

July

2009

# F.O.P. NEWS

Committee: Rhonda Bullock, Chairman

Gerry Majerczyk

Bill Burns

Official Publication of Chicago Lodge No. 7



FOP, Chicago Lodge 7  
1412 W. Washington Blvd.

## President's Report, By Mark Donahue

### Chicago Police Officer Alejandro Valadez

In the early morning of June 1<sup>st</sup>, Chicago Police Officer Alejandro Valadez, Star #9534, was shot and killed while investigating a "shots fired" call in the 007<sup>th</sup> District. From that horrendous action, committed by despicable cowards, all that is good with the Chicago Police Department came forward. Co-workers, friends and strangers surrounded Alex's family to shield and comfort them while the Officers and Detectives on the scene did their job in investigating the most important of cases. The ensuing days gave all an opportunity to show respect and condolences to a family who has sacrificed so much, to parents who have so much to be proud of in the children they have raised and to his co-workers who are continuing to fight the fight. The enormity of the loss was well expressed in the eulogy given by Officer Vargas (Alex's partner) during the funeral mass. It's unfortunate that most of the people that Alex and the rest of the members of this Department serve, will never truly understand all that they have lost.

### Negotiations

An additional three negotiations sessions between the Core Group and the City in June have given the Lodge the opportunity to address issues that needed to be re-addressed and also to strengthen our positions on issues that are close to being resolved. Now this is where many of you are beginning to ask again when will this all end? Get in line! It is now past the two year mark since the expiration of the last contract and although our objective is to negotiate an agreement, the arbitration process for some or all of the issues still cannot be ruled out. The Lodge certainly would not still be negotiating and would have declared impasse by now if we didn't feel there was a purpose in continuing the talks. Some may consider it fortunate that we have yet to settle as we have not been subject to the issues that the other Labor Unions in this town have been forced to re-negotiate with the City. Anyone who keeps abreast of the economic situation this entire country is in understands the seriousness of these talks and may even be able to identify with the level of difficulty they entail. I know there is a level of frustration in hearing month after month of the progress that is or is not being made, but it is no more frustrating hearing it than it is saying it. Trust that what the Lodge is doing in these negotiations over wages, hours, and working conditions is in your best interest.

### Bill Cozzi

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of June Bill Cozzi was sentenced to forty months in federal custody for the charges brought against him after the Superintendent turned the case over to the Feds when Weis had a difference of opinion with two State Courts and the Police Board over the penalty that they handed down. Those of us at the sentencing were a little surprised by the sentence especially when the Judge spent considerable time praising Bill for the lives he had probably saved through his activity in handling DUIs for his fifteen years on the job. For me the most compelling piece of testimony came relative to Bill's explanation for his actions to the State Court in which he had said there was no explanation for what he did, that he had "just snapped." In his Federal Court sentencing, it was related that Bill, in fifteen years of being a very pro-active Police Officer, had never had a complaint of excessive force lodged against him after dealing with all those drunks, all those years. The snap factor came through to me loud and clear. There are two lessons to be learned here. If you feel you need help get it and if you observe someone needing help, assist them in any way. And always keep this duplicity of efforts, to "properly punish," in mind when you are taking action in any situation as there could be a difference of opinion in your future as well.

### Correspondence With The Chief Judge

On behalf of the Lodge, I sent a letter to Chief Judge Timothy Evans seeking a rational explanation as to why the two killers of Alejandro Valadez were not incarcerated at the time of

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*Alejandro Valadez*  
Star #9534

*Killed In The Line Of Duty*  
June 2, 2009

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## President's Report Continued...

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the killing based on their criminal background and the fact that the shooter was out on a Violation of Probation court continuance. The request for an explanation, as stated, "will potentially ease the frustration that is felt toward the system". I regret to inform you that the explanation did nothing of the sort. Both the letter written and the response are available on our web site. Please read them to see first that there was no attack on either of the Judges involved and then what the Chief Judge feels is the reality of how the system works.

### National FOP Labor Seminar

Greg Bella and I attended a National

FOP Labor Seminar in Florida last week as a prelude to preparing for the passage of the Nationwide Collective Bargaining Bill, H.R. 413, which is expected to pass this session. The focal point of the meeting was to establish model legislation for the individual states to enact, this should be done within two years of passage of the Federal Legislation. The National Lodge has undertaken the task of recruiting, organizing and negotiating collective bargaining agreements across the country in preparation of the passage of the Bill. In doing so it is hoped that they have set the stage for the individual states that up until now have not been involved in col-

lective bargaining to step up and for the individual State FOP Lodges to assume the task of representing our members in Labor as well as in the Fraternal issues of Law Enforcement.

### Densey Cole Update

Police Officer Densey Cole was involved in a very serious traffic crash last month and until recently was in an induced coma at Christ Hospital. Densey has been moved to another facility but cards and well wishes for him can be sent to Densey Cole at 9624 S. Cicero Avenue, P.O. Box 229, Oak Lawn, IL 60453. Please keep Densey in your prayers.

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## First Vice-President's Report, *By Bill Dougherty*

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### The Loss of Another Brother

On June 1, 2009, we lost another brother. Police Officer Alex Valadez was shot and killed senselessly from behind by someone that doesn't deserve to be alive today. Even though Alex's career was cut short, his young life on this Department was fulfilling in that he touched everyone that he met. You could tell from his partner's speech at the funeral that they both enjoyed coming to work everyday and hunting the bad guy. This is something that we all felt when we came on this job and couldn't wait to hit the streets. You had a swagger when you got out of the car to respond to a call. You couldn't wait to finish a job so that you could respond to the next. For some of us these were the best times of our careers. We were glad to be the police and damn proud to be a Chicago Police Officer.

But for some officers the longer we are on this job we start to lose that swagger for many different reasons. It may be politics; it might be because we haven't had a contract in two years or we felt that we were treated unfairly by the Department. Maybe you felt that the Union let you down. Whatever the reason, we don't enjoy hunting the way that we used to. We come to work going through the motions and can't wait for the day to end.

Alex's funeral procession was extremely long as most processions are when an Officer is killed in the line of

duty. But if you had a chance to be a part of that procession in any way shape or form, you know that you felt proud to be a Chicago Police Officer that day. That may seem strange to some, but if you were part of that procession you know what I am talking about. Seeing so many officers from so many different departments is one part of it. It is always impressive to see your brothers in blue coming out in masses to show their respect for a fallen officer. That respect is not only for the fallen officer, but also for his family.

While the procession was proceeding to the cemetery it went past fire stations with Firemen standing out under their hook and ladders with American and Chicago flags draped in respect to Alex. Brother Officers stood at attention as the procession went by in respect for Alex. Officers' children displayed signs calling Alex a "Hero" to show their respect. Citizens, many of them standing along the way, put their hand over their hearts in respect for Alex.

If you were in the funeral procession, you left that day, as sad as it was, with some of that swagger back. As we all will miss our fellow brother you can't help but wonder if Alex had a little something to do with making us proud to be a Chicago Police Officer again.

### Returning To Work After Being On The Medical Roll

Officers that are injured either on duty

or off duty are returned to work only by the physician that is treating them. If the Medical Services Section or Coventry attempts to return you to work against your physicians orders, please contact the Lodge.

### Young Adult Dependent Coverage

Effective June 1, 2009 all individual and group health insurance and HMO contracts must abide by the provisions of Public Act 95-0958, a new Illinois law (215 ILCS 356z.12) that gives parents with insurance policies that cover dependents the right to elect coverage for qualifying dependents up to age 26 and up to age 30 for military veteran dependents. New policies issued after June 1, 2009, must include coverage required by the new law. For existing policies, the laws effective date will vary depending on when the policy is amended or renewed after June 1, 2009. Our policies with the City will be renewed on January 1, 2010. For employer group plans, the Young Adult Dependent Coverage Law states that employers are not required to pay the cost of dependent coverage for young adults. You may be responsible for the full cost of the coverage. A full text of the law is available on the FOP website ([chicagofop.org](http://chicagofop.org)). Any questions that you may have about this coverage will be provided by the Benefit Management Office in the fall of 2009 or contact the Benefits Management Officer at (312) 747-8660.

## Second Vice-President's Report, *By Frank DiMaria*

### 2009 Firearms Safety Days

The Firearms Safety Days were held at the Hall on 27 & 28 May 2009 and were a huge success. This year, 398 of our members came through the doors over the two days of the event. The count was under last year's attendance which is due to Baretta not participating in this year's event. Officers who attended took advantage of this free opportunity to have an inspection and in some cases a minor adjustment to their duty related weapons by a qualified technician from the various firearm manufacturers. The lines were constant but everyone attending showed patience and passed the time by looking at different displays by various police

equipment manufacturers. The representatives of the various Firearms Manufacturers worked tirelessly from the time the doors opened before 0900 hrs until they closed at 1700 hrs.

I would like to personally thank and acknowledge the following companies who sent representatives to participate in the 2009 Firearms Safety Days; they provided an invaluable service at no cost to our membership:

Colt, Glock, Ruger, Sig Sauer, Smith & Wesson, Boston Leather, DS Arms, Lewis Machine & Tool, Midwest Sporting Goods, Ray O'Herron, Safariland, Shore Gallery, Spartan Tactical, Super Quick Clean Guns & US Peace Keeper

Please support these companies because they support our membership.

### Fall Peer Support Class

The Peer Support Team Program offers assistance and appropriate support resources to police officers, active and retired, with personal or professional problems. They are accepting applications for their Fall Peer Support Training. Anyone interested should contact the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) at 312 743-0378 to receive an application. This is a voluntary program and a serious commitment to the program is a must. The deadline for the application is 28 August 2009.

## Third Vice-President's Report, *By Greg Bella*

### Egregious Behavior - Part 1

The Bill Cozzi case is nearing the end. By now everyone knows that Bill has been sentenced to three and a half years in prison and an appeal was filed. It didn't matter that Bill was suspended by the Police Board for two years or that he served eighteen months of State Court ordered supervision. The Superintendent's logic, when he offered Bill up to

the Feds, was that this is the most **egregious** case of brutality that he has ever seen in his career in law enforcement. I wonder why Jody doesn't see the need to call his friends at the F.B.I. about the **egregious corruption** going on in the City and County.

Attorney Terry Gillespie summed up this case when he said, "After fifteen years on the job, don't "snap", because

you will be thrown under the federal bus and it will be by your own Superintendent."

### Egregious Behavior - Part 2

A federal jury awarded Juan Johnson, one of the leaders of the Spanish Cobras street gang, \$21 million for spending nine years in jail for a murder conviction that was later overturned in an Appellate Court.

This verdict was possible because of the **egregious** behavior of federal court Judge Grady, who presided over Juan Johnson's civil lawsuit and Judge Cox, who granted a motion in Juan Johnson's criminal case. Confusing? No, actually it is quite simple.

Juan Johnson, the leader of the Spanish Cobra street gang, was found guilty of murder after he bashed in the skull of a rival gang member with a 2x4. The victim's offense was that he was a Latin Eagle on Johnson's turf. The victim was on his turf because the Latin Eagles were having a meeting in a hall at North and Western. I know it is hard to believe, but the witnesses were members of the Latin Eagles street gang and so, at the time, they were more than eager to identify Juan Johnson.

At the time, Gang Crimes Specialist Guevara, because of his knowledge of street gangs, located witnesses which he brought into the Detectives working the

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## FOP, Lodge #7 Annual Golf Outing

Monday, August 24, 2009, Tee Off Times Starting At 0800 hours

St. Andrew's Golf Club, Rte 59 at North Avenue  
West Chicago, Illinois

Reservations Are Being Taken Now By  
Calling Kathy Moore Or Doreen Plachta At The Office  
312-733-7776

\$400.00 Per Foursome  
Golf, Cart, Lunch & Dinner

Cash Bar

Money Due When Making Reservations



## Third Vice-President's Report, By Greg Bella

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case. The ASA, after a careful review of the evidence and interview of the witnesses, approved murder charges against Juan Johnson. At the trial the witnesses all testified and Johnson was found guilty and sent to prison. While in prison, he filed an appeal on the grounds of inadequate counsel. He won a new trial. At the second trial, all of the witnesses flipped and Johnson was set free. Instead of being grateful that he beat the system, he sues Gang Specialist Guevara and the City of Chicago for \$11 million. The lawsuit was tried last week in the courtroom of Federal Judge Grady.

While Johnson was out of prison, waiting to go to trial or settle his lawsuit with the City of Chicago, he, as we say, picks up another case. 08 CR 828, the F.B.I. arrests Johnson in that he aided and abetted the distribution of more than fifty grams of cocaine base in the form of crack cocaine, in violation of Title 21 and Title 18, United States Code. In the criminal indictment, the F.B.I. agent identifies Johnson as "Big Juan the leader of the Spanish Cobra street gang." The indictment also describes Johnson's use of his phone and text messaging to facilitate his drug transactions.

This is where the **egregious behavior** comes into play. Johnson's attorneys are facing a dilemma; if he is found guilty in the F.B.I. drug case, he will certainly lose his civil case against the City. Johnson's attorneys appear before Federal Judge Cox and, in document 55 of the transcript, they explain Johnson's intention. "Mr. Johnson desires to plead guilty to a reduced charge. Without comment on the merits of the charges, Mr. Johnson believes such a plea will be in his best interests." They go on, "In an unrelated case, Mr. Johnson was previously convicted of a murder he did not commit. In Mr. Johnson's view, he has built a powerful case which is Mr. Johnson's single greatest asset. The civil litigation has been pending since 2005 and is scheduled for the trial to begin. In filing the instant motion Mr. Johnson is putting all of his cards on the table about his intention, which is to avoid having any conviction for the present charges for the purpose of his up-

coming civil trial."

"The justification for deferring the plea is that Mr. Johnson's incentive to co-operate with the Government is the Government's co-operation with Mr. Johnson in the timing of his plea." "This is a win-win for the Government and Mr. Johnson." Judge Cox agreed with Johnson and allowed him to plead guilty *after* his civil case against the City is complete.

Back at the civil case, Judge Grady granted a motion; the City cannot make any reference to Johnson's gang affiliation, the victim's gang affiliation, the fact that Guevara is a Gang Specialist, the fact that two witnesses changed their story after being confronted by gang leaders or the fact that Johnson was arrested by the F.B.I. for dealing drugs as the leader of the Spanish Cobras. With this motion being granted by the Judge, the Jury only heard that Johnson was singled out by Guevara as the offender and Guevara coerced the witnesses to identify Johnson. The witnesses testified against Johnson because of Guevara, but when given a second chance, at the second trial, they decided to tell the truth and couldn't identify Johnson.

Johnson's attorneys successfully worked the system and the Judges to keep the truth out of the trial and, without knowing the truth, the jury awarded Johnson \$21 million. Johnson's attorneys, for keeping the truth from the Jurors, probably walk away with, at the very least, \$7 million. Retired Gang Specialist Guevara was hit for \$15,000 in punitive damages that Judge Grady was willing to waive if Guevara would apologize to Johnson. Rey Guevara refused to apologize and the City is currently working to get the punitive damages dismissed. The City is going to appeal this decision.

The big question is, how can this happen and who is watching the **egregious** decisions these Judges make?

### Egregious Behavior - Part 3

It appears that justice is not being distributed equally in Judge Marcus Salone's courtroom. Certain offenders are receiving "Salone Specials" and having their guilty pleas vacated and their judg-

ments dismissed. In doing so, Salone is violating the rules set by the Illinois Supreme Court. The police bust their butts arresting and preparing a solid case against an individual and for what? It is bad enough when the State offers a plea deal to the offender, but Judge Salone takes it much further.

Here is how it works. At the plea hearing, Judge Salone offers unsolicited advice to the offender that when the term of probation is over, they can simply come back into court and he will vacate their plea of guilty so that their backgrounds will be cleared. Sure enough, upon the expiration of the probation term, the defendant comes into court and undergoes a sham "hearing", wherein despite the State presenting overwhelming evidence of defendant's guilt, Salone vacates the guilty plea. For the offender, it was as though the arrest never occurred. In many cases, officers risk their lives and log countless hours putting together a solid case and, with the stroke of a pen, Salone renders it all meaningless.

Not only is this bad judgment on his part; Salone, a former police officer, is performing actions which violate the rules of the Illinois Supreme Court. Rule 604 (d) governs appeals by defendants from a judgment entered upon a plea of guilty. It states, in pertinent part:

"No appeal from a judgment entered upon a plea of guilty shall be taken unless the defendant, within 30 days of the date on which sentence is imposed, ...files a motion to withdraw the plea of guilty and vacate the judgment...The motion shall be in writing and state the grounds therefore..."

In Salone's courtroom, the defendants do not need to make a motion of their intent to appeal because the judge does that for them. What is more, in Salone's courtroom, defendants are not required to file any motion in writing, as required by the rule. We are all aware of the fact that many of our laws have been watered down to such an extent that those of us on the right side of the law face an uphill battle. Salone apparently believes that these offenders need even greater protec-

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## Third Vice President's Report Continued

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tion from the legal system. He is not allowed to legislate from the bench. He is required to apply the law, as it is written, equally to all individuals. If Salone wanted to change the laws, he should have become a legislator. Until then, he needs to be reminded that he is bound by the laws just like the rest of us.

### Egregious Behavior – Part 4

The Lodge filed an Unfair Labor Practice against the City over the Department's policy to take DNA samples from officers' guns. These officers were involved in police shootings where there is no allegation that the offender touched the officer's weapon.

It is totally understandable that the Department would want DNA samples from an officer's weapon if there is an allegation that the offender attempted to disarm the officer. This would make

sense because you are proving that the offender did touch the weapon. In all other cases, this is just a waste of time, money and a violation of officers' rights.

In the past, the Lodge has had talks with the Department and IPRA over the ability to take DNA samples from officers as well as from their weapons. The talks focused on when this would be done, why and what would happen to the samples. We never reached any resolution and, to be honest, we have not talked to the City in over a year on this issue. When the Department began taking the DNA samples, the Lodge filed an Unfair Labor Practice against the City.

A good example of the problem is a shooting that happened last week, where an officer fired at an armed offender who pointed his weapon at the officer. The officer fired and did not hit the offender. The offender fled the scene and was ap-

prehended. There was no allegation that the offender touched the officer's weapon, yet the officer's weapon was swabbed for a DNA sample. The sample will go to the ISP crime lab or ERPS, where the sample will sit unless there is an order for the ISP crime lab to work the sample. In this case, there would be no reason to work up the sample. The officer does not deny he fired his weapon, he does not deny it is his gun so why take the sample?

Our biggest fear is what could happen to these DNA samples. They can be lost, misplaced, accidentally worked on an unrelated case, stolen or accidentally put into C.O.D.I.S.

If you use the Superintendent's model of Bill Cozzi as **egregious behavior**, what word would you use to describe the other three cases?

## Recording Secretary's Report, By Sidney Davis

### Morale

Where do you think it's at? You will soon have an opportunity to vent. Superintendent Jody Weis has named Sergeant Peter Koconis (024) as his point man to attend roll calls throughout the Department's districts and units, addressing morale and other Department issues.

### 2009 FOP Picnic

It's that time again; Lodge 7 will host its Annual Picnic at Gaelic Park (6119 West 147th St.) on July 8, 2009. Gates open at 10 am to locate that favorite spot. The smell of barbeque, who can dress the best tent, music and dancing, children on the carnival rides (adults too), renewing old friendships and making new ones. It's a day for relaxing and just enjoying the atmosphere of being one big happy family. See you out there.

### July & August General Meeting

Lodge 7 will take its annual vacation from General Meetings for the summer months of July and August. The next scheduled meeting will be held on September 15, 2009 at 1900 hours. Board Meetings will continue the first Tuesday of each month.

### Constitution and By Laws

There were no Constitution and By Laws submitted for consideration this year.

### Senior Citizens

It's no secret that seniors are always mentioned by me at General Meetings, the hot and muggy summer months are upon us once again. Please take the opportunity to check on seniors that may reside on your block, greet them as neighbors checking on their well being, one day it may be you that someone is checking on. Enjoy the summer months

and vacation if one is planned.

### Military

Police Officer Pedro Medina, assigned to the 014<sup>th</sup> District, was deployed to Afghanistan last August. Officer Medina was seriously injured on May 18, 2009, when a building he was standing in collapsed. Officer Medina was then transported to Germany for initial treatment then onto Walter Reed Hospital. Officer Medina was relocated to Tampa Bay, Florida in late May for rehabilitation for the injuries he received. He has received many cards and well wishes for a speedy recovery and return home. Please continue to keep Pedro in your prayers for a full recovery and his return to full duty. He is currently at James Haley Veterans Hospital, 13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.; #131, Tampa, Florida 33612-4745, Phone # 813-972-2000.

Address Change Form, Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Star Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last, First, MI)

New Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Return Form To The FOP – Unit 541 or 1412 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago Illinois 60607, Attn: Doreen

# ILLINOIS STATE LODGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



## **REQUIREMENTS:**

- Parent must be an Illinois F.O.P. member in good standing.
- Applicant must be a full time college student (12 or more credit hours per semester)
- **Applicant must provide the following with this application for it to be considered.**  
*Proof of registration for the Fall 2009 semester. Proof can be one of the following items: registrar note indicating enrollment, Fall 2009 class schedule, Fall 2009 tuition payment receipt or letter of acceptance. Note: letters of acceptance must be followed by proof of registration before scholarship is awarded.*
- **Award:** \$500—eighteen individual district scholarships awarded by random drawing and one \$500 drawn from all non-selected district applications sponsored by ISPFUCU.
- **Application Deadline:** Must be received by 1630 hours on 17 July 2009.
- **Scholarships Will Be Drawn:** 23 July 2009
- **Please Note:** Incomplete applications will NOT be processed.
- Using only **ONE submission method** mail or fax applications and documentation to:

**F.O.P. Illinois State Lodge  
 4341 Acer Grove, Suite B  
 Springfield, Illinois 62711**

**Phone:** (217) 726-8880    **FAX:** (217) 726-8881

**Online:** [www.ilfop.org](http://www.ilfop.org), (obtain application only)

Student's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B.: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge #: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

College/University: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Use Only - District/Trustee: \_\_\_\_\_

## Financial Secretary's Report, *By Rich Aguilar*

### Where Is The Outrage?

A couple of months back newsman, Chuck Goudie was outraged by the "buried" treasure that he discovered was being "given" to Chicago Police officers in the form of duty availability and uniform allowance payments.

Last month, I had the privilege of attending the Annual Recognition Ceremony that honors, sometimes posthumously, the acts of heroism that Chicago Police Officers performed throughout the

prior year. I sat there and wondered just how many of the citizens in this City, the same citizens who undoubtedly heard Goudie's rant, were even aware of the actions of these brave officers. Chuck Goudie was nowhere to be seen.

Last month, I also had the regretful opportunity to attend the funeral of fellow Chicago Police Officer, Alex Valadez, who was senselessly shot and killed while responding to a "shots fired" call. Thousands of his fellow officers

were there. Chuck Goudie was nowhere to be seen.

Chuck, my fellow officers and I would give back every penny of the "buried" treasure that we earn if it would bring back even one of the lives of all of the officers that we have known who have been senselessly murdered while doing a job that few would or could do.

My question to you is this. Where was your outrage when one of Chicago's Finest was buried?

## From The Desk Of Jim Bailey, Field Representative/Trustee

### Heartbreaking

On 27 MAY 09, Officer Densley Cole of the 22<sup>nd</sup> District was involved in a terrible crash while en route to an "in-progress" call. The accident was horrible, but the events that transpired shortly thereafter were despicable. An unknown individual, rather than assist Officer Cole with his injuries, proceeded to take his weapon and flee the scene. What is even sadder is that witnesses and other individuals near the scene took no action.

In fact, one woman claimed to be injured as a result of the accident. Much to her chagrin, the incident was caught on tape and it was discovered that she had not been involved in the accident. She had, however, fractured the law prior to this incident, which was determined when a name check revealed she had an outstanding warrant. Respect for the Police is at an all-time low.

The following Monday, Officer Alex Valadez was shot and subsequently died from his wounds.

In both instances, colleagues, friends and family gathered at the respective hospitals. This comes as no surprise because, when an Officer needs assistance, fellow Officers are there at a moment's notice. If the tables had been turned, certain individuals in this town would have been screaming for the jobs of any Officers involved. But sticking up for Officers doing their jobs and having their lives taken away would not be beneficial. We need to stick together and be there for our fellow Officers. Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the families of Densley Cole and Alex Valadez

### Disciplinary History

Anytime an Officer gets an opportunity to review his or her Disciplinary History, ensure that there are no investigations that indicate there was not a sworn affidavit. In Appendix L Section 10 of the contract, it states, "In the event that no affidavit is received within a reasonable time, the investigation will be terminated and no record of the complaint or investigation will appear on the Officer's Disciplinary History." If you find this to be case on your Disciplinary History, file a grievance. Call the Lodge if you need additional assistance.

### Priorities

While in a particular Southside district about a month ago, the troops were given instructions regarding foot patrol. This is not uncommon and can be helpful to the Officer. I was quite surprised, however, that the W/C informed the Officers that 30 minutes was not enough time and that they should spend even more time on foot. To say that this district is busy would be an understatement, yet this seems to be a priority on West 63<sup>rd</sup> Street (oops, I said too much!). The bottom line is Officer safety, so when instructed by a supervisor to engage in foot patrol, obey the order. But make sure that when conducting any type of patrol or investigation, Officer safety is never compromised.

### Police Shootings

In the last few months there have been numerous police involved shootings. In most instances, the offenders were armed with a gun. However, there were a few incidents in which a motor vehicle was

the weapon of choice. It is important to know in G.O. 02-08-03 under Department Policy it states, "Firing at or into a moving vehicle is authorized to prevent death or great bodily harm. When confronted with an oncoming vehicle and that vehicle is the only force used against them, sworn members will move out of the vehicle's path." There seems to be a contradiction in this portion of the order. In Section V Affirmation of Protection of Life Policy, the order specifically states, "Sworn members will not unreasonably endanger themselves or another person to conform to the restrictions of this directive."

The bottom line is Officer safety. Only you know whether or not avoiding the vehicle to prevent bodily harm is possible. Be safe. JB

Lodge 7's Richard Lis Scholarship Application will appear in next month's newsletter. Make sure to fill one out for each child of a member who is enrolled College for the Fall of 2009 Semester.

We hope to see you at the  
FOP Picnic at Gaelic Park  
on July 8 at 10 a.m.

**Bring Your  
Lodge 7 Membership Card  
for Entry**

## “Make Today That Special Occasion”, *Compliments of Rabbi Moshe Wolf*

As this goes to print, we are mindful of two great tragedies: 1) The CPD mourns the loss of P.O. Alex Valadez, who was murdered in the line of duty, "Gone But Never Forgotten" and 2) P.O. Densey Cole, who is in the hospital and in need of G~d's mercy as he fights for his life to recover from an on-duty auto accident. Thanks to each and every one of you for all your support and friendship to these officers and their families; please keep them in your prayers.

Moments like this bring to mind a famous quote sent to me by a good man, Officer P.B., "When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives mean the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm and tender hand. The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is a friend who cares.".....end of quote.

It is moments like these that should make us stop and reflect, to "Make Today That Special Occasion"....

Let me share a short story with you.

I was at the home of a close friend of mine who had just lost his beloved wife. He was going through her closet and he handed me a brand new beautiful dress, still wrapped from the store. The price tag with an astronomical figure on it was still attached. He said, "My wife bought this the first time we went on vacation, at least 10 years ago. She never wore it. She was saving it for a special occasion. Well, I guess this is the occasion."

He took the dress from me and put it on the bed with the other clothes we were taking to the mortician. His hands lingered on the soft material for a moment, then he slammed the closet shut and turned to me and said, "Don't ever save anything for a special occasion. Every day you're alive is a special occasion."

I remembered those words through the funeral and in the days that followed as I helped him and his family take care of all

the sad chores that follow an unexpected death. I thought about them on the plane returning back home from the East coast where my friend and his family reside. I thought about all the things that his wife hadn't seen, heard or done, she was so young. I thought about the things that she had done without ever realizing that they were special.

I'm still thinking about his words, and how they should change our lives. Read more and dust less. Take the time to sit on our porches and admire the view without fussing about the weeds in the garden. Spend more time with our families and friends and less time worrying about committee meetings. Whenever possible, life should be a pattern of experiences to savor, not endure. Let us close our eyes and reflect for a moment.

Let's try to recognize the 'special occasion', the special moments now and cherish them. Try not "saving" anything for too long; use your good china and crystal for every special event or make a 'special event' such as a goal reached, a child's birthday, or that occasion that makes you just feel good. Wear your nice blazer or dress to the mall if you feel like it. Don't save your good perfume or cologne for special parties; clerks in hardware stores and tellers in banks have noses that function just as well as your party-going friends.

"Someday" and "one of these days" should lose their grip on your vocabulary. If it's worth seeing, hearing or doing, and you want to, don't wait, do it now. I'm not sure what my friend's wife would

have done had she known that she wouldn't be here for the tomorrow we all take for granted. I think she would have called family members and a few close friends. She might have called a few former friends to apologize and mend fences for past squabbles. I'd like to think she would have gone out for a Chinese dinner, her favorite food. I'm guessing...I'll never know.

It's those little things left undone that should make us ponder and make us think what we would do if we knew that our hours were limited. Make us ponder because we put off seeing good friends whom we were going to get in touch with "someday". Make us angry and sorry that we didn't tell our spouses, children and loved ones often enough how much we truly love them. Let's try a bit harder not to put off, hold back, or save anything that would add laughter and luster to our lives and those around us.

If we are too busy today to make a positive difference in the lives of our loved ones, do really think that tomorrow will be any different?? Every morning when we open our eyes, let's tell ourselves that today is that "special day". Every day, every minute, every breath truly is a gift from G~d; don't forget to enjoy your present.

May G~d bless you and keep you safe. Amen

Compliments of your Police Chaplain  
Rabbi Moshe Wolf  
773-463-4780 or e-mail: [moshe-wolf@hotmail.com](mailto:moshe-wolf@hotmail.com)

### Upcoming Events

This One's for Gina — Saturday, 11 JUL, from 1500 to 2000 at Bourbon Street. Call Dawn at 773-218-5066 for more information.

On Saturday, 18 JUL the 018 District will host a memorial tribute to commemorate the anniversary of the deaths of Officers Severin and Rizzato. Please call 018 at 742-5778, for more details.

Benefit for Detective Andrea LaBelle, Area 4, SVU, formerly of 012 Dist and the Training Academy being held Wed, 26 AUG at Stanley's call Linda at 312-925-6313 for tickets.

## Disability Report & Veterans' Corner, By Carlos 'Sal' Saladino

### Disability Report

The best of health from the Disability Committee. We are available for calls at the FOP office Monday through Friday. Click on the Disability Page link on the FOP web site, [www.chicagofop.org](http://www.chicagofop.org), for beneficial information. Feel free to email me at [csaladino@chicagofop.org](mailto:csaladino@chicagofop.org).

**May Pension Meeting** – Advocates present: Det Mark Howe, Det Steve Schorsch, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Bill Dougherty and myself. One appointed Trustee absent. **Disability Claims:** Officers making application for disability: 3 granted Ordinary without prejudice, 1 granted Ordinary. One Duty Status Hearing: Officer remains on Duty Disability.

**Credit for Other Service - Sec.5-214c.** Three officers who were employed by Cook County prior to becoming a Chicago Police Officer were granted credit for other service.

**Prudential Basic Group Term Life Insurance.** As a Police Officer on Leave

of Absence for any disability you are covered for the \$25,000 life insurance policy at no cost to you. The committee has encountered a situation where two officers on disability have passed and their families are having a hard time receiving this benefit. It is not the first time this has happened to families of those who have passed. Call to verify your beneficiary and the amount of coverage (\$25,000). **Prudential: 800-778-3827, Group Policy Holder: City of Chicago, Group Policy Number: 44004.**

### Veteran's Corner

Our thoughts and prayers go to the CPD members who are actively serving our country in the military.

**HR2419** – Stop open air burn pits for more than 6 months to study effects of burn pit smoke exposure on troops in Iraq and Afghanistan which has caused respiratory problems, cancer, blood disorders and even death.

New **National Infantry Museum** opened June 2009 in Columbus, Georgia near the Home of the Infantry at Fort Benning. View the video online at [www.militarytimes.com/multimedia](http://www.militarytimes.com/multimedia), video keyword search: "infantry, museum".

**Congressional Medal of Honor Society "Commit to Courage" Convention** in Chicago will be September 15-19, 2009. There are only 97 living recipients and only one quarter of one percent of the population will ever be in the same room with a recipient. There will be public events and opportunities to see attending Medal of Honor recipients. Visit website at [www.cmoh2009Chicago.org](http://www.cmoh2009Chicago.org) or call 630-833-7722.

*"Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear – not absence of fear." ~ Mark Twain*

Airborne Sal

### April 2009 Retirees

Name	Rank	Dist.	Yrs
Traficanti, Thomas C	Officer	018	24
Pabsiak, James P	Officer	050	37
Graf, Bernard J	Detective	650	36
Carnevale, Eloise M	Detective	601	38
DeFrance, William D	Officer	019	31
Donald, Walter T	Offier	004	33
Dowling, Patricia A	Canine	141	23
Hughes, Michael M	Detective	610	41
Johnson, Robert J	Officer	020	37
Klusman, John H	Evid Tech	377	32
Konrath, Robert C	Forensic Inv II	177	36
Mendez, Julie A	Detective	640	24
Nielsen, Paul W	Officer	079	36
Riordan, Ann E	Detective	630	36
Rivera, Daniel W	Officer	017	32
Shaughnessy, Edward P	Detective	640	31
Siptrott, Steven	Officer	018	37
Vitello, Joseph P	Detective	630	39
Copeland, Susan M	Officer	024	20
Anderson, Robert	Officer	016	39
Allen, Edward D	Officer	DPR	27
Casares, Ruben	Officer	010	15
Desch, Harry E	Evid Tech	477	32
Sledge, Augustus J	Officer	276	32
Weiglein, Marilyn J	Officer	016	17
Collins, Esther	Officer	007	13
Hurd, Jr, Lonnie	Officer	015	17
Walther, Diane L	Officer	013	20

### Deceased

#### Brothers & Sisters

Warren D. Johnson, Age 66  
 Thomas M. Mueller, Age 74  
 Michael A. Angarone, Age 59  
 Thomas R. O'Boyle, Age 66  
 Vincent J. Alomia, Age 81  
 Joseph T. Cannon, Age 67  
 Peter A. Melone, Age 58  
 Robert S. Hojnacki, Age 70  
 Alejandro Valadez, Age 27  
 Edward J. Lyons, Age 64  
 Paul Tanzillo, Age 77  
 Patrick T. O'Brien, Age 70  
 Joe Van Bogaert, Age 84  
 Anthony R. Rossetti, Age 82  
 Frank W. Krause, Age 81  
 Joseph S. Panozzo, Age 87

Deceased members names are not published until after their passing is recognized at our General Membership meetings, the next meeting is on September 15.

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## Pension News, *By Mike Shields*

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The past few weeks have seen a tremendous amount of controversy surrounding our pension fund. As a federal investigation proceeds, newspapers announce the sordid details of a suspicious investment entered into by the fund. By now, you are all painfully familiar with DV Urban Realty, who the "D" and the "V" are, and to whom they are related. *How* they managed to get their hands on our pension money is now the subject of an on-going federal investigation. In the midst of this controversy, I would like to take this opportunity to say that I am proud of the response of policemen and women as these details have come to light. Several municipal pensions invested with DV Urban Realty, but you were the first city workers to voice their objection to this questionable investment. Chicago Police were the first to publicly demonstrate their discontent, and it appears your voices have been heard. Officers and retirees packed the pension board meeting demanding that the fund comply with the city Inspector General's subpoena requesting documents relating to the investment. When the board persisted in their refusal, the U.S. Attorney's Office began investigating and their investigation continues.

These recent articles have had another effect. They capture a glimpse of just how much mayoral control is exercised over *your* pension fund, which by the language of its creation is "maintained for the benefit of its policemen, their widows and children."

The basic structure of the pension board allows for four of the eight trustees to be appointed by the mayor. That means that fully half of the votes on the pension board serve by direct appointment of the mayor. Mayor Daley's reaction to his

nephew's money grab of our retirement fund would be laughable if it weren't such an insult to our intelligence. 'Little Bobby should have listened to Uncle Rich', just does not work as an excuse for policemen. That he had no idea this was going on is equally absurd. The fund is required by law to submit an annual report to the city council detailing the affairs of the fund, including income, disbursements, assets and liabilities. Again, the excuses are an insult to our intelligence and an affront to our common sense. Or, as Mayor Daley himself might say, "silly, just silly."

What isn't "silly" is that, in truth, our pension fund needed a public

slap in the face. For far too long the board has operated with the appearance that the "fix is in." Officers' needs will no longer be of secondary concern. Business as usual must be a thing of the past. Prospective fund managers with nothing other than the right connections and mayoral clout will not be allowed to tap into our funds and enrich themselves to our detriment. As your elected trustee, it is my duty to vigilantly guard against deals that are not in the best interest of our pension fund. Especially those deals that appear to be solely for the benefit of Mayor Daley & friends.

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## The Three H's, *By Father Tom Nangle*

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Albert Einstein said what any street copper knows, "The world is a dangerous place, not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who won't do anything about it." People who show blind loyalty and secrecy to the bad guys determine the quality of local life even more than the police do.

And Edmund Burke was singing the same tune when he said, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Absolutely true. The follow up; Good people must oppose evil, or evil will prevail.

Burke also said, "The greater the power, the more dangerous the abuse." At first reading, one might think we're talking about the police here. We're not. What I'm referring to is the grossly distorted and undeserved power that some special interest groups have been granted in shaping policing in Chicago.

Traditionally, summertime is a time of relaxing and having more fun than we do the rest of the year. I hope you can do that. Our souls hunger for love and peace, justice and beauty. And the human soul has a beautiful hunger and need for work that is meaningful, work that feeds the soul. Take care of your soul. Try to feed it with what it needs: love, peace, justice, beauty and good news. Try to avoid what poisons it: anger, hatred, gossip, sniping and cynicism (a refusal to believe in goodness).

That's the contest for all of us these days: to enrich our souls, not poison them. It's a special challenge for working police officers, The Real Police, whose daily tour is made up of horror, humor, and heroism. Take good care of yourself and each other and those you love.

Respectfully,  
Fr. Thomas Nangle, Chaplain CPD



**Store Hours:**

Mon-Thurs, 9:00 – 5:00  
 Friday, 9:00 – 4:00  
 Saturday, 9:00 – 1:00

**Store Closed:**

July 3rd & 8th

**Direct Line:**

312-733-2344

*It's the middle of the year already,  
 So let's have a Christmas in July Sale!*

All Vanmark Police Figurines **40% Off.**  
 All Christmas Ornaments **25% Off**

All CPD & Novelty Police Patches  
 (these are great for trading or as Gifts!)  
**25% Off**

Select Long Sleeve T-Shirts and Sweat Shirts **10 to 50% Off**

Police Novelty Thermometer  
 Was \$6.95 **NOW \$4<sup>95</sup>**  
**WHILE THEY LAST!**

All Novelty Gun Lighters **10% Off**  
 Golf Lighters **50% Off**

**25% Off All Remaining Duty Gloves**  
 3 to choose – Thinsulate, Spectralined, or Hipora for Blood Borne Pathogens (waterproof). Our lowest price ever! Now is the time to get a pair.

Singing Characters for Birthdays and Special Occasions **Now 20% Off**  
 T-Shirt of the Month – Chicago's Most Wanted **Now 30% Off**

Police Novelty Wine Bottle Holder –  
 Was \$24.95 **NOW \$19<sup>99</sup>**  
**SAVE THIS ONE FOR CHRISTMAS**

*Coffee cups with Pewter Star*  
**Buy One – Get 2<sup>nd</sup> One Half Off**

**Police Mouse Pads**  
**Assorted Designs**  
 Was \$7.95  
**NOW ONLY \$5<sup>95</sup>**

**NEW — Frame for 4x6 Photo Bronzestone with CPD Star**  
**ONLY \$17<sup>95</sup>**  
*Will make a great Christmas Present!*

**News From The State, By Darrin Bourret, State Trustee**

The word “hero” comes from Greek mythology, meaning someone who is endowed with courage and great strength. This relates to the men and women of the Chicago Police Department, no matter what they do. We see this courage every day in all of our officers. Many we will always remember, like Chicago Police Officer Alejandro (Alex) Valadez, #9534, a dedicated police officer.

With only three years on the job, Alejandro gave his life to continue in the work he loved, his faith and memory will

remain with us forever.

I, personally, have seen the work of all those brave men and women that gathered to mourn, and were added to the National Memorial Wall, in Washington D.C. But to be a hero, sometimes all it takes is to simply put on the uniform, and go to work.

Ralph Waldo Emerson says, “A hero is no braver than an ordinary man, but he is braver five minutes longer”. The bravery that Emerson talks about does not exist in people who wear capes and have

secret identities. It exists in the people that wear their badges bravely. It not only exists in Chicago Police Officers, but in anyone that serves in Law enforcement throughout the world.

A final note, please keep Densy Cole and Sergeant Gina Dwyer in our thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery.

**CHA Officers**

All former Chicago housing authority police officers, please contact me via E-mail, [bourret001@yahoo.com](mailto:bourret001@yahoo.com). Thank you.



Official Publication of Chicago Lodge No. 7  
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## **F.O.P. Picnic**

For Members & Their Families (Current FOP ID Card Necessary)

**Wednesday, July 8, 2009, 10 am—6 pm**

### **Gaelic Park**

6119 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois - 708-687-9323

#### **Come And Enjoy...**

- ♥ FREE Ice Cream & Beverages
  - ♥ FREE Candy & Prizes
- ♥ FREE Carnival Rides For All Ages
  - ♥ FREE Music & Dancing
- ♥ FREE Tables Provided (Limited Quantities)
  - ♥ Best Tent or Shelter Decorating Contest
  - ♥ Shop At The FOP Gift Shop While There



Gaelic Park Does Not Offer Food Services, So Bring A Tent For Shade, A Cooler,  
A Picnic Lunch, The Grill & Lawn Chairs For The Perfect Picnic Experience