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***"I ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO COME TO MEDWELL.
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*I*n our profession, we love our BLUE family like no other, but we also must discuss our blood family—the ones we go home to at the end of the shift. Are we really giving them the quality time they deserve? Are we engaged at a level deeper than simply saying we love them? It's always troubled me that a career in law enforcement can complicate our personal family life, where the stress and responsibilities can distance us mentally from the ones who love us the most. It's a reasonable response to routine exposure to stress, but if you think about it, our spouses, kids, parents and siblings at times do not receive all the attention and love they deserve. That's a hard statement to make. However, if you're on the job, you'll understand what I am talking about.

The job is 24/7 literally. It is physically and emotionally demanding. Many officers work rotating shifts that distance them from their families at holidays and special occasions. Undoubtedly, this can cause a strain on family life. So, this year let's set our priorities straight. Although we can't work the days and times as we wish, we do have the ability to demand that above all, our families are our top priority. Make sure you get this priority straight, because your loved ones will likely be the ones there for you when you are feeling your worst. They are most likely to understand when you make a mistake. They are the ones you can depend on more than your BLUE family. You know that, and I know that. Since they are the most precious to us, let's avoid negativity with them by spending quality time and making sure they know that they are our top priority.

It's not a difficult task to strengthen family relationships. You need to be mindful that a lack of constructive conversation, lack of consistent affection, lack of quality time with them will lead you to lose them eventually, not just physically but mentally. They, too, will detach from you like you are disconnecting from them. Our most precious assets detached from us, imagine that. All for what? A profession that will at some point bring you disappointment, resentment, betrayal, deceit and fakeness—to highlight a few negativities. I don't apologize for bringing up these realities of our profession. I believe the more we discuss the negativities, the closer we can get toward fixing them.

So, make this year the year you put family first before your profession, and yes GOD will help you find that way. We can all do a better job becoming better parents, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, spouses and more. Do it for them. Do it for yourself. I hope you find our cover story useful and that it helps you to be ALIVE again with love and positive energy that helps nourish your family life.

Daniel Del Valle, Editor-in-Chief



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Blue Magazine is committed to making 2019 another great year of advocating for our profession. Over the years, we have gained many of the top high-profile law enforcement voices in our great nation. As impressive as this is, I am equally (if not more so) impressed with our writers, who although they don't have big name notoriety, bravely step in the figurative ring and fight for all of us. Many of them are taking a professional risk for speaking inconvenient truths. Their courage cannot go unrecognized. These writers are fearless—they tell it as it is and call out many injustices to our profession. They put up with the teasing at their departments by cowards who don't have the gall to stand up and push back. It's very easy to sit on the sidelines, chattering in our blue echo chambers, and stay clear of the frontlines of issues and grievances. To the teasing cowards, I say keep complaining while those who move to the front display an unprecedented amount of courage and passion you live your entire life wishing you had.

For 2019, I'd like to maintain the same straightforward approach since I began years ago at Blue Magazine as a writer. If you've been following my articles over the past many years, you will know that I do not hide from controversy nor do I pull punches when it comes to saying what I have to say—being real—and intellectually honest. The hits I took when I wrote early on that "Hands Up Don't Shoot," was a lie and called out all of those who continued to perpetuate this lie for political expediency, and how the actual victim was Officer Daren Wilson, included a flood of hate email and some communications from lunatics that would leave anyone concerned for their safety.

Remember when everyone was removing shields from their personal windshields because they were worried they would be ambushed off duty? Well, during that time of great peril, many of us moved to the front to publicly defend our profession and do what was right. We put our names to everything beyond our closed circles and stood behind it because it is what we believed to be the truth. This is the kind of passion we must maintain during 2019. We cannot forget how badly just a few short years ago our profession was treated, where miscreants were incited by the irresponsible rhetoric and were targeting officers for murder. We must stand together and demand that our profession is not wrongly demonized for whatever selfish purposes.

A special thank you to all our writers and supporters who believe in our purposes. Let's make 2019 another successful and productive year! Together, we can overcome all adversity and do our part to improve our profession. May God bless all of you! I wish you all a happy and healthy new year!

George Beck, Ph.D., Managing Editor

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The Persecution of US Navy Special Warfare Operator **EDDIE GALLAGHER**

By Bernard B. Kerik



Bernard B. Kerik

On Friday afternoon, September 14, 2001, I stood at what would become known as Ground Zero, with New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, President George W. Bush, and New York City Fire Commissioner Thomas Von Essen, staring at what once was Towers One, and Two, of the World Trade Center complex in lower Manhattan. President Bush promised us that those responsible for the attacks on America would be held accountable.

As New York City's Police Commissioner, and in command of the 55,000 men and women of the NYPD, I was responsible for overseeing the police department's response, rescue, recovery, and investigation for the worst terror attack in world history. I witnessed death and destruction that would haunt most men for an eternity, and personally, I wanted those responsible to pay in the worst way.

Since then, America has witnessed our military take that fight to our new-found enemy in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Africa, and other countries around the world. A substantial part of doing so came at the hands of our special operations community — like the U.S. Navy SEALs, and the U.S. Army's Green Beret or Special Forces — considered the greatest war fighters in the world.

For me and those of us that were there on 9/11, we strongly believe that America owes them a debt of gratitude for their service, sacrifice, and courage. It is in this vein that I respectfully call on the Honorable James N. Mattis, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Defense, and Richard V. Spencer, Secretary of the U.S. Navy, to personally investigate the events surrounding the arrest and detention of Special Warfare Operator Chief Petty Officer (SOC) Edward Gallagher.

Gallagher, a married father of three, is accused of killing an ISIS fighter in Mosul, Iraq, in 2017, who by all accounts was the sole survivor of a group of about 50 terrorists that were killed by Iraqi and U.S. forces. When found, this fighter had been

shot several times and was bleeding badly from a severed artery, and had little chance of survival.

The government's crime theory is that Gallagher stabbed the terrorist, killing him. However, reports from the Navy Times and numerous other sources have not only cast doubts as to those charges, but reeks of an internal mutiny by Gallagher's subordinates, and an overzealous prosecution that has suppressed exonerating statements, ignored exculpatory evidence, and common sense and logic.

According to those that worked for, and with the highly-decorated U.S. Navy SEAL, Gallagher was the consummate professional, a stickler for detail, and a no-nonsense sailor and supervisor. Called a hard a** by many, including some of the Iraqi commanders that worked alongside him, it appears he had a small group of malcontent subordinates, that Gallagher and others felt were questionably unfit to serve in the elite unit, and that he had verbally reprimanded for not wanting to engage in combat. Over a period of months, these subordinates who have since been dubbed the "mean girls," and "cowardly crew," by the SEAL community, engaged in a covert whining and whispering campaign in an attempt discredit Gallagher, and divert his focus away from them. When that attempt failed at the command level, they jumped the chain of command, and took their complaints directly to the NCIS, which ended with a list of charges that equates Gallagher to Attila the Hun, but severely contradicts dozens of his colleagues, and his 19 years of service, 14 of which were in the SEALs.

The subsequent treatment of Gallagher and his family has been so repugnant that it defies description. On the morning of his arrest, Gallagher was taken in to custody away from his home, and informed the NCIS agents that his wife was not at home and his 18 and 8-year-old sons were home alone. Their response: close to two dozen Naval investigators stormed the house in combat gear and automatic weapons, pull-

ing the young boys out of the house in their underwear, and having them stand in the street while they searched his residence.

Then, in what was supposed to be a public hearing, dozens of colleagues, family, and friends showed up in support of Gallagher, but Navy prosecutors only allowed a few of them in the courtroom. Instead, packing the open seats with press and media, where they intentionally crucified Chief Gallagher in the court of public opinion. Naval prosecutor Chris Czaplak described Gallagher as some sort of monster, claiming that "his actions are everything ISIS says we are." So much for innocent until proven guilty.

According to the Navy Times, Iraqi Emergency Response Division commander Maj. Gen. Abbas al-Jubouri was interviewed in Iraq by NCIS, and told them that Gallagher was the "best Chief" of any of the American forces he has worked with. He admitted that he was "very strict with his men... was very aggressive and hard on his men, never wanting to stop working or take a break. Chief Ed never wanted to stop and he worked all the time."

Al-Jubouri was in Mosul when the ISIS fighter that Gallagher is alleged to have killed was captured, said he was found "bleeding badly" from gunshot wounds "with little chance of survival."

An Iraqi Col. Issa Kadhim reportedly saw SEAL medics, lead by Gallagher, attempting to save the terrorist's life, in hopes of interrogating him, and did not see Gallagher attack the terrorist.

Both men were adamant to NCIS that Gallagher only tried to save the ISIS fighter who died of his injuries and not at the hand of Gallagher, yet this has been completely ignored because it did not fit in the prosecutor's 'crime theory.'

The charges, and details concerning the government's allegations just don't add up.

Besides prosecutor's suppressing substantial exculpatory statements made by witnesses, including the Iraqi commanders

that were there and took possession of the body, NCIS investigators have admitted that they had to work on several discrepancies and inconsistencies in the SEAL's statements, who we can only assume, is the cowardly crew that started this mess.

Why is Gallagher being held in a brig, pending trial? According to several sources familiar with the events, prosecutors used a statement by a neighbor who claimed he felt threatened by Gallagher, to justify holding him in custody. The only problem is, that neighbor had nothing to do with the allegations, or charges.

Why haven't the names of the witnesses against Gallagher been made public? What and why are they hiding? According to many that know the accusers, it's only a matter of time before their conduct and motives are revealed, and this case implodes. But in the meantime, a highly-decorated combat warrior sits in a brig in San Diego, California, separated by 3,000 miles from his family who lives in Florida.

I often think about that day, standing on the rubble at Ground Zero, and where

we have come, since. I think about the men and women like Eddie Gallagher who have helped us fulfill President Bush's pledge, which is why his story and his case are so disturbing to me, and so important to us, as a nation.

We owe men like him, and all who would follow his example of service, sacrifice and valor, the benefit of doubt, the presumption of innocence and a fair trial, and that has just not happened, which is why I respectfully urge Secretary Mattis and Secretary Spencer to help right this wrong.

As New York City's 40th Police Commissioner, Bernard Kerik was in command of the NYPD on September 11, 2001, and responsible for the city's response, rescue, recovery, and the investigative efforts of the most substantial terror attack in world history. His 35-year career has been recognized in more than 100 awards for meritorious and heroic service, including a presidential commendation for heroism by President Ronald Reagan, two Distinguished Service Awards from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, The Ellis Island Medal

of Honor, and an appointment as Honorary Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. 🌐

(Article courtesy of Newsmax)

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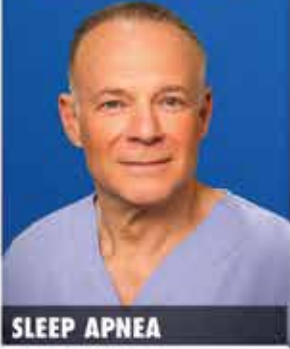
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"Walking the Point" (Lt. John Morrison, 1981)

By Joseph R. Uliano, M.A., Ed.S.

Following the June 6, 1981, murders of San Diego Police Officers Harry Tiffany and Ron Ebeltoft, Lt. John Morrison wrote a letter to his officers, who were struggling with the loss of their two brothers. In the beginning of his letter, Morrison wrote about the conscious risks that people take in life, citing, "You can't race cars without crashes and you can't dig mines without cave-ins." After speaking of these risks, he wrote, "You sure as hell can't send cops out into the streets of a violent society without violent deaths," and both Tiffany and Ebeltoft knew the risks and accepted them, as each and every cop does."

Morrison went on to write, "At least they died doing what the loved to do, and that can never be explained to those outside

of our profession." Morrison then pointed out three rules he learned while serving in the military and facing his enemy:

- Rule 1:
Young men die
- Rule 2:
You can't change Rule 1
- Rule 3:
Somebody's got to
"Walk the Point"

Following these three rules, Morrison explained that in combative situations, someone must take the lead, fire the first shot and warn the men behind him that

danger is ahead, so that they can seek cover. The point man, if you will, saves lives even if it means losing his own.

Morrison insinuated that police officers act as the point man every time they put on the uniform, walk a beat, or answer a call for service, leading the way often as the first on scene confronting a combative situation – And the reality is, Rule 1 can't be changed, and someone must always be the point man in the noble profession of law enforcement.

Closing out his letter, Morrison addressed the citizens

of his community by reminding them that Tiffany and Ebeltoft volunteered to walk the point on June 6, 1981, and as a result, these brave men should be forever honored, not for what they did during their last street encounter, that loss is unfortunately expected, but for what they did; "Day after day, in darkness and light, rain or shine, and they did it without ever expecting a thank you."

Finally, Morrison wrote, "Honor them. Remember them. And in the quiet peace of your home, get down on your knees and thank God—that they volunteered to take your turn WALKING THE POINT!" This is a sobering reminder to those who wear the uniform that tomorrow may be their turn taking the point, a position that may elicit one's greatest strength and courage when called upon in the face of danger, so that others may live. A reminder that also involves living an honorable life supported by a sacred oath that all law enforcement officers take, defend and when necessary, die for, while belonging to a brotherhood that holds the line day in and day out.

Other inspiring law enforcement stories and quotes like Morrison's can be found in "The Nobility of Policing: Guardians of Democracy" by Michael J. Nila (Blue Courage).

Joe Uliano has served as a police officer for over fifteen years, and is assigned as field training officer and departmental instructor. He is currently a Doctoral Candidate in Education at Seton Hall University, where he also earned an Educational Specialist Degree (Ed.S.) in Educational Leadership, Policy, and Management. Prior to earning this advanced degree, he also earned a Master's Degree in Human Resources, Training, and Development and a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice.



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Officers William Umana and Paul Solomon, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

"Courage Under Fire"

By Lt. Patrick J. Ciser (Ret.)



A police officer doesn't go into battle because of a lack of fear; but in spite of it. In our line of work we've seen all types of police officers. Some come to work only for a paycheck and are happy to play it safe; we call them, "report writers." There are others however, that are referred to as "a cop's cop," and go to work highly motivated, proactive, and are proud of the good work they do and the difference that they make. This is a story about two courageous officers who are undoubtedly in the latter category. Their story has captured the hearts and minds of countless like-minded law enforcement officers from across the country, and around the world. After reading this article, I invite you to go to YouTube and search; "Police officer shoots through his cruiser's windshield during high-speed chase." I'm sure many of you have already seen this video as I believe it went viral. I remember it well, as it happened on my son's birthday and I posted it on social media at the time.

On July 11th, 2018, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department received a call of a shooting at a car wash in their jurisdiction. Two suspects, later identified as Fidel Miranda, age 22, and Rene Nunez, age 30, members of the gang "FTC," (F--k the cops) shot the victim, Thomas Romero, at 0725 hrs. It was reported that the perps fled in a 2002 black Ford Expedition, which days earlier was reported stolen.

The vehicle was spotted at approximately 0930 hrs. by Las Vegas Detective Ramone Brown, who was in plain clothes and in an unmarked vehicle downtown. Officer William Umana, age 43, arrived quickly in his marked radio car. According to Umana, as he drove slowly past the suspect vehicle, the two passengers were looking straight ahead with that "1000-yard stare." Once Officer Umana spun around and turned on his overhead lights, the suspects initially pretended to pull over, but then immedi-

ately gunned it. And so, the chase began as Officer Umana informed L.V. Metro headquarters of the situation. It didn't take long for the suspects to start shooting at Umana, and in fact, fired 34 total rounds at Umana and backup officers.

When reading this account, you can't even come close to feeling the adrenaline rush that these officers must have been experiencing at the time. However, as you watch the video of the encounter, you might notice that your heart rate becomes slightly elevated. As you'll see in the short video, there comes a time when Officer Umana decides to stop playing defense. He clearly decides that it's time to stop the threat before one of the suspects' bullets finds one of the pursuing officers, or a passing civilian. Officer Umana puts down the driver's side window and draws his gun from his holster. He passes his service weapon to his left, weak hand, and points his gun out the window at the suspect vehicle. You can see from the bodycam that he apparently feels uncomfortable with his accuracy and the possibility of a stray round. He then takes steps to ensure that his rounds hit their

mark, by firing through his own windshield at the fleeing, yet extremely aggressive felons. After firing 11 rounds through his windshield, he then pulls up closer to their right side of the Expedition and fires seven more rounds through his open driver's side window. Umana's actions quickly paid off as the vehicle slowed dramatically, and rolled into a retaining wall. This was followed by the wounded driver jumping out and attempted to flee while Officer Umana is seen quickly reloading and exiting his cruiser. Umana fires additional suppression rounds into the suspect vehicle, and then is seen taking cover.

At this point, out of view of Umana's body cam, backup Officer Paul Solomon pulls up and approaches the suspect vehicle on the passenger side. Seeing that the threat still exists, Officer Solomon fired one blast from his shotgun, ending the threat, and Fidel Miranda's life. Miranda was found to be in possession of a Glock .45, and a Smith & Wesson .40 cal, both of which were used in his relentless assault on the police. A wounded Rene Nunez

(Continued on page 21)



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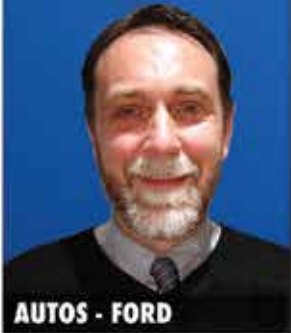
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“COURAGE UNDER FIRE” (Continued from page 18)

was quickly apprehended with the assistance of an air unit, at the top of the outside staircase leading to a locked door to the school property. He was armed with a Taurus 9mm handgun. This was the tenth officer-involved shooting, and the fifth resulting in death, so far in 2018. Talk about the “Wild West;” I’d say those cops certainly earn their pay in “Sin City.”

Officer William “Will” Umana, who is still suffering some hearing loss from the incident, continues to receive support from his fiancée, Rochelle Acebal, his daughters, Kaila 16 and Kathryn 15, along with his soon to be step-children, Natasha 24, and Caleb 22. He is expected to return to work after the New Year. I’m also pleased to report that Will is receiving tremendous support from higher echelons within his department and the county, including Sheriff Lombardo, Chief Walsh, Chief Kelly and Captain Chavez. There’s also been an outpouring of support from the department as a whole, the community, and kudos from just about every state, France, the U.K., and Brazil, to name just a few.



Officer Paul J. Solomon has since returned to work and is supported by his wife

Leslie, his daughter Cheyenne and son Austin. An incredible couple to be sure, as they are preparing to adopt two more children in the not too distant future.

Both of these heroic officers were flown out to New Jersey to receive Valor Awards from Blue Magazine, at their, 8th Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner on Dec. 7th, 2018. We at Blue Magazine salute you, and are proud to stand with you. 🌐

Pat Ciser is a retired lieutenant from the Clifton Police Department, and a 7th Degree Black Belt. He was a member of 5 U.S. Karate Teams, winning gold medals in South America and Europe. He is the Author of *BUDO* and the *BADGE; Exploits of a Jersey Cop* (BN.com/Amazon), and is a guest writer for *Official Karate Magazine*.



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P.O. Steven Foster

SIGNAL 13... With a Heroic Ending



By Joel E. Gordon



P.O. Philip Lippe

Baltimore Police Department Western District Circa 1981: 2.7 square miles of area with 177 officers assigned to patrol it. This was the area that I was assigned to, fresh out of the police academy, when I asked to be assigned to a high crime area.

Officers worked with the realization that the calls for service keep coming before and after each and every shift and long after any retirement or separation from the agency. The goal was to police to the best of our ability, and as the old Baltimore Police saying goes, get to "Go home to eat your spaghetti."

Historically, with sadness, not all officers assigned to the Western District have gotten to go home at the end of their shift when policing the high crime and violence-ridden west side of Baltimore.

Signal 13 is the Baltimore Police code for officer needs assistance. During my time as a Baltimore officer, I only called a signal 13 on myself one time during a lone confrontation with a knife-wielding man. Always and likely forever, I cannot hear a Signal 13 via police scanner traffic or recorded video without feeling that I need to begin heading out to help.

Fast forward to Western District 2018: Urban blight has continued to erode the neighborhoods of West Baltimore with an increase in vacant homes, open-air drug markets, violence and crime with vastly fewer officers available to patrol it due to a shortage of officers in the department. When I watched, via the Internet, the police released video of Officer Philip Lippe's encounter with an armed subject and heard the calls of Signal 13 being broadcast you can just imagine my angst as I watched him being shot in a gunfight and returning fire along with fellow officer Steven Foster.

The encounter occurred on Sept. 23,

2018. Lippe, a three-year veteran of the department and Foster, a five-year-veteran, pursued a 29-year-old man because they thought he was involved with drug trafficking in the area. Both officers were in full uniform.

Video from Foster's camera shows him driving a marked police car as Lippe sits in the passenger seat. They followed the male, who was on foot. As the officers stop and get out of the cruiser, the suspect is lying on his side, on the ground uninjured, and facing them. Lippe points at the suspect with his left hand and, seeing that he is armed, orders him to drop the gun in his right hand.

As the male suspect began to fire what would later be determined to be 10 rounds at the officers, Lippe and Foster returned fire with a total of 30 rounds eliminating the threat which resulted in the death of the suspect.

Lippe can be heard in the video of the four-minute duration yelling, "I'm hit!"

Foster briefly leaves the alley and attempts to call for backup on his radio. Foster returns to the alley and tries to calm Lippe, telling him, "He's down." The suspect can be seen lying on the sidewalk, now facing away from the officers and bleeding.

Foster assesses Lippe for injuries, pulling at his shirt and bulletproof vest. The video shows him telling Lippe to get in the police car.

"Get that gun away," Lippe says of the weapon. Foster goes to the suspect and then returns to the cruiser.

"I'm good. Let the medic get here," Lippe tells Foster.

Lippe was struck by three bullets; one hit his body camera, another was deflected by his bulletproof vest and a third grazed his elbow. Footage from Lippe's camera

was destroyed in the shooting so all video obtained was from Foster's body cameras vantage point.

It was learned that the suspect had been paroled on Jan. 18, 2018 after serving nearly 14 years of a 20-year sentence for a 2004 murder. The recovered firearm that the suspect possessed had an obliterated serial number and was equipped with laser sights.

Interim Baltimore Police Commissioner Gary Tuggle said of the incident that "Those officers were in that particular area doing what I expected and what the public expects, and that's crime suppression. At the end of the day, we are fortunate, not just as a police department, but as a city, that we did not lose an officer during that shooting. There was clearly intent on the suspect's part to kill this officer."

Thankfully, Officers Lippe and Foster got to go home that frightful day in September and are available for us to give them our thanks, respect and admiration. I was proud to have the opportunity to nominate Officer's Philip Lippe and Steven Foster for 2018 Blue Magazine Valor Awards and congratulate them on their heroic acts under fire and their continued dedication to the city which I too proudly once served. 🌐

Joel E. Gordon is a former Field Training Officer with the Baltimore City Police Department and is a past Chief of Police for the city of Kingwood, West Virginia. He has also served as vice-chair of a regional narcotics task force. An award winning journalist, he is author of the book *Still Seeking Justice: One Officer's Story* and founded the Facebook group *Police Authors Seeking Justice*. Look him up at stillseekingjustice.com



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THE IMPORTANCE OF IN-SERVICE TRAINING

By Lt. Anthony Espino

Working as a police officer can be satisfying, rewarding, saddening, lonely, and fulfilling all during the same shift. The job sometimes pays well, and the benefits are usually good, but each day can present a new challenge. We are in a profession that wears many hats; criminal investigator, first aid provider, social worker, crisis intervener, family counselor, youth mentor, and peacemaker to name a few. Police officers have taken an oath to protect people, not just from criminals, but also from accidents, natural perils, and self-inflicted injuries. They are asked to protect property from all types of losses. They counsel our youth. They calm disputes between husband and wife, parent and child, landlord and tenant, merchant and patron, and quarreling neighbors.

Police officers are society's problem solvers when no other solution is apparent or available. Police officers' jobs vary day-to-day and require a high level of motivation and an ability to change tasks quickly. Yet they are criticized almost daily for the actions they take regardless of the outcome. It's easy to play Monday-morning quarterback, especially for those who do not work in law enforcement, but yet seem to know how to do our job better than we do. Our job is a difficult one that requires constant training. The better training officers have, the lower the risk they will bring civil or criminal liability upon themselves or their agencies.

This training begins at the police academy, you know the place where for six months at 5 a.m. you start your physical training (PT) that consists of a morning run and ending with calisthenics. After PT you had a short time to get cleaned up, showered, shaved, and dressed in uniform

for the day. Let's not forget the uniform inspection that most times led to push-ups for rule violations. After all that fun, we spent approximately eight hours a day in a classroom setting where we were taught criminal laws, traffic laws, self-defense, report writing, and more to prepare us for the job.

An officer's job is a difficult one; therefore the in-service training they receive is essential to being successful. Yet how often is this in-service training continued after they leave the academy? This is a big problem with many departments not just in this state, but nationwide. In today's world where school shootings have been a significant concern, efforts have been made to provide training to law enforcement officers in an attempt to minimize the damage. Every officer should be given this training.

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For example, during the Parkland School shooting massacre, a school resource officer and a sheriff's deputy remained outside the school during the shooting. Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel stated the deputy was on campus for the entire shooting and that he should have entered the school, engaged the shooter, and killed the killer. News accounts indicate that Coral Springs Police arrived at the scene and observed three Broward deputies stationed behind their vehicles with pistols drawn. The commanding sheriff's office

captain ordered deputies to form a perimeter instead of immediately confronting the shooter; this tactic was contrary to Broward Sheriff's Office training regarding active shooters. Were these officers adequately trained for an active shooter situation? If so, how often? Could more lives have been saved if these officers entered the school and engaged the shooter?

Sadly, the Parkland school shooting massacre is one example of the importance of continued training. Bottom line is our profession requires constant in-service training. Police departments nationwide need to make an effort to keep their officers well prepared and efficient in performing their jobs at a level that is not only expected by their superiors, but also by the communities they serve.

Unfortunately, many departments don't provide in-service training for their officers. I've spoken to many friends of mine who are police officers from various departments, and they tell me they continue their education and in-service training on their own time, and some have paid with their own money to attend these classes because their department refuses to send them. Do these administrators have their heads buried in the sand? Have they not been seeing our modern world where violence can lash out at a moment's notice at any place and any time?

In my professional opinion, the behavior on the part of these negligent departments is unacceptable and disgraceful. Routine training is vital to educate officers so they can perform at a level that is expected not just by superiors, but also the community they took an oath to serve and protect. 🌐

Lt. Anthony Espino is a 20-year veteran police officer, assigned to the Patrol and Crime Prevention Unit. His passion is to lecture to community members, teachers, and students to promote awareness and offer tips to prevent crime and victimization.



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ARE YOUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT?

By Daniel Del Valle and George Beck, Ph.D.



At some point, you will die.

Will death come today, tomorrow—sooner or later? Are you the lucky one who will live to over 100 years old? Or is a distracted bus driver going to cut your life short or will illness or an infection evaporate the clock? If there is one thing law enforcement has taught you about death, it's that anyone, at any time, will die. Nobody will escape it—when your time is up, it's too late to try and correct mistakes or make up for lost time.

Therefore, ask yourself now to define your life. Will you define it by your profession? Will you describe it by the awards that you were given for going above and beyond the call of duty? Will you identify it by the material possessions you've amassed or how much money you have saved in the bank?

If you define your life in response to any of the stated questions, you are not living your life to the fullness of its potential. Why? Because your profession will one day end, your awards will become experiences that hang on your wall, and material possession, well, that's easy—they get old, newer models come out, and many of your possessions inevitably find their way to a junkyard or landfill. Many falsely believe that wealth will buy happiness through more material possessions, but in the end, they will not buy true happiness or true love. Material possessions are as fragile as life itself.

So ask yourself again, what is it that defines you?

It's not a complicated answer. Your family is who defines you. It's the people who love and support you and who genuinely want the very best for you. It's these people who at the end of your life—when ever that will be—will be responsible for carrying your torch—to keep the family together—and to make sure that your memory lives on in their hearts and minds.

Many officers mistakenly believe their profession is what defines their life and that being an officer is the most important aspect. It's true that we spend most of our lives working, so naturally, if you enjoy your job, your life will improve, but whom are you working for? It's so your spouse and children and whoever else you care for

can have a place to live, food on the table and clothes on their back. And if you are reading this and have yet to start your own family, your employment will sustain what the future holds for you. So it's without question that we work for others—we work to build the lives of our loved ones while serving and protecting our communities—often taking significant risks to keep them safe. As a moral principle, our family comes first because family is our life and that's the secret to a happy, healthy and productive life. Period. Don't overthink it. Yes, marriages can end in divorce, but being a parent will remain with you until your death—so, be the best parent you can because your children are your family and there is no greater responsibility.

Need more examples? Who do you turn to when facing a difficult time at work? Your family are the trusted loved ones who are there to lift you up when you get knocked down. In situations where the family structure is weak, officers can feel alone, and this often leads to desperate situations. Moreover, we choose to decide who occupies the top priorities in our lives. Stunningly, many officers are more concerned with how their chief or sheriff thinks about them than how their spouses, parents, and children view them. Sadly, they are overly worried about the opinion of them held by supervisors and those who are popular at their agencies. This is a choice we make. We allow these people to have this kind of power over our lives, often when they don't deserve it because typically they are the supervisors who rule through fear and intimidation and deep down have a pathetic existence. We all know them. The pseudo-tough guys or girls who believe because you are subordinate to them, they own your life. These folks will come and go, but your family will remain, so place your family's opinion of you above all others. Of course, it is essential for supervisors to have a favorable opinion of you, but know that many of these people do not have a genuine love for you and at times seek to break you down to control you emotionally. If you are denying this reality, you are not being honest.

Another major life distraction is seen in the countdown clocks officers use to insatiably track the time until their retirement. How many times have you had a discussion with officers, and they look at the application on their cellphone and proudly

proclaim, “5 years, 7 months, 23 days, 8 hours, 15 minutes, 32 seconds.” Think about that for a moment. These clocks are not counting down the days until your retirement—they are counting down the days of your life. The appropriate way to view the days until your retirement is to acknowledge that you have a certain number of years left, and then commit to living your life to the fullest of its potential while you are employed—because you are alive and the time is now! If you are wishing that your life will improve or begin once you retire, you are counting down the days of your life and wasting valuable time. Don't spend your life waiting for retirement. Be mindful that time is our most precious commodity. Live now.

So make sure you use your time wisely by setting the appropriate priorities and avoiding as many distractions as possible. There is an old saying that we never laugh at the same joke twice, yet we seem to cry about the same problems over and over when we don't have to. We must demand that our lives are lived to the fullest of their potential, and the only way to determine if we were successful is in the hearts and minds of those who love us—those who genuinely care that we were here. When you retire or die while on the job, your locker will one day be cleaned out, and someone else will occupy it—your desk will be cleared away, and a new officer will sit at it—there will come a day that the plaque of you on the wall (if there is one) will become unrecognizable to the people who walk past it. Your memory will fade, and the job will continue to be done by others. As difficult as it is to accept this reality, everyone is replaceable. Law enforcement agencies have survived throughout the centuries, and they will continue on long after you are gone.

In the end, your family will carry your torch. Make sure you are feeding the fire in their hearts to keep your flame burning brightly for generations ahead. When all is said and done, nothing will matter other than the lives you touched and the love you instilled in the hearts of those who love you. This 2019, make a resolution to strengthen your family—start one, or heal yours if it is broken. As long as we are alive, we can change and make this world a better place.

Death will bring life to an end. Love will carry it on. Make your family your number one priority above all else. 🌟

ENTROPY INVADES OUR TRAINING

By Jay Martinez

Knowledge—the condition of being aware of something.

My citation this month will embody a razor-sharp Samurai katana wielded by an artisan in his craft and mastership of his personal trade. At the far side of this preface stands the late Chris Farley leaping in the air and splitting his ninja pants. Through my trainer's lenses, I have experienced deplorable shams of so-called training. To me training can only be considered credible if it complies and accomplishes the following: raises conscientiousness, awareness and illuminates the direction toward an alternate route. Mind you, I stated a different route not necessarily a better one. That different route serves a purpose that proposes clear and present options. Options then become tools in your toolbox. Those tools then become contingencies.

Applicable tools remedy problems. After all, isn't problem solving the quintessential function and nature of the law enforcement position? The American crime fighter is a problem solver! You are a mechanic in the scope of life. Last time I checked, a mechanic is only as proficient and successful as the tools and knowledge they possess.

Imagine trying to accomplish the modest task of changing your car oil. Realistically, with the proper tools and understanding, I have completed this process in no more than fifteen minutes. Now, you have no proper lift, no drain plug wrench, no oil filter wrench and no drain pan. You have made the significantly easy seemingly impossible. Combat is the art of making the simple seemingly impossible, and that is why we cannot afford to have zero training or shoddy training.

Of course, training must pack information. Now, this is key: That information must be updated and functional. I recently saw several episodes of the "Narco" series, during the introduction there was a late '70s scene of an officer shooting a handgun. He was crouched so low he could almost tie his

shoe and he possessed a one-handed grip. Sensible in the '70s, comical today! Meaning tactics and methods evolve through theory and necessity. Why change? Change costs money, time, and effort. M. Scott Peck wrote in the book "Road Less Traveled," entropy is the state of disorganization and undifferentiation. Everything in the universe points toward a natural decline. Hot coffee grows cold, cold water turns hot. A brand-new vehicle is worth \$5K less as it's driven off the car lot, cream rises to the top only to disintegrate. We must repel that state of being by constant stimulation and mental progress. Tactics and techniques are figured out! We must never stop evolving and growing.

Back to information: So if information is the basis of advanced awareness, it then must significantly embody real world-real time, one must mirror the other. But, that's where the separation is currently occurring. In order for our agencies to be failure-proof, a gross embodiment of an attack or active shooter must take place. The speed (known as tempo), confusion (fog of war), low-light scenarios, immediate action (fix the problem), conditioning (mindset, physical, spiritual fitness), medical response (self-buddy aid) must be factored during training. All in all, razor-sharp training must allow officers to correspond to reality. The Farley Ninja approach would be having our officers respond to an illusion. Killers have left data behind, trainers need to know the MO of a killer. Prominent age, gender, education, and background. How else can we fully prepare our agencies?

Also, trainers need to train, not coddle. This includes lessons such as talking an officer through a weapon malfunction as they hold their non-shooting hand in the air. Allowing officers to fire their weapons fully dry (unless otherwise told to do so), and now they abysmally take 10 seconds to make it functional once again. But, equally as important, is to prepare our personnel to confront a live, moving, heavily armed

threat. And in too many instances we have not recovered from bringing a knife to a gunfight. Hasn't the '86 Miami FBI shootout slapped us silly already? Weren't North Hollywood cops huddled around an engine block for 30 minutes, asking themselves, "What now?" Warfighting, in the USMC quick read, spells it out move and shoot! Napoleon, Patton, small unit tactics, Attila the Hun and the Roman Legion have all lived by the concept of movement. Attrition isn't how we can survive and ultimately win.

Trainers, are you under the impression that the qualification course exists to address components of combat shooting? A qualification course stands at the polar opposite of what a real active shooter or single threat attack will reflect. But, because some officers have never tasted any aspect of combat shooting in their 23 years of service, they may not know the difference. So, start training and stop coddling.

Lately, we have had significant attacks that have taken more of our brothers and sisters. Pittsburgh and California active shooters have spoken volumes to me as a professional nationwide trainer. We must dissect our response to these events, so that we can right the wrongs, and continue to pass on and improve the rights.

Finally, let's discuss two areas where I believe we can improve drastically. Speed is often over-estimated. Speed needs to be smooth and then, of course, smooth becomes fast. Area two, has your agency received clarity on the strengths of L- formations upon entry and wedge formations upon movement? I'm here to enlighten: jmartinez@warningorder.net, never stop training, Happy New Year. 🌍

Jay Martinez is the founder of Warning Order—a highly specialized law enforcement training company. For more information on EDP training, visit warningorder.net



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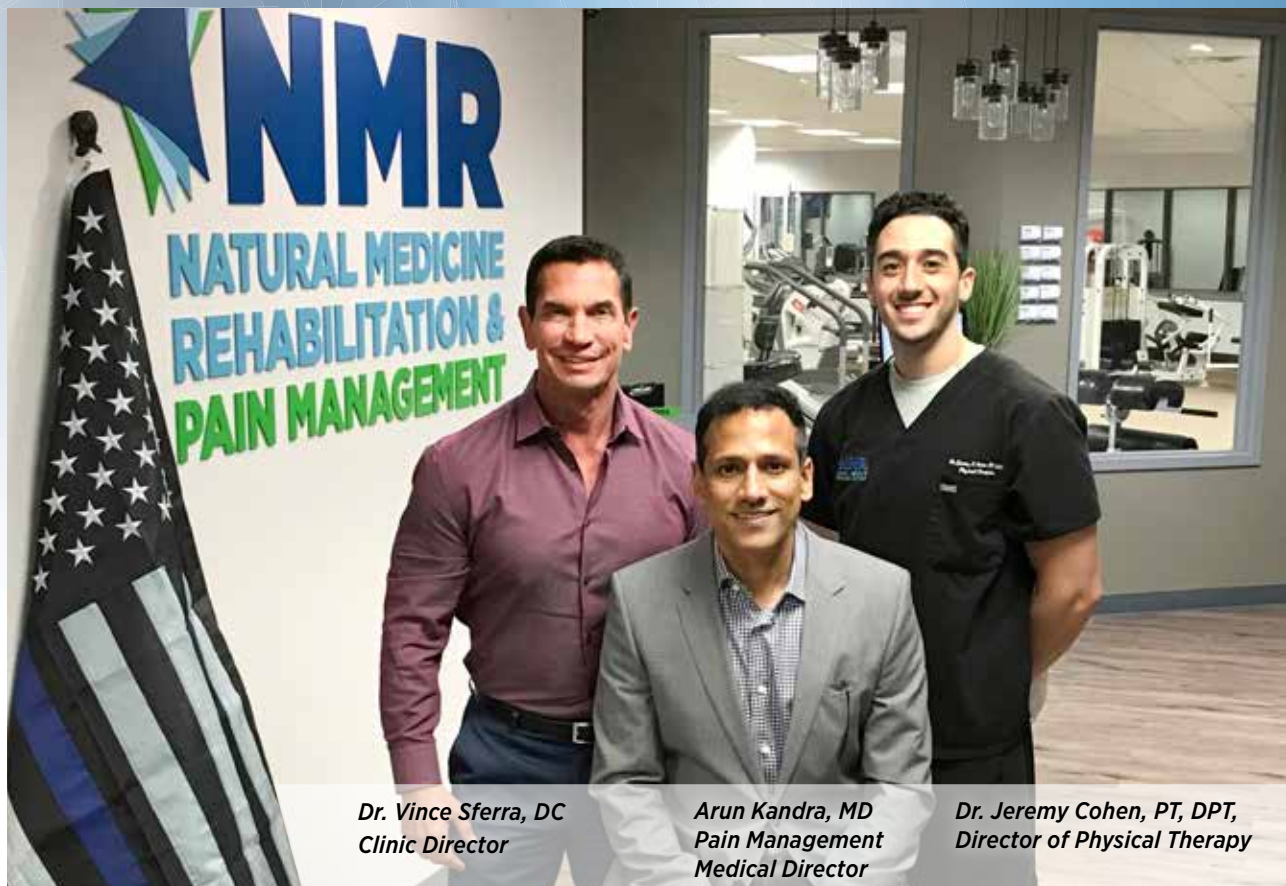
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PFC. EMMANUEL MENSAH, NEW YORK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

By Joseph R. Uliano, M.A., Ed.S.

hostile conditions, putting others before self with no regard for their own personal safety. When coupling the word “Valor” with “Hope,” we learn that those in need are given a ray of hope through the actions of those willing to sacrifice themselves so that others may live.

On Dec. 28, 2017, Bronx, New York witnessed one of its deadliest

fires in more than 25 years, which claimed the lives of twelve people. One of those lives lost was Pfc. Emmanuel Mensah, a 26-year-old Guardsman who had recently returned home from military training in Virginia. Several eyewitness accounts reported that Emmanuel initially made it out of the fire, but his bravery and courage elicited a response from him that only a few have: the response of running into danger when everyone else is running away from it. Mensah was observed running into the inferno three different times and rescuing four people, but as the strength of the fire increased he was determined to rescue more, giving those still trapped the hope that an act of valor would save them. Unfortunately, Mensah would make a fourth

attempt to rescue others and that was the last time anyone saw him on the dreadful night.

Mensah was a first-generation immigrant from Ghana and became a naturalized United States Citizen on Sept. 21, 2017. His spirit embodied the American dream, and his love for his country and fellow Americans was exemplified on Dec. 28, 2017.

To no surprise, Mensah was soon to begin training as Military Police Officer with the 107th Military Police Company based out of Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, which makes it most deserving to send him off under the phrase “In Valor There Is Hope,” as these words lay inscribed on the wall of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

On Dec. 7, 2018, the Blue Magazine posthumously awarded Pfc. Emmanuel Mensah with the Award of Valor, which was honorably accepted by his loving aunt, Cathryn Cudjoe, during the 8th Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner. On hand to present Ms. Cudjoe with her nephew’s award was New Jersey Attorney General Gubir Grewal, New York City Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik (Ret.), and Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke (Ret.)

Through the writings of Tacitus (56 A.D. – 120 A.D.), those who ever stepped foot on the battlefield have lived and died by the phrase “In Valor There Is Hope.” When studying the term “Valor,” one needs to look no deeper than the great Tacitus, a Roman philosopher and historian, who lived through part of the Roman Empire, witnessing some of the most courageous soldiers known to mankind. What uniquely separated Tacitus from other historians and philosophers was his commitment to public service, serving as a senator, and a student of the people who cherished the word “Hope.”

We often hear of soldiers earning “Valor Awards” through their bravery and courage during the most hazardous and

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DON'T GET BIT

By Anthony Mikatarian

Awolf in sheep's clothing is an expression utilized in the Bible. It is described as someone acting a role that is contradictive to his or her true nature. Having an association with them can be quite dangerous, such as presenting themselves as false teachers with the intent to misguide. The Cambridge Dictionary defines it as a person with a pleasant and friendly appearance that hides the fact that they are evil.

Many wolves in sheep's clothing utilize the tactic of displaying themselves as trustworthy and well-intentioned. They also give the appearance of being proactive, helpful, and important citizens of their community, including in their work environment. Some may even use their own families, friends, co-workers, and associates to mask their true colors from their victims. These are all diversions to blind you from the fact that in the shadows they are plotting and executing in a sneaky and conniving manner to fulfill their selfish agenda at the cost of everyone else. In other words, they are professional saboteurs and downright cowards.

Throughout my life, I've come across these scheming wolves and even I at times had fallen victim to them. I have also seen others victimized by these gutless attackers. They will stop at nothing to accomplish their selfish agendas. They do not discriminate, nor respect what is sacred to their victims. This includes unmorally and tactically utilizing their victim's co-workers, associates, bosses, people of authority, friends and even their own loved ones to fulfill their agenda. These surreptitious schemers and assailants come in all different faces. They can be so-called family, friends, co-workers, bosses, acquaintances, strangers, salespeople, media, government officials, religious authorities and so on.

As a police officer, you should be able to identify these conniving wolves quickly. Here are some of their common traits. See if you can identify some of these with the wolves in sheep's clothing that you have encountered in your life.

THE EASY COWARDS TO IDENTIFY

Often these derelicts of good attribute

come off smug, self-absorbed with a sense of entitlement, often crossing the ethical borderline and the privacy threshold of their targets. They can't help but tease, belittle, patronize, or be scathing of others, especially in front of peers, while appearing to be playful and fun to be around. Their conduct is often sparked by their anxiety, paranoia and jealousy when they perceive a threat. These are the simplistic wolves to identify because it's easy to see they intend to use their victims and dispose of them when they no longer serve any purpose to them.



THE MORE OBSCURE COWARDS

The cowardly wolves that are more difficult are often seen putting on delightful, helpful and virtuous personas in front of superiors and audiences while attempting to conduct their miscreant acts in the shadows. They glad-hand everyone while knowing their over-the-top friendliness is to conceal their narcissisms and true cruel intentions. These folks will utilize any tactic, no matter whom it hurts, to accomplish their selfish goal. This is because they are often envious, jealous and/or bankrupt of moral compass, which builds the foundation of their superiority complex.

These jellyfish are incapable of genuinely receiving constructive criticism or accepting a difference of opinion, but will do their best to mask these. They will smile and listen, but will not make any genuine adjustments because their contemptuous behavior toward others blinds them. These cowards know no boundaries. They seek to cause intentional and devious conflict in their target's life, which includes in both

their professional and personal settings as they are smiling to your face.

BE VIGILANT

When dealing with wolves in sheep's clothing, looking for these evident and discrete signals is crucial for your survival against these unsavory types. Based on my experiences, these wolves are not perfect in their tactics and will slip up at times. It is imperative to identify them quickly, so you can make an educated analysis of these wrongdoers to protect yourself or at the very least significantly reduce the attack. Know they will purposely spread falsehoods about you. They will also try to exaggerate a reasonable person's non-issue, which involves you, in the hopes it will inflame the situation with the intent to discredit you. You can't stop them acting this way—but let the truth take its course. In the end you will prevail.

To rid yourself of these wolves, you must develop a disdain for these miscreants' fraudulent and dubious ways. Understand they are fraidy-cat weaklings, who do not deserve your precious time and friendship. So always remember what goes around, comes around. For each act these mice commit, there will be Karma in their road ahead. So let them go down that road alone while you beat them with success—keep achieving by loving your loyal family, your loyal friends, your good-willed associates and more importantly love your life. These are the true meanings of success is - not titles, ranks or personal/financial status. Remember, you are not the one with the problem. You don't have to be a victimized sheep!

Happy Holidays to you all and God Bless... 🌍

Anthony Mikatarian has been a police officer for over 17 years. He is currently assigned to patrol in a northern NJ municipality. He earned a Bachelor's degree from Johnson & Wales University, Providence, R.I., and another degree in Mortuary Science from the American Academy McAllister Institute in New York City.



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On Friday December 7, 2018 Blue Magazine held our annual law enforcement appreciation dinner at the Fiesta in Wood-Ridge, NJ. Congratulations to all of our honorees, award recipients, dedicated sponsors, and all of you for making this event possible.

Our annual dinner offers those in attendance the opportunity to network and bond on a level that allows us to be the BLUE FAMILY that we are. We are proud to have the best sponsors who are pro-law enforcement and offer the best services and products for our BLUE FAMILY. We encourage everyone to use our dedicated and qualified sponsors. Take advantage of their red carpet services

for law enforcement officers. They are here for us and we encourage all of you to be there for them.

Each year we award true heroes, who have risked greatly and made tremendous sacrifices to protect all of us. Our heroes who received valor awards came from different areas of our great nation. We also honored the New Jersey Attorney General as Man of the Year for all he had done as a County Prosecutor and now Attorney General. Congratulations to all awardees!

Lastly, special thanks to all of our contributing writers and support staff at Blue Magazine for a job well done. Together we are making a difference! See you all next year! 🌐

Photos courtesy of The Blue Magazine









#everydayhero

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Blue Suicide hits home for JCPD LT. Felix

By Valerie Velazquez-Stetz (Ret) J.C.P.D.

In 1989 Cristino Felix's dream came true when he became a Jersey City Police Officer. His parents moved to Jersey City from Aibonito, Puerto Rico in the 1950's. He was born in Jersey City, NJ, where they continued their teachings of mutual respect, civic duty, faith, and love of family. Cristino's parents provided a solid foundation to carry with him as a young police officer and throughout his life.

Cristino found that helping others was his life's quest, and to do so, he needed to find a way to accomplish this. While most people would think that working at a soup kitchen or helping the homeless was the road to take, Cristino found boxing was his niche to help those in difficult situations.

Boxing teaches discipline and concentration, and strengthening these qualities can significantly increase one's life. Cristino combined boxing with Christian morals and teachings. This pairing results in the perfect match to enhance the quality of lives for our youth by building solid moral foundations and optimal fitness levels.

Cristino began his law enforcement career in the West Precinct Patrol Division, known as one of the busiest precincts in the state. In 1993 he transferred to the East District. At this time, Cristino met his wife Carmen and her son Ramon, who was only 6-years old. They had an immediate connection, marrying in 1994, and soon after they had their daughter, Briana. The family bond strengthened over the years through faith, love, respect, and trust.

Cristino's career continued to advance at a fast pace. By 1997 he was working undercover in the Violent Crimes Unit, and then the Narcotics division in 1999. After many solved cases and multiple arrests, Cristino was assigned to the DEA Task Force in 2000. In 2004 he was promoted to

detective in the Major Case Unit and Special Investigations Unit.

Cristino loved his career and the family Carmen, and he had made. Ramon and Brianna were thriving, although Ramon was struggling with weight by the time he reached his teenage years. Cristino constantly encouraged him to get into shape and to learn boxing. Ramon joined the football team in Hudson Catholic High School. He started doing well and became and assisted his father coaching the children at their boxing school. Ramon later decided he wanted to become a police officer, and Jersey City was the department he wanted to work for.



By 2007 Cristino's career continued to advance. His studying paid off when he was promoted to sergeant and reassigned as the Night Detective's Commander. Cristino recalled, "As successful as my career was at the time, it was equally important to show my children a good example of a father, husband, and Christian. I made time for them and was always there when they needed me."

In 2015 Cristino returned to the West District to work as the patrol sergeant. During this assignment Cristino recalls his proudest moment as an officer, which came on March 7, 2017, when Ramon followed in his footsteps and joined the Jersey City Police Department. At the graduation, Cristino pinned his own police badge #2385 on his son.

"We were all so proud," Cristino said. "My wife and daughter were elated to see Ramon accomplish so much."

Ramon continued to build his life. Soon after the swearing in, he married his fiancée Chenel. They have two beautiful children Penelope and Dominic. Life was blossoming for the young couple while Ramon was beginning his law enforcement career and continued to train with his father at their Christian Boxing Academy in Jersey City. Ramon put 100% into each workout and the youth who walked through their doors.

Fast forward to November of 2017; Cristino was promoted to Lieutenant and reassigned to the North District as the Executive Officer under Captain Martinez. 2017 looked to be ending very well for Cristino and the rest of the family.

However, as 2018 approached Cristino and his wife Carmen noticed Ramon was not coming around as much. He wasn't showing up at the Boxing Academy nor

(Continued on page 44)

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their home. They figured Ramon was busy at work—that the career was occupying his time and concentration. They later found out as Ramon was distancing himself from the family, he was secretly spiraling down to a dark place.

On the evening of March 25, 2018, Cristino received a call that

Ramon was shot at his home. He thought Ramon was unloading or cleaning his gun and an accident had occurred. But Chenel (Ramon's wife) revealed that he was shot in the chest. Cristino grabbed his police radio and requested units to the residence because there was an officer shot. The dispatcher told Lt. Felix there were officers already there. Cristino screamed into the radio that the officer was his son. Dispatcher stated that medical personnel were working on him.

Ramon's life is a reminder to all of us in law enforcement that Blue Suicide can happen in a moments notice, and everyone is vulnerable. Let's honor Ramon's life and service, and a family who continues to live a life of truth, justice, and faith. God bless all of them.

Please join the Felix Family along with myself on March 23, for Suicide Awareness with 1st Responders in a 'Boxing Smoker' fundraiser event at Hudson Catholic High School. 100% of the proceeds will go to the children of 1st Responders that have died as a result of suicide in New Jersey. Save the date. Contact me at val2647@msn.com if you would like to participate. 🌐

Valerie A. Stetz (Velazquez) retired on accidental disability from the Jersey City Police Dept. She was injured in a radio car accident responding to a robbery in progress call. Valerie is a member of the NJ Police Honor Legion. She is the radio host for the popular Internet show "Your World Uncensored" on DDV RADIO. She is also the Public Relations Manager for NJ Blue Now Magazine. Valerie is married, with a son and daughter.



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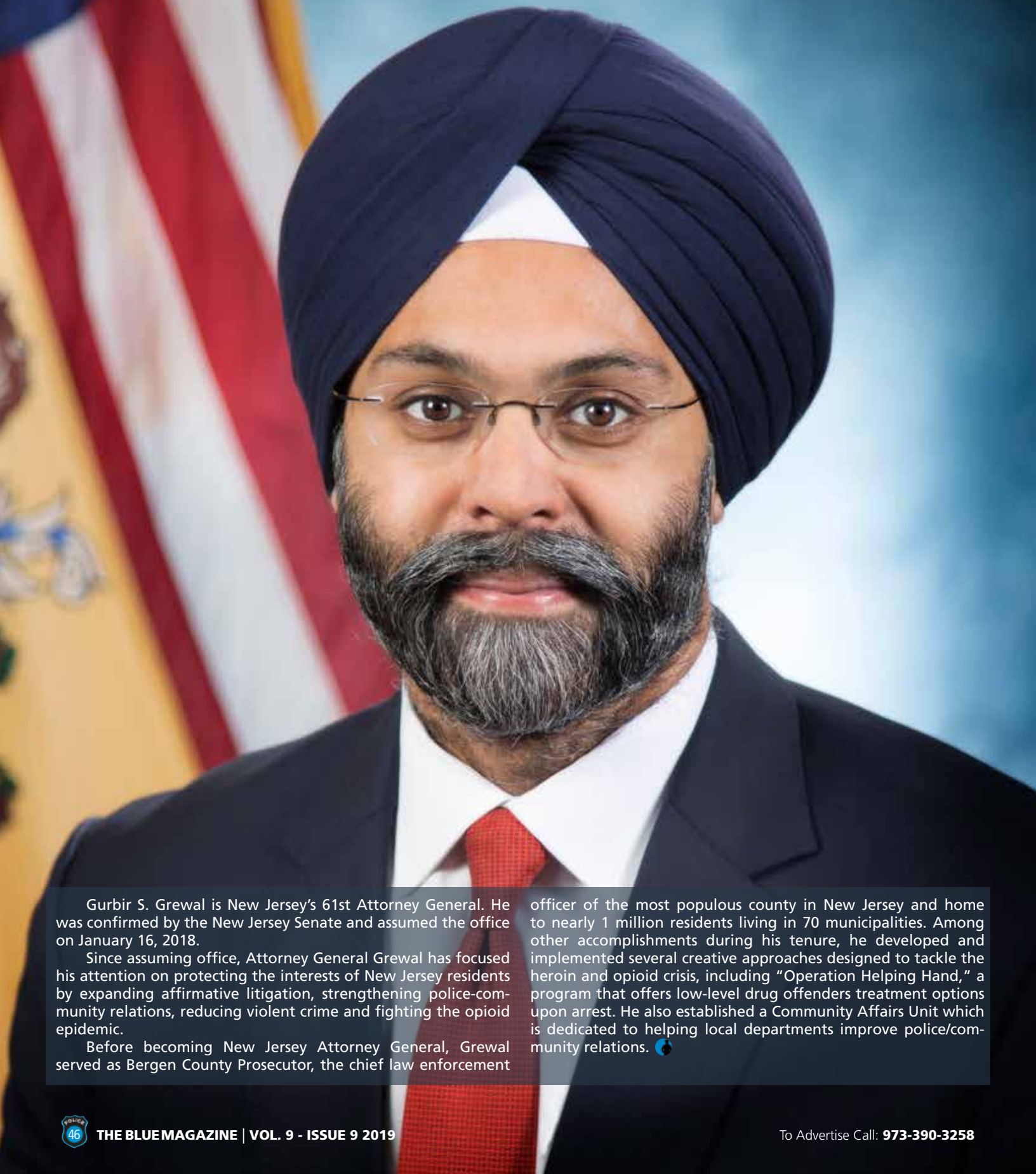
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MAN OF THE YEAR

Gurbir S. Grewal



Gurbir S. Grewal is New Jersey's 61st Attorney General. He was confirmed by the New Jersey Senate and assumed the office on January 16, 2018.

Since assuming office, Attorney General Grewal has focused his attention on protecting the interests of New Jersey residents by expanding affirmative litigation, strengthening police-community relations, reducing violent crime and fighting the opioid epidemic.

Before becoming New Jersey Attorney General, Grewal served as Bergen County Prosecutor, the chief law enforcement

officer of the most populous county in New Jersey and home to nearly 1 million residents living in 70 municipalities. Among other accomplishments during his tenure, he developed and implemented several creative approaches designed to tackle the heroin and opioid crisis, including "Operation Helping Hand," a program that offers low-level drug offenders treatment options upon arrest. He also established a Community Affairs Unit which is dedicated to helping local departments improve police/community relations. 🌐



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CHIEF EUGENE MCINERNEY IS STEPPING DOWN



By Nevin Mattessich

Effective December 31, 2018, Chief Eugene McInerney, 57, is stepping down after nearly 34 years with the Borough and seven years as the top law enforcement officer in the Borough of Franklin.

Chief McInerney's retirement caps a career in law enforcement that spans more than 30 years, starting in 1983, when he served with then-Sussex Borough Police Department and the Ogdensburg Police Department, until he reached the Franklin Borough Police Department on April 22, 1986.

Public service has been a tremendous part of Chief McInerney's life. He has truly devoted himself to the profession and the men he leads in the Franklin Borough Po-

lice Department. He has gone above and beyond to educate, train, and motivate the Franklin Police Department, ultimately offering the best possible law enforcement officers to the Borough of Franklin and its residents. During Chief McInerney's tenure, the department expanded its number of sworn officers, which enabled him to increase patrols and enact programs within the schools and various community outreach initiatives. He has worked diligently to acquire equipment needed within the police department to give his officers the best possible opportunity to serve their community safely, efficiently, and economically.

Chief McInerney is an ultimate template of what any police chief of any municipality should be— he's committed to his officers, the Borough, and all who have come in contact with him during his tenure with the Franklin Borough Police Department. He goes full speed all the time, as he says "100 miles an hour," and this drive has become contagious to the department he has led. Chief McInerney has always been known as a "cop's cop," never thinking twice about throwing his vest on and responding to a call with patrolmen to assure their safety and sometimes to simply just lend a helping hand. All



who work for him know him as someone who loved being a law enforcement officer. Even though his day-to-day job responsibilities changed when he attained the rank of Chief of Police, Chief McInerney never forgot where he came from and would provide the absolute best possible law enforcement service regardless of his rank.

To say the department is in a better place than when Chief McInerney assumed command in 2012 is an understatement. Chief McInerney attained the rank of Chief of Police when morale was at its lowest within the department. He made a commitment to the agency and to the Borough of Franklin early on—that he wanted to work with the department and the Borough to improve morale, while also increasing service to the Borough. Chief McInerney stuck to it and accomplished this commitment.

Chief McInerney deserves our deepest respect and sincere appreciation for his tireless commitment to the Borough of Franklin. Chief McInerney has always been a 24-hour-a-day, 7-days-a-week police chief. Whether at a community meeting, crime scene, or a carnival, day or night, the residents of the Borough could always count on him to be there.

Chief McInerney has given blood, sweat, and tears to his department and the Borough of Franklin, both of which are in a better place directly because of his service. 🇺🇸

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White Privilege; are you guilty?

By Lt. Patrick J. Ciser, C.P.D. (Ret.)



Thursday, Nov. 15, 2018, Wayne Today newspaper had on its front page a photograph (seen here) of a sign attached to a telephone pole near William Paterson University. It read, "IT'S OKAY TO BE WHITE." Without yet reading the story,

I thought, WOW! Looks like a little push-back against liberal, agenda-driven, college campuses. Now if you've been living in a cave, or simply not paying attention, this sign was apparently in direct response to the anti-white propaganda being pushed in our universities all across America today. Not surprisingly, university officials tore down and denounced the posters, which they say are "pro-white" propaganda from an unknown source. "This is an abhorrent and cowardly act and does not reflect our values and inclusion" said Richard Helldobler, the university's president. How could ANYONE read that sign and believe it to be racist? Then again, I just read that "Peanuts" is racist; even though one of Charlie Brown's best friends, Franklin, is black. I have serious problems with the organization, "Black Lives Matter," or like former Sheriff David Clarke used to call it, "Black Lies Matter;" but I never thought that their slogan was racist. Saying "BLACK LIVES MATTER" is not implying that white lives or other lives DON'T matter. So how can telling white college students that it's "Okay to be white," be a problem? Just the fact that they're saying the word "Okay" makes it a benign statement.



It started first with villainizing white historical figures on college campuses.

Christopher Columbus might not have won any popularity contests in the Bahamas or South America, but he still discovered America. Not that it's also safe to say that Leif Ericsson discovered North America. Then the hate spread to some of our Founding Fathers; but where would we be today without them? Do we choose to blame white people for slavery, or do we also appreciate the white people who fought and died to end that horrific practice? Does racism exist in America? Sure it does; on both sides! But does "systemic" racism exist any longer? In 2018, I think not. 99.9% of whites do not support David Duke, or white supremacy groups, and millions of blacks don't support Louis Farrakhan, or The Black Panthers. Truth is, we are living in the most tolerant time in modern history, except on college campuses that is, where freedom of speech is in deep trouble. How sad is it that if Heather MacDonald, Ben Shapiro, Laura Ingraham, or any other conservatives want to give a speech, they need police protection. Many college students today are proud to be "victims," but to be a victim, you need an oppressor. If this concept isn't based in reality, they need to create a "perception" of oppression.

As a 13-year-old in 1968, I was aware of the riots in Paterson, Newark, and many other parts of the country, and believe me, back then SYSTEMIC RACISM EXISTED! Attending St. Brendan Grammar School on the Clifton/Paterson border, my best friend was Donald Chandler, a black male. We shared a love of basketball and never thought twice about race. Competing over the years on five different U.S. Karate Teams internationally, I always had black teammates I respected and got along very well with. As a brown belt in 1974, I totally idolized an amazing African American black belt named, Gerard Robbins, and later was fortunate enough to become his friend, and remain so to this day. Many police and cor-



Gerard Robbins, World Champion

rection officers of all races not only work together, but count on each other to survive. If a cop gets involved in a shootout, do you think they give a rat's ass what race the cop is who's backing them up? When a mother in the inner-city tells a white cop that there are children in the burning building, do you think the cop asks, "What color are they?" before running in?

We all to a point live in our own world. None of us view the world that we live in exactly the same. There are manifold reasons for this, but "our" realities many times are a result of socioeconomic conditions, rather than race. Who could argue that a child, any child, born into abject poverty, sees the world much differently than the child born into wealth. Some, usually with an agenda, would draw the lines between white and black, rather than rich and poor, or weak or strong. Certainly in 2018 America, there are more black millionaires than ever before. The only thing that holds any of us back in 2018 is a lack of drive and ambition.

I've been molding young minds of all races for decades in my karate school, while telling them to believe in themselves, with much success. I tell them all that they were born with superior brains, and perfect bodies; make sure you use them! If we are not born with a disability, aren't we ALL privileged? Ambition and determination is all that it takes for the "human race" to succeed. 🌍

Pat Ciser is a retired lieutenant from the Clifton Police Department, and a 7th Degree Black Belt. He was a member of 5 U.S. Karate Teams, winning gold medals in South America and Europe. He is the Author of BUDO and the BADGE; Exploits of a Jersey Cop (BN.com/Amazon), and is a guest writer for Official Karate Magazine.





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New Year, New Plan

By Geoffrey J. Rejent

What changes are you looking forward to in 2019? Most people create a list of goals or resolutions early on, yet by the spring, the goals or resolutions are long gone or forgotten about. This happens constantly with money and personal finance. Does improving your financial situation require you to pay off debt, sell a house or an automobile, establish a savings account or consider investing for college savings or retirement? Our goals need to be specific, attainable and measurable. Someone who wants to get serious about their finances in 2019 would focus on the following goals: create a budget, establish savings accounts, pay off outstanding consumer debts (credit cards or vehicle loans), invest in supplemental retirement accounts, establish college savings accounts for your child or children and, if applicable, pay off your mortgage.

Creating a budget is the best way to get your financial situation back on track. This is the most important goal for the upcoming year. In order to get your financial affairs in order, you must create a budget. When creating a budget, you must determine your monthly income. Once you determine your average monthly income, you need to subtract all your expenses. Be reasonable and realistic when drafting your budget. The goal of a successful budget is to have more money coming into your bank account (paychecks) than what is going out (expenses).

Once you have created and started uti-

lizing your budget, you need to establish a small savings account for emergencies. This savings is meant to cover unforeseen emergencies like an insurance deductible if you are involved in a motor vehicle crash, the cleanup and repair if a pipe bursts in your residence, etc. The amount that should be in this emergency savings will vary depending on your situation (usually a few hundred to a thousand dollars), but the main objective is to have this money to avoid using a credit card or taking a loan when a small emergency occurs. Once you have paid off all your consumer debts, you need to add more money to your savings account. Can you survive if you get hurt and get put on disability? What if you or your spouse lost your job? I would recommend having at least three months of salary saved. Don't worry about how much interest you are earning on this money. Earning interest on this money isn't the objective; it's simply an added benefit. Your savings account will be there to protect you from big emergencies. You should build your savings account right into your budget. I would also recommend establishing other separate savings accounts for larger ticket items such as a vehicle purchase or home improvements. Doing so would prevent you from racking up debt in the future.

Debt is an impediment to financial success. In order to dramatically improve your financial situation, you must do two things with debt; the first is not add to it and the second is to pay it off as quickly as possible. Paying off debts can be accomplished by making cuts in your budget and working more (i.e. earning overtime or getting a second job). There isn't any magic here. Your goal is to pay the debts off as soon as you can to minimize the interest you will pay.

If you have been so disciplined that you either achieved all those goals or if you are starting the year off in a better financial situation than most, you may want to consider investing. Everyone needs a comprehensive retirement plan. Don't assume that a pension plan will cover all your retirement needs. Consider this: We are all at a risk of job loss for a variety of reasons. What if you terminate from your employer before you can collect on your



pension? You want to invest your money in a Deferred Compensation Plan or another investment vehicle like a Roth IRA. Speak to a financial advisor and have him or her guide you. It is best to take the time to speak to a few different advisors. You should feel comfortable speaking with your advisor and you should seek out someone who wants to teach you about investing. You want someone who is going to listen to you and tailor your plan to your life. If you have children, you would definitely want to consider saving for college. Two of the most popular options are 529 accounts and Educational Savings Accounts (known as ESAs). I would recommend establishing both types of accounts, because ESAs have a maximum contribution per year which is capped at \$2,000. Once you reach that threshold, you could continue to save more money within the 529 account.

If you are so fortunate or disciplined to accomplish all the other goals, your focus should be to pay off your mortgage. Whether you make payments bi-weekly, pay additional principal each month as part of your regular payment or follow some other type of pre-payment plan, you will be making progress on paying down or paying off your mortgage. Pre-paying your mortgage will save you significant amounts of money, because pre-payments will help minimize interest you will pay over the life of the loan.

The new year gives you a great opportunity to reset your life and your finances. You have the ability to make up for previous mistakes or setbacks. Setting financial goals that are achievable will help you improve your financial situation and help alleviate a lot of the stress that you may face in terms of financial health. Good luck with achieving your goals in 2019! 🌍

Geoffrey Rejent has been a Police Officer for over 15 years. He is currently assigned to the Traffic Bureau in a northern NJ municipality. He earned a Bachelor's Degree from Marist College and a Master's Degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University. More of his personal financial advice can be found on his website, www.becomefiscallyfit.com.



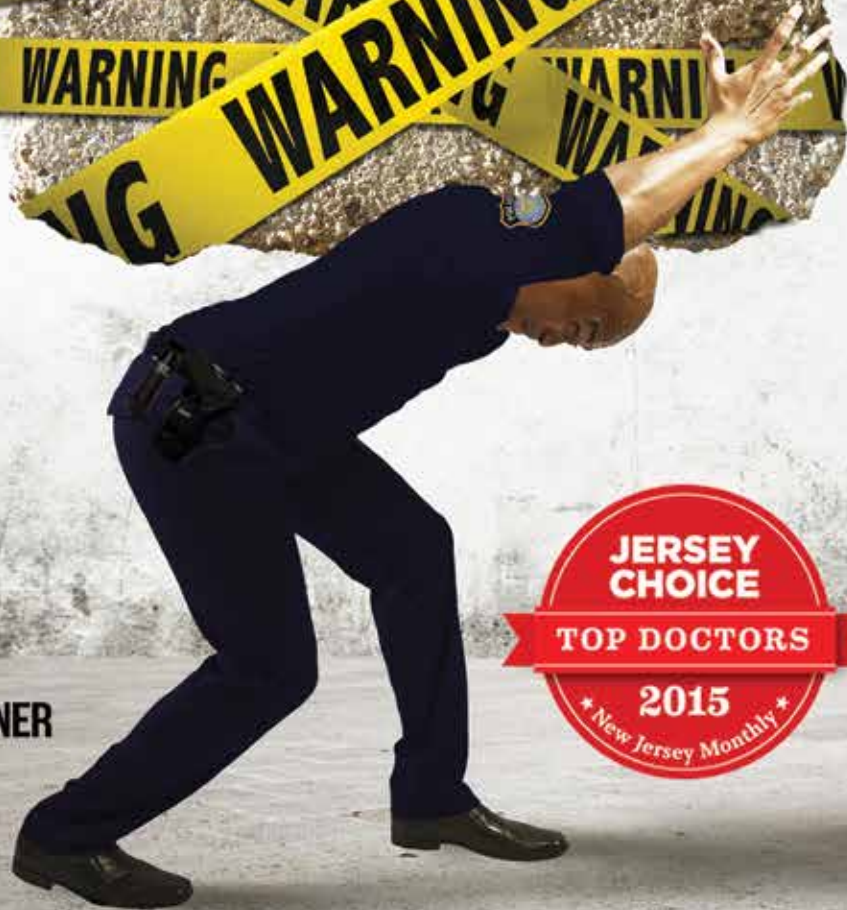
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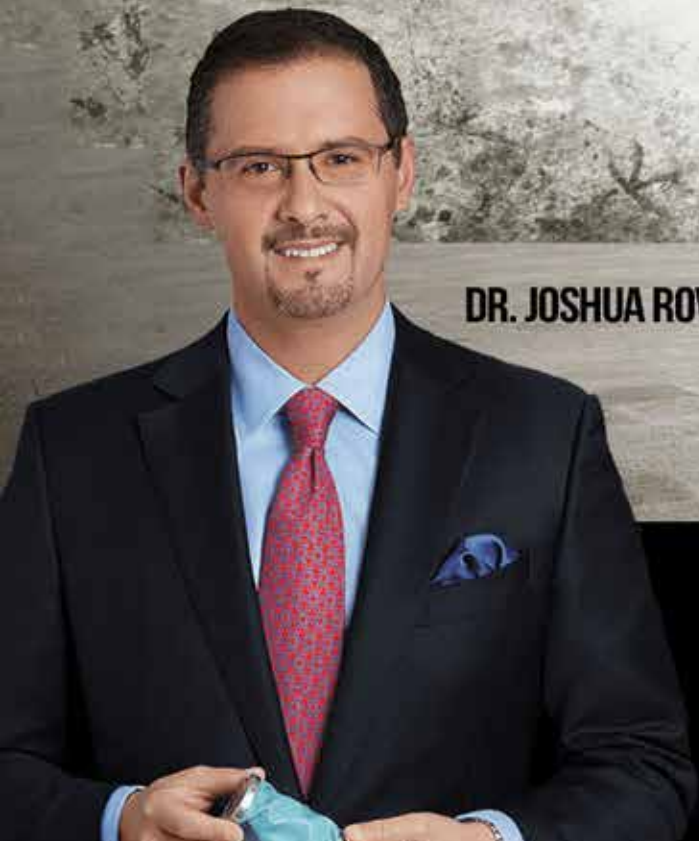
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When things go wrong (as they sometimes will)...

MY DAYS AS A YOUNG POLICE OFFICER IN WEST BALTIMORE By Joel E. Gordon

Sometimes it seems as though the only police personnel who are not entirely sure what to do in a critical situation are the fresh rookies and out-of-touch commanders on the scene of an incident. Such was the case in the 23-hour barricade standoff on Baltimore City's Bruce Street in July of 1982. The barricade, which originally was thought to involve a hostage, started on the shift before mine. When our shift took over, my lieutenant assumed command and as the rookie officer on the scene made me the "recorder" to document all that occurred. As I found too often to be the case, these kinds of scenes seemed to lead to a lot of confusion among those in charge. It was me, as "recorder," who suggested that communication should be attempted with the barricaded subject (by bull horn, but to no avail). Later, on a different shift, Sultan, a police dog, was forced to enter the home and was fatally wounded. Being the "skinniest" cop at any scene back then, I had been in several situations where I, not unlike Sultan, had been called upon to crawl through small openings in

search of suspects in various buildings. It was sheer luck that I wasn't harmed in these circumstances. I was devastated to learn of the decision to have Sultan take the lead in entry and his resulting death. Exactly what happened to make the decision on forced entry later is not fully known to me, but things clearly went wrong, and control was lost. I later heard that they had attempted to listen for movement inside the residence and mistakenly thought the suspect was deceased.

Things got a little wild during the Blizzard of 1983. News accounts reported "the Blizzard of 1983 set a new 24-hour snowfall record at Baltimore with 22.8 inches. For a couple hours of the storm, snow fell at an amazing rate of 3.5 inches per hour. Thunderstorms intensified the snowfall in some areas. Winds gusted over 25 mph all day on February 11 causing drifts up to five feet. The heavy snow and winds paralyzed the region."

On day 2 of the blizzard, I got up early and spent a couple of hours digging out my car. It took about two and a half

hours more to drive the four miles to work through snow drifts and around other cars and buses stuck on various inclines. Once at work, I learned that the only vehicles out for patrol were our own four-wheel drive Jeep, Ford and Chevy paddy wagons and the National Guard vehicles that had been deployed. I was assigned to ride in a National Guard six-wheel drive deuce and a half. My sergeant decided to ride along as well. The driver introduced himself to us and said that he had been awake for over 24 hours straight. Asking my sergeant to open the glove

compartment, we discovered two cold six pack cans of beer were perfectly fit there.

"Hand me one of those please," the driver asked, "Do either of you want one?"

"No," we both replied.
So we proceeded, as this tired beer-guzzling guardsman was driving us to my post. I looked to my sergeant to see if anything would be said about the beer. Nothing was said, and I figured we needed the ride to be able to try to save the area. Up and down, up and down, up and down. To this day I am not sure if we were being driven over high snow drifts or parked/stranded cars or what!

Gunshots were being heard everywhere, as store owners were trying to defend their turf against looters. This was the only time I ever experienced anything like a true war zone. Everywhere that we looked, numerous looters were carrying items stolen from looted stores and delivery trucks. Many of the looters were falling on the ice and snow. I remember seeing several people carrying stolen whole chickens which had been readied for store delivery at the slaughterhouse nearby. We had the guardsman stop and we exited the vehicle, arresting as many looters as possible, slipping, sliding and placing them into the back of an overly crowded paddy wagon. We repeated this over and over again. I was never required to complete any paperwork or submit any evidence on them. We were just told to stay on this patrol. I am of the belief that they must have been charged only with the curfew violations. This was a time where things definitely got out of control. It wasn't until the snow was able to be cleared that we were able to reclaim our streets and neighborhoods.

Back in control once again. 🌍

Joel E. Gordon is a former Field Training Officer with the Baltimore City Police Department. He is also a past Kingwood, West Virginia Police Chief and was Vice-Chair of the multi-jurisdictional Tygart Valley Narcotics and Violent Crime Task Force. Joel is an award-winning journalist and is author of the book *Still Seeking Justice: One Officer's Story*. stillseekingjustice.com



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Bro, I Got Your Six!

By Michael D. Boll



For years, so many of us have used the phrase, “Bro, I got your six!” but as first responders or veterans, are we really doing this, or do we just mean well? Using this phrase loosely just cheapens the strength it truly holds and means. This is an incredibly powerfully phrase and should only be used if truly meant and practiced.

Every day we lose nearly 22 veterans, and first responders are more likely to die from suicide than in the line of duty. Additionally, 40% of our combat veterans and 30% of our first responders are diagnosed with PTSD. However, our team believes that these reported statistics are on the lower side because every day we meet people who suffer from some form of it. Unfortunately, we are constantly hearing about this tragic epidemic, and still our nation is unable to prevent or even lower the suicide rate. There is a very diverse group of people from all different ages who commit suicide. Nearly every veteran and first responder knows a colleague who committed suicide. Some of us even feel that we could have done more to prevent it from happening. We all took an oath that is for life; the oath that calls upon our duty to help our brothers and sisters in crisis.

About three years ago, we started the Operation Rebound Racing Team and we can now prove that our “Mobile Outreach” program saves and changes the lives of our depressed teammates who suffer from PTSD. There are great programs available to our uniformed heroes in need, but we all know how hard it is to trust anyone who hasn’t been through what we live and do every day. This is the reason why we established a mentor system for our members in crisis. There is no hidden secret here, and the bottom line is our volunteer mentors are saving lives. Our team mentors are there 24-7 for anyone in crisis. These devoted volunteers want to be there and will do whatever they can to help others through their situation. Our team has two crisis outreach counselors, and both are committed to helping others cope with their struggles and daily challenges.

Since we started this program, over a dozen lives have been saved and countless lives were changed for the better. Every day, our team mentors do whatever they can to help provide our uniformed heroes a better way of life. Our unique approach of aggressively seeking out people in need plays a huge role in building trust with someone in crisis. Most people in crisis are known to easily give up and begin to isolate themselves from others. Therefore, it’s extremely important to contact them and begin to build trust before they give up on everything. We do our best to empower people by asking them for their help and striving to give them a purpose again. Hosting numerous team events is the key to our success. This is the time where our people in crisis can work together with others and help motivate everyone involved. Every year, our team creates an extreme physical challenging event that forces every participant to train hard to complete it successfully. In the past, our team has

completed a 22-hour bicycle ride from Mountainside NJ to Washington DC, a 22-hour ruck march and several long-distance runs and obstacle races.

Our team is able to show other veterans and first responders that there is a group of other members of service just like them achieving incredible goals and living life to the fullest. Almost every day, we are able to see our uniformed hero teammates accomplish great things and we only ask one thing from them: “Pay it forward!”

For 2019, our team is looking to heavily recruit team mentors, and if you are interested please feel to contact me at via email: Mdbollio@optonline.net or call 973-332-1556.

Michael D. Boll is a retired police sergeant in NJ. He previously served as a United States Marine, and is a Gulf War veteran. He is the founder of Operation Rebound Racing Team, a nonprofit organization that helps wounded veterans and first responders enjoy a better quality of life.



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REMEMBRANCE

Article & Artwork by Jonny Castro

*Deputy
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