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LOOKING BACK

welve years have come and gone in a flash! We at Blue Magazine are excited to deliver this commemorative issue to our loyal readers and supporters. It's an honor to look back on the road it took to get here, the initiatives we pursued, and the accomplishments we've made along the way.

The Blue Magazine began in 2009 as a very small local publication that circulated our magazines in New Jersey area, mostly through the trunk of our founder's car. As we built each issue and handdelivered them, we knew that our independent voice was not only needed, it was vital. We knew that if we were brave enough to speak truth to power—to challenge the status quo—and to fiercely defend and advocate for the men and women of law enforcement, the advancements we could accomplish for our profession were endless. We are here now. The Blue Magazine is the leading national law enforcement publication, and our reach continues to grow.

However, our success didn't happen overnight. Hard work, a commitment to excellence, and a "magazine first" approach are what opened the many doors and brought the magazine to tremendous success. More often than not, the amount of work that's put into a publication to make it succeed is seldom noticed. It's sort of like a major league baseball player who appears in the World Series and everybody assumes his talent is what led him there. To some extent, that is true. But talent alone will not get you into the World Series. It's getting up early in the morning to practice on the days you'd rather sleep in. It's all the torturing workouts, the late hours spent with coaches to develop your skills, the hours upon hours of batting practice—the attitude to never give up throughout all the adversity, and a steadfast commitment to never believe the negative, envious, and insecure people who will stomp on your dreams and life ambitions. Year after year, the Blue Magazine stayed true to our core principles. As you turn the pages in this commemorative issue, you will see the benefits of consistently doing the right thing, even when it's much easier to acquiesce and take the "easy road."

Enjoy this commemorative issue as we celebrate our 12th anniversary with you. We have many future initiatives planned in the year ahead, and although 12 years have passed, we've only just begun. So stay tuned as Blue Magazine continues to raise the bar. We exist to advocate and defend law enforcement fiercely.

To all of you who have been with us since day one, to those who hopped aboard along the way, and to many who are new, you are all important to us. We appreciate you. Together we can accomplish everything! United we are strongest. God Bless.

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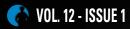


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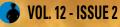








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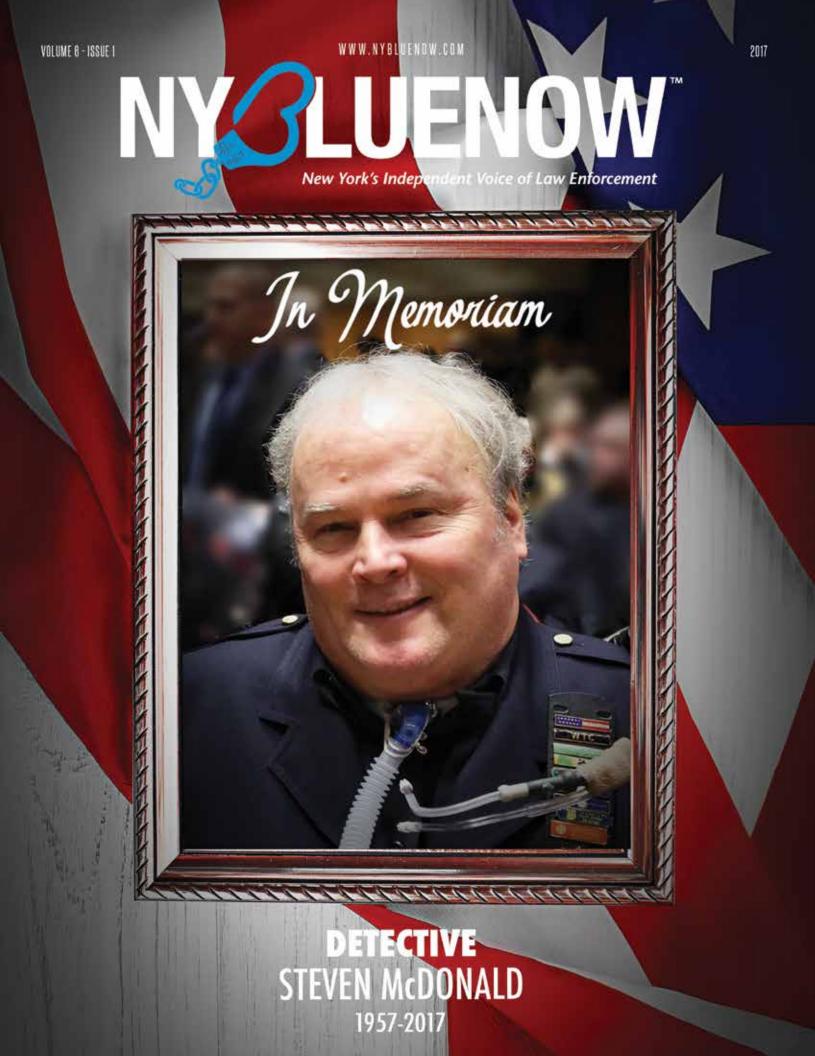
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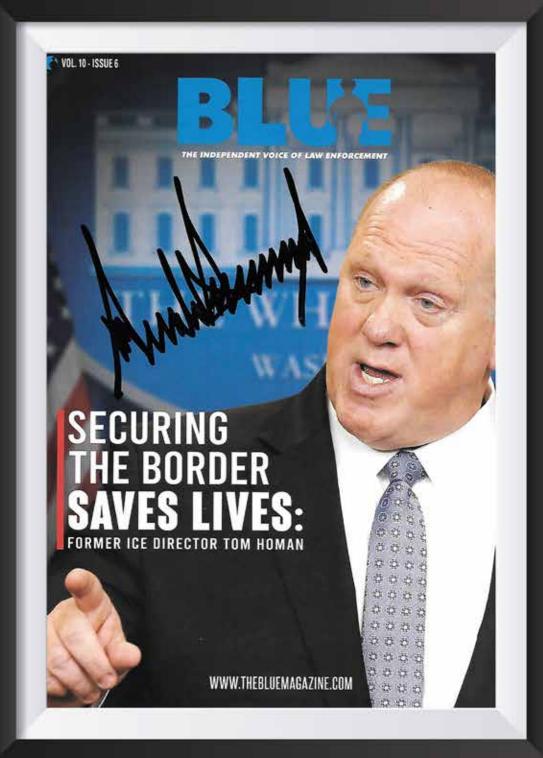
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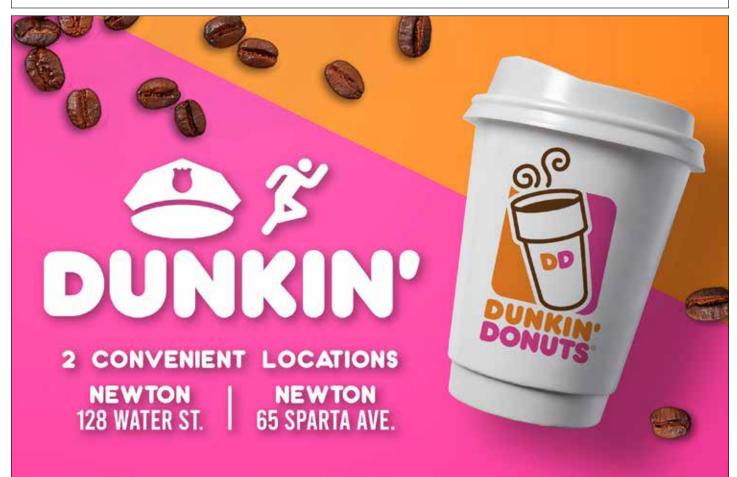
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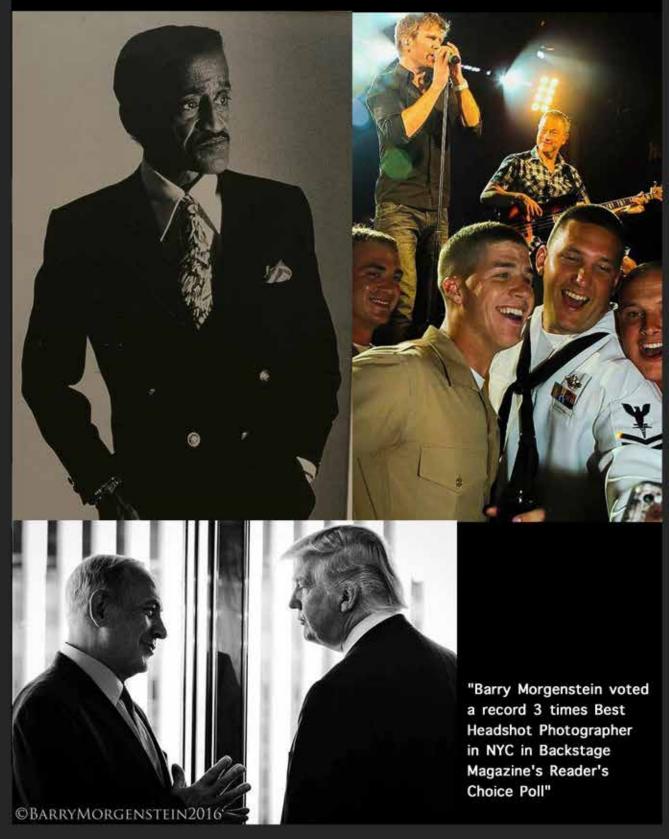
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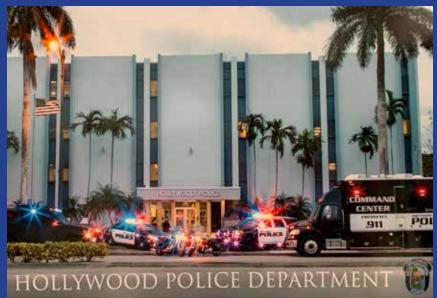














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Harley, Wisp & Maeve Photo courtesy of Officer Chaparro Passaic County Sheriff's Department New Jersey



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JEFFREY ISAAC MONTENEGRO

"The measure of who we are is what we do with what we have" - Vince Lombardi

To know Jeffrey Montenegro is to love him. He was a Son, Father, Brother, and Uncle. He took each role on with great respect and gratitude. He loved immensely and left his mark filled with laughter and joy.

Jeffrey was raised in the Bronx. He grew up in the Webster Houses and learned from a young age the importance of making the best of what we may or may not have. Jeffrey was born to immigrant parents, and was the first to pave the way to a better life for his parents. As he grew, he was an astute student and learned quickly either you make the best of life or life makes you.

At the age of 26, Jeffrey joined the NYPD. I remember that day, as I have it memorialized in a photograph along with my mother. I remember how proud and admirable it was to watch him become someone important to complete strangers. Important, because just as much as he protected me, it was now his job to keep a city, full of strangers safe. He voluntarily chose to risk his life for others. It was another trait I could add to describe him, Valiant. He was a man full of dreams, and embarked on a journey that fulfilled him with purpose.

Jeffrey served the NYPD for 20 years and did so with courage and humility. During that journey he encountered a number of situations that shaped him into an officer of honor and distinction. His most proudest achievement was a culmination of cases where he felt responsible for keeping the city safe by removing guns and drugs. He worked tirelessly, to ensure those who needed to be removed from the streets were removed. Jeffrey did this for 16 years as an undercover, and never once complained of its dangers. He would always say to me, "Let me see you do that!". His work made him proud and full of purpose. And rightfully so, was honored to make Detective 2nd Grade, before retiring in 2014.

Just as important were his children. Jeffrey had 4 children; 3 daughters, and one son. If anything could take him away from work, it was them. He was their protector, and exemplary role model. He loved them immensely and showed them the love and pride he held for each one. He was determined to have each child learn that in this life we take our opportunities and make them count. He showed them that school and work was their ticket to have an enriched life. A life full of achievements and purpose.

He was diagnosed with cancer in 2020, and albeit, it was THE most devastating news a family can receive, he faced it fiercely and bravely. He continued to live life to its fullest and wanted to make memories that would leave our hearts full of joy and love. Jeffrey was hopeful to win his battle and had all the support with him to the end. He showed he was courageous, brave, valiant, and bold. Who he was as a man, a son, a father, and brother, helped him redefine the value of life for us. He showed us, in the face of the unknown, to embrace it and find the meaning of it all. We did. Together, my strong beautiful mom, with his children , and I found the true meaning of love, and compassion. Jeffrey was never alone in his fight, never.

He will always be remembered and never forgotten. With his faith, he will be in his Kingdom free of pain, and rejoicing in God's light.

To my sweet, loving brother, you will always be in my heart. I know you will be with us, watching over us, and I hope to continue to make you proud. I am who I am because of you. YOU. You were and still are the greatest measure of a man, for all you sacrificed and instilled in me.

I love you. Soar high, until we meet again.

Lillian J. Montenegro Sergeant - NYPD, 49th Precinct



11/29/68 - 12/3/21



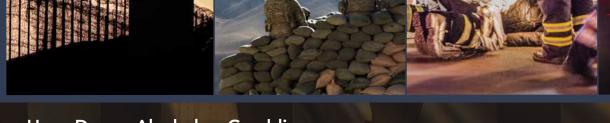
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