and saw we didn’t have much. I got a few other retirees involved and put it together.

Richmond PD was founded in 1807. It is one of the first organized police departments in the United States.

According to Martin’s research, the first jail was built in 1812, but the first police station wasn’t constructed until 1828 when a second and larger jail was added.

“Because we’re so old, a lot our earliest history was lost. But it is known that the first badges were worn in about 1861 after Virginia seceded from the Union and joined the Confederacy. The officers were considered part of the militia,” Martin said.

When Virginia was readmitted to the Union in 1870, the Police Department was reorganized and Major John Poe became the first chief of police. He served for 25 years before his 1895 death.

Most of Martin’s extensive personal collection was displayed at the museum before it closed. He intended to bring it back as an online entity but was unable to complete the project before his death.

Martin was president of FOP John Marshall Lodge No. 2. The organization issued a statement after his death expressing its sadness over the loss of its longtime leader: “His dedication, leadership and unwavering commitment to the law enforcement community left a lasting impact on those who had the privilege of knowing and working alongside him.”

Martin took great pride in helping his former agency maintain its professional image. He is responsible for most of the department issue and unofficial emblems that Richmond officers wear today, as well as numerous RPD challenge coins circulating among agencies throughout the state and nation.

The collector’s other passion was fishing. He taught his daughters to fish and took them pier fishing at midnight as soon as they were old enough to walk! He lived for annual deep sea fishing trips to Cape Hatteras in the spring and Nags Head in the summer.

Martin is survived by his wife of 40 years and three daughters.

His funeral and celebration of life were on March 19 followed by fellowship at the FOP John Marshall Lodge No. 2 in Richmond.

Thomas offered a lasting tribute to his friend: “I know he is up in Heaven right now, with my other longtime deceased friend, Ron Johnson, and they are swapping patches and



High Point, N.C. Police Lieutenant Al Ferguson (right) presents David Martin (left) with a display award at local show many years ago. Martin collected North Carolina and Virginia. However, he also harbored an interest in a wide variety of antique law enforcement artifacts. *Jim Thomas photograph*



## Martin, Reid Remembered ...Continued

stories.”

**58 years collecting** Pete Reid was a hobby mainstay in New Jersey and Florida for an incredible 58 years. He was among our hobby’s earliest and longest tenured collectors. It was 1967 when Reid began collecting New Jersey patches and badges while serving as a young Montville Township police officer.

“Collecting was way different then. No shows. No newsletter like yours. Everything was officer to officer, all word of mouth. It was all trading. No one paid for anything. Buying patches or badges didn’t exist,” he once said during a *PCNEWS* interview.

Although Reid’s specialty was New Jersey badges and patches, he also collected other states and attended some of the earliest New Jersey and New York City shows.

Reid left Montville in 1983 after attaining the rank of patrol sergeant. According to the agency’s Facebook page, “Unfortunately none of the officers currently working in Montville had the pleasure of working with Sergeant Reid, but we will know the reputation he left behind. Sergeant Reid was described as a ‘no nonsense’ supervisor that was committed to protecting and serving with integrity.”

He relocated to Bunnell in Flagler County, Fla. where he joined the Sheriff’s Department as chief deputy, a position he held until his 2003 retirement. His actual title was major but he functioned as chief deputy under Sheriff Robert McCarthy.

Reid had gotten to know McCarthy after they served together in Montville. (McCarthy remains the longest-serving Flagler County sheriff, 17 years, 1983 to 2001.) Reid was responsible for creating the Canine Unit, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Unit, Sheriff’s Explorers, Sheriff’s Posse and numerous other innovations.

Reid became a regular at Florida insignia shows, particularly “Space Coast” hosted by Steve and Karen Bridges in Titusville. He narrowed his collecting focus away from patches to mostly badges in later years. H was most attracted to older, antique pieces.

“I’ve got nothing against a lot of the new stuff. But it just doesn’t look like police to me. It’s like putting a neon sign on a uniform. I’m not interested in it,” he said.

Reid was an outspoken advocate for authentic insignia. “It’s my opinion that anyone who gets caught selling repros should be kicked out of the hobby and never allowed back in,” he said. “People who put on the shows should throw them out for good. Cops ripping off other cops is about as lowlife as it gets.”

Sadly, Reid’s last show was Forsyth, Ga. in February. Obviously in failing health, the longtime hobbyist showed some of his collection from both New Jersey and Florida and eagerly answered questions from fellow collectors about his badges and emblems from both states.

Reid was born in Terrytown, N.Y., also known as the famed Sleepy Hollow. He grew up on the edge of the creek that the Headless Horseman was said to once have crossed. He was the son of Andrew Reid, a police sergeant, who died of a heart attack after rescuing a woman from a burning building.

It was after his father’s death that the Reid family relocated to New Jersey. Reid followed in his father’s footsteps by joining the police department in Montville Township. He also became a volunteer firefighter and designed the agency’s shoulder emblem. He served on both departments for several years, juggling his dual role as a police officer and firefighter.

According to his family, Reid was a man of many talents. He had a deep connection with nature, loved art, was an excellent builder, including masonry, and enjoyed watching crime shows on television. Aleta Romo, one of his daughters, said her father was an excellent artist and painted many paintings over his lifetime.

Law enforcement and public service run in the Reid family. Aleta Romo served as a police officer in the United States Air Force. She is currently working toward Georgia certification as a police forensic artist.

Her half-sister, Dana, followed in her father’s footsteps and was a police officer in Montville.

“I have been with him to patch shows collecting since I was born. I grew up helping with the tables, collecting and learning what he would teach me. Even then, it feels like I could never possibly catch up with all that he knew,” Romo said.

Using his artistic talents, Reid hand drew designs for patches used by Flagler County and Bunnell PD. He created emblems for other local agencies as well.

In 2001, after he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, Reid and his wife moved to Winder, Ga. to be closer to his daughter, Aleta, for the remaining years of his life.

Reid was low key, to say the least, and shunned publicity. He did not like having his picture taken. He declined a law enforcement funeral.

“I asked if he wanted a big thing and invite the police department and have a helicopter at the funeral,” Romo said. “In true Pete Reid style, he said he didn’t want a f-in helicopter.”

In keeping with his wishes, a memorial service and celebration of life was held in Winder on March 26.

“As per his wishes, I am to sell some and keep the rest,” Romo said when asked about



Pete Reid began collecting law enforcement insignia when he joined the Montville, N.J. Police Department in 1967. He became a patrol sergeant and served until 1983 when he relocated to Florida and joined Flagler County as chief deputy. Reid collected insignia for 58 years. *Montville Police photograph*



One of longtime collector David Martin’s last shows was last summer in Gettysburg, Penna. where he was one of the tableholders alongside his friend Jim Thomas. He offered a wide selection of collectibles, especially Richmond police patches and challenge coins. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

disposition of her father’s collection.

**Hobby loses pioneers** The deaths of Martin and Reid represent the sad loss of two more hobby pioneers. Reid was among the earliest known insignia collectors, while Martin was involved in our law enforcement collectibles for more than 40 years. Their vast knowledge and decades of experience can be never be replaced.

Most significantly, Martin and Reid were men of ethics and integrity, always held in high regard by fellow hobbyists off the job and by their contemporaries on the job. Attaining the rank of captain in a large agency like Richmond or chief deputy in Flagler County shows the confidence placed in their abilities.

Our hobby continues to mourn the deaths of many early collectors, whom I often refer to as pioneers. As Reid so aptly put it, “Collecting was way different then. No shows. No newsletter like yours. Everything was officer to officer, all word of mouth. It was all trading. No one paid for anything back then.”

While collectors benefit from a much larger, more sophisticated and definitely higher tech hobby today, Martin, Reid and many others now also missing from our ranks blazed the trail we all still follow. Martin, Reid and those who preceded them in death must never be forgotten.

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (Baldwin, Wis.)

# William Mauldin, SP/HP Collector And Author, Dies

William G. Mauldin, longtime Florida and North Carolina collector and *State Troopers of America* publisher, died on May 8 in Greensboro, N.C. Mauldin lived a full life as a collector, author, law enforcement officer, commercial pilot and broadcaster. He was 88.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

GREENSBORO, N.C. – William G. Mauldin, author of *State Troopers of America* and longtime Florida and North Carolina law enforcement insignia collector, died in a local hospital following a brief illness on May 8. He was 88.

Mauldin published *State Troopers of America* in 2006 (with a revised edition in 2007) as the definitive reference book for state police and highway patrol collectors. Working with nearly 40 fellow veteran state police/highway patrol hobbyists, he created a compendium of state troopers with agency histories, uniforms, badges, cloth emblems and vehicles. It is considered as one of the most accurate, well researched SP/HP reference books ever published. *State Troopers of America* is now out of print.

Such hobby notables as Daniel Hughes, James Walsh, Joe Miles, Tony Aleria, Bruce Davisson, Hervey Cote, Ernie Nandori, Pat Olvey, Jim Thomas, Robert Wilson, Mike Cantu and others contributed to the book, which quickly sold out.

Mauldin had large personal collections from the Florida Highway Patrol, where he served as a trooper for 26 years, and the North Carolina Highway Patrol, his home state, as well as some other states.

“I’m one those guys who, when I get interested in something, I go all the way with it. I had to have everything, uniforms, hats, patches, badges and anything else I could get



William G. “Bill” Mauldin, 88, died on May 8 in Greensboro, N.C. He was a longtime Florida and North Carolina collector and law enforcement officer, as well as an author, commercial pilot and broadcaster. He wrote the popular 2006 reference book, *State Troopers of America*. *Contributed photograph*





Bill Mauldin logged over 30,000 hours in the air as a pilot for National, Pan American and Delta, retiring as a 727 captain. He became interested in flying while serving in the United States Air Force in the 1960s. “I never once took off without landing,” he once joked. *Contributed photograph*

my hands on,” he told *PCNEWS* in a 2021 interview. “I even started collecting the license plates off trooper cars.”

Mauldin began collecting while serving with the FHP as an auxiliary trooper in Troop “K” on the Florida Turnpike in the 1960s and ‘70s. He worked as a trooper while also working as a full-time commercial pilot and broadcaster.

He started his NCHP collection after he relocated to Greensboro in 1992 where he was born and most of his family lived. He also worked for the Guilford County Sheriffs Department after returning home.

“The book came about because I had so many questions about not just our [FHP] badges and such, but other departments as well,” Mauldin said. “I started contacting other troopers around the country who also collect and got most of my questions answered. What they told me was so interesting [that] I decided to put it all together in the book.”

**Juggled multiple careers** In addition to 26 years in law enforcement, Mauldin had a 33-year career as a commercial airline pilot, retiring as a 727 captain with Delta. He was also a successful radio announcer and accomplished voice talent who appeared on numerous locally and nationally broadcast radio and television documentaries and commercials. (“I was the guy you heard but never saw!” he said.) And, he wrote five books in his long life, including *State Police and State Highway Patrol Badge Guide* in 1994, which was updated three times.

Blessed with a melodic baritone voice and a natural delivery, Mauldin’s broadcasting career began when he got a job as a weekend announcer at a Greensboro radio station when he was only 14 years old. He later took a job as a staff announcer for the local American Broadcasting Company radio network affiliate and did some regional and national work for the network. He hosted a daily afternoon show on a Greensboro radio station following his airline retirement.

After graduating from the University of North Carolina college with a communications degree, Mauldin joined the United States Air Force as a security police officer. Later, he served as a command post controller for the Strategic Air Command in charge of operations for an air refueling wing.

“Being in the Air Force got me interested in flying, no surprise there. I started taking lessons and got my license,” he said. “I did some corporate flying as soon as I could to build up my hours. I decided I wanted to fly airplanes for a living.”

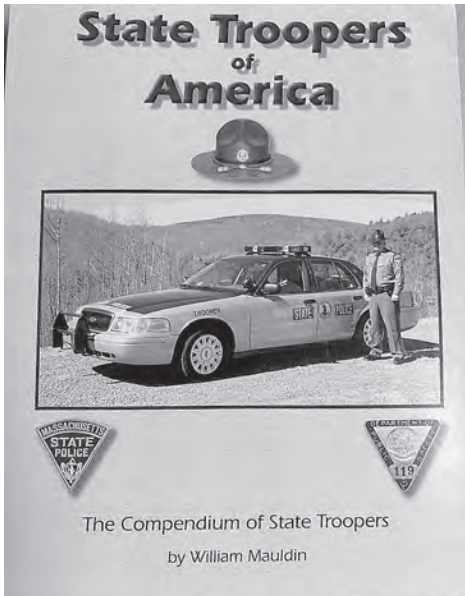
He joined the FHP as a trooper after his USAF discharge. “I liked being a SP [security police officer] and was lucky enough to get a great job as an auxiliary trooper,” he recalled. “Back then, the FHP had 17 Cessna 172 aircraft to clock speeders from the air. I volunteered to fly on the Turnpike and spent a lot of time in the air. I can’t tell you how many tickets I gave those guys on the ground, but it was an awful lot. People in Florida drive fast!”

Mauldin couldn’t choose between being a state trooper, pilot or announcer, so he decided to do all three jobs at the same time! He took a job as a pilot for National Airlines based in Miami. Flying only about 12 days a month, he worked for the FHP on his days off. And, he opened his own company, William Mauldin Productions in Boca Raton, doing radio and television announcing and commercials. He had a staff of six hand-picked announcers and engineers. Later, his company expanded into documentary and commercial video productions.

“I was a pretty busy guy back in those days. Juggling three pretty much full-time careers wasn’t that easy! But, I was able to do everything I wanted to do,” he said. “The production company was the most financially rewarding, but I loved flying. I really loved being a trooper. It gets into your blood, just like flying.”

Mauldin worked so many hours as an auxiliary trooper that he was paid, had a take home car and regularly assigned shifts.

“Florida plays it smart with personnel. Not only do they have regular troopers, but they also have a large reserve and auxiliary staff. These guys are worth a fortune to the state,” he said.



*State Troopers of America*, published in 2006 and updated in 2007 by Bill Mauldin, is still considered the definitive reference book for state police and highway patrol collectors, researchers and historians. More than 40 collectors contributed information and photographs. *Jim Thomas photographs*



After Pan American bought out National in 1980, Mauldin went to work for Pan Am for 12 years. When Pan Am went into bankruptcy in 1992, he took a buyout and became a captain with Delta, flying out of New York City for the remainder of his career. In all, he logged more than 30,000 hours in the air in 33 years as a commercial pilot.

“With Delta calling the shots, I retired from the FHP in 1992 and moved to Greensboro to stay. I commuted to NYC on days I had to fly, usually a couple five or six day trips a month,” Mauldin said. “That gave me time to do other things. When I wasn’t in the air, I was on it.”

**Dedicated collector and researcher** Accomplished NCHP collector Jim Thomas, who lived in North Carolina most of his life, called Mauldin an outstanding collector, historian and a 30-plus years personal friend.

“Bill was getting into collecting North Carolina when I invited him over to the house to see my collection after he moved here. First time he saw it, he said, ‘Holy mole! I thought I had a collection!’ He was just blown away, and I think that’s when he got real serious about the hobby,” said Thomas.

Thomas and Mauldin called each other every few weeks over the years to talk about their collections and latest finds.

“Bill got really serious into researching NCSP history, not just for the book, but for his collection,” recalled Thomas. “He gave me two copy paper cartons full of newspaper clippings about NCHP troopers and history. I can’t tell you how many times I’ve used them for my own research.”

Mauldin was very generous with his friends. He gifted Thomas a rare NCHP commemorative license plate.

Thomas laughed when I told him Mauldin told me several times that he wasn’t “really” a collector, which, of course, I took with a grain of salt. “Told me the same thing. He was a collector all right. A real, real good collector, too. He just didn’t like admitting it,” he said.

Mauldin said he sold his collection about ten years ago. He did not disclose the buyer.

**Visitation and funeral** Mauldin was preceded in death by his wife and high school sweetheart, Peggy. He is survived by his daughter and son.

Visitation and a celebration of life took place on May 13 in Greensboro. He was buried at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Greensboro following the service with military and law enforcement honors.

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (Baldwin, Wis.)

## President Honors Cancer Victim With Secret Service Badge

WASHINGTON, D.C. – D.J. Daniels wants more than anything to become a police officer. Sadly, the Houston, Tex. 13-year-old suffers from terminal brain and spine cancer that will someday take his life.

Yet, the courageous young man, whose plight has been recognized by law enforcement agencies across the nation, fulfilled a dream on March 4 when he was presented with an honorary United States Secret Service badge and credentials during the State of the Union address by the President of the United States.

As President Donald Trump introduced him to the Congress and Supreme Court, Director Sean Curran handed Daniels, wearing his Houston police uniform, his shiny gold badge and credentials case as his beaming father, and the nation, looked on.

“Joining us tonight is a young man who truly loves our police. His name is D.J. Daniel. He is 13 years old, and he has always dreamed of becoming a police officer,” the President said. “I am asking our new Secret Service director, Sean Curran, to officially make you an agent of the United States Secret Service.”

Daniel has visited about 900 law enforcement agencies nationwide and holds countless honorary commissions. He has been presented with more commissions, badges, challenge coins, patches and mementos than he can count.

His father, Theodis Daniel, said D.J. was diagnosed with terminal brain and spinal cancer in 2018. He’s had more than 13 brain surgeries and is presently part of a research program that his given his family hope.

“He’s beating the odds,” noting his son was given just five months to live after his initial diagnosis.

On March 19, Daniel was guest of honor and sat next to Secret Service leadership to congratulate graduates of Special Agent Training Class 445 at the Secret Service training center in Beltsville, Md. He shook hands with each of the 24 graduates during the ceremony.

After visiting the President in the Oval Office earlier in the day, Daniel was given a VIP tour of the Secret Service training facility by Director Curran and Homeland Secretary Secretary Kristi Noem. He was treated like a celebrity and showered with t-shirts, stickers, plush animals and enough challenge coins to make even the most dedicated collector envious.

Among his personal favorites were a high speed cruise around the outdoor driving track, participating in a canine demonstration and sitting in one of the presidential limousines, known as The Beast.

*Courtesy of United States Secret Service*



Devarjay “D.J.” Daniel holds an honorary United States Secret Service special agent badge and ID presented to him by Director Sean Curran during President Donald Trump’s State of the Union address to Congress on March 4. The young man is battling terminal cancer. *USSS official photograph*





Secret Service Director Sean Curran and Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem show D.J. Daniel one of the presidential limousines during his tour of agency facilities on March 19. He was the guest of honor at the graduation ceremony of the latest class of agents. *USSS official photograph*

## Tennessee Cracks Down On Police Emblem Use

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Providing security for tourist and entertainment venues across Tennessee is big business, especially in Nashville, Memphis and other popular destinations. Private security firms employ thousands of security officers across the state. Many are sworn law enforcement officers working off-duty jobs.



A security officer wearing a large “Police” back patch and a backward New York cap watches people at a downtown Nashville shopping area. Is he a sworn officer or a civilian security guard? Tennessee officials are cracking down on civilian security guards wearing police insignia. *Contributed photograph*

State officials have complained that some civilian security personnel are wearing police identification provided by their employers, even though they have no law enforcement officer status under Tennessee law. A few police chiefs and sheriffs have taken action against their officers for wearing department insignia while working off-duty jobs without authorization. Last autumn, the Davidson County sheriff suspended four deputies who worked private security wearing police patches. Allegations of police insignia misuse by one of the largest providers in Nashville, Solaren, led to a contentious three-day hearing before an administrative law judge in Nashville in late March. CEO Jack Byrd’s company was charged with 62 violations of the state private security law by the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance. The charges were primarily allegations that Solaren security guards weren’t properly licensed or were wearing uniforms and patches that said “police” despite not have police powers. Byrd and his attorneys vigorously defended their business practices, pointing out conflicts in state laws involving sworn officers working off-duty jobs. Following the hearing, which attracted considerable media attention, the judge gave attorneys for both sides until early May to file briefs before a decision is rendered. Earlier this year, State Representative Yusuf Hakeem of Chattanooga introduced legislation that would regulate law enforcement insignia use and require a special patch for off-duty officers working private security. However, the bill failed to advance in committee. On March 21, staff at the Tennessee Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission, which regulates law enforcement in the state, came out with its own special patch and proposed rules for its use. Staff action does not require legislative approval but must be approved by the commission. Staff approved a bright orange diamond-shaped shoulder emblem to identify officers



The Tennessee Police Officer Standards and Training Commission is out with this black-on-orange emblem that sworn law enforcement officers will have to wear if they work off-duty security jobs and not not wearing their department-issued uniform and insignia. *Tennessee POST photograph*

working private security jobs. Black legends read, “OFF DUTY/ PRIVATE DUTY LAW/ ENFORCEMENT/ SECURITY OFFICER.” It is to be worn with a bottom rocker that lists the officer’s affiliated law enforcement agency on it. Certified officers can now either wear their department uniforms, security company patches, or one of the new patches while working a private security side job. “I kind of like the idea where when we are out in downtown Nashville, we know who the police are and who is not police,” said POST Commissioner Jonathan Beverly. “That way we know if the person is wearing anything that says ‘police’ is who they say they are.” If approved by the full commission, any licensed contract security company may be subject to discipline for improperly using or displaying the patch. “What we should expect is that the only patches that say ‘police’ on security/patrol officers would be the ones approved by POST or the ones that are part of a full-time, POST-certified officer’s agency uniform,” according to a commission news release. Officials stressed only POST-certified officers will be allowed to wear the diamond shape. *Courtesy of Tennessee Police Officer Standards and Training Commission and media reports*

## “Heart of the Ozarks” Show Venue Changed

BRANSON, Mo. – A missed reservations deadline forced a late venue change for the 2025 “Heart of the Ozarks” Police Collectors Show in Branson, Mo., the hosts announced on April 1. The tenth annual show has also been reduced from two days to one day due to hall availability. Hosts Jim Post, Terry Bible and Tom Breen were notified that a retired law enforcement officer member of the National Law Enforcement Week (NLEW) organizing committee had failed to sign contracts for the convention center and room block at the Americlnn by Wyndham, the previously announced venue, by the deadline. The hotel booked another event as a result. “No one could contact him for a couple months. Not hearing from him, the hotel booked someone else in our meeting space and erased the room block too,” Post told *PCNEWS*. “Heart of the Ozarks” is an official NLEW event. Venue arrangements are the organizing committee’s responsibility, not the show hosts responsibility, said Post. The show has been moved to the Thousand Hills Resort, the former Ramada Inn, which was a previous show venue. It will be held on Saturday, June 21 from 8 am to 3 pm. “We barely got into the Thousand Hills Resort. We could get one day in their convention center. They did block sleeping rooms for us. We’ve used their facilities several times, and they are great, so that part is okay. The rest sucks,” Post said. Because the convention center is only available on Saturday, the show was shortened to one day. “At this point, we lost ten tables from guys in Arizona and Colorado who didn’t want to drive for just one day,” Post said. Thousand Hills Resort offers reduced room rates, free breakfast, a pool and free WiFi. “We don’t want to separate from NLEW because it always brings new folks into the hobby every year, and the way us old timers are dying off, we need new collectors to keep the hobby alive,” Post said. “We’ve had some kind of issues every year because we do this in June; Branson is a tourist town, and June is their busiest month.” Updated “Heart of the Ozarks” information can be found in “Swap Meet Calendar” elsewhere in this issue. *Courtesy of Jim Post*

## “Cash For Badges” Virginia Sheriff Gets Ten Years

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. – The former sheriff of Culpeper County, Va. was sentenced March 21 to ten years in federal prison for accepting over \$75,000 in cash bribes in exchange for appointing numerous Northern Virginia businessmen as auxiliary deputy sheriffs in his department. In December 2024, a jury convicted Scott Jenkins, 53, of Culpeper of one count of conspiracy, four counts of honest services fraud and seven counts of bribery concerning programs receiving federal funds. “Scott Jenkins violated his oath of office and faith the citizens of Culpeper county placed in him when he engaged in a badges-for-cash scheme,” Acting U.S. Attorney Zachary T. Lee said. “We hold our elected law enforcement officials to a higher standard of conduct and this case proves that when those officials use their authority for unjust enrichment, the Department of Justice will hold them accountable.” According to court documents and evidence presented at trial, Jenkins accepted cash bribes and bribes in the form of campaign contributions from three co-defendants, as well as five others, including two FBI undercover agents. In return for the bribes, Jenkins appointed each of the bribe payers as auxiliary deputy sheriffs, a sworn law enforcement position, and issued them Culpeper County Sheriffs Office badges and credentials. The bribe payers were not trained or vetted and did not render any legitimate services to the Sheriffs Office or the citizens of Culpeper County. The bribe payers wanted law enforcement officer status so they could carry concealed weapons nationwide without permits. Jenkins is appealing the sentence. His attorney has also petitioned the president for a pardon. *Courtesy of United States Attorney’s Office*



Former Culpeper County, Va. Sheriff Scott Jenkins faces a decade in prison for orchestrating a “cash for badges” scheme in which he accepted \$75,000 in bribes in exchange for deputy sheriff badges and commissions. Jenkins was found guilty by a jury in December and was sentenced in March. *Contributed photograph*





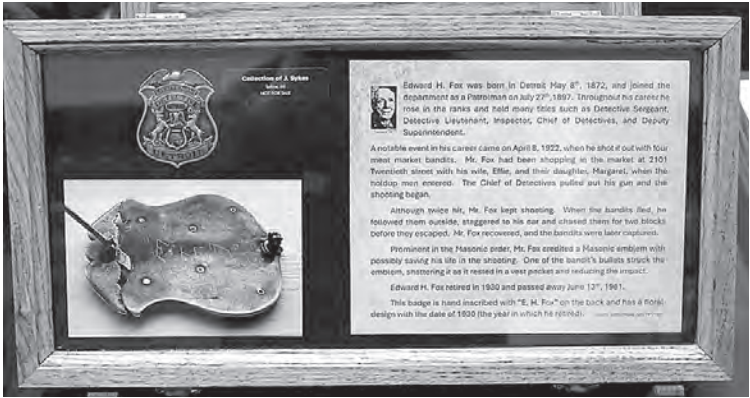
Jeff Sykes, an accomplished Detroit police collector and historian, showed impressive exhibits devoted to two well-known former DPD officers, Arvid R. Friedlund, “The Dancing Cop,” and Edward H. Fox, who survived a shootout with four armed robbers. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

# Detroit Builds A Collector Show Classic

Just like vehicles that roll off assembly lines, the Detroit Area Police and Fire Collectors Show and Exhibit builds a new classic every year. The 2025 model was a 75-table sellout and attracted nearly 150 collectors from the USA and Canada.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

STERLING HEIGHTS, Mich. – A shiny, fresh off the assembly line police sedan built the first year of the Detroit Area Police and Fire Collectors Show and Exhibit would be a highly



Edward H. Fox, a Detroit detective lieutenant, became a legend in 1922 when he singlehandedly thwarted an armed robbery at a meat market while he and his family were shopping. Even though he was shot twice, he chased four bandits out of the store and pursued them. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

valued classic today, just like this show has become a true classic. Capable hosts Dave Loar, Mike Duvall, Todd Hansen, Gino Hliebav, Bill Pace and Bob Blickensdorf are like a Motor City automobile assembly line. They keep turning out classic shows year after year, occasionally adding new features, tweaking old ones and making each year’s model better than the one before. The Upper Midwest’s longest-running law enforcement show and exhibit celebrated its 40th anniversary on March 22. It was its third year at the Mound Palace Banquet Hall in suburban Sterling Heights, which has become its new home. Many veteran attendees said it was the best Detroit show yet. The hosts’ 2025 model was a 75-table sellout. They welcomed 147 walk-ins, one of the largest turnouts in years and the most at the current location. A steady stream of eager patch and badge collectors rolled in throughout the day. Collectors were still coming in during the early afternoon about the time when many shows start shutting down. “It was a fantastic show. Lots of walk-ins and great stuff for sale,” said Loar. “It was a lot bigger than last year. Lots of new faces, young faces, which is what we really, really need in this hobby.”



(Left) Arvid R. Friedlund, “The Dancing Cop,” was a Detroit celebrity in the ‘40s and ‘50s. This is his retired detective shield. (Right) Edward H. Fox carried this shield as a Detroit detective lieutenant. Both badges are now in the Jeff Sykes Collection of Detroit PD artifacts. *Mike R. Bondarenko photographs*



Patrick Muscat is among the deans of the Detroit hobby. He has been a regular at Motor City shows since the beginning. Muscat retired as the inspector in charge of the vaunted Detroit Mounted Police after 22 years, one of the earliest and largest mounted units in the USA. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Hliebav was equally pleased. “We had a really good walk-in. A nice variety and selection of collectibles, more than just patches and badges, too. This was definitely one of our better shows,” he said. “We got a lot of young people, too, which was great to see.” “We had a lot more displays this time. Some really, really nice collections. We had a real good walk-in, too, plenty of new people,” added Hansen. “New people is what we want to see at every show.” Blickensdorf called it a very successful show. “The word really got out. There were a lot more walk-ins than last year. And, we got a lot of nice comments on the hall. I think we’ve found a forever home,” he said. The late Alan Eichman, who hosted the first Detroit Area show at Madonna College



These are two of the finest Detroit badges in Patrick Muscat’s incredible collection. (Left) An honorary police captain shield presented by the mayor in 1936. (Right) Muscat had a local jeweler make a solid gold with diamonds Mounted Section inspector shield for him. *Mike R. Bondarenko photographs*

where he headed the criminal justice program, would have been very, very pleased. His goal was to showcase Detroit area public safety. “What I want to see happen every year is for people to come and see the human side of our profession; that cops are people, too, and we are very proud of our history,” he said while announcing the first show. Like that Motor City police sedan built in 1984, the Detroit area show is now a classic. Best of all, the 2026 model rolls down the assembly line next March!

**Seven-five tables** All 75 tables quickly sold out. While many tables went to longtime attendees, the hosts added some newcomers. The roster featured 43 names, many old, but some new. Bob Blickensdorf, Mike R. Bondarenko, James Boyden, Bill Burks, Dean Cameron, Roy Cavan, Michael Cordan, Dave Dean, C.J. Duffield, Mike Duvall, Bob Getschman and Bill



“Marvelous Marv” Janes is still going strong at 90 years young and has been a regular at the Detroit shows since the beginning. He was one of the first collectors to branch out into the insignia and collectibles business. Marvelous Promotions is now run by his daughter. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*









Todd Hansen featured some outstanding badge displays. He is shown with his mascot, Mr. Roo, who made his return at the show. Hansen explained his daughter used to bring Mr. Roo with her when she attended shows with him years ago. Now, it's just him and Mr. Roo. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

the market when the gunmen entered and demanded money.

Fox drew his gun and intervened. He exchanged fire with the robbers. Even though he was shot twice, the detective chased the bandits out of the store and down a street for two blocks before they escaped. He recovered from his wounds and the robbers were eventually captured.

Prominent in the Masonic Order, Fox credited a metal Masonic emblem with possibly saving his life during the shooting. One of the bandit's bullets struck the emblem, shattering it as it rested in a vest pocket and reducing the impact of the round.

"I really enjoy doing research about the officers who wore these badges," said Sykes. "I like to put together displays together with what I can find out about their careers."



(Top) Todd Hansen collects only one Michigan county sheriffs office, Houghton County. He chose the county in a random drawing. He has built a nice collection. (Bottom) A badge maker offered Houghton County deputy sheriff badges for sale by mail order for 89 cents. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

**Detroit's Mr. Mounted** Patrick Muscat is a Detroit Police Department legend. The dedicated DPD collector and retired inspector, now 84 years young, headed the Mounted Police Section for many years as part of his long and distinguished Motor City law enforcement career.

Detroit established one of the nation's first mounted police units in 1893. It has played a prominent role in policing the city ever since. Although it was briefly disbanded in 2005, officers on horseback returned in 2009 and remain on duty today.

Muscat has the hobby's finest DPD Mounted Section collection. He has literally everything from badges and emblems to belt buckles, uniforms, historic photographs,



A sampling of old Ann Arbor badges in Todd Hansen's collection. (Upper left) the 1871 first issue shield, (upper right) an ornate detective lieutenant eagle top, (lower left) patrolman badge number "1" and (lower right) Albert Heusel's detective captain shield. *Mike R. Bondarenko photographs*



Mike Duvall collects Michigan police and sheriff patches and is only eight away from having at least one from every department in the state. Like many other collectors, he is always playing catch up, hunting for style changes. Duvall is shown with his county sheriffs. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

awards, citations and much, much more. "About the only thing I don't have is one of our horses!" he quipped.

Muscat joined DPD on July 9, 1962 as a patrolman and retired as an inspector on July 2, 1998. He wore seven badges during his distinguished career. He shows them in a career display. He head the Mounted Police for 22 years.

In 1993, Muscat published *The History of the Detroit Mounted Police 1893-1993*, a profusely illustrated, painstakingly researched history of the celebrated unit. The first printing sold out quickly. Although the second and final printing is officially sold out, the author recently found about 20 copies and offered them at his table. The book is a must for DPD collectors and historians, as well as all mounted unit aficionados. Once his supply is



Mike Duvall's Michigan emblem collection covered an entire row of tables in the spacious hall. He has 14 frames of police and two frames of sheriff patches. His goal is to complete the state, although he doubts it will ever happen due to never-ending style changes. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

exhausted, no more copies will be available. (The out of print book has sold for more than \$100 on the internet.)

"I'm pretty proud of the book. I'd do an update, but I'm too old now to take on a project like that," said Muscat.

The Mounted Police once had 80 officers and 60 horses in six stables. Today, there are six horses and one stable. The unit is financially supported by the Detroit Public Safety Foundation, which also supports the Police Museum.

Muscat's display included a selection of Mounted Police belt buckles and bridle rosettes, unique to a mounted collection. He also showed numerous framed photographs of mounted officers, as well as early DPD vehicles and stations, from his vast collection.

There was a rare, very high quality police inspector belt buckle hand made for retired Inspector J.A. Tully, who served from January 1916 to March 1941. It was assembled from 14 separate parts in the 1930s.

Muscat showed the very popular centennial anniversary belt buckle made for Mounted Police members in 1993. Each one was numbered. His personal buckle carries the number "1" and was made of gold.

The veteran collector showed two beautiful DPD badges, both in the agency's traditional curved shield style.



The Michigan Sheriffs Association recommends that sheriffs standarize their shoulder emblems across the state. There have been five MSA-approved designs. Here are four of them. Antrum (upper right) is current suggested style, while Alpena, Luce and Macomb are previous designs. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





Mickey McCanham is a dedicated Detroit historian with a special interest in the Police Department. He began researching DPD history, then decided to begin collecting badges, patches and other artifacts, especially books. McCanham has built a fabulous collection. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Detroit Show ...Continued

One is a gold honorary police captain shield presented by Mayor James Couzens to A.L. May in 1936. May's name and the inscription "05-23-36" appear on the back. Heinrich Pickert was police commissioner at the time. "I haven't been able to find out much about him or why he got the badge," Muscat said.

The other is a fabulous solid gold shield with four diamonds on the outside that Muscat had a local jeweler make for him as a personal memento. The legend reads, "POLICE/ INSPECTOR/ MOUNTED SECTION/ DETROIT."

"I decided to splurge and had it made for me. I've always wanted a badge like that, so I figured I'd better get one while I still can," he said. "He did a beautiful job. I decided to show it today. I'm pretty proud of it."

Muscat showed a photograph of Captain Lemuel Guyman taken on July 1, 1904. He held the title "Superintendent of Horses." John J. Downey was superintendent of police when Guyman was appointed. He also has his badge, a great rarity.

**Patrolman "Marvelous Marv"** Nobody ever loved being a street cop more than Marvin "Marvelous Marv" Janes did. The longtime Detroit collector spent his entire DPD career (1973 to 1986) as a patrolman.

"I loved working the street. I never took the sergeant test. I just wasn't interested. Patrolman is the best job on the department," said Janes, who started working for the city as a sign shop employee before he became a police officer.

Janes retired early to devote all his time to his DPD clothing and collectibles business. He formally founded Marvelous Promotions, now located in Warren, Mich., in 1995. Ninety years young and completely retired, the former officer turned the company over to his daughter, Veronica, several years ago. She has greatly expanded the line beyond police theme products.

"I was making shirts and such while I was still on the street. I got to know everybody on the department that way. Made a lot of friends all over the city. I went from station to station selling stuff and making contacts," recalled Janes.

Janes' company still produces emblems, challenge coins and commemorative badges for the police department, as well as a wide variety of DPD theme clothing, collectibles and mementos, everything from caps to miniature badges to coffee cups to you name it. They offered four tables of custom merchandise at the show.

**Michigan's badge specialist** It was 1973 when a young Tom Herring acquired his first Michigan badge. Fifty-two years later, he is still avidly collecting Michigan police and sheriff badges with special interests in Kalamazoo PD and Wayne County SO. His massive collection includes several thousand Wolverine State stars and shields, including many



(Top) Mickey McCanham's exhibit of command level Detroit police badges features a chief's shield (top center) and command patches. (Bottom) A variety of old DPD badges including special police in two eras, American Protective League and antique reserve badges. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



(Top) Detroit Civil Defense badges, emergency police reserve and three generations of Reserve Police insignia from the Mickey McCanham Collection. (Bottom) Antique second and third issue DPD badges, as well as reduced size badges issued to female officers in the '70s. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

antiques and first issues. It's the largest known Michigan badge collection.

Herring featured interesting, historic badge and photograph exhibits from Kalamazoo, Saginaw, Battle Creek and Pontiac, as well as badges which once belonged comedian Bud Abbott and Kentucky parkway patches. The veteran collector often accents his badge displays with pictures of them being worn by uniformed officers.

The Kalamazoo badge is an extremely rare first issue hat piece that he obtained in December 2018 from fellow collector Richard Martin, who is the current Lake County sheriff. Sheriff Martin saw the badge inside a curio cabinet with other collectibles in a Baldwin, Mich. barber shop. Herring had been after it for years. He was finally able to make a deal with Martin.

East Saginaw was represented by a silver-colored circled star once worn by Officer James P. Walsh, who was appointed in January 1893. It is numbered "3." The exhibit includes Officer Walsh's certificate of appointment and photograph. East Saginaw is now part of Saginaw.

Herring featured two more very old Saginaw badges, both ornate silver shields, along with pictures of three officers in early uniforms.

A particularly impressive exhibit showed seven historic circled stars and shields and officer photographs from Battle Creek. One of shields is marked "1."

From Pontiac came chief of police shield number "1." It's a silver-colored shield displayed alongside of a picture of the chief wearing it.

William A. "Bud" Abbott (1897-1974) was a member of the Abbott and Costello, the nation's most popular comedy team during the 1940s and '50s. He was also a police devotee who collected law enforcement badges. Police chiefs and sheriffs presented Abbott with more than 1000 badges over the years. Herring has Abbott's honorary Pontiac chief of police and Ironwood police officer shields in his collection.

"Our family drove through Kentucky to Tennessee where we had relatives many times. We used the highways they called parkways. I started collecting parkway patches and put together a display. I thought I'd show it today because it's something different," said Herring.

**Bigger and better** Longtime Michigan collector Todd Hansen's collection keeps getting bigger and better. The veteran hobbyist showed additions to several of the numerous outstanding displays in his exhibit.

Among the additions to his Ann Arbor PD collection are old special police shields, badge number "1" of the current style from 1957 and an old park ranger badge.

Hansen has conducted extensive research into Ann Arbor police history by utilizing old police and newspaper files archived in the city library. He has access to about 20,000



(Top) Mickey McCanham recently retired as a news producer for a Detroit TV station, so it makes sense his Detroit Police Department collection features badges issued to the media. (Bottom) DPD celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2017 with set of special commemorative shields. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





Justin Moore is captain of investigations for Lansing PD. He is a LPD and Ingham County insignia collector. He is shown with the department’s complete badge collection, minus the two solid gold shields that never leave the department due to their value! Both belonged to an ex-chief. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

photographic negatives from police and newspaper files, which is extremely rare. The 50-year collector has chronicled the careers of five noteworthy Ann Arbor officers, Arthur T. Hughes, Rex Burnett, George L. Stauch, Albert E. Heusel and Harry Guy Smith. He has well documented career displays devoted to each officer, including their personal badges and plenty of high quality photographs.

“I’ve been able to do a lot of research because of the files in the library. The police department, newspaper and library have a great relationship. They put their old records and pictures in there. Very few other places have so much information available, and all of it is right from the source. It’s a Godsend,” said Hansen.

Hughes, who was Hansen’s neighbor years ago, is honored with a large frame showing eight badges, two patches and several photographs. He served with AAPD from 1957 to 1988 and retired as a staff sergeant.

Burnett joined the department on January 1, 1911 and resigned on June 20, 1915. His monthly salary was \$33 in 1911 and 1912, then increased to \$35 in 1913 to 1915.

Heusel and Stauch share a frame. Heusel worked from 1924 to 1952 and achieved the rank of captain chief of detectives, while Stauch was on the job from 1935 to 1962 and retired with the rank of detective lieutenant.

Smith solved the 1935 murder of Ann Arbor police Officer Clifford Stang. He was shot and killed after entering a store where a robbery was taking place. The murderer fled to California where Smith tracked him down and arrested him after an exhaustive investigation that took him to three other states.

Rather than collect all 83 Michigan county sheriffs, Hansen decided to collect only one county. How did he pick which one? “I put a list of all the counties in a hat and pulled one out. It was Houghton County,” he said. So, he also collects Houghton County, which is located in the western Upper Peninsula. Otherwise, his collection is strictly municipal police.

His Houghton County display shows a nearly complete set of badges and patches, as well as some old pictures and specialty patches. One is a hand sewn weigh master patch that would make an interesting story. Perhaps the county did its own truck enforcement at one time?

This collection also has a picture from an old badge catalog showing an advertisement offering a Houghton County deputy sheriff six-point ball-tipped star for sale for 89 cents. It was sold by mail order.

**New Style Blues** Mike Duvall is like every collector trying to complete a state. He’s always singing the “New Style Blues.”

Even though Duvall is only eight emblems away from having at least one style from every Michigan police and sheriff department, he is always on the prowl for mostly highly elusive new styles.

“I hope I can get one [patch] from every department, but I’ll never have a complete collection because departments keep changing patches all the time. It’s never-ending,” said Duvall.

Right now, he’s missing about 50 new styles, mostly from small one- or two-officer departments scattered across the Wolverine State. “I heard about a couple more new ones today that I’ll have to add to the list,” he said.

Duvall showed his Michigan municipal police collection in an alphabetical order from “A” to “Z.” It fills 14 large freestanding frames and must be seen in person to be appreciated.

His 83-county sheriff collection covers two similar size frames. It, too, undergoes changes, even though the Michigan Sheriffs Association encourages sheriffs to standardize their insignia. However, according to Duvall, compliance is not required by state law.



(Top left) Justin Moore says the holy grail of his collection is this gold star issued to the police commissioner in the 1800s. (Top right) Lansing commemorated its 125th anniversary with this shield. (Bottom) The department opted for dull finish shields to celebrate the millennium. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Josh Green is a dedicated law enforcement challenge coin collector and featured an eye-catching exhibit from his collection. He is a police officer for the Canadian Pacific Kansas City Railroad in Detroit. Green collects coins from Detroit, Michigan and other states. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

There have been five styles of MSA-endorsed shoulder patches over the years. Duvall said the organization comes up with a new style recommendation about every eight to ten years.

The latest is a tombstone shape with the designation “SHERIFF’S OFFICE” at the top, in keeping with the National Sheriffs Association’s view that sheriffs are elected officials, not department heads, so their agencies should be called county offices, not departments of county government.

Despite urging from the MSA, not all sheriffs use the recommended insignia. Others have adopted it briefly, only to develop their own insignia.

“You know how some sheriffs are. No one is going to tell them what patch to wear,” laughed Duvall. “So, they either keep what they have or come up with something new.”

Non-MSA compliant county styles I saw in Duvall’s display included Clinton, Dickinson, Eaton, Kalamazoo, Lake, Livingston, Marquette, Oakland, Saginaw and Wayne. There have been others over the years, as well as some current agencies, he said.

**DPD history showcase** Historian Mickey McCanham once again outdid himself with another fabulous exhibit of Detroit police insignia history. He covered several tables with beautifully-framed, well-labeled DPD insignia collections, as well as other artifacts and historic memorabilia.

“As I’ve said before, I’m a historian first. My focus is on the Police Department. I decided to add police badges later,” said McCanham, who recently retired as a news producer for a Detroit television station.

Among this most impressive exhibits were ...a set of gold-colored command staff badges from chief of police to inspector, including the personal badge of Chief Stanley Knox. The exhibit features command level DPD emblems.

...antique styles, including the second issue (late 1909 to early 1910) and third issue badges. The frame includes hat pieces and shields. An interesting piece is a controversial reduced size hat shield from about the mid-1970s that was issued to female officers.

...an exhibit featuring obsolete badges, including a set of six different styles issued to newspaper, radio and television news reporters and photographers allowing them to cross police lines and access crime scenes. One badge is from the Oakland County Sheriffs Department.

...a highly desirable set of six DPD issue revolvers, uniform buttons, keys and handcuffs.

...a complete rank set of the 2015 DPD 150th anniversary badges that commemorated the founding of the agency in 1865. One of the badge was done to closely resemble the first issue shield. Marvin Janes said he produced these badges for the department.

...special police, reserve police and 1918 post-city charter badges shown with eagle-topped shields carried by members of the Detroit chapter of the American Protective League during World War I.

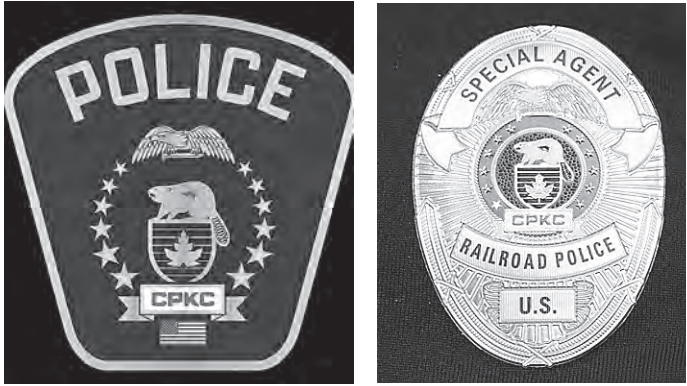
...a frame devoted to Special Patrolman James Fred Trent in 1942 showing his badge, armband and hat, as well as his training certificate signed by the police commissioner and two photographs. Like many major cities, Detroit utilized special patrolmen to cover for full-time officers called to military service during World War II.

...a selection of badges and insignia from Detroit Civil Defense (post World War II), Emergency Police Reserves (1950s) and three eras of Police Reserve badges and emblems.



Longtime collector Hugh Jordan journeyed to Michigan, his home state, from Arizona and took advantage of the opportunity to put his Wolverine State challenge coin collection on display at Detroit. Jordan brought 18 frames completely filled with police and sheriff coins. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





Canadian Pacific Kansas City is the only single line railroad serving Canada, the United States and Mexico. It was created when CP bought Kansas City Southern. The new CPKC Railroad Police special agent badge is on the right, while the patch is depicted on the left. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

## Detroit Show ...Continued

...a variety of special patrolman shields.

McCanham possesses encyclopedic knowledge of Detroit history, especially the police department. His home library contains an extensive collection of books and reference works on general Motor City history, as well as volumes specific to DPD.

His annual Christmas present from his wife is between 30 and 40 books of interest to a Detroit historian to add to his library. She shops book stores all year to find them.

**Lansing police collector** Justin Moore specializes in his department, Lansing PD, and shared an outstanding exhibit of badges, emblems and photographs. He also featured Ingham County Sheriffs Office and local security company insignia.

“I’ve always been interested in our history. I helped the department put together our badge history collection. I have my own collection, too,” said Moore, who serves as captain of the Investigations Division. The department collection is as complete as could be.

Moore said Lansing PD, which was founded in 1893, has worn five badge styles. The current Series 5 is an eagle-topped silver shield with a full color custom seal in the ranks of police officer, detective, lieutenant, captain and chief of police. The seal features the State Capitol and came about in the late 1990s when the city replaced the previous design.

The beautifully-framed department collection, which is displayed at police headquarters and must be seen to be appreciated, features some outstanding, very valuable badges.

Moore described a handmade solid gold circled star made by a local jeweler for the police commissioner in 1800s as the holy grail of the collection. “It’s one of a kind,” he said.

There is a presentation badge that belonged to legendary lawman Alfred Seymour, who served as Lansing’s fifth chief of police from 1918 to 1938. “He was a lieutenant in Detroit for 27 years and retired from there to come to Lansing. He worked for us another 20 years. He was a very progressive chief and brought a lot of innovations to Lansing,” said Moore.

Chief Seymour was highly regarded nationally as well. He served as president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police from 1932 to 1933. His custom IACP president’s badge is included in the display.

“I didn’t bring the Seymour badges. They are too valuable to take outside the department. We lock them up when the badge display leaves the building,” said Moore. Both badges are solid gold. The chief’s shield also has a diamond on the face.

Among Moore’s favorite LPD badges are custom creations for the agency’s 2000 millennium celebration.

The collector announced consideration is being given to publishing an update to Patricia Heyden’s 1993 book, *Behind the Badge: The History of the Lansing Police Department*. Ms. Heyden, wife of a former deputy police chief and accomplished local historian, died in 2015.

“The book is great, but it only covers our history up to 1993, which was our centennial year. We’ve been discussing putting together an update to the book. Nothing’s been decided yet, but it is being talked about,” said Moore.

**Challenge coins galore** Hugh Jordan, a Michigan native who lives in Arizona, took advantage of an opportunity to display his massive Wolverine State law enforcement challenge coin collection. It fills 18 large frames. Some agencies are represented with multiple coins.

“I’ve really gotten into coins, but only from Michigan and Arizona,” said Jordan. “My Arizona collection is bigger than this one.”

Jordan plans to show his Arizona coin collection at the National Show in Phoenix this summer.

**Railroad police officer** Another challenge coin collector who featured a large, very impressive display was Josh Green, a police officer for the Canadian Pacific and Kansas City (CPKC) Railroad. He is assigned to the Detroit Field Office.

“I collect coins from Detroit, Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. I’ve got some railroad coins,



Richard Martin is the three-term sheriff of Lake County and a collector. He shows off the three Lake County patches being sold to benefit charities and non-profits, veterans, breast cancer awareness and autism awareness. Sales have generated nearly \$100,000. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

too,” said Green. “I really enjoy coins.”

The CPKC was formed when Canadian Pacific bought Kansas City Southern for \$31 billion in December 2021. The new company gained federal approval in March 2023.

“I’ve been with the railroad for six years and love it. We got new badges and patches because of the merger. They look pretty good,” said Green.

The badge is a modern oval with the full color company seal featuring a beaver as the center design and “U.S.” at the bottom, while the emblem is a large rounded rectangle with the seal and the United States flag at the bottom.

**Michigan sheriff/collector** Not very many county sheriffs across the country are bonafide collectors, but Lake County, Mich. Sheriff Richard Martin is! He brought a nice display from his department, as well as department patches and coins being sold as charity fundraisers.

“I’ve been collecting for quite a few years,” said Sheriff Martin. “I’m always looking for things from Lake County’s past and have been able to find a quite a few.”

The collector is starting his third term as sheriff. He won by 80 votes the first time but got 70 percent of the vote the second time. For his third term election, Martin received 77 percent of the vote.

He was selling a set of three emblems created to raise funds for veterans programs, breast cancer awareness and autism awareness. All three very colorful patches are variations of the current Lake County emblem.

The coins show the agency badge on one side and veterans, breast cancer and autism awareness symbolism on the other side.

“We’ve done special patches a couple times. We sell them for \$10 each. So far, we’ve raised more than \$99,000 for charities through patch and coin sales,” said Sheriff Martin. More than 76 local charities and non-profits have benefited, which is totally amazing for a county with a population of less than 13,000 and a department with just 23 sworn deputies and support personnel. People in Lake County obviously appreciate law enforcement.

I know I would like working for Sheriff Martin, and not just because he is a fellow collector either. He managed to get a \$165,000 federal grant so his department could be nationally accredited, which is an arduous process. “We were the first rural Michigan county to be accredited. Only four counties in Michigan are accredited,” the sheriff said. “We’re the smallest. The grants are competitive and hard to get.”

As I said many times during my career, a department doesn’t have to be big to be good. Lake County SO proves it.

**Detroit Area notebook** This, that and whatever from my Detroit show notebook.

...Every Detroit show I attend leaves me wondering why the **Detroit Police Department** doesn’t garner more widespread national collector interest. The Motor City has as rich a law enforcement history as anywhere, with beautiful badges and lots of patches, but I see very few DPD badges, emblems or artifacts at shows outside Michigan. What’s up with that?

...One of the best lines I heard all day came from a Canadian collector. I overheard him ask a tableholder as he prepared to buy some patches, “**I’m from Canada. Do I have to pay a tariff?**” Tariffs were all over the news the week before the show, so the tongue in cheek line was perfectly timed.

...Detroit is one of only a handful of shows that does not sponsor a **display contest**. The hosts stopped presenting awards for the best displays at their 2023 comeback show. It appears the display contest will not resume.

...If you see **Tony Gorsek** and **Dean Cameron** setting up tables at show, make sure to stop by and take advantage of reasonable prices and trade values for top quality emblems. I found several Arizona, Minnesota and Wisconsin patches I needed on their tables and was very, very happy with the prices.

...Todd Hansen brought a very impressive exhibit of **Fort Custer Military Police** badges from the 1930s and ‘40s. A Detroit police sergeant who was a lieutenant in the Michigan National Guard asked the heralded Detroit badge maker Weyhing Brothers to create badges for Fort Custer MPs, silver for enlisted and gold for officers. The badges were commissioned in 1939 and used until 1945. The fort is located near Battle Creek in Kalamazoo County. Hansen has a nice collection.

...**Wolfgang Uhrig**, longtime Michigan collector, is still liquidating his collection and preparing to retire from the hobby. Even though he couldn’t get a table because of the sellout, he was nevertheless able to sell about 150 patches out of his backpack.

...Collectors agree the **Mound Palace Banquet Hall**, which has hosted the last three shows, is an outstanding venue. The owners are pro-police, served early morning coffee and pastries and opened their kitchen and bar for reasonably priced lunches and beverages. The hosts located their 2023 comeback show at Mound Palace following a two-year absence and haven’t looked back.

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (Baldwin, Wis.)

**Mary Gislason Recognized** Mary Gislason is legendary among Minnesota collectors who attended the popular shows that she and her late husband, Dave Gislason, hosted in Marshall, Minn. Best known for hosting collectors at their home and preparing homemade lunch and desserts for everyone at their shows, Mary Gislason recently retired as a Lyon County Sheriff’s Office dispatcher after 43 years of service. The local newspaper celebrated her retirement by profiling her on its front page under the headline, “The Calm In The Storm,” referring to her unflappability during high stress emergencies. The Gislasons met over the telephone while working shifts together as dispatchers, she for the sheriff and he for the Minnesota State Patrol.



Veteran Michigan collector Kevin O’Day and his granddaughter, Lorelei, were among tableholders at the Detroit show. O’Day is liquidating his collection and intends to retire from the hobby. He received condolences on the recent loss of his lovely wife. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



# The Grumpy Collector

By Gregory S. Hatzis, Staff Writer

NEW YORK, N.Y. – I'm going to open this issue's column with a word of advice that has nothing to do with police collecting. I got it from my information technology (IT) professional: Don't use your computer's "System Restore" feature.

I sat down in front of my laptop to punch up my column for issue number 105. Having a few extra minutes, I made the decision to press on the pop-up that kept pestering me with reminder that my word processing software was overdue for an update. (Mistake number one: Not being timely in keeping up with my software updates.)

The updates downloaded, and I turned off the computer as I was instructed to do. I turned the computer back on and tried to reopen the software that I just updated but couldn't get it back on; it simply would not reopen when I double-clicked or right-clicked/ scrolled on its icon on my desktop! I repeated the power down and power up process a couple more times with no joy. I figured the update didn't take well and that since it worked fine, I'll restore the computer to the previous day. (Mistake number two.)

After stumbling through the options and clicking on "Yes" and "Next" here and there, I was told to turn the computer off yet again. When I went to turn the computer back on yet again, up popped the dreaded Blue Screen of Death!

My IT guy told me that a small but sizable percentage of his business is generated by folks like me bringing him their laptops or PCs to fix after they try to use "System Restore" on their own. He wishes that that feature was buried behind five or six advisories, warnings and cautions to discourage people from using it.

He explained what actually happens to a computer when you try to get it to go back in time for more than an hour or two. Fixing the damage that occurred not only resulted in significant data losses, including my issue 105 draft, but I lost productivity as well.

I won't discuss the financial hit I took after he presented me with my now working again laptop, but, rest assured, I won't be doing any system restoring on my own again.

**Selling this time** You may recall from my inaugural column that my experiences with eBay were limited to those of a buyer. As your intrepid columnist, I thought that I was high time to try my hand at being a seller on there so that my experiences with that sales platform weren't lopsided.

I started by digging out of my traders box 16 pieces that I had no emotional attachment to. Let whatever happens happen, I figured. After finding a ruler, I logged into my account, went to My eBay, scrolled down to "Selling" and pressed it.

Am I the only one who thinks that the process one has to go through to put an item up for auction is a little too cumbersome? I counted 22 steps before one of my patches showed up for sale. The count could have been higher, but I opted against using such features as "Promote Your Listing" and "Charity."

After carefully composing detailed and accurate item descriptions, in hopes that buyers will find my items with ease, one of the biggest hurdles I ran into was selecting the way I was going to get the patches to their respective auction winners. I'm left wondering if eBay isn't in cahoots with the Postal Service, Federal Express and UPS with the way they push all these shippers' high-end services. It's a patch, for Pete's sake! As far as I was concerned, a sturdy envelope and a first-class postage stamp will do just fine.

The challenges I found creating a post on eBay have given me a different perspective as to the practice of posting items in lots. As a new seller, I realize now it's a pain the buttocks to photograph and list items one by one, especially if one isn't proficient at doing this.

Despite this, I'm standing by my original stance: Regardless of how difficult it may or may not be to post items for sale on eBay, it is still not a good practice to post one's items in lots.

Heaven forbid if you hit the back arrow before you press "List It," "Preview," or "Save For Later!" You'll wind up with a heap of items sitting in your "Drafts" bin.

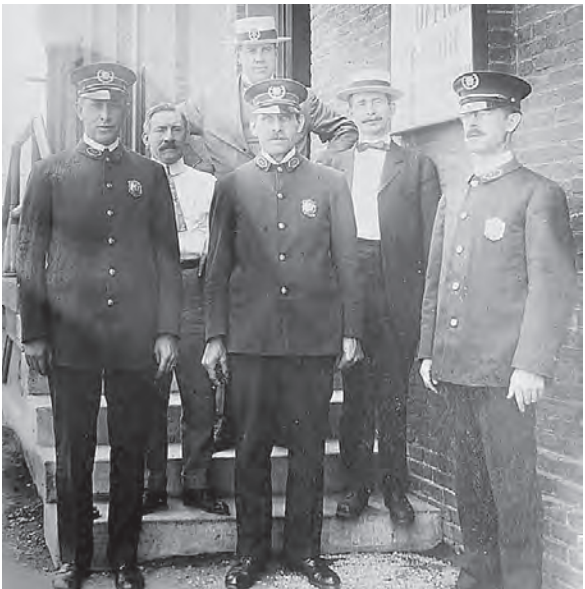
There's one step in the laborious posting process that I want to particularly focus on: selecting your auction's duration. Options include one, three, five, seven or ten days. The instructions include the following statement: "Longer durations like 7 or 10 days tend to sell better." Do they? I mistakenly took their advice and selected the seven day option for all 16 of my auctions. I was now suffering from the other end of what I routinely suffer through as a buyer: the wait.

**The countdown clock** Somehow or another, an item you're interested in owning, be it a patch, coin, plate or badge, is brought to your attention. I could have been after searching eBay on your own. It could have been via an email from eBay showing a possible "Saved Searches" match. Perhaps a friend could have found it for you and texted you a hyperlink to the item. However, you've found out, and you know you want the item.

If the "Buy It Now" option is available and the asking price is within reason (not like the \$129.95, or four interest-free payments of \$32.49, for an obsolete New York City Department of Homeless Services Police patch; really?!?), you're all set. Press the "Buy It Now" button and go through the motions.

But, let's say the seller isn't offering "Buy It Now" or his/her price is too high compared to what you believe an item is worth. What happens now? One of three things:

You put the item on your "Watchlist" and hope that maybe the seller will send you a reasonable private offer, or



A group of Pennsylvania Railroad Company and North Central Railroad police officers standing outside the North Central's agent headquarters shows the differences and similarities between their uniforms and insignia. Chip Greiner is hunting for the NCR badge. *Chip Greiner photograph*

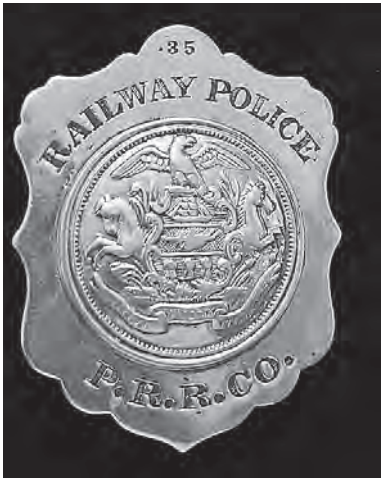


Three variations of Pennsylvania Railroad Company shields from Chip Greiner's collection. (Left) A silver-colored police shield. (Center) A gold-colored police shield. (Right) A silver-colored shield with a top number. All three have the trademark oversize seal. *Chip Greiner photograph*

## Railroad Police Collecting

By Chip Greiner, Staff Writer

BOGOTA, N.J. – The Pennsylvania Railroad began in 1842. By 1882, it was considered the largest railroad by traffic and revenue in the world. It was known by its moniker, "Standard Railroad of the World." Because of its massive size and corporate holdings, the PRR had a controlling interest



A historic set of Pennsylvania Railroad Company cap and breast shields, a numbered patrol officer (left) and sergeant (right). The cap device is a unique wreath with the company logo, PRR, centered on a Pennsylvania keystone shape. These are gold-colored badges. *Chip Greiner photograph*

and outright ownership of many smaller railroads.

It was by design then that the PRR Police Department would design and issue a standard badge. It was a very large nickel shield with a massive Pennsylvania coat of arms in the center. Badges were produced by the American Railway Supply Company of New York in the late 1880s.

The badge was continually used in the eastern part of the PRR system until the late 1950s. It was known as a "pie pan" due to its thickness and size, which reminded some railroad cops that it resembled a pie tin or pan. That's how it got the nickname "pie pan."

Believing in standardization, the PRR issued this badge style to the other railroads they controlled, such as the Long Island Railroad, Washington Terminal Company, Pennsylvania-Reading-Seashore Lines and others.

You will automatically notice a common feature, the very large Pennsylvania seal in the center. It was used on the LIRR, West Jersey and Seashore Railroad and Washington Terminal Company badges. The Pennsylvania-Reading-Seashore was saved from that fate by having a custom seal.

I have shown badges from different PPR railroads, ranks and variations that I was able to find and collect over the years.

There is a photo that shows several PRR and Northern Central policemen in uniform standing in front of the Northern Central Railway agent's office. One of them is wearing N.C. (Northern Central Railway) collar tabs and his Northern Central pie pan shield. I don't have that one, but I know it exists. So, the hunt is on.

CHIP GREINER (Bogota, N.J.)



These lieutenant breast badges from the Pennsylvania Railway Police and the Seashore Lines Railway Police show similarities and differences between the PRR and other railroads it owns. Seashore had its own logo before it was acquired. PRR used the Pennsylvania state seal. *Chip Greiner photograph*



## The Grumpy Collector ...Continued

You put an opening bid on the item, if someone hasn't already done so, to prevent the seller from taking the item down without a hassle and then sit back and wait to see what happens next, or

You wait, and wait, and wait some more until there are only hours, if not minutes, left on the auction, to put in your max bid.

Come on now. Don't deny it. You know exactly what color the countdown clock changes in the last minutes of an auction, don't you? Don't be bashful. I know you've put in a bid when there were seconds left, haven't you? That practice, called sniping, is very common on eBay.

Say what you want about it, but I will admit to you, my dear reader, that I've sniped auctions myself, with success, thanks to tricks like putting in oddball dollar and cents amounts. On the other hand, I myself have been sniped, and enraged to find that, after eBay paused to determine who the winner was, that I've lost auctions by a buck within the last second.

**Games we play** We all know that this is a part of the game that is eBay. Who hasn't felt their pulse quicken in those last moments, especially if it's an item you really, really want to win?

The question I have for my fellow seller is this: Why stall this drama for an entire week? Police collectors are a savvy lot. They know what they are looking for. Why prolong the process? To get more eyes on the item?

I find that within one day, assuming that the seller has posted an accurate description, that I, as a buyer, will become aware that an item that I need for my collection is available for sale on eBay. Sure, more eyes might bring out those who are curious about an item, but, in reality, usually something worse starts happening.

Speculators, who often have deep pockets, will find the commodity and buy it for the express purpose of flipping it. I've spoken to these kinds of buyers offline. They have no actual interest in the item themselves, but will run up bid amounts anyway, forcing those who actually want it to either bow out of the bidding process because they can no longer afford it, or cave in and buy the item at an artificially inflated price.

Then there are the shills, phony bidders who act in concert with the buyer to raise their winning bid prices. There are numerous You Tube videos, Quora posts and Reddit threads discussing this aspect of eBay (and other platforms') auction processes you can look up on your own that explain this process in great detail.

I don't want to go off on a tangent here, but I will say that it is sickening to think about the damage being done to the hobby by having so many of the items collectors are seeking being driven up in price by this disgraceful practice.

Sure, one can argue that the interplay between real bidders, speculators and shills is great for sellers, and by extension, eBay, but what irks me, now as both a buyer and a seller, is the wait. The auction has to end. Why make everyone wait to see how what's going to be inevitable will actually play out?

Don't believe the self-interested advice from what many derisively call greedBay. Sellers, put your auction items up for three days, tops, so that we can all move on with our lives.

As a side note, if I was serious about selling patches on eBay, and not going through the process as part of a journalistic exercise, I'd be pressing "Submit Report" on every one of those "Fire Apparatus Slide" auctions that I run into. It's a slide, not a patch. If my item gets buried on page two, or worse, page three, of a "X Y Fire patch" search return because the first 25 items that pop up are pictures you took of a fire truck parked outside somewhere, I'd be pretty ticked off.

**Six of sixteen** After going through all the mishegas that eBay made me go through, I ended up selling six of the 16 patches I posted for auction in my first round.

The other ten automatically re-posted for auction. After getting one or two watchers on one or two of the re-posts, I let those ten ride their course and took them down after a second round of no bidders.

My journalistic research then moved into a new phase: The lengthy wait for eBay to finally deposit into my checking account all of my successful auction proceeds. I completely understand that eBay is a business that has operating costs they must cover, but the loss of exactly one-third of my winnings to cover all the fees seemed, shall I say, steep, too steep for me.

All said, I'm glad I conducted my experiment. I've gain some insight as to why I see what I do on eBay (such as photos of items for sale completely not matching the description provided underneath it), most especially when it comes to pricing, since sellers have expenses of their own that they must cover on top of what eBay will be taking from them.

**A final note** I want to close this submission with a shout-out to loyal *Police Collectors News* reader Mary Ann Pont of Wilts, England. Her kind words and care packages during the last year as I was dealing with the passing of my parents and the fallout as executor of their estates, are much appreciated. Here's my ride by the ranch, my Limey friend!

GREGORY S. HATZIS (New York, N.Y.)



The Singapore Police Force shoulder emblem is predominantly white on light blue and shows the mottos, "Safeguarding Every Day" and "Courage Loyalty Integrity Fairness." The force crest appears in red, white and blue in the center design. It is similar to the national flag. *Eric Wollman photograph*



Singapore police drove black and white Volkswagen Beetles like this on patrol from 1968 to 1982. The Singapore Police Heritage Center has preserved one of the tiny cars and shows it in their museum. Eric Wollman was among IPA members who visited. *Eric Wollman photograph*

## New York Minute

By Eric Wollman, Senior Staff Writer

NEW YORK, N.Y. – In February, members of the International Police Association Region 2 (New York City) traveled to the Far East with a stop in Bali and then on to Singapore. The long flight over the North Pole took about 16 hours and crossed the International Date Line. In Singapore, we stayed at the Pullman Hotel, which represented its namesake, the famed Pullman rail car, with a small replica sleeper car in front of Pullman Singapore Hill Street.

Our group took a tour bus to the Singapore Police Heritage Center, which is located in the Ministry of Home Affairs. The center, or museum, is an in-depth showcase for the Singapore police and covers the history of this island nation.

Policing in Singapore can trace its origins to 1820 when Sir Stanford Raffles established a trading post. Thus, the Singapore Police Force (SPF) was formed.

The center covers the years up to and including the 21st century with displays of uniforms, weapons, communications and even one of their radio motor patrol vehicles, an elderly Volkswagen Beetle! The first radio police cars were introduced in the 1940s. The little gift shop in the museum lobby sells authentic models of this RMP, too. Naturally, I bought one.

The SPF offers a wide range of regular patrol and special units. Of particular interest to me is the Volunteer Special Constabulary, made up of volunteer citizens who are assigned to one of the seven police land divisions or a specialized unit. They are the Airport Police Division, Police Coast Guard, Public Transport Security Command or the Traffic Police.

A sign describes the origin of the first volunteers:

"Bloody riots broke out among the Chinese in 1854, believed to have arisen from a quarrel between a Hokkien and a Teochew. The riots lasted ten days and were among the fiercest in Singapore's history. More than 400 people were killed and 300 houses reduced to ashes. Some 70 European men volunteered to serve as temporary policemen, called 'special constables,' to help suppress the riots. They provided meritorious service.

"Following these riots, the Singapore Volunteer Rifle Corps was founded. Support from the military to assist the under-staffed police to deal with public order problems was crucial during the tumultuous and lawless early years when secret societies were responsible for many of the riots and murders..."

I rode the Singapore subway for a few hours and was impressed by the sense of order and cleanliness of their trains in comparison and contrast to the NYC subways. The lines I rode appeared to have fully air-conditioned cars and platforms. They have safety barriers at all platforms. New York subways, on the other hand, are plagued by riders being pushed onto tracks from time to time.

Inside the museum, our docent was a civilian employee who was extremely knowledgeable about the history of the SPF and the island nation, while showing off their memorial wall of fallen officers who died in the line of duty during the occupation of



A statue of a modern, saluting Singapore Police Force officer adorns the center of the museum at the police heritage center. The plaque beneath it, titled "Courage," proclaims the courage and fortitude officers show as they go about their daily duties on the island nation. *Eric Wollman photograph*





Eric Wollman couldn't resist purchasing a miniature diecast model of the historic Singapore Police Force Volkswagen Beetle patrol cars used from 1968 to 1982. It's offered as a memento at the Singapore Police Heritage Center. The unique car is black with white fenders and well marked. *Eric Wollman photograph*

Singapore by the Imperial Japanese during World War II. A statue of a modern officer is displayed in the center of the museum.  
I have shown a Singapore police patch.  
Singapore is a remarkable mixture of old Asian heritage, British colonialism and modern Western capitalism. It is an amazing place to visit.  
ERIC WOLLMAN (New York, N.Y.)

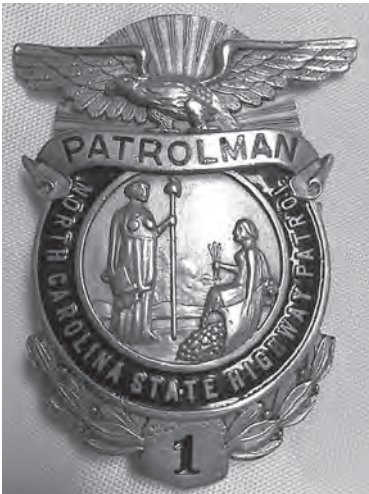
# Letters To The Editor

## NCSHP Badge Number "1"

My good friend David Kellaway posted a picture of North Carolina State Highway Patrol badge number "1." Here is a bit of the history behind it.  
Badge numbers were assigned in accordance with Highway Commission division numbers. These followed North Carolina's historical settlement; First Division in the northeast, then other divisions south and west.  
Badge number "1" was assigned to Patrolman George W. High, originally from Wilson, N.C. He served several years before resigning; a lucky man, too, because he was shot in the face near Aberdeen, but it was a glancing shot and he lived!  
Numbered badges corresponded with a like numbered plate on the patrolman's patrol car front fender and on the license plate of each motorcycle.  
Keeping track of all of these numbers had to be a logistical nightmare. I have seen numbered badges as high as "147," most likely they never got past "150," probably in the mid-1930s.  
If this badge could talk, imagine the stories it could tell!  
JIM THOMAS (Carson, Va.)

## NJHP Historical Inspector Plates

I have added three more vintage New Jersey Highway Patrol motor vehicle inspector license plates to my collection. They are from 1948, 1951 and 1952.  
The 1952 issue was used until 1956 and is in pristine condition as it was issued to a deputy chief inspector who was not on patrol daily. It only shows wear marks at the top mounting slots from the bolts. In fact, the bottom left mounting slot tab is still in place. It was not knocked out by the cutting die at the state prison license plate shop. The cutting machine was in need of adjustment.  
1948 has a beige background. The legends read "N.J. '48" in small black characters at the top with "90" in large black numerals on the left and "M/V" in large black vertical letters on the right.



(Left) North Carolina State Highway Patrol collector Jim Thomas has traced badge number "1" to George W. High from Wilson, N.C. (Right) Chip Greiner has a rare chief of police star from Chicago, North Shore and Milwaukee Railroad, also known as the North Short Line. *Contributed photographs*

1951 is black with white letters and numbers. "90" is centered in the middle with "M/V" to the right. "N.J. 1951" appears in small letters at the bottom.  
1952 to 1956 is also black with white legends. "6" is centered in large numerals with "M/V" to its right in slightly smaller letters and "N. J." on the bottom in small letters.  
The '52 to '56 inspector plate was one of 15 exemptions to the yearly validation tabs that were used during those years. Passenger plates had widely spaced "N J" initials with an embossed "52" and two die cut slots between the initials. The slots were for yearly validation tabs so plates could be used for multiple years. The inspector plates did not require tabs and were produced with the "N J" initials closer together without slots and the year between them.  
I have shown all three plates.  
AL ATTANASIO (Mountainside, N.J.)

## Chicago, North Shore And Milwaukee

I was recently asked if the old Chicago, North Shore and Milwaukee Railroad, known as the North Shore Line, had a police department and special agents. They did!  
I was fortunate enough to obtain the chief of police's star, which was originally obtained by H.W. Hawley in the 1960s when he was with the AAR in Chicago. It's a very ornate five-point star made by the old Child's Company in Chicago.  
I have been able to find some North Shore Line history.  
There is a photo of their Cincinnati Car "700" uncoupled and parked near Green Bay Junction in Lake Bluff, Ill. circa 1958.  
I have a poster showing their route along Lake Michigan from Milwaukee south to Racine and Kenosha in Wisconsin, then Zion in Illinois and continuing with stops beginning in Waukegan and ending at Roosevelt Road in the south Chicago Loop. They also had service from Libertyville and Mundelein into downtown Chicago.  
CHIP GREINER (Bogota, N.J.)

## Police Museum Needs Help

We need help! The Greater Cincinnati Police Museum is a regional museum which hands out a free police patch and other related items to kids visiting us.  
Our stock of patches to give away is running extremely low. We are hoping the patch collector community can help us out. The kids get a kick out of having their very own police patch, and who knows, maybe someday they will become collectors too!  
If anyone can spare any police patches for donation, we would greatly appreciate it. We are a 501(c)3 organization. Our mailing address is Greater Cincinnati Police Museum, 308 Reading Road-2nd Floor, Cincinnati OH 45202.  
Thank you for any help you could provide!  
MELISSA WITTE (Cincinnati, O.)

## Great Smoky Mountains Update

The first of our show items have arrived, and we are really excited about seeing everyone on June 7.  
Our good friends at G-Man Emblems sent us 100 limited edition show patches to support our local school where we are having our event.  
Sales details will be announced, along with information on our small batch of Tennessee Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Autism Support challenge coins from HD Coins and G-Man Emblems. All will be available at the show.  
Our patch features our spin on the iconic sign that has been at the entrance to Pigeon Forge from Gatlinburg. It has us remembering when men had sideburns, and the ladies wore hairstyles that made them five inches taller but highly flammable...in more ways than one!  
The patch and coins will be available at our show.  
RICHARD STOFFLE (Pigeon Forge, Tenn.)

## Become An Undercover Donor

I am asking all my friends across the country and around the globe to join me in a unique and fun challenge and fundraiser.  
Anyone who knows me is aware of the special place in my heart that the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial (NLEOM) in Washington, D.C. holds. The memorial is hallowed ground. Engraved on it are the names of Americans who gave the ultimate act of devotion to their community and country.  
In addition, adjacent to the memorial is our museum telling the story of American policing. The Officer Safety and Wellness Division works tirelessly to keep names off the memorial walls.  
So I was fortunate enough to help design a NLEOM Fund challenge coin for the Undercover Squad of donors to the fund. A limited amount of these coins will be passed physically or virtually from one to another. It is asked that a \$50 or more donation be made



Al Attanasio, our hobby's New Jersey Highway Patrol expert, recently obtained set of three motor vehicle inspector license plates, 1948 (top), 1951 (left) and 1952 to 1956 (right). The 1952 to 1956 set was created without yearly validation stickers, unlike the others. *Al Attanasio photographs*





A \$50 or more donation to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund Undercover Donor Squad gets this challenge coin and a chance to pass it on to others for additional donations. Bill Swank is asking collectors to donate to the national memorial fund. *Bill Swank photographs*

Letters To The Editor ...Continued

to the NLEOMF. Those who accept the challenge will receive their own Undercover Squad coin mailed to them.

Our coin is Number “1.” You will be able to track where each of our coins goes. So, please, after you have the coin, physically or virtually, share it with others so they, too, can make at least a \$50 donation.

This fundraiser is a great way to the support the memorial, museum and Officer Safety and Wellness. There is a QR code on the 2025 Ohio Public Safety Collectors Show Facebook page that you can cut and paste with your own message of encouragement to potential donors. Please circulate it far and wide.

If you are unable to scan the code, go to [Secure.NLEFMF.Org/Site/Donation2?df\\_id=3420](https://Secure.NLEFMF.Org/Site/Donation2?df_id=3420) on the internet.

Thank you.

BILL SWANK (Columbus, O.)

Lions Club Donates \$25,000  
Toward Maple Grove Insignia

MAPLE GROVE, Minn. – A local civic club recently donated \$25,000 to help a Minnesota law enforcement agency acquire a new look.

The Maple Grove Lions Club donated the money to the Police Department enabling the purchase of new breast badges and shoulder patches.

“We believe that these are important symbols of our agency that represent the safety of our community and also represent the city,” Police Chief Eric Werner said. “And we believe that it will be a decades-long representation of who we are and the values we have as an organization.”

The new patches and badges were redesigned over the past year. It’s the fourth time Maple Grove, a Minneapolis suburb, has redesigned its look.

“We as a club truly value our partnership with the City of Maple Grove. Over the years we have built relationships with the city and various departments that work with us at our events,” said Lions Club President Phil Leith.

Maple Grove Detective Jon Bueckers said almost a year ago, he started the process of getting new badges and patches designed. He worked with a group of officers from the department on the designs, which was also tasked with replacing the Minnesota state seal. Once several designs were narrowed down, the entire department was asked to vote for a final design.

The new badge provides recognition of the agency’s history with the first constable badge as the core of the design.

It is a two tone silver-on-gold oval. The gold background is a sunburst design with a surrounding gold wreath border. A large five-point star with “EST. 1954” in the center is surrounded by a silver ring upon which appears “MAPLE GROVE/ MINNESOTA.” “POLICE” is shown on the top banner, while “OFFICER” is lettered on another banner beneath the center design. There is a number or rank panel at the bottom.

“The new patch includes a modern, crisper maple leaf design consistent with the city’s current branding with “1954” marking the inception of the department,” Chief Werner said.

The kernel shape patch has a dark blue background with a gold-colored border. A large red maple leaf bordered in gold appears as the center design. “MAPLE GROVE” appears across the top with “POLICE” beneath the leaf, all in white letters bordered in gold. “MINNESOTA” completes the design in small white letters at the bottom.

The Lions donation covers \$25,000 of the \$42,000 insignia replacement cost. The city covered the remaining \$17,000.

*Courtesy of Maple Grove Police Department*



The Maple Grove Lions Club donated \$25,000 to the police department to help cover the cost of its new shoulder emblem and breast badge. The style changes are the fourth in the history of the Minneapolis, Minn. suburb. Chief Eric Werner said the badge honors early constables. *Maple Grove photograph*



Roger Castillo (center) accepts his late uncle, Rafael Castillo Sr.’s, deputy sheriff badge from Sheriff David Soward (right) as incoming Sheriff Jake Guerra (left)looks on. Rafael Castillo Sr. served as a special deputy in the late 1930s or early 1940s. His son became a sheriff’s deputy. *Contributed photograph*

Sheriff Returns Badge  
To Rightful Owners

JOURDANTON, Tex. – In one of his last official acts before retiring last December 31, outgoing Atacosa County Sheriff David Soward returned a historic badge to its rightful owners.

The personalized badge, an old silver eagle-topped shield with a large silver star in the center, carries the name “R. CASTILLO SR.” The shield was found several years ago in a house near McCoy in Atacosa County and turned into Sheriff Soward. The sheriff kept the badge as a memento of his department’s past.

As he approached retirement, the sheriff researched its history. “R. Castillo Sr.” was Rafael Castillo Sr., who was a special deputy for Sheriff Dow McAda in the late 1930s or early 1940s. His son, Rafael Castillo Jr., was a deputy under Sheriff H.H. Coward, who served from 1946 to 1950 and again from 1960 to 1972.

Sheriff Soward found Castillo’s nephew, Roger Castillo, living in Pleasanton, contacted him and arranged for the return of the badge to the family. It was presented to him by Sheriff Soward and incoming Sheriff Jake Guerra.

“I’m happy to report the badge was returned to the family of Rafael Castillo Sr., where it belongs,” the sheriff said.

Sheriff Soward retired after 48 years with the department, serving his final 12 years as sheriff.

The department maintains a small history display, including badges, in the office lobby. *Courtesy of Atacosa County Sheriffs Office*

United States Secret Service  
Debuts Black Marked Cruisers

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The United States Secret Service tries to avoid standing out in a crowd. Their new patrol vehicle colors unveiled by the agency’s Uniformed Division keeps this in mind.

On Inauguration Day, new black cruisers debuted in the presidential motorcade. Secret Service marked patrol vehicles had been white since the mid-1990s.

Uniformed Division Assistant Chief Richard Macauley said the new color scheme fits more seamlessly into motorcade operations, matching the black presidential limousine and other black emergency vehicles.

Macauley said the redesign had been in the works since last July, adding every detail was carefully chosen to reflect strength and authority, along with a modern, classy look.

In addition to the new design, the cruisers come with cutting-edge technology, including a feature that allows officers to synchronize their emergency lights, for enhanced public safety.

New marked vehicles will roll out in a phased-in process over the next two years. When complete, an estimated 50 new black cruisers will be deployed.

*Courtesy of United States Secret Service*



The United States Secret Service rolled out the first of its new black marked patrol vehicles on Inauguration Day in Washington, D.C. Striping and legends are gold. The Uniformed Division has been driving white vehicles since the 1990s; black fits better with presidential vehicles. *Secret Service photograph*

**Collectors Encounter Earthquake** Collectors Calvin Chow and Dave Kellner and their wives returned home unscathed after visiting Thailand during the powerful March 28 earthquake. The Chows were seated in a Bangkok restaurant when it was rolled by tremors, while the Kellners were in Phuket south of the city. Chow posted a Facebook video of the restaurant shaking. “We are safe,” he wrote. Kellner wrote they were unaffected by the quake, which killed more than 3000 people and caused extensive damage. “We’re in Phuket which is down south,” he posted.

**Plate Numbers Explained** The Wisconsin State Patrol recently explained its marked patrol vehicle license plate numbering system. “Our license numbers are our ‘call numbers’ and used to communicate with each other and dispatchers,” according to a news release. The first number is the region to which the trooper is assigned. The second number identifies the officer. A license plate numbered “314” means the trooper is assigned to Region 3 and has the call number 14.





# California Police Historian

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



Smith and Warren is making this beautiful full-sized badge for the California Law Enforcement Historical Society to celebrate the 175th anniversary of California law enforcement, 1850 to 2025. The full-sized three-inch circled star is available to members and non-members. *CLEHS photograph*

## CLEHS News Updates

**Calling all authors!** The *California Police Historian* is the official publication of the Historical Society and is included in *PCNEWS*, which is sent to all CLEHS members six times a year.

The *CPH* includes interesting articles regarding the history or achievements of California peace officers, collectors or events. Most are written by members or California historians. But we need more stories!

Have you written an article on California law enforcement history and wish to share it with our members? Please send it to Mike R. Bondarenko, *CPH* editor, at [pcnews@baldwin-telecom.net](mailto:pcnews@baldwin-telecom.net).

*Submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Brian Smith*

**San Luis Obispo Show** The 2025 San Luis Obispo Police Memorabilia Show will be held on Saturday, July 19 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Veterans Hall, 801 Grand Avenue in San Luis Obispo and is sponsored by the California Law Enforcement Society.

There are 55 eight-foot tables available, \$40 each for Society members or \$50 each for non-members. Reserve your table early because this show sells out every year.

Free admission!

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

To reserve a table and make payment online, click on the San Luis Obispo Police Memorabilia Show link on the CLEHS website, [CalPoliceHistory.Com](http://CalPoliceHistory.Com).

If you wish to make payment by check, please contact: Gary Hoving, President, California Law Enforcement Historical Society, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875, telephone (805) 441-4936 or email [sloghov@aol.com](mailto:sloghov@aol.com).

*Submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Brian Smith*

**Celebrating 175th Anniversary** The California Law Enforcement Historical Society has commissioned an anniversary badge honoring the 175 years of law enforcement service to the citizens of California.

The full-sized three-inch badge is made by Smith and Warren with a pin back and has hard-fired enamel.

Badges are available by order with delivery in approximately six weeks. The price is



Francis J. McGuire was a San Francisco police officer many years ago. His star number was 552. He rose to the rank of captain and was in charge of the Richmond Station on Eighth Street. McGuire's niece recently kindly donated memorabilia from his career to the CLEHS. *CLEHS photograph*



\$150 for CLEHS members and \$175 for non-members. Badges will be delivered at the National Police Collectors Show in Phoenix or during California regional shows. Badges requiring shipment will be an additional \$15.

All proceeds benefit the Society.

Please email Hoving with any questions at [sloghov@aol.com](mailto:sloghov@aol.com).

*Submitted by President Gary Hoving*

**CLEHS Receives SFPD Donation** In April, a call was received by the California Law Enforcement Historical Society from a Northern California woman who asked if we were accepting donations of artifacts. She said that her uncle was a policeman in San Francisco in the early 1900s, and she had photographs and original jail keys that she was trying to donate to a suitable organization.

Of course, we were very grateful for the offer, which was shipped to us. It was interesting to note that the woman had offered the items to the San Francisco Police Department and several other historical societies in the San Francisco area, and they were not interested. At 84, she is wanting to preserve the items and glad that we were able to connect.

The woman's uncle was Francis Joachim McGuire. He was born on August 8, 1881 and died on February 22, 1949. During his career with the San Francisco Police Department, he rose to the rank of captain and was responsible for the Richmond Station on Eighth Street. His star number was 552.

There is a deputy sheriff's badge that was among the captain's belongings from an unknown agency. There is no information about his relationship to this badge, which is a generic eagle-topped shield with a New Jersey state seal.

It is believed his SFPD star was buried with him.

We appreciate the donation consisting of photographs, keys, a whistle, police envelopes, the badge, uniform collar insignia and correspondence.

*Submitted by President Gary Hoving*



(Bottom) Captain Francis J. McGuire apparently saved the collar brass on his San Francisco police uniform when he retired. It is still attached to cloth. (Top) Among his belongings was this old generic deputy sheriff shield with a New Jersey state seal. The connection is unknown. *CLEHS photograph*





California law enforcement collector and lawman Russ Snow died suddenly on May 4. He spent more than 40 years in California law enforcement. His last job was as chief of police in Fowler in San Joaquin County in 2012. He retired and then moved to Oregon. *Gary Hoving photograph*

## Death Of Russ Snow Shocks CLEHS and California Hobby

The untimely death of veteran hobbyist Russ Snow sent shockwaves throughout the California hobby and beyond. Snow, 75, died suddenly on Sunday, May 4 in Clovis. He was a longtime California collector, police historian and a lifetime member of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society.

“Today I lost an amazing friend, story teller, law enforcement collecting partner and road dog,” said longtime friend Mark Bray. “I was on my way to meet Russ for breakfast and was five minutes from the restaurant when his family called to tell me he had passed this morning. The shock and pain are real, and I will miss him terribly.”

Snow and his wife, Bonny, lived in Independence, Ore. but were in Clovis visiting family and celebrating his great daughter’s birthday. “His blood sugar was very low on Sunday morning, and he ate something to stabilize it, but he went back to sleep and did not wake up,” said Bray.

Snow was a pioneer among California insignia collectors. He was active in the hobby for more than 40 years and attended shows since the early 1980s. He had a variety of collecting interests and was particularly dedicated to law enforcement history with a unique ability to research and document officers or crimes from long ago that captured his interest.

“I love history. It’s just something I’ve always been into. I like looking into things that happened a long time ago, or finding out new information on departments or officers that no one knew about before,” said Snow during an interview at the 2023 National Police Collectors Show. He was a longtime contributor to the *California Police Historian*.

“He was such a dear friend and fantastic researcher. I am just devastated,” said CLEHS President Gary Hoving of his friend’s passing.

Many of Snow’s dozens of collector friends joined Hoving in posting condolences and remembrances on social media during the hours and days following the announcement of his death.

Snow had a long, distinguished law enforcement career that spanned more than 40 years. He started as a police cadet in Fresno and worked for several agencies, including the Fresno Police Department, Kings County Sheriffs Department, Kings County District Attorneys Office, California Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security and others.

He was the youngest chief in California when he became the 26-year-old chief of police at the San Joaquin Police Department.

Snow’s final agency was the Fowler Police Department where was named chief of police in 2012.

“I’m a little oddball. I’ve retired and unretired a couple times. I guess police work is just something that gets into your blood. Or, maybe it’s because I just can’t stay retired? I keep going back after I say I won’t do it again,” Snow said during the interview.

Snow also worked as a private investigator.

The veteran lawman and his wife of 56 years, Bonny, moved to northwestern Oregon several years ago. Only recently, he joined the Polk County Sheriffs Office in Dallas



Displays from Russ Snow’s long law enforcement career were shown at his memorial service in Hanford on May 7. The solemn gathering of family and friends included several members of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society, including President Gary Hoving. *Gary Hoving photograph*

where he intended to work special events patrol and become active in the agency’s very successful Cold Case Unit.

“I do miss some things about California. You just can’t get good Mexican food up there! And, it rains all the time. But, it’s a lot cheaper, quieter and whole lot less stressful,” Snow said about Oregon.

In addition to his outstanding California collection, Snow was also a huge fan of old-time law enforcement television shows and films, especially *Dragnet*, *Hill Street Blues*, *Dirty Harry* movies and many other programs from the 1950s, ‘60s, 70s and ‘80s. Clint Eastwood, the *Dirty Harry* star, was one of his favorite actors, as were Jack Webb and Harry Morgan.

Russell Alton Snow was born in Fresno in 1949. He was one of four brothers and attended school in Clovis and Hanford. He graduated from Hanford High School in 1967 as a proud Bullpup, the sports team nickname. His family requested mourners wear Bullpups shirts to his memorial service in his honor.

After high school, Snow attended the College of the Sequoias and the University of San Francisco and obtained his bachelor’s degree in administration of justice. He spent his entire life in law enforcement and public safety.

Snow met Bonny Bailey in high school in 1964. They became high school sweethearts and married in 1968. They had two daughters.

A memorial service was held on May 7 in Hanford. Among the mourners were California collectors Mark Bray, Gary Hoving, Brad Darling, Mike DeVilbiss, Kelly Mayfield and Frances Lamm.

There will also be a memorial service in Oregon.

“Russ loved the organization [CLEHS] and would serve as a docent during the museum exhibits until his relocation to Oregon,” President Hoving recalled. “The big exhibits included the California State Fair in Sacramento for at least two years, hosted by Russ, Mike DeVilbiss and Brian Smith, seeing over 1000 visitors through the museum. [His death is] a tremendous loss to the organization and many of us on a personal level.”

*Compiled by Editor Mike R. Bondarenko with assistance from Mark Bray and President Gary Hoving*



Bonny Snow is shown pinning Russ Snow’s chief of police badge to her husband’s shirt as he takes over the Fowler Police Department in San Joaquin County in 2012. It was his final job in California law enforcement before relocating to northwestern Oregon. He had a 40-year career. *Contributed photograph*

## Author Joseph Wambaugh Was Beloved By Collectors

Joseph Wambaugh was beloved by California hobbyists. The award-winning police novelist died of cancer at his Rancho Mirage home on February 28. He was 88.

Although Wambaugh wasn’t known to be a collector, he had contact with several hobbyists, including fellow author Ray Sherrard and others, over his long writing career.

Wambaugh was among the most important crime writers in American history. He began writing during his 14-year career (1960-1974) as a Los Angeles police officer where he served as a patrol officer and detective sergeant. He joked that suspects he interviewed often asked for his autograph.

Wambaugh’s first books, *The New Centurions* (1971) and *The Blue Knight* (1972) were, like many of his novels, set in Los Angeles. Both became long-running best sellers. His first non-fiction work, *The Onion Field* (1973), chronicled a famous LAPD case involving the murder of a police officer. He wrote 21 books in all, the last in 2012. Sixteen were fiction.

Many of his books became feature films or TV productions in the 1970s and ‘80s, including *The New Centurions*, *The Blue Knight*, *The Black Marble*, *The Onion Field* and *The Glitter Dome*.

Wambaugh was a consultant for several television productions, most notably the long-running series *Police Story*, which later inspired the popular series, *Hill Street Blues*.

“If he didn’t invent the police novel, he certainly reinvented it,” said fellow writer Michael



Mark Bray (left) and Russ Snow (right) got together at the 2023 National Police Collectors Show in San Bernardino. The two longtime friends intended to meet for breakfast in Clovis on May 4. Bray learned of Snow’s death while on his way to the restaurant. *Contributed photograph*

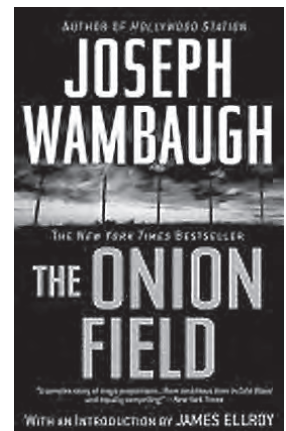
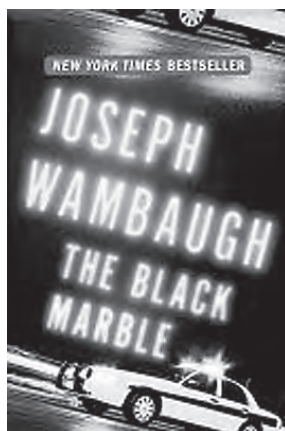
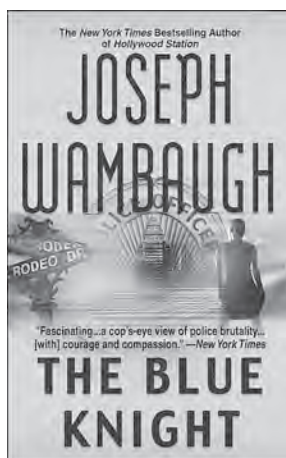
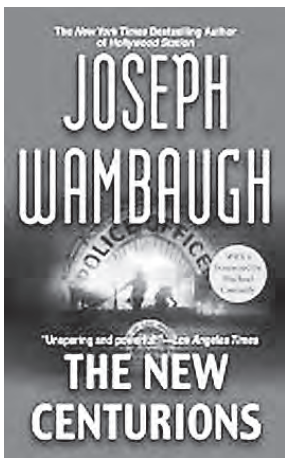




Joseph Wambaugh, 88, died of cancer on February 28 at his Rancho Mirage home near San Diego. Among the most popular police-theme authors in American history, Wambaugh served as a Los Angeles police officer for 14 years (1960-1974). His first work debuted in 1971. *Contributed photograph*

Connelly, author of the popular Harry Bosch books which have also been transformed into a television series.

Sherrard, himself an aspiring screenplay writer, introduced himself to Wambaugh at an LAPD event in the early 2000s. They agreed to meet for lunch at a later date. The luncheon



Joseph Wambaugh's books were wildly popular among police officers. Among his best were *The New Centurions* (1971), *The Blue Knight* (1972), *The Black Marble* (1978) and *The Onion Field* (1973). All four creations were adapted either for television or feature films. *Contributed photograph*

meeting took place while Wambaugh was in Los Angeles for a speaking engagement.

According to Sherrard's notes obtained by *Police Collectors News* through the courtesy of Jake Bushey, most of the meeting concerned marketing screenplays and securing production contracts. In a lighter moment, the authors told each other they both use

typewriters, not computers, for most of their writing!

Wambaugh was formally invited to at least two police collectors shows in Southern California. However, he was unable to attend either event due to schedule conflicts.

The author had a warm relationship with his legions of fans. He answered most of his fan mail personally, usually signing his letters "Joe," and willingly signed autographs.

Wambaugh was born and raised in East Pittsburgh, Penna., the son of a steelworker, who also served as a small town police officer, and a housewife. The family relocated to Ontario, Calif. when he was 14.

The 17-year-old future author joined the Marine Corps in 1954 following his high school graduation. He was discharged in 1957 and worked in a steel mill while taking night classes for a degree in English from Los Angeles State College. He joined LAPD in 1960 following his college graduation. He was promoted to detective in 1968 after obtaining his master's degree.

Wambaugh's books were acclaimed as not only realistic portrayals of police officers, but their personal lives as well. It goes without saying his characters were wildly popular with law enforcement officers.

"My job was to not tell the story about what the cops do on their job. I want people to know what the job does to the cops," he said.

*Compiled by Editor Mike R. Bondarenko*



The Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Public Safety-Law Enforcement Collectors Show on April 26 attracted a very impressive 150 collectors and tableholders to snowy, wet and cold Reno, Nev. The first ever show on a Native American reservation was a sellout. *Contributed photograph*

## Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Police Hosts Very Successful First Show

On Saturday, April 26, the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Police Department hosted the first ever patch and badge collectors show on a Native American reservation.

The show was a huge success with a sellout of 60 tables and approximately 150 in attendance. Lots of veteran collectors showed up, braving the rain and snow to attend. Yes, that's right, in April, Reno got a light dusting of snow, rain and hail!

The show was sponsored by the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Police Department and hosted by Chief Jarrod Nunes, Greg Gilstrap and Nick Kanaya, all longtime, veteran California patch collectors.

All proceeds from the show went to the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Police Cadet program. The show raised \$2200 which will be used to buy uniforms, needed supplies and support community events. Four hundred dollars came as a very generous donation from longtime collector Michael Napoliello of Iron Relics.

The show saw many collectors display beautiful historical exhibits of patches, badges, old uniforms and vintage law enforcement equipment. There were three categories of awards for Best of Show, Best Patch Display and Best Badge Display. It was not an easy task to pick the winners for there were so many nice displays. Next year, we will have five awards.

Our inaugural show award winners were three veteran California collectors.

"Best of Show" went to Mike McCarthy for his San Francisco Police Department historical display.

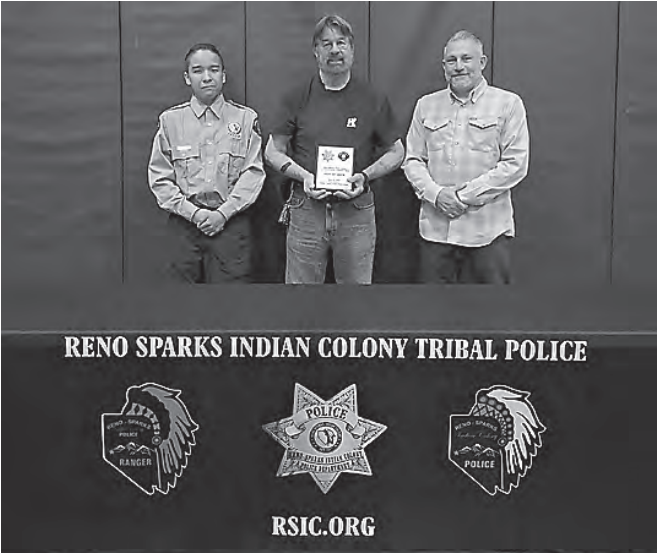


Detective Sergeant Joseph Wambaugh on a call at his Los Angeles Police Department desk in the early 1970s. The world renown author joined the LAPD in 1960 and was promoted to detective in 1968. He resigned in 1974 to pursue his career as a police theme novelist. *Contributed photograph*



Hosts of the very successful first Reno-Sparks Indian Colony show were (left to right) Nick Kanaya, Cadet Jonathan Hernandez, Chief of Police Jarrod Nunes and Greg Gilstrap. All 60 tables were sold in advance. The event raised \$2200 for the RSIC Police Cadet program. *Contributed photograph*





Veteran Northern California police and fire collector and historian Mike McCarthy (center) won “Best of Show” honors at the first Reno-Sparks show on April 26. The certificate was presented by Cadet Jonathan Hernandez (left) and Chief of Police Jarrod Nunes (right). *Contributed photograph*

Chris Villegas was awarded “Best Badge Display” for his Calaveras County Sheriffs Office collection.

The “Best Patch Display” winner was Phil Colonnelli with his California and San Diego County emblem collections.

Honorable mention went to four other collectors who also brought award-worthy exhibits.



Cadet Jonathan Hernandez is shown with Mike McCarthy’s award-winning San Francisco Police Department collection at the Reno show. McCarthy specializes in San Francisco police and fire artifacts, memorabilia and insignia. He has amassed one of the world’s finest SFPD collections. *Contributed photograph*



“Best Patch Display” went home to San Diego County with Phil Colonnelli for his incredible California state agency, sheriffs office and San Diego County emblem collections, all beautifully arranged and exhibited. Colonnelli has one of California’s finest patch collections. *Contributed photograph*

Ira Coffey featured his law enforcement career exhibit with the RSIC Tribal Police, Reno Police Department, Reno-Tahoe Airport Police and Nevada State Legislature Police.



Phil Colonnelli’s award-winning Reno show exhibit included this segment of colorful emblems from California state agencies. The state has a wide variety of law enforcement entities with statewide jurisdiction. Colonnelli’s display includes numerous hard to find patches. *Contributed photograph*



Calaveras County Undersheriff Chris Villegas (center) won “Best Badge Display” for his outstanding, museum-quality collection from his department. He has a complete rank set of the beautiful current circled star badges. All former styles are also represented in his exhibit. *Gary Hoving photograph*

Additionally, Coffey is an RSIC member who makes beautiful arrows and bows and tribal jewelry.

Michael DeVilbiss showed his incredible Sacramento County Sheriffs Department collection.

John Hernandez also brought his law enforcement career display showing his service with the Milpitas Police Department, San Jose Unified School District Police and San Jose State University Police.

Mike Lynch had another fine California State Parks and Cal Fire display.

Gary Hoving, president of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society, said Reno was a wonderful show and he looks forward to a repeat next year.



Chris Villegas once again went all out with his incredible Calaveras County Sheriffs Office collection. He won “Best Badge Display,” but could have won any category. Villegas specializes in his department and all Calaveras County public safety agencies. *Contributed photograph*



Ira Coffey is a retired member of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Police, as well as the Reno-Tahoe Airport PD, Reno PD and Nevada State Legislature Police. He featured his career collection. In addition, he is a tribal member and makes arrows, bow and jewelry. *Contributed photograph*

“Using the Indian Colony auditorium, the venue was centrally located in Reno, directly across the freeway from the Grand Sierra Resort. The spacious facility was well suited for



John Hernandez featured an excellent display of California state agency badges, as well as his personal law enforcement career frames from his service with the Milpitas Police Department, San Jose Unified School District Police and San Jose State University Police. *Gary Hoving photograph*





Cadet Jonathan Hernandez (left) and the RSIC Police Cadets will benefit from the \$2200 raised at the show, including a very generous \$400 donation by local collector Michael Napoliello (center). Officer Angel Hafalla (right) looks on. The funds will be put to good use. *Contributed photograph*

the event with long tables and wide aisles, making it an excellent venue. Although it was snowing upon arrival, the temperature control was perfect inside the building,” said Hoving. “Trading was very good, as were sales. The absence of the Roseville show this year made Reno even more enticing. Nunes has hosted several shows in the past which are always well organized. He hosted a social gathering the night before the show at his home and brought sandwiches to the show for the tableholders.” Nunes’s show is the former Silicon Valley Collectors Show. *Submitted by Jarrod Nunes and Gary Hoving*



Entertainer Bobby Sherman served as a reserve officer for the Los Angeles Police Department, as well as an emergency medical services instructor, following his retirement from show business. Sherman received high praise for his dedication to LAPD and EMS. *Contributed photograph*

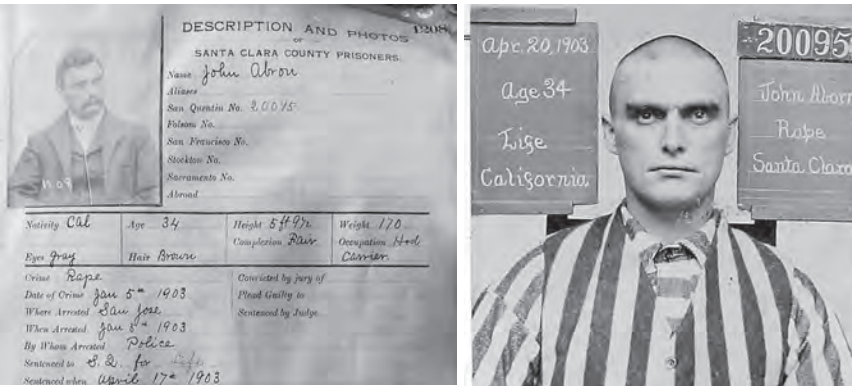
## California Hobby News

**Teen Idol Cop Has Cancer** Bobby Sherman, the 1960s teen idol turned Los Angeles reserve police officer, is suffering from stage four cancer. His wife, Brigitte Poulbon, announced his diagnosis in late March. “As many of you know, Bobby has been retired for some time now and is no longer able to participate in cameos, sign autographs, or make appearances,” said Ploubon. “It is with a heavy heart that we share Bobby has recently been diagnosed with stage four cancer.” Sherman, now 81, walked away from a meteoric late ‘60s and early ‘70 career as a teen idol actor and singer, to become a Los Angeles County paramedic and work with local law enforcement. He taught first aid to recruits at the Los Angeles Police Department Academy. He also became a reserve officer. Later, he was also a reserve deputy for San Bernardino County. “Bobby is the real deal. He’s as dedicated to being a good cop as anyone could be. He is the opposite of a celebrity who just wants play cop,” said an LAPD officer who worked with Sherman in a 1993 interview. “He earned everybody’s respect.” *Courtesy of San Bernardino Sheriff’s Museum*

**San Quentin 1903 Logs Returned** Logbooks for San Quentin Prison and the Santa Clara County Jail were recently found and turned in to the prison, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The San Quentin Rehabilitation Center received information from a relative of a former department employee who recently passed away. While cleaning out an area of his home, she found two century-old prisoner log books. One was for the Santa Clara County Jail, while the other was from San Quentin Prison. She insisted on bringing both books to the prison.



Members of the Santa Clara County Sheriffs Office (left and right) visited San Quentin Prison to accept a 1903 jail logbook from Chief Deputy Warden Oak Smith (center). The logbook, as well as one from the prison, was donated by the family of a former San Quentin prison officer. *Contributed photograph*



(Left) A page from the 1903 Santa Clara Jail logbook shows the booking record of John Abron, a 34-year-old who was arrested for rape. He was booked into the jail on January 5, 1903. (Right) John Aborn’s booking photograph from San Quentin Prison was taken on April 20, 1903. *CDCR official photograph*

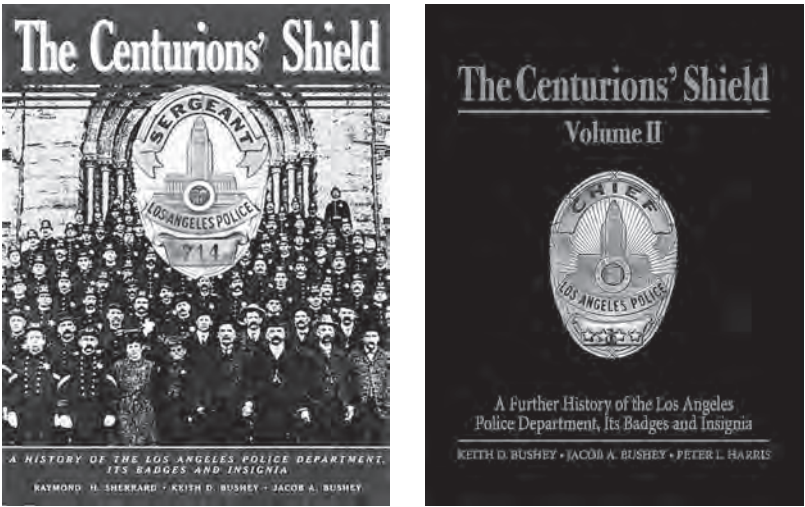
After making arrangements, the log books went to the Warden’s Office where staff carefully reviewed each one. Chief Deputy Warden Oak Smith conducted his own investigation, finding the books date back to the early 1900s. The county book covered arrestees with numbers ranging from 1208 to 1603. Smith contacted the Santa Clara Sheriff’ Office and explained he had a county book dating to the early 1900s. After arrangements were made, two deputies arrived at the prison to retrieve the book. “The book will be added to the internal museum for generations to see and appreciate,” said Undersheriff Ken Binder. Smith received four patches as a sign of appreciation for returning the historical



Phil Colonnelli recently showed the oldest badge in his outstanding San Diego Police Department collection. It was introduced in 1915 for special officers working the Panama-California World Exposition in Balboa Park. The two-tone star is in excellent condition. *Phil Colonnelli photograph*

treasure. At the Santa Clara County Jail, John Abron was given number 1208. When he was convicted of rape and sent to San Quentin in 1903, he was logged in an John Aborn and assigned number 20095. It is unknown which name is correct, Abron or Aborn. County sheriff’s offices maintained their own logbooks of people convicted of crimes and sentenced to state prisons or other county jails. State records for Aborn, or Abron, show he received a life sentence. His occupation was listed as a hod carrier. Carried over the shoulder, a hod is a long-handled box usually used for transporting mortar or bricks to construction crews. *Submitted by California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation*

**Oldest San Diego Badge Shared** Phil Colonnelli, one of the hobby’s leading San Diego Police Department collectors, recently shared a photograph of the oldest SDPD badge in his collection. It’s a fabulous six-point star on a six-sided background. According to fellow collector Robert Jay, the unique badge was designed and introduced mainly for the Panama-California Exposition held in Balboa Park from 1915 to 1916. The legends read, “SPECIAL/ CITY OF SAN DIEGO/ POLICE/ 85.” “Special” is seen in small black letters on a banner on the top star point. “City Of San Diego” is lettered in high relief on a banner above “Police,” which is seen in large raised letters in the center. The number appears in black on a small shield above the bottom star point superimposed over a small banner. “...As Phil Colonnelli stated, in 1917, when they transitioned to a new badge (kind of futuristic-looking for the times), all the lower numbers below 100 were at one time regular officer shields, then later transitioned to specials when [the] new shield came out,” Jay wrote. “At the time of use, two-tone was regular, paid, [while] all nickel was special and



(Left) The original edition of *The Centurion’s Shield*, the Los Angeles Police Department history book, was published in 1996 by Ray Sherrard and Keith and Jake Bushey. (Right) Peter Harris and the Busheys will publish *The Centurion’s Shield Volume II* this year. *Contributed photograph*





Larry Wilcox (left), co-star of the long-running TV series, *CHiPS*, about the California Highway Patrol, was among celebrity guests at the March 29 Injured Police Officers Fund Classic and Emergency Vehicle Show in Boulder City, Nev. He is joined by host Jay D'Angelo (right). *Contributed photograph*

other personnel, such as janitors, etc.”

The exposition ran from January 1, 1915 to January 1, 1917. It attracted nearly four million people from around the world to San Diego.

The event celebrated the opening of the Panama Canal and was meant to showcase San Diego as the first port of call for ships traveling north after passing through the canal.

San Diego PD was the primary law enforcement agency, a massive undertaking for a agency responsible for policing a city of 38,000. Another primary agency was the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. The federal government also provided some assistance, mostly from the military.

Events and venues were located throughout the former City Park which was renamed Balboa Park in 1910 after Vasco Nunez de Balboa, the first European to cross Central America and see the Pacific Ocean. Balboa Park is 1400 acres, so police were spread thin. The expo welcomed about 6000 visitors each day.

As the exposition drew to a close, former President Theodore Roosevelt called on San Diego to keep the buildings built for the event open permanently. Seven structures remain standing to this day.

*Courtesy of Phil Colonnelli, Robert Jay and City of San Diego*

**The Centurions Shield Update Announced** Collectors Peter Harris, Keith Bushey and Jake Bushey have announced plans to publish an updated version of *The Centurion's Shield*, the definitive history of Los Angeles Police Department and its badges and insignia. The new book, subtitled “Volume II” and “A Further History of the Los Police Department, Its Badges and Insignia,” will be published later this year.

The late Ray Sherrard and the Busheys published the original 319-page book in January 1996. It was intended to document LAPD history and its insignia from when the department was established in 1869 through the publication date. It included an exhaustive study of all six series of LAPD department-issued badges, as well as an extensive department history.

All three authors are retired LAPD officers with extensive LAPD collections. They are among our hobby's most knowledgeable LAPD badge collectors and historians.

Harris spent 31 years with LAPD and retired as a sergeant. He is an avid history student with a special interest in Los Angeles and the Police Department. He has been collecting for 20 years. His last assignment was officer in charge of the Retirement Section in the Personnel Division where he developed vast knowledge of LAPD badges and badge policy.

Bushey rose to the rank of LAPD commander during his long and distinguished LAPD career. He was among the first serious collectors of LAPD and other badges and has one of the largest and complete collections in the hobby.

His son, Jake Bushey, followed in his father's footsteps and also served as an LAPD officer, rising to the rank of lieutenant before his retirement. He shares his father's lifelong interest in history and is a dedicated researcher.

*Volume II* will be approximately 256 mostly full color pages. Collectors will notice superior photo reproduction in comparison to the first edition due to advances in digital image production over film photography since the first book was published.

The book is now available for pre-publication order. Harris said the number of copies printed will depend largely on pre-orders. Copies are available in a deluxe standard edition (\$42.50) or a a bonded leather edition (\$74.95). Hard copy purchasers can also purchase a downloadable edition for an additional \$9.95.

All pre-ordered books will feature a personal printed note from the authors.

The pre-sale deadline is June 16.

Ordering information can be found in the advertisement elsewhere in this issue.

An example of each of the six department-issued badges since 1869 will appear in full color on the back cover.

*Contributed by Peter Harris and M.T. Publishing Company*



Three hundred classic and emergency vehicles were entered in the Injured Police Officers Fund show in Boulder City, Nev. on March 29. Host Jay D'Angelo said there was a particularly strong showing of emergency vehicles from California, especially from the Highway Patrol. *Contributed photograph*



The badge that Sergeant Theodore Anderson wore on patrol in Alameda is a gold-colored seven-point star. It shows his badge number “1” as the longest-serving city police officer, 36 years in all. His descendants recently donated the badge and his uniform to the police department. *Alex Keden photograph*

**Car Show Attracts Huge Crowd** The annual Injured Police Officers Fund Classic Car and Emergency Vehicle Show attracted a large, enthusiastic crowd of motor buffs to Veterans Memorial Park in Boulder City, Nev. on March 29. The fundraiser was coordinated by well-known California vintage police vehicle collector Jay D'Angelo.

“What a great day it was! We reached our goal of 300 entries to shine in the sun on a beautiful day,” said D'Angelo.

“Special thanks to all owners of police cars that came from California to be joined by a great turnout from the California Highway Patrol. Even though out of state [officers] are not eligible for IPOF benefits, they continue to support us and come to the monthly meetings.”

Celebrity guests were Larry Wilcox, co-star of the popular CHP series *CHiPS*, Adrian Zmed, co-star on *T.J. Hooker*, the LAPD series and young actor Michael Braun, who has appeared in several movies and television productions. A CHP cruiser delivered Wilcox to the stage and drove him back to the airport.

“I recognize that we all have crises in life and many tribulations, but when I hugged these family members who lost their father, their breadwinner, they were so deeply crippled, and their spirit and hope was tethered to their empty hearts by a mere shredded string,” said Wilcox. “Words and love poured over them, and they were often only able to grimace instead of smile. The tether was oh so thin, and there was a vacuum pulling on every organ.”

D'Angelo ended his show report with, “Maybe I will do this again next year, after all.”

*Contributed by Jay D'Angelo and Larry Wilcox*

**Alameda PD Receives Historic Donation** The descendants of Sergeant Theodore Anderson recently made a historic donation to the Alameda Police Department, according to collector Alex Keden.

Sergeant Anderson's Class “A” uniform, complete with his hat and badge, are now permanently displayed at the department near the patrol lineup room.

The light blue uniform coat has gold buttons and trim with sergeant chevrons on both sleeves, along with gold buttons and gold stripes around each cuff. Above the stripes are five gold-on-blue service stars arranged in a pyramid. The collar brass is the letters “APD” on both sides.

The hat is also blue with a black bill and gold braid on the band. It has a generic gold badge with “SERGT” in gold letters.

The well worn breast badge is a fine seven-point star carrying the legends, “SERGEANT/ 1/ POLICE.”

“Sergeant Anderson served the City of Alameda for over 36 years from 1893 to 1930,” said Keden. “Records show he was the longest-serving member of the department when he retired.”

*Submitted by Alex Keden*



Sergeant Theodore Anderson wore this uniform during his years as a patrol sergeant for the Alameda Police Department. The uniform coat is complete with his badge, collar brass and sergeant chevrons. The donation to Alameda PD also included the hat he wore with it (not shown). *Alex Keden photograph*



pre-sale ordering time frame. The faster the sales goal is met, the quicker the book will be printed.

Submitted by Peter Harris



Peter Harris served as a Los Angeles police officer for 31 years and retired as a sergeant in 2021. He is a dedicated LAPD collector and historian. Harris will be the principal writer and editor for the second edition of *The Centurion's Shield*. The book is now in pre-publication sale. *Contributed photograph*

## The Story Behind Volume Two Of “The Centurion’s Shield”

Ray Sherrard was the driving force behind the creation of *The Centurion's Shield*. Published in 1996, the book detailed the badges used by the Los Angeles Police Department and included other highlights of the Department's history and culture. It is considered the bible of LAPD badges. Coauthors Keith and Jake Bushey were instrumental in getting that project off the ground, and the book could not have happened without their involvement.

*The Centurion's Shield, Volume II*, is a new project due to be released by the end of the year. This time, the Busheys have teamed up with me to further detail LAPD badges and insignia. Ray Sherrard, sadly, passed away in 2021.

I retired from the LAPD in 2021. My last assignment with the department was that of the retirement counselor in the Personnel Division. In that assignment, I handled department badges daily and gained a wealth of knowledge about them, badge policy and cultural norms. I started writing articles about the subject and posting them in collector groups on Facebook, some of which were picked up and run in this publication.

In January 2024, I was attending the Porky Show in Claremont. While talking with Keith Bushey, I remembered a conversation we had had years before. Keith had been working on a booklet on the LAPD Series 5 badge. When I discovered the booklet was a shelved and unfinished project, I pitched the idea of a collaboration for the new *Volume II*.

Within an hour, I had flights booked for a second trip to California so the trio could bring the project to life. Keith and I met for three days to review Keith's research material. He provided his unedited manuscript and trusted me to take the lead on the project of editing his material and writing and editing the book's other chapters.

Jake Bushey provided his vast knowledge of LAPD Series 6 badges, especially those of the command ranks. He also tracked down department sources so the best current information and photographed examples of currently used items could be showcased.

Both Busheys opened up their collections so high resolution photos could be taken. While *Volume I* contains a wealth of information regarding the LAPD badge, it also contains information related to other subjects. Chapters on department history, organization, career information, other city department badges and even the relationship with the entertainment industry are included.

*Volume II* has none of that. It is squarely centered on the LAPD badge and some other department insignia. The political struggles and their impact on the badge are detailed, as well as badge construction, makers and issuing policies.

There is a chapter on Series 1 through 4 badges, but little new information has surfaced regarding those series that were not included in Volume I. *Volume II* is heavy in Series 5 and 6 information, and there are chapters on commemorative badges and shooting medals.

There are also a few chapters with information that is not widely known, which we will keep confidential to allow readers the joy of discovery.

Keith, Jake and I are excited about this project and have teamed up with M.T. Publishing for it. M.T. Publishing is a leading publisher in public safety books, but they are a money making business, and some pre-sales goals must be met before the book goes to print.

I ask anyone interested in owning a copy of the book please purchase it now during the



Fred Davis, constable of the Fowler Judicial District in Fresno County, served from 1962 to 1973 when his office was consolidated with the Fresno County Sheriff's Office. He served under the sheriff for another 12 years. He spent a lot of time with Mark Bray before his death. *Mark Bray Collection*



Constable Fred Davis is shown in full uniform next to a patrol unit in this undated photograph. He had been constable for only five years when he was shot in the face by an extortionist trying to avoid arrest. Constable Fowler recovered from his wounds and continued to serve. *Mark Bray Collection*

## A Lucky Shot In The Dark

Fred Davis served as constable of the Fowler Judicial District from 1962 until the Fresno County Constable's Office consolidated their operations with the Fresno County Sheriff's Office in January 1973. Constable Davis was appointed following the death of Constable Richard Valdez in a single vehicle accident on January 2, 1962.

Fred and I spent a lot of time together prior to his death. We talked of constables and how things were very different prior to consolidation. He passed away in 1997.

The following account is one of his closest calls as Fowler constable. His words come from notes I took during one of many coffee visits.

Extortion Case, Fowler Cabinet, Fowler, California  
Fred Davis, Fowler Judicial District Constable

"It was September of 1967 and deer hunting season had just been going for a few weeks, so I went up the hill to try my luck.

"When I returned, the Sheriff's Office called me and sent me to a burglary in the district. While I was enroute, my deputy, Clark Hudspeth, advised me that he had investigated an extortion case at Fowler Cabinet and that the caller had demanded \$50,000 or he would bomb the business.

"After I talked with Clark, it was apparent that the extortion case took priority. It was later in the evening of September 28, and the suspect, Harold Towe, had called the owner of Fowler Cabinet, Glenn Tharpe, and angrily demanded the money.

"Fred said he and Clark met with Tharpe and began putting together a plan. The extortionist, Towe, told them to be at the pay phone at Manning and Adams in the Bowles Area of the district. Once there, they would receive instructions.

"By this time, we had a pretty good idea it was Harold Towe. He had a beef with a number of people in Fowler and could be violent. Towe told us to take the money to East and Floral and leave it on the bridge over the canal.

"We drove to the area north of Floral on East and parked on the west side of East facing northbound. I crawled through the vineyard with a .22 caliber revolver in the waistband of my pants.

"I saw a 1961 Chevy Bel Air drive by, then turn back. Towe got out of the car, and I was about 20 feet from him. I rose up and told him he was under arrest. He shot at me. The shot hit me in the nose, traveled through my pallet and lodged in my lower jaw, knocking out ten teeth. It also knocked me back into the canal.

"I came up and fired back, but I had to clear the weeds and mud from the gun. I got off six rounds and struck Towe's car twice. I climbed out of the canal, and Clark got me to the



A local newspaper's front page story on the 1967 shooting of Fowler Judicial District Constable Fred Davis by suspect Harold Towe. The constable was waiting for the extortionist when he arrived to collect his money. However, Towe shot him when he was told he was under arrest. *Mark Bray Collection*





Fowler Judicial District Deputy Constables Adrian White (left) and Al Nestor (right) have shooter Harold Towe well in tow as they escort him into a cell after his arrest. He was booked on suspicion of attempted murder and extortion. He wanted \$50K not to bomb a store, but he got jail instead. *Mark Bray Collection*

hospital. It was a lucky shot, but I was damned lucky he didn't kill me.”

Fred said he didn't take Towe as seriously as he should have, and, in retrospect, should have put together a bit more back up.

News of Constable Davis's shooting spread fast to the other constables and the Fresno County Sheriff's Office.

Constables Adrian White (father of retired Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims), Alfred Nestor, Clarence Bentley and Captain Saum of the Sheriff's Office tracked Towe to his home. As they entered the home, Tower grabbed his wife around the neck and held her at gunpoint. Captain Saum tried to hit Towe on the side of the head with the butt stock of a carbine, and they were able to subdue him.

White and Nestor took Towe to the Fresno County Jail. One year later, he was sentenced to ten years for the attempted murder of Fowler Constable Fred Davis.

Fred recovered from the injuries and served as constable for 11 years before the consolidation. He was given the rank of sergeant and served most of his time in South County Patrol and as a property detective. Fred served another 12 years before retiring to his duties as a Fowler city councilman.

When Fred passed away, another of Fresno County's lawmen was lost to history. His passing also cut off another conduit to my late grandfather, Constable James J. Johnson of the Kingsbury Judicial District. I have stories about Pop's time as constable, but they will hold for another day.

Submitted by Mark Bray

Bray has written another fascinating story from Fresno County law enforcement history, *One Last Step*, detailing the execution of Doctor Frank O. Vincent in 1893. It will appear in the next *California Police Historian*. Editor



(Left) A constable's gold-colored seven-point ball-tipped star from Fresno County shows the state seal in full color. The sheriff took over in 1973. (Right) The personalized Fresno County deputy constable's star that once belonged to Carl Hudspeth, who served under Fred Davis. *Mark Bray Collection*

## San Diego Sheriff's Museum Working Toward New Building

I am a collector of San Diego County Sheriffs Department badges and patches. I have been with our museum since the planning stages in 1999.

Sadly, we lost our museum a couple years ago when the virus hit us, and we were not able to keep it open.

A new board was authorized to start up a new museum, and I have been invited as a board member.

We are looking for a new building and are trying to get reestablished in the law enforcement community, as well as with police history fans.

We are open to suggestions and ideas that will enable us to recreate a new and even better museum.

Donations of any kind are valued and artifacts from our department are always welcome, too.

Please check out our new Facebook page learn about our department as we celebrate our 175th anniversary. Visit us at "San Diego Sheriff's Museum."

Submitted by Mark Lyons and San Diego Sheriff's Museum

According to his Board of Directors profile, Lyons is the owner of A-1 Lock and Safe in Carlsbad. He has volunteered with the Sheriff's Office in multiple roles, including with the previous Sheriff's Museum, and is a member and former board member of the San Diego

County Honorary Deputy Sheriffs Association. Lyons has one of the largest collections of handcuffs in the world and is an avid collector of law enforcement badges. We welcome him to the *California Police Historian*. EDITOR

## Stan Berry Seeks Images Of California Police Chiefs

I am seeking assistance from all California law enforcement historians.

The California Police Chiefs Association will be celebrating its 60th anniversary next year and has requested I provide a display for the event.

To fulfill this request, I am seeking digital images of any California police chiefs from 1960 onward. I believe that many, if not all, were or are members of this association, and I would like to honor them, either in a slideshow or by printing some of their images.

In addition to any chief's photo, I specifically need images of these chiefs as they were past presidents of the association:

- 1966 Clinton H. Anderson, Beverly Hills PD
- 1967 Allen W. Sill, West Covina PD
- 1969 William J. Mooney, Long Beach PD
- 1975 Jay R. Stroth, Inglewood PD
- 1977 Duane R. Baker, Glendale PD
- 1978 James H. Johnson, El Segundo PD
- 1980 Raymond W. Forsyth, Visalia PD
- 1983 H.O. "Sonny" Davis, Barstow PD
- 1987 Gary L. Tatum, Vacaville PD
- 1988 Craig L. Meacham, West Covina PD
- 2012 Scott Seaman, Los Gatos-Monte Sereno PD

Thank you for any assistance you can provide.

My contact information: (949) 633-1995, stan.berry@ocdapa.org or beachcop@cox.net.

Submitted by Stan Berry

## End California Police Historian

# El Paso Law Enforcement Past Preserved

The largest border city in the United States, El Paso, Tex., has a long, colorful law enforcement history. It's being preserved by the city museum, Police Department and United States Border Patrol. El Paso is home to the National Border Patrol Museum.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

EL PASO, Tex. – El Paso teems with law enforcement history. From the fabled United States Border Patrol Museum to a police department once headed by legendary lawman Dallas Stoudenmire, police heritage is celebrated in this West Texas border community.

While Tombstone, Ariz. or Dodge City, Kan. may be more well known, El Paso's law enforcement history is as colorful as anywhere west of the Mississippi. The Four Dead in Five Seconds Gunfight happened here in 1881, the same year as the OK Corral shootout in Tombstone. (Guess which got the most publicity?) Outlaw John Wesley Hardin, who claimed to kill 40 men, was shot and killed in a saloon in 1895 and is buried in El Paso. These are but two instances of historical significance to the city.

The El Paso Museum of History has woven artifacts and memorabilia in numerous exhibits devoted to the city police heritage. There are artifacts and memorabilia, as well as old photographs and documents.

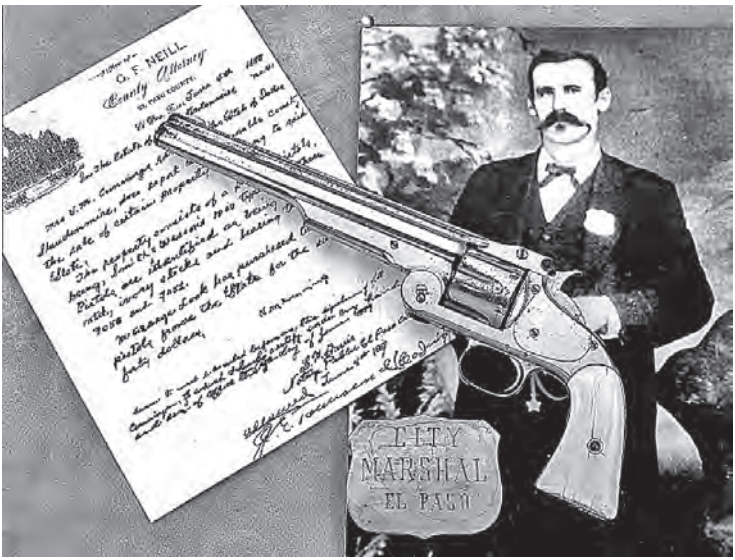
So much Border Patrol history has been made in and around El Paso that the century old law enforcement agency located its national museum in the city.

The El Paso Border Sector was established in July 1924. It covers El Paso, Clint, Ysleta, Las Cruces, Alamogordo and Santa Teresa. While the museum features the agency's 100-



Outlaw turned lawman Dallas Stoudenmire, a former Texas Ranger, once served as the city marshal in El Paso, Tex. Only three days after he took office in 1881, he shot and killed four men responding to gunfire in a local saloon. The shooting made him famous. *Contributed photograph*





Dallas Stoudenmire's Smith and Wesson revolver and badge, and warrant for the arrest of Flex "doc" Manning, sold at auction for \$142,000, \$44,000 and \$3025 respectively. An El Paso resident purchased these incredible historic artifacts in May 2001 from Little Johns Auction Service. *Contributed photograph*

year history, the El Paso Sector is prominent.

Among the exhibits are vehicles, uniforms, vehicles, artifacts, memorabilia, photographs, badges, emblems and milestone USBP operations.

**El Paso police history** "We go back to 1873 when the city was chartered. They created a city marshal who was actually the chief of police," said El Paso police Sergeant Javier Sambrano in a recent media interview. Officially, the police department considers its founding date as 1884 when the first chief of police who was not also city marshal was appointed.

El Paso was a rough Wild West town. Early marshals and their deputies dealt with violence so often that most quit not long after their appointments. When Stoudenmire took over on April 11, 1881, he was the sixth town marshal in eight months.



The El Paso Museum of History exhibit of old police department badges includes Marshal Dallas Stoudenmire's Smith and Wesson revolver and badge (upper left) loaned to the museum by the owner. Notice the New Orleans-style crescent star at the bottom? *El Paso Museum photograph*

A former military officer and Texas Ranger, Stoudenmire had only been on the job for three days when he shot and killed four men in the infamous Four Dead in Five Seconds Shootout. It took place in the aftermath of the murders of two Mexican cowboys who had rustled 30 head of cattle from a wealthy Mexican rancher. Two Americans were arrested and being held for killing them.

An argument over how the matter had been handled developed in a saloon. It became violent and gunfire was exchanged. Stoudenmire responded from across the street. In five seconds, the marshal had killed three people involved and an innocent bystander.

A plain tin shield badge once worn by Stoudenmire and two other marshals is displayed in the El Paso museum, along with one of his revolvers. It is part of an exhibit devoted to the shootout.

There is a large collection of historic El Paso police photographs, as well as a fine collection of badges. City police have worn a variety of styles. Interestingly, among them is a New Orleans-style crescent and star.

An exhibit features the El Paso police patch, which was created in 1939. It was designed and paid for by the local chamber of commerce to promote the city nickname, "Sun City." The design is still being worn, although "TEXAS" now appears on it. It is one of the longest used insignia styles in the country.

During World War II, officers and citizens objected to the patch because it looked too



(Left) Police in El Paso, Tex. have worn the same patch design since 1939. It was designed by the chamber of commerce to promote "Sun City." "TEXAS" has been added fairly recently. (Right) The current shield is a fabulous two-tone silver and gold oval with a state outline. *El Paso Police photographs*



(Left) Uniforms that United States Border Patrol agents have worn over the years are shown throughout the National Border Patrol Museum in El Paso. The agency began wearing uniforms in 1925. (Right) All mann of conveyances have been used throughout USBP history. *Border Patrol Museum photographs*

much like Japan's rising sun symbol. It did not appear on police uniforms from December 7, 1941, the day Pearl Harbor was attacked, until after the war ended. Officers literally ripped the patches off their uniforms as news of the sneak attack reached the city.

The current badge is a modern two-tone gold and silver oval, a sharp contrast to previous designs. A sunburst similar to the shoulder patch is used for the background. Centered on it is a large blue outline of Texas upon which is superimposed a gold five-point star. A full color state seal appears on the star. Legends appear in blue on gold panels, "EL PASO" at the top and "POLICE/ TX" at the bottom. "EST./ 1884" is gold lettered on the state outline to the right of the seal. Six gold crosses are seen on the outer wreath border. All officers wear this badge, including supervisors.

Today, the police department has about 1120 sworn officers and 300 civilian employees. It policies the largest United States city on an international border.

The late Texas badge collector John B. McKinney had the hobby's most extensive El Paso badge collection and displayed it at several shows he attended over the years.

"El Paso is one of my main interests, not just because I live there either. It's got a significant Old West history that not a lot of people realize," said McKinney. "I've been able to find a lot of nice pieces because of that. Everybody wants Tombstone. Not as many want El Paso, which has been good for me," he said during a *PCNEWS* interview at a Texas show.

**Border Patrol Museum** The Border Patrol is everywhere in El Paso because of its border location. The outstanding museum chronicles not only the USBP's role in protecting the United States border, but its role in El Paso law enforcement history as well. Their histories often intersect.

The Border Patrol was created in 1924 with passage of the Labor Appropriations Act by the Congress. It was signed into law by President Calvin Coolidge. Its primary mission is to detect and prevent illegal entry into the United States under Section 8 of the Immigration Act of 1917. Four hundred fifty positions were authorized. They were to be known as border inspectors.

Inspectors were outfitted with a badge and revolver. Recruits provided their own horse and saddle; the government provided oats and hay for their mounts. Inspectors were paid \$1680 annually. Initially, inspectors were required to pay for their uniforms, but this policy was changed in December 1924.

Border patrol inspectors served in two districts, the Canadian Border District and the Mexican Border District. Named chief in the Mexican Border District was George J. Harrison of El Paso.

It wasn't until March 16, 1926 that a general order established the position of Supervisor of the Border Patrol, later renamed Chief of the Border Patrol, and created the ranks of chief patrol inspector and senior patrol inspector.

Today, more than 20,000 agents patrol about 6000 miles of Mexican and Canadian international land borders and staff more than 300 ports of entry. They also patrol more than 2000 miles of coastal waters.

Museum exhibits show patrolling the nation's international borders goes back to at least 1904 when the United States Immigration Service sent mounted watchmen to the Rio Grande and along the northern boundary with Canada.

In 1915, in response to calls for improved enforcement of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, Congress authorized the Immigration Service to hire mounted guards, often called inspectors, to turn away Chinese attempting illegal entry. Most inspectors rode on horseback but had access to vehicles and boats. They were charged with pursuing Chinese immigrants trying to avoid the law. However, they were prohibited from crossing the border into Mexico or Canada in most cases.

In the Southwest, the primary responsibility for border patrol rested with the military and the Texas Rangers.

The El Paso Border Patrol Sector was established in July 1924 following creation of the new federal law enforcement agency.

An exhibit features Jeffrey Milton, the first officer appointed by the U.S. Immigration Service Border Patrol. He held the position for nearly 20 years before retiring in 1932. Milton was an El Paso police chief for several years in the late 1800s. Early uniforms and badges showed what agents like Milton looked like in those days.

The Border Patrol continued to operate under two chiefs starting in the 1930s.



The United States Border Patrol is not only a popular tourist attraction in El Paso, Tex.; it is also a repository of the agency's long history of protecting the borders of our country. There are dozens of exhibits documenting all aspects of the USBP's mission throughout its history. *USBP official photograph*





Joe Banco has written six books on United States Border Patrol history in his Honor First series. The latest are *Security Enemy Aliens* and *Centennial Timeline*. His fourth history volume is planned for May. The collector serves as the department’s official historian. *Contributed photographs*

## El Paso History ...Continued

In 1933, President Herbert Hoover created the Immigration and Naturalization Service by merging the Bureau of Immigration and the Bureau of Naturalization. Recognizing a need for better trained officers, the El Paso District established the El Paso District Training School for officers in the district. The first class graduated in January 1935. The school was established at Camp Chigas in El Paso. It was the first to incorporate training in modern equipment and techniques, such as radios, fingerprints, Morse code and an intensive Spanish language course. Because of its success, it became mandatory training for all new Border Patrol inspectors starting in 1936. On June 1, 1940, the INS was transferred to the Department of Justice. The first official Border Patrol logo was adopted on August 5, 1942 and began showing up on uniforms in 1944. The emblem remains in use to this today. In 1970, the title inspector was changed to patrol agent, which also necessitated a badge change. In the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, President George W. Bush moved the Border Patrol, as well as several other federal agencies, into the newly-created Department of Homeland Security. It was merged with the United States Customs Service and created a new agency, Customs and Border Protection.

**USBP Museum exhibits** Exhibits at the National Border Patrol Museum are divided into five categories, Vehicles, Weapons, Uniforms, Operations and Special Units. Throughout the museum are various samples of uniforms worn throughout the years. The uniforms were first worn in 1925. Early pictures of patrolmen generally show them in dress uniforms, as was mandated by policy despite oppressive summer heat. Rough duty uniforms were not introduced until the late 1940s to early 1950s. In 2007, the Homeland Security approved a change from the police-type uniform to a new paramilitary style. It is green in color. The uniform is displayed in the museum. For the first time in Border Patrol history, the new uniform displays an additional patch beside the Border Patrol patch. It is the CBP emblem worn on the right sleeve. The traditional USBP emblem is worn on the left sleeve. The metal badge was replaced with a cloth badge, and the leather pistol belt was changed to a ballistic nylon material with plastic buckles. Badges, patches and other insignia are included among the uniforms exhibits. The largest exhibit is devoted to vehicles. Initially, agents rode horseback. As funds became available, vehicles were provided, along with classes on how to drive and maintain them. In the 1930s, vehicles with horse trailers appeared, and the trend toward all vehicle operations became prevalent and horse patrol became obsolete, only to be revived in the 1970s.

The iconic sea foam green color was established in the 1950s, and remained the primary vehicle color until a new color scheme in 1985. With the move to Homeland Security and the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, another new vehicle color scheme was adopted for the first time in 55 years and the Border Patrol emblem was not displayed on a vehicle. Agents patrol the our borders in vehicles, boats, aircraft and afoot. In some areas, the Border Patrol employs horses, all-terrain motorcycles, bicycles and snowmobiles. Pictures of early vehicles, and some vehicles, are on display. Operations exhibits cover agents at work. A diorama explains sign cutting operations and tracking work to detect illegal entry. It shows methods people used by individuals to disguise their tracks to elude detection, known as sign cutting. The Transportation Check has two dioramas showing new checkpoints in the El Paso



El Paso badge history has revealed several distinctive styles ranging from a cut out five-point star shield to a crescent circled star. But the most famous is this plain silver-colored handcrafted badge that Dallas Stoudenmire wore when he was the city marshal in the late 1800s. *El Paso Historical Society photograph*

Sector. It contrasts sharply with pictures of earlier checkpoints used from the beginning of checkpoint operations. Also shown are depictions of train check operations, which are some of the most dangerous operations performed by the USBP. Horse Patrol explains the origins of equine patrol and shows a variety of saddles and equipment. Today, horses are used to travel in terrain prohibiting motor vehicle use. Flight Operations is a popular exhibit and includes a Piper Super Cub aircraft and OH-6 helicopter. Pictures trace the development of flight operations and a change in emphasis from fixed wing to rotary wing aircraft. Special Units exhibits feature BORTAC and BORSTAR units. BORTAC is headquartered in El Paso. It is the Border Patrol’s tactical operations group and has been deployed nationwide to put down prison riots and civil disturbances, among other duties. BORSTAR was created in the 1990s. Its function is rescuing people stranded in the deserts of the Southwest, primarily in the El Paso and San Diego Sectors. These agents are also trained in swift water and mountain rescue, as well as search techniques. Two exhibits are devoted to weapons, Duty Weapons and Seized Weapons. Duty Weapons features examples of most duty weapons issued to inspectors and agents over the years. Not included are the Beretta 96D Model, the first semiautomatic handgun, and the current Heckler and Koch P200 .40 caliber pistol. Most long guns are shown, including a Thompson sub-machine gun and a Colt AR-15. Seized Weapons features a wide variety of weapons seized by agents, such as edged weapons, saps, ice picks, handguns and long guns. These include an AK-47, a Tec-9, an Uzi, modified shotguns and rifles and even a homemade shotgun that fires a 12-gauge round.

**Joe Banco books** Collectors interested in Border Patrol history are urged to obtain copies of the highly informative series of books written by fellow hobbyist Joe Banco, a retired USBP deputy chief agent, who serves as the agency historian. The three volume set is titled, *Honor First: The Story of the United States Border Patrol*.

Fittingly, Border Patrol badges adorn each cover. The books are profusely illustrated with historic photographs. *Volume One* covers the origin of the agency through 1949. The years 1949 to 1974 are chronicled in the second book. *Volume Three* documents 1949 to 1979.

Banco told *PCNEWS* he plans to publish *Volume Four* covering the years 2000 to 2012 in May. “It will cover the startup of the DHS [Department of Homeland Security] and merger into Customs and Protection, as well as the Elian Gonzalez Saga and the response to September 11,” said the 23-year agency veteran.

In addition, Banco has published three other Border Patrol history books in his *Honor First* series, *The Unsung Heroes of Oxford*, *Securing Enemy Aliens* [USBP during World War II] and *United States Border Patrol Centennial Timeline*. 2024 marked the agency’s centennial anniversary.

USBP agents were heavily involved in the federal law enforcement effort surrounding the 1962 integration of the segregated University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) in Oxford. *Securing Enemy Aliens* chronicles the agency’s efforts to safeguard the nation from enemy agents during World War II.

*Centennial Timeline* documents milestones and achievements in Border Patrol history during its first century of service to the nation.

Banco’s books are available through the Border Patrol museum gift shop [BorderPatrolMuseum.Com/Gift-Shop/Books] or Amazon. Collectors interested in signed copies are welcome to contact the author by email to MigraJoe.Com.

Last year, Banco narrated a ten minute video, “One Hundred Years of Border Security,” on USBP history for the agency. It provides a brief history of the agency and shows badges, patches and uniforms, as well as vehicles and historic photographs. It can be viewed on You Tube. Simply search for the title. (Other USBP videos can also be viewed.)

**Open to public** The El Paso Museum of History is located at 510 North Santa Fe Street. It is open Wednesdays through Saturdays from 10 am to 6 pm and Sundays from 11 am to 3 pm. Admission is free. The telephone number is (915) 212-3150. Their website is EPMuseumOfHistory.Org. There is also a Facebook page.

National Border Patrol Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm. Admission is free. It is located at 4315 Woodrow Bean Transmountain Drive. The telephone number is (915) 759-6060. Its outstanding website can be found at BorderPatrolMuseum.Org. There is also a Facebook page.

The museum is a nonprofit organization founded by the Fraternal Order of Retired Border Patrol Officers. MIKE R. BONDARENKO (Baldwin, Wis.)

## New York State Police Change Vehicle Colors

ALBANY, N.Y. – The New York State Police is transitioning to a new look for its marked patrol fleet. Vehicles introduced in 2025 will be gray with gold stripes for the first time in four decades, according to an agency news release. The first newly marked car debuted in Albany in mid-February.

Troopers have driven blue vehicles with yellow stripes since 1983. Gray better matches the uniforms officers wear. “Our actual uniform color is woven black and white. The idea is we are supposed to be neutral,” a spokesman said.

The agency’s traditional round door shields remain, as do the fender to front door stripes. “STATE TROOPER” appears on the front fenders.

Gray patrol cars will be phased in across the state as used vehicles are replaced. No



The first New York State Police patrol car in the new gray marking scheme debuted at agency headquarters in Albany in early February. It is designated by the license plates “H201.” Gray with gold stripes will be phased in across the state as vehicles are replaced. *NYSP official photograph*





This embroidered version of the Arizona Department of Public Safety State Gang Task Force subdued shape will be increasingly difficult to obtain. Now, the agency uses a silkscreened version on polo shirts rather than the embroidered version, but a few embroidered emblems remain in use. *Paul Swietek photograph*

## Arizona State Gang Task Force Has Two Versions

PHOENIX, Ariz. – The Arizona Department of Public Safety now has two versions of State Gang Task Force emblems, embroidered and silkscreened. The silkscreen variation is new.

According to collector Paul Swietek, who works for the DPS, the Velcro-backed embroidered version is still worn by a few members on outer vest carriers, while the new silkscreened version is now worn on polo shirts.

“While it is true they have gone to a silkscreening on the uniform shirts as a comfort issue, there are still a few guys who are wearing the Velco-backed embroidered patches on the outer vest carriers,” he said.

The state shape is black with white legends and borders. A round center design depicts a sunburst, “ARIZONA” and “1994,” the year the task force was founded, all bordered in white. It is surrounded by a white outer ring upon which is seen “STATE GANG/ TASK FORCE.” “POLICE” appears at the top.

Swietek plans to attend the National Police Collectors Show in Phoenix this summer and will have a few embroidered versions available for trade.

*Courtesy of Paul Swietek*

**FHP Arrests Impersonator** Multiple weapons and fake federal identification were found after a Florida Highway Patrol trooper recently stopped a pickup driving on I-75 in Collier County with flashing blue and red lights. The driver produced two Central Intelligence Agency ID cards, as well one from British Intelligence MI-6, and told the trooper he was a federal officer. An investigation showed the man lives in Naples, Fla. and has no law enforcement affiliation. Multiple weapons, counterfeit badges, ID cards and passports and police equipment were found in his truck. The man is charged with police impersonation and possession of controlled substances.

## Little Known Mississippi Agricultural And Livestock Theft Bureau

A little known state law enforcement agency with an important job is the Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau, an agency of the state agriculture and commerce department.

Headquartered in Jackson, its special agents are law enforcement officers authorized to enforce all state laws regarding the theft of livestock, agricultural and aquacultural products and implements of animal husbandry, such as tractors, combines or cotton picking machines.

The bureau also enforces laws as to the transportation of livestock on public highways throughout the state.

Its most common cases are livestock theft, shooting of livestock, timber theft, equipment theft and agricultural chemical theft. The value of stolen property used in agriculture can easily total into the millions of dollars. A piece of farm equipment, such as a combine or large tractor, is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Special agents work closely with county sheriffs and local law enforcement. Their state-wide jurisdiction enables them to work cases occurring involving multiple jurisdictions.

*Courtesy of Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce*



Agents of the Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau wear this emblem on jackets during search warrants and other activities where identification as a law enforcement officer is necessary. It is mostly gold and blue with a small state seal as the center design. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



A Davenport, Iowa police officer hands Brooklyn DeCap one of the agency's state-shaped shoulder emblems for display in the city's Mission BBQ restaurant. Like all Mission BBQ locations, it is decorated with military and public safety emblems, challenge coins and artifacts. *Mission BBQ photograph*

## Mission BBQ Honors First Responders

First responders take center stage at Mission BBQ restaurants across the United States. Every location is decorated with military, law enforcement and other public safety emblems, challenge coins, photographs and memorabilia, all donated by first responders and their families.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

DAVENPORT, Iowa – In an era when restaurants have turned away cops in uniform, Mission BBQ stands out as a welcome respite to all who serve our nation. A heartfelt “thank you for your service,” good food and a friendly atmosphere await first responders, active and retired, at all 142 locations across the USA.

“Our mission is to serve those who serve. Our founders come from military families. Our goal is to give back to the communities we serve, especially our first responders, military, police, firefighters, anyone who protects and serves us,” said Brooklyn DeCap, community ambassador at local Mission BBQ, as she addressed tableholders at the National Police Collectors Show in Davenport last summer. “You’re always welcome.”

Mission BBQ Davenport was not only a National Show sponsor but a tableholder as well. DeCap passed out free BBQ sandwich coupons and merchandise to everyone who stopped at their table all weekend.

“Like every Mission BBQ location, our store is decorated with military, police, fire and emergency medical service memorabilia,” said DeCap. “We have our Police Wall that has uniforms, patches, coins and pictures, all donated by customers. We put up everything that’s given to us. It’s our way of thanking our first responders and letting them know we appreciate them and their service.”

Local Mission BBQ stores frequently donate food and refreshments to police, fire and EMS personnel during emergencies. “When the apartment building collapsed in downtown Davenport, we fed the first responders as long as they were there. It’s what we do. It’s how we give back,” said DeCap.

In addition, it supports numerous local first responder charities through cash donations.

A display honors a Knox County, Iowa sheriff’s deputy who was struck and killed while deploying road spikes in an attempt to stop a motorist during a high speed chase in 2022. The motorist was subsequently apprehended and convicted of murder.



Law enforcement and other first responder challenge coins are shown in these beautiful displays at the Mission BBQ restaurant in Davenport, Iowa. Every item was donated for permanent exhibit, according to Brooklyn DeCap, the store's community ambassador. *Mission BBQ photograph*





Mission BBQ founders Bill Kraus (left) and Steve Newton (right) opened their first restaurant on September 11, 2011 with goal of giving back to the military and first responders in the community. Their 142 locations have donated millions in cash and food to first responders. *Mission BBQ photograph*

### Mission BBQ ...Continued

**An insignia show** Visiting a Mission BBQ location is almost like going to a patch and badge show and seeing displays. Patches, challenge coins and even some badges cover the restaurant walls. Photos of first responders, especially those who gave their lives in service to their communities, are prominently displayed. Uniforms, equipment and artifacts are shown. Artifacts and memorabilia are everywhere. “That’s exactly what our founders wanted,” said DeCap. Bill Kraus and Steve Newton had been friends for ten years when they opened their first



A variety of emblems and photographs are among the first responder exhibits at the Mission BBQ location in Davenport. It’s one of 142 restaurants across the nation. Mission BBQ is a public safety-friendly environment and honors public safety and the Unbited States military. *Mission BBQ photograph*

Mission BBQ in Glen Burnie, Md. on September 11, 2011, exactly ten years after terrorists struck New York City, Washington, D.C. and Shanksville, Penna. Their mission is to honor, support and give back to American heroes, demonstrate their patriotism and love for our country and run a business with meaning and purpose. The national anthem is played at noon every day at every location. A significant portion of their profits are returned to the community. They support local organizations for first responders. Barbecue is sent to service members around the world to give them a taste of home. Growing up in a lower middle class neighborhood in Columbus, O., Newton said he was inspired by business leaders who gave back to the community. While a student at Ohio State University, he was moved by the words of former football coach Woody Hayes, who said, “You can never pay back, so you should always try to pay forward.” For Kraus, who grew up an altar boy at a Jesuit high school in Milwaukee, Wis. and graduated from Marquette University, the mentality of being “a man onto others,” was



Another exhibit of law enforcement and other first responder artifacts and memorabilia from the Mission BBQ restaurant in Fairfax, Va. “We put up patches everywhere we can find a place,” said an employee. “Everything is donated.” Many officers put up their own emblems. *Mission BBQ photograph*

instilled at a young age. Both of his sons are military. One served two tours with the Marines, while the other is an officer in the Navy. “We often say, ‘If these walls could talk,’ because so much of what you see in the restaurants is what folks have brought us,” said Kraus. “If you think about what it took to earn that patch or that helmet, and somehow they feel so moved by what we’re doing that they want to share it with us, it’s the least we can do.” They chose barbecue because it is a uniquely American food.

**Collectors love it** Public safety insignia collectors love Mission BBQ for the atmosphere and surroundings. It’s a must stop for many in the East and Midwest. The chain is expanding westward, recently opening its first restaurant in Colorado. There are now locations in Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas and Wisconsin, 142 in all, with more to come.

A sampling of comments posted on Mission BBQ Facebook pages express most hobbyists’ views. “We go there a lot. It’s fun to see the patches and pictures. Every time we go, I see something I wish was in my collection,” posted a Maryland hobbyist. “Love it [that] they play the [national] anthem every day. Was military and am a retired cop. Finally a place that likes us. Food is pretty good. Try it!” wrote a Texas collector. The patches cops and families donate are fun, but they what they do best is honor fallen first responders. They do a great job on that. No other places do. It’s much appreciated,” wrote a Florida patch collector. MIKE R. BONDARENKO (Baldwin, Wis.)

*Our thanks to Brooklyn DeCap and the staff at Mission BBQ for their assistance with this feature, as well as their generosity in providing complimentary sandwich coupons to first responders at the National Police Collectors Show. EDITOR*

**Unofficial Chicago Inaugurals** Two colorful unofficial emblems commemorating the 2025 presidential inaugural were created for the Chicago Police Department. One is a variation of the easily recognized CPD octagon, while the other is an enhanced cloth badge. A full color presidential seal appears on the octagon with “20” and “25.” The cloth badge is round with a five-point star featuring the presidential seal and “POTUS/ 2025” around it, along with “CHICAGO POLICE.”

**Eagan Celebrates Milestone** The Eagan, Minn. Police Department is celebrating its 60th anniversary with a makeover, according to March 28 news release. Founded in 1965, the Minneapolis-Saint Paul suburb is adopting a new black over silver vehicle marking scheme, a blue and white on black shoulder emblem and a gold-on-gray oval badge featuring the city seal in crimson and red. The agency is phasing in its new look throughout early 2025.

**Hundred Dollar Patches** “Crazy” is how some Ohio collectors characterized recent internet auction sales of two recent current issue police style changes for more than \$100 each. Village of Butler in Richland County went for \$103.50, while Green Camp in Marion County sold for \$105.50. Butler garnered 25 bids. Twenty-three bids were made for Green Camp. Both emblems were auctioned by the same seller.

**ICE Impersonator Arrested** Fife, Wash. police arrested a 26-year-old man for impersonating a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent after officers saw a black SUV displaying incorrect ICE and Department of Homeland Security markings and stopped it. Earlier, police received a report the vehicle and its occupants were video recording people at businesses in the city. The owner has no law enforcement affiliation and purchased the former police vehicle from a salvage company. He was charged with second degree police impersonation.

**Metropolitan Police Inaugural** A commemorative presentation boxed breast badge, badge pin and challenge coin set celebrating the 2025 60th presidential inauguration was offered to Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police officers, retirees and employees by Collinson Enterprises. The badge is a large, colorful custom shield featuring the Capitol and the presidential seal in raised detail. The equally colorful coin depicts the badge on one side and the White House on the other. Collinson also offered commemorative presidential inaugural belt buckles in gold, silver and two-tone. Sets sold for \$110.

**NYPD Car Restoration** The New York City Police Foundation announced plans to restore the blue and white patrol car in which Officer Eddie Byrne was murdered in 1988. The refurbishment project was organized by the Detectives’ Endowment Association. Byrne was only 22-years-old when he was shot at point blank range while seated behind the wheel of the car parked at a Queens intersection. Officer Bryne’s senseless murder captured the nation’s attention. Vice President George H.W. Bush carried his shield in his pocket when he was inaugurated. Four men were arrested and convicted for their roles in the slaying.

**Badge Number 13** No San Diego police officer wanted to wear “unlucky” badge number “13,” at least in the 1920s! Collector Ken Toler found a 1928 newspaper article, “San Diego Police Shun Badge 13.” The department issued “13” only as a spare while an officer’s badge was being repaired. “Although the brave lads in blue may not be superstitious, they never fail to return it,” the paper reported.

**2025 Museum Conference** The Ninth Annual North American Law Enforcement Museum Conference is scheduled for October 20, 21 and 22 at the United States Marshals Service Museum in Fort Smith, Ark. The three-day conference provides an educational opportunity for law enforcement museum professionals, volunteers and students. Most major museums have been represented at previous conferences, including Phoenix, Milwaukee and the California Law Enforcement Historical Society.

**Bible Relates History** Missouri State Highway Patrol collector Terry Bible appeared on an hour-long Springfield, Mo. radio program on April 8 to explore the history of the agency. Bible was the guest on “Sharing Stories of the Crossroads,” a production of the History Museum on the Square, on KICK, a news-talk station. He appeared with former museum executive director John Sellars and David Estlick, whose grandfather was an early MSHP member and rose to the rank of captain. Bible appeared in uniform in his capacity as a MSHP corporal. He retires on May 30.

**Iowa Celebrates 90th** The Iowa State Patrol is celebrating its 90th anniversary. The agency was created in 1935 as the Iowa Highway Safety Patrol and the first 50 patrolmen were hired. “Safety” was dropped from the name later that year. Troopers have been issued a white-on-black commemorative license plate inspired by previous designs. It has a large white star surrounded by red dots and the legends “1935/ (NUMBER)/ IOWA PATOL/ 2025.” However, it is not displayed on patrol cars because Iowa code dictates ISP plates. There are plans for an anniversary celebration later in the year.





WANTED: Surete du Quebec Police Department flag, also signage. I would like to correspond with member/collector of this department. Contact. Capt. JACK BART, retired Fairfield County CT Sheriff's office. Email: jackbart36@gmail.com (203) 931-6400 (107)

**POLICE COLLECTORS NEWS**  
**2392 US HIGHWAY 12, BALDWIN, WI 54002**

OR KDEVILBISS08@COMCAST.NET

**PRE-SALE DEADLINE – JUNE 16, 2025**



10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY!

VENUE CHANGE!

DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND OUR CONTROL, WE HAVE MOVED OUR SHOW TO THE OLD RAMADA HOTEL, BRANSON, MISSOURI

LECTOR'S SHOW

Conjunction With-

National LE Week

Branson, Missouri

Saturday, June 21, 2025

8am - 3 pm

Thousand Hills Resort Hotel, Branson, Missouri

Thousand Hills Resort Hotel, 120 Wildwood Drive S., Branson, MO 417-334-8404

\*Free breakfast, Pool & Wi-Fi, Large lobby for trading\*

Must mention LE Week for discounts

★ Free Admission – Guests & Table Watchers ★

★ Display Contest & Awards ★

Discounts at many Branson Restaurants & Attractions for Active & Retired LE and Family

Level loading from parking lot

75 6' Tables Available @\$20.00 each (Reserve Early)

Checks, PayPal, Major Credit Cards Accepted

email: mshp297@hotmail.com

Mail: Tom Breen, 1205 Markway Mills Road, Jefferson City, MO 65101

SHOW HOSTS

SHOW INFO: JIM POST (KCPD retired) kopkars@arkansas.net 479-253-6333

AREA INFO: TERRY BIBLE (MOSHUP) terry.bible264@gmail.com 417-527-1598

TABLES: TOM BREEN (MOSHUP Retired) mshp297@hotmail.com 573-864-4736

Branson Airport: 888-359-2541

LE Week info: 573-694-6401 or [www.lawenforcementweek.org](http://www.lawenforcementweek.org)

EARLY VENDOR SET-UP @ 7 AM

# 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 in 2025.

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

**JOHN SEAY**  
**johngseay@aol.com**  
or email for telephone numbers.

# FOR SALE

Contact me with offers.

**TIM PALMER**  
**(631) 764-3962**

[palmerctctc@earthlink.net](mailto:palmerctctc@earthlink.net)



## 30 Year Collector Selling it ALL

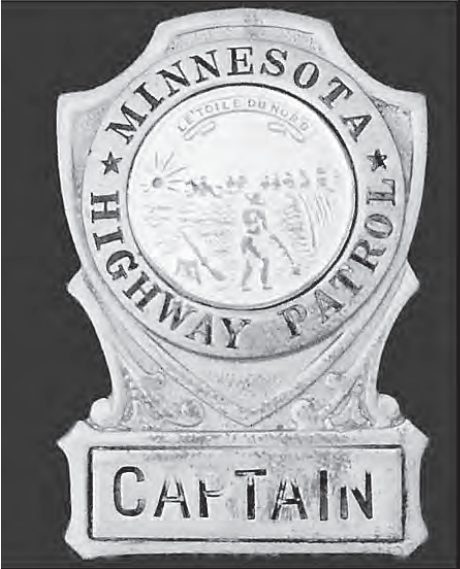
- 550+ patches, over 100 lapel pins, and more!
  - Multiple rare, obsolete, and defunct designs across several federal/state/local agencies.
  - Large lots of Presidential, USSS/ATF/USMS and US Customs items including specialized units.
  - Full list of items and photos available on request.
- I've loved collecting since I was a boy and now it's time for someone else to enjoy it! - [Jared.A.Corn@gmail.com](mailto:Jared.A.Corn@gmail.com)*

## BADGES WANTED

Minnesota Highway and State Patrol

- Numbered and rank badges
- Radio Communications
- Law Compliance Representatives
- Commercial Vehicle Inspectors

**PAT ZNAJDA**  
[patznajda@gmail.com](mailto:patznajda@gmail.com)  
218-689-4626





# WANTED



**MONTANA Law Enforcement Patches**  
**MONTANA Search & Rescue Team Patches**

Will buy or trade  
Contact : JOSH at (562) 248-6055 or joshg21908@gmail.com

# BADGES WANTED

# ALASKA

- Territorial Highway Patrol
- Territorial Police
- State Police
- State Trooper with rosette Entenmann
- Fish & Wildlife
- Also, Vintage Alaska Police

**PAT ZNAJDA**  
**patznajda@gmail.com**  
**(218) 689-4626**



# COLLECTOR'S CLASSIFIED

**P O Box 347**  
**Holbrook, MA 02343-0347**  
**Email: ccmay1975@aol.com**  
**Phone: (781) 961-1463**  
**Web: Collectors-classified.com**

# 50 YEARS !

**That's right, a half century of publishing quality ads for collectors of all types. Come join us. Eight USA issues \$7.50. Sample \$1.00.**  
**Classifieds 5c each word. Published 8 times a year. Free 80 word classified each issue. Outside USA, please write or email.**

# WANTED!

# BY JERSEY COLLECTOR

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

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

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

Welcome to

# PCNEWSONLINE.COM

**New updated Police Collectors News website now online!!!**  
**Check it out!!!**

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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

<u>Admission</u>	<u>Times</u>
Kids Are Free	Show: 9AM - 3PM
\$5.00 for Adults	Set up: 7AM
\$10.00 for Early Admission at 8AM	

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](mailto:masondixonpatchshow@gmail.com)**  
**Follow on Facebook: Gettysburg PA Mason Dixon Patch Show**  
**Hosted by: Adam Reid and Lou McAlexander**





# Police Collectors Show

Patches, Badges, Coins & More



**Saturday**  
**May 17, 2025**

Double Tree Hotel  
1111 Lakeside Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44114  
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Free admission. All are welcome!

### Table Holder Information

Set-up 8:00–9:00 a.m. day of show      \$20 per table

Purchase 2 or more tables get 1 display-only table free

Contact Tony Gorsek at 216-287-5343 or [gorsek@att.net](mailto:gorsek@att.net)

...Police Week in Cleveland, May 10-17, 2025...

Go to GCPOMS website for week’s activities

[www.policememorialsociety.org](http://www.policememorialsociety.org)

Find us on Facebook Cleveland Police Collector’s Show

# June 7, 2025

# Pigeon Forge

# Junior High School

# Pigeon Forge TN


## 8:30am - 3:30pm

## 300 Wears Vally Rd P.F.




Thank you to all our sponsors

- G man Emblem
- H D Coins
- Black Rifle Coffee
- Stooksbury’s Towing
- Nine Line Apparel
- Smash



# 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](mailto:FCPAShow@aol.com)

- 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](mailto:FCPAShow@aol.com) to register.

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



# **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**



**2025  
NATIONAL POLICE  
COLLECTORS SHOW**

**JUNE 13-15, 2025**

PHOENIX CONVENTION CENTER  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA



**HOSTED BY PHOENIX POLICE MUSEUM**  
*OUR HOBBY'S PREMIER EVENT SINCE 1985*  
**265 TABLES --\$100 EACH**

Displays  
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Meet Collectors  
From Around  
The World



Top Quality  
Vendors

All Public  
Safety Collectibles  
(No Firearms)

**PHOENIX CONVENTION CENTER, 100 N. THIRD STREET**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 13** TABLEHOLDERS ONLY SET UP **9 AM – 5 PM**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 14** **9 AM – 6 PM**  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 15** **8:30 AM – 3:30 PM**

**ADMISSION \$5.00**

RESERVE TABLES, HOTEL INFORMATION,  
COMPLETE SHOW SCHEDULE ONLINE

**PHOENIXPOLICEMUSEUM.ORG**

Early table and hotel reservations highly recommended!