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***"I ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO COME TO MEDWELL.
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2019 is already moving quickly. So much work to do! I am humbled to inform you that Blue Magazine is tremendously successful—beyond what I would have thought was possible a decade ago when I started this publication. I always knew there was potential, and to see this level of achievement makes me proud. We have grown from a small local publication here in New Jersey to a powerful voice on the national law enforcement scene. Our work has helped fight against negative law enforcement narratives, and to advocate for our profession on the national stage. Every day, the publication is expanding and growing stronger.

Over the years we had helped so many officers on all levels, especially when others had abandoned them. We are leading the charge to address Blue Suicide, and much more.

Much of this success is the result of the hard work of our team led by our managing editor, George Beck. George's passion, intellect and abilities have continually impressed me. Therefore, I am honored to announce that George Beck will be the new Editor-In-Chief of the Blue Magazine starting immediately. George came to the magazine five years ago and has led every phase of production like no other editor in our law enforcement profession. His work on the local and national level is unmatched. He is the best in the business. There is no one more capable and deserving to lead this publication as Editor-In-Chief. I am honored to have him lead our journey. Congratulations and thank you, George, for all you do for this publication and for our noble profession. I wish you much success in your new position! You deserve it!

I also thank my Blue Magazine team for all they do for this publication. Each of you has drive, dedication, and talent that consistently take us to new levels of success. Individually you are all standouts, and collectively we are a tremendous force working for the betterment of our beloved profession. There is so much more we can accomplish together. Thank you all for everything!

To all my friends and family thank you, thank you for allowing me to grow with you through this publication. To all my worst critics and not so nice individuals, thank you as well. You have made me stronger and showed me why life should never be easy—you made me work harder and appreciate the great people I always have around me. By the way, I am not going anywhere. I'll still be here time and time again to write or help with the production of the magazine. I love this publication as I love the law enforcement profession. I am always here for all of you. Let's make 2019 another year of monumental success!

Stay strong, stay healthy, and always stay true.

Daniel Del Valle
Publisher



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*W*elcome to another excellent issue of Blue Magazine! We are off to a fantastic start for 2019. Blue Magazine is thriving here at home and on the national level. We thank all our loyal readers, writers and supporters for being a part of our journey. Without your enthusiastic support, none of this success is possible.

We are making adjustments to make it easier to contact us. A new feature on our website is the confidential tips link. Our team of investigative journalists wants to hear from you. If you have a breaking story of injustice, please reach out. We need enough information to vet, or we cannot promise the story will break. You can remain anonymous. However, keep in mind, with breaking stories, we often have follow-up questions that need answers. Also, if you are currently enduring a legitimate hardship for reasons not plausibly caused by you, we'd like to hear about that, too. Bullying and harassment in the workplace are unacceptable at all levels.

As we grow more significant on the national level, we are fielding many articles from officers all over the country. It's very satisfying that officers value our publication as the place they want their voices to be heard. We now have an easier way for writers to submit their articles by sending an email directly to submissions@thebluemagazine.com. Article submission guidelines are on our website. Our new email is also where Blue Event photos (charity occasions, police-community events, promotions, retirements, birth announcements, etc.) are to be sent. We love to celebrate your achievements with you!

I encourage everyone to read the articles in this issue. Our writers are a great group of talented officers (active and retired) and supporters of law enforcement who are fearless when it comes to telling it as it is, being intellectually honest and straightforward through whatever lens they evaluate issues and grievances. We may not agree with every writer's article, but that's what makes Blue Magazine an exceptional publication. We don't have to agree, but we must accept that everyone has a right to be heard. Over the years, I have come across many articles that I neither agree with politically, personally nor professionally, but I respect each writer's passion and commitment to our profession, and I am mindful of the harmful repercussions of censorship. Therefore, just because an article appears in this magazine, doesn't mean our publisher and the editorial team agrees with the writer—it means that we have the courage to publish articles for all sides of the debate.

Be safe out there! Watch each other's back and be kind to one another.

George Beck, Ph.D.
Editor-In-Chief

The Blue Magazine Writer's Spotlight:

Timothy R. Smith and Deon Joseph



Timothy R. Smith, a certified criminal trial attorney (less than 1% of New Jersey lawyers have satisfied the rigorous requirements necessary to achieve such a designation), devotes much of his practice to criminal and disciplinary defense. Smith was formerly employed as a police officer, detective, police union president and member of a prosecutor's office legal staff prior to transitioning into private legal practice. Smith has served as an adjunct professor of graduate studies at Seton Hall University. He has also served as a private consultant to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey instructing police recruits in the area of search and seizure.



Deon Joseph is a 23 year veteran of law enforcement in Southern California - 21 of those years working in the homeless community to create an environment conducive to change for those in recovery, as a Lead Officer. He's been recognized for his work locally and nationally, and news stories and documentaries surrounding his work in crime fighting and community relations, featured him. www.deonjoseph.org.



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NEW POLICE SHOOTING STATS SHOW LAW ENFORCEMENT IS NOT THE ENEMY

By Bernard B. Kerik

For the race baiters, cop haters, Hollywood elite, and anti-American left wing socialist/communist lunatics, the 2018 statistics are in for suspects shot and killed by the American police, and they're not going to be happy.

Before we get into the numbers, consider that out of the 350 million people in the United States today, there are about 800,000 local, state, and federal law enforcement officers, who on an annual basis interact with the American public, four or five times more than they actually effect arrests. For example, in 2017, approximately 10 million people were arrested in the United States, so when you consider police/public interactions, that number could be as high as 30-50 million interactions for that year.

Although the 2018 arrest numbers are not yet available by the FBI, I would bet they will be close to the 2017 statistics, which reported approximately 10,000,000 arrests for that year.

That said, there are some extremely important statistics that have been collected and analyzed by The Washington Post, titled "Fatal Force."

The Post has maintained an extremely accurate account of people shot and killed by America's police, dating back to 2015, and according to their reporting, last year in 2018, 995 people were shot and killed by police, the lowest number since 2015 when they began collecting and reporting this data publicly.

So, here's the 2018 breakdown of the 995 people shot and killed by the police.

403 were white, 210 were black, 148 were Hispanic, 38 were classified as other, and 199 were classified as unknown.

Out of that 995, 47 were unarmed — 23 were white, 17 were black, 5 were Hispanic,

and 2 were unknown.

Out of the 30-50 million interactions that the police had with the American public last year, 10 million people were



arrested, and less than 0.01 percent were shot and killed by the police. Out of those 10 million people arrested, 47 of those shot and killed were unarmed, which equates to 0.00047 percent, 17 of which were black.

Remarkably, for the race baiting, cop hating, left-wing propagandists that promote the social theory that all police officers are relentlessly targeting and gunning down unarmed people of color, these statistics prove those claims could not be farther from the truth. The reality is that out of the 10,000,000 arrests made last year in the U.S., 17 black people shot and killed by the police were unarmed, which equates to 0.00017 percent.

Members of Congress, governors, mayors, the Hollywood elite, and the left-wing mainstream media outlets have gone out of their way to demonize the police with their false, misleading, and inciting claims, yet have ignored the violence and murder rates in cities like Baltimore, Chicago, Milwaukee, and others. Could it be that they're just ignorant to the real facts, or, is it that they just don't give a damn about the truth, and

their rhetoric is strictly left-wing political propaganda meant to destroy community-police relations.

Instead of focusing their negativity on some of the best trained police officers in the world, perhaps they should focus on the communities of color where young black men and women are being slaughtered by black-on-black violent crime. Perhaps they should focus on the poverty-stricken communities beset by violent crime and murder, where no one wants to build new businesses, work, go to school, or visit — where no one feels safe.

The police are not the enemy, and for those that have made it a habit of attacking them with these false claims, society would be better served if they would focus on communities where black-on-black crime is murdering our young, destroying our country, and creating racial tensions that should not be. 🌐

(Article courtesy of newsmax.com)

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.



ENABLING CRIMINAL ALIENS

By Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. (Ret.)

The murder of Newman California Police Corporal Ronil Singh allegedly by an illegal alien with a criminal past is the latest high-profile killing of an American citizen that contains nearly every element in our illegal immigration discourse.

Singh, 33, legally immigrated to the United States, became a U.S. citizen, and then became one of Newman's finest citizens serving as a police officer for twelve years. Singh's legal entry into the U.S. added value to our country. Sadly, this husband and father of a 5-month-old son was allegedly murdered by an illegal criminal alien gang member on Christmas Eve.

This tragedy was preventable.

Singh's suspected murderer had "prior criminal activity that should have been reported to ICE," Stanislaus County Sheriff Adam Christianson had said. "Law enforcement was prohibited because of sanctuary laws and that led to the encounter with (Cpl.) Singh... the outcome could have been different if law enforcement wasn't restricted or had their hands tied because of political interference."

California is a state that provides a safe

harbor for people illegally in the country. California boasts its status as a sanctuary state in violation of federal law and the supremacy clause in Article VI of the U.S. Constitution. California cities have passed laws prohibiting local law enforcement agencies from cooperating with law enforcement officers from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) with the apprehension of illegal immigrants even after they have committed a crime. Many of these illegal criminals continue on to murder, rape and rob U.S. citizens post-release from a local jail under the catch-and-release policies before notifying ICE officials.

Currently, the threshold for immediate deportation proceedings is set too low. Catch-and-release instead of being detained pending an immigration hearing is like unleashing a dangerous animal into a public space. Eventually, we'll be dealing with an avoidable catastrophe.

Typically the definition to detain involves only crimes such as murder, rape, and armed robbery. That's about it. Serious drug dealing or gun possessions are not considered crimes of violence under this

strict definition. Neither does burglary or the severe crime of driving under the influence of alcohol. As we have seen over and over through the cost of American lives, many additional crimes pose equally great risks to our communities should these illegal criminal aliens be released without detaining for ICE.

Burglary is a felony and as far as I am concerned a crime of violence. It's not merely a property crime that results in minor victimization. It involves forced entry. It is a category Part I crime by FBI statistics. Part I crimes are serious felonies. Anybody whose home has been broken into suffers a traumatic mental experience. I have seen it when investigating burglaries. People who once felt safe in their homes lose that sense of security after their home is burglarized. Their kids have nightmares; adults sleep with one eye open and every little noise in the house startles them. It takes a long time to heal. Burglary costs Americans an estimated 4 billion in property loss every year, but this does not include the psychological damage. The fact that many states allow residents to use deadly force to stop intruders means that a burglary could end violently

for the intruder. It will if it happens at my home and I am there.

Another offense that is marginalized by sympathetic lawmakers is driving under the influence. It is not merely a traffic offense. Tens of thousands of people are killed and maimed by impaired drivers every year. I have arrived on the scene of crashes involving impaired drivers. Seeing lifeless and mutilated bodies is not pretty. This is why most states take it so seriously that a first offense is a crime punishable by imprisonment. Many make a second and third offense a felony. It's worth mentioning that the illegal alien who allegedly murdered Cpl. Singh had two prior arrests for DUI and was being stopped by Cpl. Singh for suspected driving under the influence again.

A recent Pew Research study on crimes committed by illegal aliens indicates it's time to take this seriously. The study shows that the bulk of those arrested in 2016 and 2017 had prior criminal convictions. It indicates that in 2017 illegal immigrants with past criminal convictions accounted for 74% of all arrests made by ICE which is a 30% increase from the year before. The study points out that those with no previous conviction increased by 146% compared to a 12% increase of those with a past criminal conviction. They have demonstrated a propensity to victimize. This conviction rate includes nearly 60,000 arrested for drunk driving and approximately 58,000 arrested for dangerous drug dealing (opioids). The other classification of convictions are as follows:

- Assaults: 48,454
- Larceny: 20,356
- General Crimes: 17,325

- Obstructing Police: 14,616
- Burglary: 12,836

These numbers are not insignificant. Nobody takes the time to point out to the criminal alien apologists that the cost associated with these crimes include police and court costs, incarceration costs, property loss and damage, medical costs, psychological trauma, lost work time and increased insurance rates adding up to billions of dollars. Therefore, the policy on when to deport and for what reasons also needs to reflect these costs to the American people. The time to deport is before they go on to serious offenses, not after.

Redefining what constitutes deporting a criminal alien is needed. By changing the definition from what is considered a 'violent act' to a 'serious act' would be more inclusive of the dangerous crimes I have highlighted in this article. Our laws need to reflect the protection of the American people not sympathy for criminal aliens.

Is it not asking too much for people in the country illegally to obey all of our laws, not just a select few? Neither you nor I would be granted this courtesy if we were even lawfully in a foreign country with a valid passport and committed a misdemeanor crime not involving violence. Deportation would be certain and swift with no release pending a deportation hearing.

It is time for U.S. policy to change. The American people should not have to accept such great risks when they don't have to. They should not have to stand by idly before a criminal illegal alien victimizes another American citizen.

It is bad enough that our criminal justice system is soft on crime when it comes to people legally in the country but when

that same leniency is granted to criminal aliens it's a problem, and it's time to recalculate our generosity.

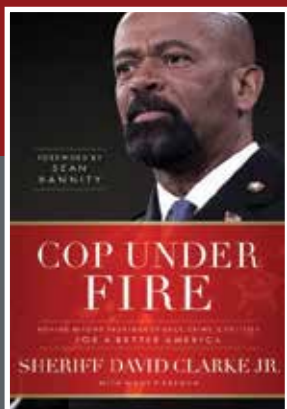
The position of most politicians in Washington D.C., except for a few Democrats who are sympathetic to all illegal migrants, is that concerning deportations we should deal with the criminal aliens first. An overwhelming majority of Americans agree. Nobody wants to be victimized by a criminal, nonetheless, ones who should have been deported.

When we water down the standard for what is criminal behavior, we are heading toward a very dark place. Crime is crime. Period. This should be the standard for automatic deportation for criminal aliens.

Once we get the criminal illegals out, a wall is required to prevent these thugs from running back in and continuing to victimize Americans like Cpl. Singh who hours before his death stopped home to visit his family on Christmas Eve, kissing his wife and child for the last time. The picture of him with his family taken just hours before his death should serve as a grave reminder to all who want to hug a criminal illegal alien that at any moment they can lash out and kill an American, and that it could have been avoided if Congress had its priorities straight and put politics aside to do what's right. 🇺🇸

(Article courtesy of townhall.com)

David A. Clarke Jr., former Sheriff of Milwaukee County, is now President of DAC Enterprises and Chair of American Law and Culture for the Capital Research Center.



COP UNDER FIRE

MOVING BEYOND HASHTAGS OF RACE, CRIME AND POLITICS FOR A BETTER AMERICA

SHERIFF DAVID A. CLARKE JR. (RET.)

America has become increasingly divided and polarized in recent years. With growing racial tension, animosity toward law enforcement professionals, government corruption, and disregard for the constitutional process, there seems to be no easy answer in sight. But Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke knows where we must begin: we must stop blaming others; look at our problems with open eyes; take ownership of our family, community, and country; and turn to God for solutions. Deeply rooted in Sheriff Clarke's personal life story, this book is not a dry recitation of what has gone wrong in America with regard to race. It's about the issues that deeply affect us today--both personally and politically--and how we can rise above our current troubles to once again be a truly great people in pursuit of liberty and justice for all.

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New Kid on the Block

By Anthony Mikatarian

Hiring a new officer can be exciting and complicated. On the one hand, it is exciting to get someone new, usually younger and full of vigor. However, the initial unknowns of this recruit's character, coping skills, knowledge, trustworthiness, stamina and reliability can sometimes overshadow this excitement. Just because someone is wearing a shiny new uniform, badge and gear does not automatically demand respect, trust and friendship from veteran peers.

There are a few qualities that veterans first look to see in a rookie. They are trustworthiness, social skills and the likelihood of possessing life and death situational capabilities. The appropriate socialization of a rookie is necessary for their success and the organization's effectiveness, as well as public safety.

Over time, relationships develop. The rookie should always demonstrate he or she is willing to learn a strong work ethic, pacification ability and solid decision-making ability. In the law enforcement culture, these skills are necessities, yet are not direct roads to gain the full respect of veteran peers. Within every agency, there do exist social cultures that usually dictate when that culture indeed accepts the rookie.

Commonly associated with new officers are the thrills—the unrealistic cockiness and enthusiasm he or she feels during the early years on the job. They usually crave the nonstop action, constant work productivity and receive immense job satisfaction. Their gusto usually surpasses veteran officers in these categories, which sometimes results in teasing by the veterans. Also, during this time rookies may think that they are more knowledgeable than the seasoned veterans or may believe that the experienced officer is salty. This is where things get complicated. Moreover, if mutual understandings are not formed, relationships can sour quickly.

Veterans can sometimes be unpleasant to rookies when they feel the rookie's behavior is not socially recognized in the police culture or when they feel the rookie has crossed the line professionally or socially. As long as the veteran officer's intentions are authentic, constructive criticism about the rookie officer's temperaments and attitude are beneficial. The rookie needs tough skin to endure a reasonable amount of grumbling veterans while proving themselves to their peers. As you can see, all officers—rookies and veterans—experience a unique and complex internal social culture in our profession.

Acceptable social norms usually don't apply in the police culture because of the apparent nature of our profession. Rookies at first don't understand that this profession tends to develop people into desensitizing experts, which to a degree is necessary to help navigate this profession on a daily basis. However, many times this desensitization can be perceived as harsh criticism and/or bullying toward the rookie from veterans. Many cops, because of the nature of our work and dangers our job entails, tend to be more direct toward each other when we have a concern or an educational offer. Also, veterans utilize light-hearted humor to balance our desensitization and to help alleviate the everyday patrol grind. These kinds of interactions at first may be confusing or taken as a negative by rookies with little experience in this area. Rookies shouldn't take these as negative undertones but utilize them as a motivational drive to silence the naysayers and as a tool to prove that they can do it. However, please don't misconstrue my commentary that it is permissible to tolerate a mean-spirited bullying veteran officer. Unfortunately, there are a few of these bad apples representing the blue, and there are ways to deal with them. However, that's a different article.

As rookie officers develop over the

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years, there is a significant transition, as they inevitably become veterans. They mature with an educated disposition that experiences on the job had taught them, successfully navigating all the types of situations during a patrol day. They develop a keen intelligence, situational sense, confidence, steady calmness, disciplined wisdom, pre-game preparedness and leadership skills. It's a beautiful transition that can make that now-veteran officer highly effective on many levels.

Once a rookie transitions into an experienced officer, the peer pressure typically fades. There will always be humor or criticism at anyone's expense during a police career, but the need to continually prove oneself will dissipate. Over time, we all gain some level of trust, brotherhood, friendship and respect with our peers, even from those who won't publicly or personally admit that.

Some rookies may face dissonant socialization from veterans and peers. Each agency has unique written and unwritten rules when it comes to their agency's social culture. Should a rookie stick it out and power through this socialization process, the payoff is invaluable by having the privilege and honor to serve and protect their community. In the end, the community benefits when the police culture's various skillsets positively complement each other. God Bless and stay safe. 🌐

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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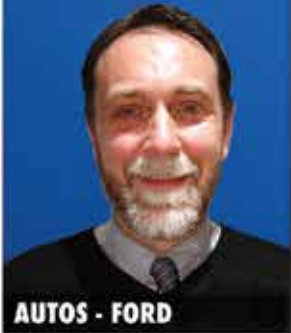
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NEW JERSEY SUPREME COURT WEIGHS IN ON THE FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

By Timothy Smith, Esq.

If a corrections officer distributes a flyer to his fellow officers that calls a particular corrections officer's wife a whore, can he be criminally prosecuted for the offense of harassment, in addition to being disciplined by the department? The answer is no, according to a recent New Jersey Supreme Court case.

The case involved a long-simmering feud between two officers at a county jail. One, let's call him Officer Smith, decided to seek revenge against the other, let's call him Officer Jones, for some rather nasty social media postings by Jones. Smith exacted his revenge on Jones by leaving flyers all over the jail parking lot, and in the men's locker room, that called Jones's wife a whore. Of course, and as to be expected, those flyers did not sit well with the jail administration. As a result, Smith was disciplined for his unbecoming conduct. He lost several days' pay. But Jones was not satisfied with the extent of the punishment meted out to Smith because Smith was allowed to keep his job. So, Jones took his grievance to the local municipal court. There, he filed a disorderly persons complaint against Smith. His complaint charged Smith with harassment. More specifically, Jones alleged that Smith's actions in distributing the insulting fliers in the parking lot and in the locker room constituted a course of alarming conduct intended to seriously annoy Jones. Hence, Smith had committed the offense of harassment.

Smith was convicted at trial. The case eventually made its way to the New Jersey Supreme Court. That court readily agreed with Jones that Smith's conduct was obnoxious. The court also pointed out that Smith was properly disciplined for his actions by his superiors. But, there was no getting around the fact that Smith's conduct amounted to an exercise of his right under the Constitution to speak his mind. After all, distributing flyers is a core example of engaging in free speech, just like raising a protest sign on the street. Hence, the New Jersey Supreme Court explained, while Smith could be disciplined by the administration for his speech, such discipline was a civil punishment, not a criminal punishment. But when it comes to criminal punishment, involving even the possibility of jail time, the First Amendment stands in the way. The First Amendment simply does not allow for the criminalization of speech, except for narrowly drawn exceptions. That means that obnoxious speech intended to hurt someone's feelings cannot be the subject of a criminal complaint. As long as that speech does not cross the line into a true threat to the other person's safety, or does not invade that other person's privacy (such as repeated phone calls in the middle of the night to a person's home), such speech may be uttered without fear that it will result in the filing of a criminal complaint.

Hence, while departmental morale is a vital interest and any conduct, even speech,

that might be inimical to that morale can lead to disciplinary hearings, criminalizing speech is a different matter. When it comes to the criminalization of speech, the First Amendment protects the right of a person, even a law enforcement officer engaged in speech while on the job, to be a jerk. In other words, you can be fired for being a jerk, but (with limited exceptions) you can't be thrown in jail for being a jerk.

A final word of caution is necessary. Don't try this at home. Every fact pattern is different and so the outcome of any particular set of facts can never be predicted on the basis of reading an article. Of course, it is never a good idea, under any circumstances, to be a jerk. 🌐

Timothy R. Smith, a certified criminal trial attorney (less than 1% of New Jersey lawyers have satisfied the rigorous requirements necessary to achieve such a designation), devotes much of his practice to criminal and disciplinary defense. Smith was formerly employed as a police officer, detective, police union president and member of a prosecutor's office legal staff prior to transitioning into private legal practice. Smith has served as an adjunct professor of graduate studies at Seton Hall University. He has also served as a private consultant to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey instructing police recruits in the area of search and seizure.



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Michael Rosenblum, DPM

Fairview Police Sergeant Signs On With BLUE360 MEDIA

By George Beck, Ph.D.

Sergeant Joseph Bucco Jr. patrolled the streets of Fairview, New Jersey, lugging around legal books to read in his spare time or to refer to when technical questions came up. As a supervisor, he'd known that he was the one responsible for making the appropriate legal and ethical decisions, often in situations where time to search through large books was not practical.

So recently, he sought an easier way to have access to this information in a digital format. Sgt. Bucco found Blue360 Media, a new company that publishes both hard and digital eBooks of publications including, criminal and traffic law, national titles, field guides, and an officer series that focuses on professional development. He learned their NJ mobile app includes the New Jersey Law Enforcement Handbooks I, II, III, New Jersey Criminal Law, and Motor Vehicle Handbook. It was what he was looking for,



and after a conversation with them, he was exactly who they were looking for.

Sgt. Bucco is now a business consultant for the Utah-based company. His responsibilities include informing police academies about Blue 360 Media's new mobile application where all of the above example publications can be incorporated and tailored specifically to meet individual agency needs. In addition to the publications provided by Blue360, the agency may add local ordinances, as well as any accreditation material or rules and regulations and any material they deem appropriate. All of the information can be updated in real time, so there is no need to wait until the following years' publication for a new law or legislative change.

Blue360 Media places multiple books and thousands of pages of material from numerous sources in the hands of officers, through their smart devices or in-car computers to use when needed.

Sgt. Bucco is excited to have joined Blue360 Media and their mission to inform the people who keep our communities safe. Sgt. Bucco tells how Blue360's team of expert lawyers spend more than 60 hours ensuring they have captured all the statutory changes that impact law enforcement in any given year. Blue360 then crafts "plain English" legislative highlights that make it easy to know what changes occurred and may need to be addressed in your policies and procedures. They also include a table of affected statutes, making it easy for you to spot changes to the most frequently used codes.

Sgt. Bucco is a highly self-motivated officer with an unquenchable yearning to learn as much as he possibly can to do his job to the best of his ability. As a police supervisor, he found that having access to all this information digitally at his fingertips mitigates risk to the agency by providing realistic and manageable access to required material that their personnel is expected to know. He's available to discuss how he and Blue360 can be helpful for your agency. You can reach Sgt. Bucco at joe@Blue360Media.com or 845.988.7246.

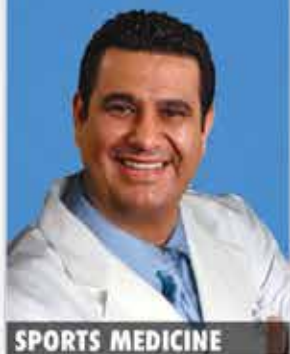


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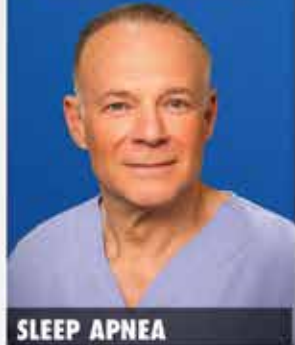
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THE POSITIVE

& NEGATIVE EFFECTS

of Social Media in Law Enforcement

By Lt. Anthony Espino

A recent Pew Research Center study reports young adults ages 18 to 29 are the most likely portion of the population to interact on social media outlets. Usage among those 65 and older has more than tripled since 2010, when it was then estimated that 11% were using social media. Today, 35% of all those 65 and older report using social media, compared with just 2% back in 2005.

Overall, 65% of American adults use social media. And even if they are not on social media; they likely are still impacted by social media. It's clear we live in an age where social media has become a resource of multiple areas of information. What do we mean by an "age of social media" and how did we get here? What do these sites such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram do for us, or to us, or with us?

How has social media affected law enforcement? Well, for example, public safety has become a little more sophisticated, and methods of communication have grown much faster. Law enforcement tools have evolved from wanted posters hung on telephone poles to police radio, patrol cars and social networks, such as Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

Social media is helping police and other law enforcement agencies fight crime. The NYPD has set up a special social media unit to monitor criminals' posts online. They use this unit to detect crime from underage house parties to gang activity to murder.

Social networking has become a valuable intelligence-gathering tool for law enforcement agencies, as well as a source of evidence for defense and prosecution per-

sonnel who search Facebook pages, Twitter feeds or YouTube videos seeking to discredit witnesses and establish law enforcement bias. It's surprising how many criminals love to brag about their crimes on social media networks, and sexual predators have been located and apprehended as a result of their online activities.

Social media also provides an avenue to help humanize police departments and show that law enforcement officers are also members of the community they serve. Social media can be an effective way for agencies to highlight their officers' accomplishments, make announcements regarding enforcement campaigns and provide messages about safety.

Community policing has also expanded through social networking to locate missing children, alert neighbors of suspicious activity and even inform the public about crimes committed in their neighborhoods.

Although social media has become a friend for law enforcement, it also at times has become an enemy. We must remember social networking is a tool that cuts both ways. Flash mobs began to form in 2003 as peaceful and often humorous acts of public performance, such as mass dance routines. But in recent years, these flash mobs have taken a darker twist as criminals exploiting the anonymity of crowds, using social networking to coordinate acts from robberies, fights and general chaos. Internet terrorist groups such as ISIS and others are using platforms like Facebook, YouTube and Twitter to reach isolated teens here in the United States with social media posts.

Social media has given the public an

opportunity to see first-hand how police are doing their jobs. However, the public isn't always getting the whole story. Often, the public only sees a small portion of a police video and forms an opinion based on just a piece of what happened. These are challenges we as law enforcement officers face when you see a five-second clip that makes us look bad, leaving many who view those clips to form a negative opinion about how the officer handled the situation.

While some of those clips do portray a bad image for law enforcement, there are critical pieces of those clips that are not being displayed which, if included, could restore the integrity of the officers. If the public can see these videos in their entirety, I'm sure their opinion of the situation would go something like this, "Wow that was a tough situation, but the officer did the right thing." However, we must remember negative effects of police work is what seems to attract audiences these days, and the media runs with it, painting a picture that is far from the truth about what law enforcement truly stands for.

Even the courts have been affected by social media. In some cases, jurors have disregarded instructions and have conducted online research, sharing their opinions on Twitter and posting biased comments on their Facebook pages.

As platforms evolve and new issues emerge, social media will continue to provide challenges and opportunities for law enforcement officials. We must continue to navigate the ethical boundaries of using social media. In doing so we might find crime getting easier to fight. 🌐

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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COVER STORY

A Child Cries, Another Dies: EXPLOITATION OF THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

Is the “American Dream” still possible for immigrants seeking a new way of life in the United States, or has it become the “American Nightmare” due to an irresponsible political agenda feeding fabricated propaganda to those wanting to cross our southern border? Historically, America’s first immigrants, settlers if you will, came to the United States of their own free will, dating as far back as 1620 when the Pilgrims fled Europe seeking a safe haven to practice their religion. Following the first expedition, more immigrants fled from Europe for entrepreneurial opportunities, as many of them envisioned spreading their wealth far greater than they could ever imagine in Europe.

For those with the financial means, immigrating to America was the most appropriate solution for those who wanted to

live free, practice their faith without governmental control and increase their personal wealth. However, what about those who didn’t have the financial means? Do those impoverished dream less? Do those with less need and want less? Of course not! In fact, they dream more and need more than those living a more productive life. With the wealthy realizing this, they began taking advantage of the less fortunate by forcing them into becoming indentured servants; men, women, and children given a free passage to the United States in exchange for working for free, often enduring harsh conditions, inadequate housing and abuse. Often, those seeking entry into the United States were kidnapped and forced into labor, while others were convicted criminals who belonged to a forgotten society, who simply vanished into a lifetime

of unpaid labor. So, in a sense, illegal immigration in United States was taking place as far back as the 1600s.

By the late 1600s and early 1700s, there was another massive influx of immigrants coming to the United States, but once again this population was not doing it on their own free will, as thousands of African slaves were rounded up and imported, motivated by the greed of our white settlers, who imprisoned them into a lifetime of harsh labor with no reward. The importation of slaves continued into the 1800s, and the act of slavery wasn’t abolished until the Civil War of 1865. We will never know the exact number of imported slaves due to their undocumented status, but it’s estimated to be over a half a million, and that only pertains to those who survived the substandard conditions of the hulls they

were housed in while being shipped to the United States.

With immigration increasing and laws being established, Ellis Island was constructed during the late 1800s, legally accepting millions of documented immigrants mostly from Europe up until the mid-1950s, which helped ease the transition process to the new world and the start of a new beginning, not saying that life was easy for the newly arriving immigrants, because it was not, as many were forced to live in ethnically segregated ghettos that were by no means considered a sanctuary, but nonetheless they were legally accepted.

Today, the term “sanctuary” has become overly exploited, which is misleading those across the southern border and tricking them into believing that an oasis of hope is waiting for them on the other side, but anyone following the recent developments coming from the border knows that couldn't be any further from the truth. Developments such as caravans of starving and ill migrants being illegally trafficked along the border, supported by the harrowing images of crying children, some accompanied by their parents and some aimlessly wandering alone among the masses have inundated our news.

Other recent developments have included the deaths of 8-year-old Felipe Gomez Alonzo and 7-year-old Jackelin Caal, both succumbing to the harsh conditions of their journey along the white desert sands of Mexico in two separate incidents during December of 2018. Politicians supporting sanctuary states and the caravans of migrants will attempt to lead the American people into believing that the U.S. Border Patrol is responsible for these tragic and unfortunate deaths, but according to Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, Border Patrol agents have seen an increase of sickness among the migrants crossing over into the United States, suggesting that sickness may be spreading among the encampments located in Mexico, long before reaching the border. In a statement following Alonzo's death, Nielsen released a statement saying, “I once again ask, beg parents to not place their children at risk by taking the journey north,” but with the support of some U.S. lawmakers welcoming them, Nielsen's plea is falling on deaf ears.

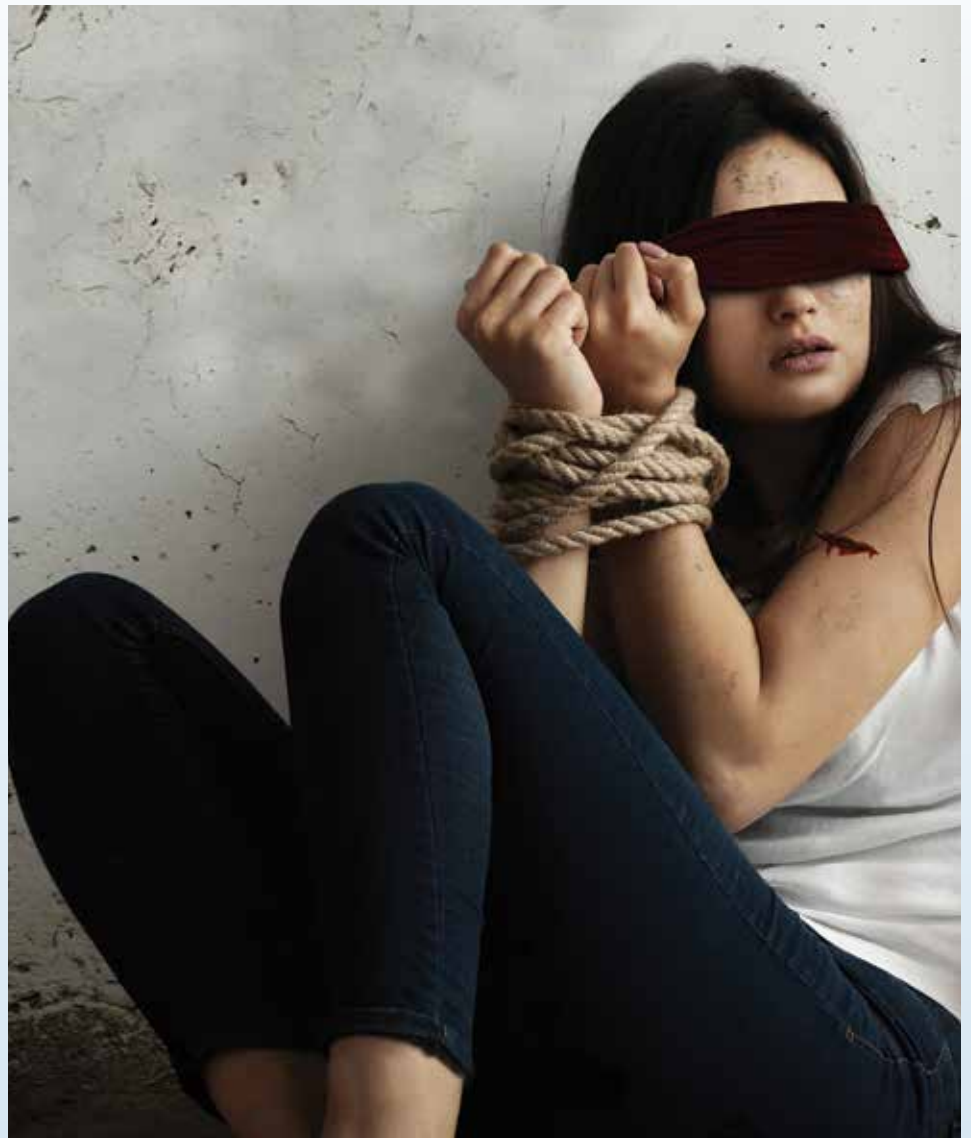
Unfortunately, it appears that history

is repeating itself in terms of the harsh conditions of illegal immigration, as we can compare Latin Americans to the Europeans who were forced into becoming indentured servants, who will work for next to nothing to feed their starving families, or worse, they can be compared to the slaves of Africa, forced into human trafficking, feeding the illegal underground of slave labor and the barbaric sex trade, often involving children. The only noticeable difference here is rather than being transported via inhumane ship bottoms, they are being transported in the backs of rental trucks or in the inferno of a stifling trunk in a broken-down vehicle.

As we enter into a new year, the debate of immigration increases, motivated by should we or should we not build a wall. I'm not saying this debate should be taken lightly, but while the contemplation

continues more children are left crying, with some even dying, and without a more secured border more will take the journey with the false hope that the American Dream awaits them. 🌐

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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Sanctuary Policies Cause OUTRAGE AND DESPAIR

By Joel E. Gordon

When did we begin to vilify the protectors while protecting the offenders of our peaceful order and way of life? Why are some politicians supporting those who commit crimes and buck societal norms over the safety and rights of law-abiding citizens who “play by the rules?”

The Christmas Holiday 2018 murder of lawful immigrant and on-duty Newman Police Corporal Ronil Singh, who was shot during a traffic stop by an illegal resident alien, was especially symbolic, striking especially hard as the Christmas picture of the officer, his wife, 5-month-old child and service dog, taken just five hours prior to the deputy's senseless murder, made its viral rounds via the Internet.

The shooter, who entered the country illegally from Mexico and has been in this country for several years, was known to have gang ties and had two previous known DUI arrests. Singh had stopped him because he had reason to believe that the suspect was again driving under the influence when Singh was shot and killed.

Two days after the murder, subsequent to the arrest of the alleged perpetrator, during a heartfelt press conference with the understandably grief-stricken and sobbing officer's brother seen and audibly heard in the background, Stanislaus County California Sheriff Adam Christianson Sheriff told the world what law enforcement officers already know.

THIS COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTABLE...

“This is a criminal illegal alien with prior criminal activity that should have been reported to ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement),” the sheriff said. “We were prohibited, law enforcement was prohibited because of sanctuary laws and that led to the encounter with (Corporal) Singh.

“I’m suggesting that the outcome could have been different if law enforcement wasn’t restricted, prohibited or had their hands tied because of political interference.” “Why

are we providing sanctuary for criminals, gang members?” the sheriff said. “It’s a conversation we need to have.”

Christianson singled out California Senate Bill 54, which was passed in 2017 and limits local law enforcement's cooperation with federal immigration. Local authorities can only report people convicted of certain felonies to ICE.

Christianson reflected on Singh's service and sacrifice. Singh immigrated legally to the United States from Fiji with the hope of becoming a police officer. He was exactly the kind of person the United States welcomes and encourages to become a citizen. The concept of accused criminals receiving sanctuary from their accusers is not a new phenomenon:

- Places of worship have long been recognized as sacred places in which fugitives formerly were immune to arrest as recognized by English law from the fourth to the seventeenth century. While the practice of churches offering sanctuary is still observed in the modern era, it no longer has any legal effect and is respected solely for the sake of tradition.
- During my days as a police officer in West Baltimore, as early as 1981, I was restricted from entering the methadone clinic in my primary area of responsibility for the purpose of capturing any fugitive due to sanctuary policy. Of course, whenever an unruly person or violent incident occurred within the clinic, you can guess who was called to solve their problem.
- Other sanctuary policies to facilitate needle giveaways and other publicly supported programs further handcuff the very people sworn to enforce our laws without fear or favor.

Adding further insult, elected representatives have increasingly failed to support law enforcement efforts. Oakland, California, Mayor Libby Schaaf -- who once warned Northern California residents

about an impending ICE raid -- said she has “no regrets” for her actions.

“I have no regrets, none. The more time goes by, the more certain I feel that I did the right thing in standing up for our community and pointing out our values are not aligned with our laws.”

Who could doubt the sheriff's candid, sincere and truthful analysis of sanctuary policy implemented by politicians with a hug-a-thug mentality? We must stand firm in keeping the peace and insisting on enforcing the laws in keeping with our oaths of office.

When officers are reduced to being handcuffed in providing safety and improving the quality of life to those in the communities that they serve, despair results for both the officers and their communities. There are laws on the books that make harboring a fugitive a crime on federal, state and local levels. It's past time to hold those in the political realm accountable both civilly and criminally for their tyrannical actions in protecting those who are disruptive to our way of life and in violation of our laws. Until there are adequate consequences to these unwise and unlawful actions, these disastrous situations will not go away. We as a society must insist on the most appropriate proactive responses available. The safety and quality of life of all of us are dependent upon it. 📍

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



HUMAN SEX TRAFFICKING SURVIVOR

Speaks Out

By Andi Buerger with Eden Gordon

Freedom from violation for me meant more than a movement. Hypocrisy is what causes the hurt and victimization of human rights - not a wall.

The issue of human trafficking has finally come of age in this country thanks to President Donald Trump's assertive legislation and his daughter, Ivanka's, team within the current Administration. But the MeToo movement, which may have begun from genuine inspiration, seems to be missing solutions for non-celebrity victims and hope-filled healing sources to help survivors.

Freedom from violation for me meant more than a movement. As a human trafficking survivor, I wholeheartedly embrace strategic measures which curtail the free-for-all criminal predators who exploit and profit from illicit and depraved acts against humanity have had in this nation. It has been my mission through the founding of Beulah's Place to rescue victims of human trafficking as well as those who have been abandoned and abused in other perverse ways.

Before there was a word for "trafficking," I was sexually preyed upon by all immediate family members, male and female, from six months to 17 years old. In addition to the severe physical, emotional and mental abuse, my birth mother allowed other extended family members to have access to me and do the same things. I was told at age 5 that my days were numbered so I made it a point to end my life by running in front of an oncoming car. That car never came, but God *did*.

I was unable to run for protection or freedom, as there was no "place" to go to or hotline numbers to call back then. Media barely acknowledged child abuse, let alone something more sinister and depraved. Child trafficking exists for greed or perversion. We mostly hear about the greed. Eventually, education and music became my second "salvation" of sorts. I excelled in school, completed college in three years and went on to law school, hoping to find justice for the things that had happened to me.

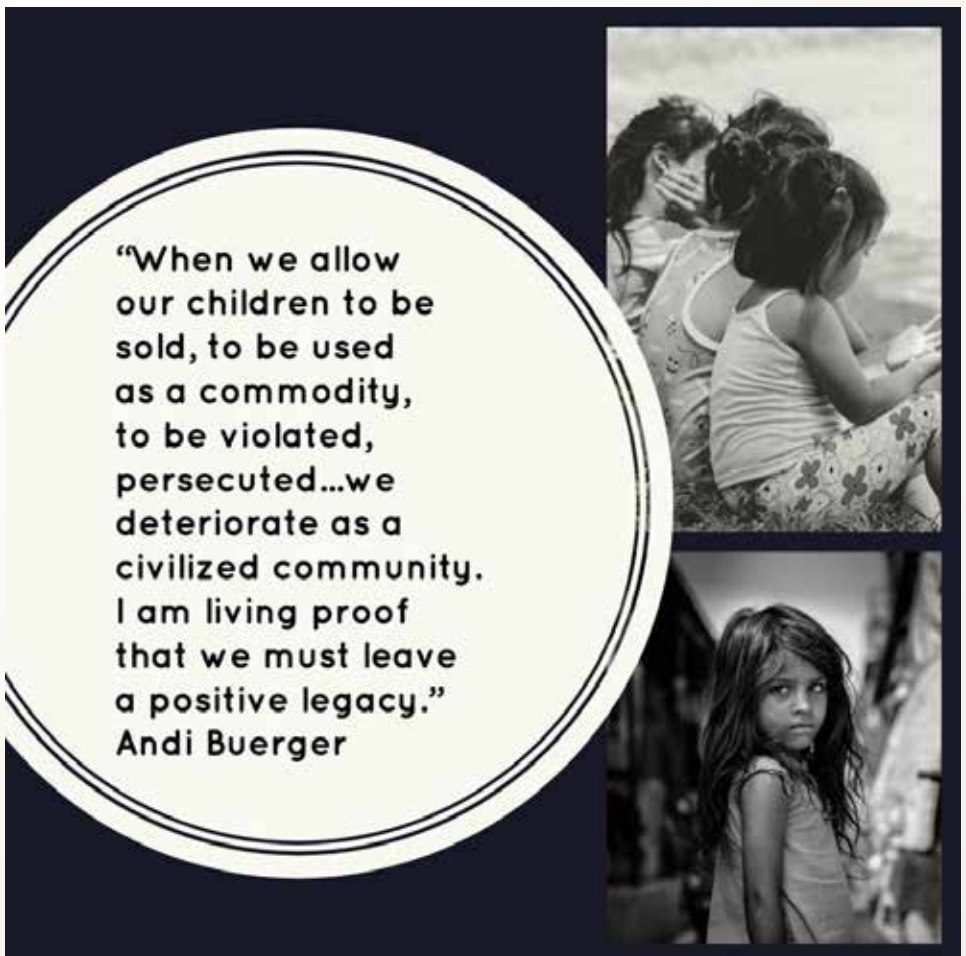
I quickly found out that justice is subjective and, having seen child victims regularly returned to their predator parents, I took that law degree back to corporate America. Eventually, I met my husband in Oregon and we started Beulah's Place, a place where the most violated, forgotten and desperate young people could find help, healing and hope.

Today, almost anybody can announce that they've been victimized in some way and end up on the cover of PEOPLE Magazine or in some other compensatory public venue. Why now? Where have all the recently celebrated survivors been? How come there were no other caravans to the U.S. until the presidential occupancy changed parties?

While many cry out that bricks and mortar are an immoral tool, I have to won-

der how many of those same voices have a fence or barrier around their home, their property, their local school or church? Some of the loudest voices of protest come from those who personally supported construction of 700 miles of border fencing via legislation, such as The Gang of Eight bill in 2013.

Why is there an uproar to protect our national borders from unauthorized trespassers? Many elected officials who had voted to protect our country now wish to rally all American citizens against the same thing. Hypocrisy is what causes the hurt and victimization of human rights - not a wall. By blindsiding television viewers and talk show listeners with how much safeguarding basic human rights will cost, by creating unnecessary dissension and unfounded chaos through private funding



for human “headline” campaigns globally, the only result is increased numbers of victims.

As a human trafficking survivor, I wanted the opportunity to heal, to succeed on my own terms and to prosecute fully, if possible, my predators, and to not be classified as needing special rights and funding. Like every other U.S. citizen, I was born with certain unalienable rights. At least I thought so. I have never looked for any person or organization to give me something I didn’t earn or work for, to include me in any political agenda, to hide lack of responsibility under the guise of “because you’re a victim you deserve everything handed to you,” and I chose to make my corner of the world - albeit small - a better community at large.

The level of current awareness is directly related to the commitment of Trump and his administration. Human trafficking is a human issue, not a party issue. Human trafficking destroys the future of any community, national or global. America needs to rally as one united nation regardless of political affiliation, because this country can never be great again without its most precious commodity: its people. When one citizen suffers, we all suffer - even if indirectly. We must put a stop to unnecessary suffering and show our allies what America stands for - from this side of the border. The U.S. has opened its doors to human trafficking predators over many presidential administrations. One of the many tools is nonpartisan wall involvement. We need nonpartisan action to see that all tools for safeguarding and protecting every citizen’s right are utilized.

Beulah’s Place (beulahsplace.org) works because it considers every victim worth saving, worth healing, worth promoting to the highest possible good. While funding can be difficult during



Andi Buerger

government shutdowns, because of action - not rhetoric - funds have come in to provide temporary shelter for homeless at-risk teen boys and girls who have been severely abused, abandoned, trafficked, or criminally preyed upon. The results are the success of a program that works without fanfare or political agenda. 🌐



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A HARD LESSON: 'SANCTUARY' LAWS PRESENT CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER

By Bernard B. Kerik



© Stanislaus County Sheriff's Dept.

As 2018 came to a close, Newman, California, police Cpl. Ronil Singh, a legal immigrant from Fiji, was murdered. The man accused of fatally shooting him — illegal, criminal alien Gustavo Perez Arriaga — was a known Surenos gang member with previous arrests in the United States. Singh's murder spotlights the "sanctuary" laws in state and local jurisdictions across the United States, locales that refuse to cooperate with federal immigration officers, often by rejecting detainer requests from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and refusing to share information about potentially removable aliens.

The president and Congress have a Constitutional obligation to protect American citizens with border enforcement and immigration laws. As part of his responsibility, President Trump developed a federal law enforcement strategy that sanctuary laws actively work against these constitutional obligations. The Department of Justice has determined that sanctuary laws are unconstitutional because they fail to recognize the primacy of federal law.

It is important to note the administration is well within its legal rights to shape immigration policy and to expect compliance from the states. The Immigration and Nationality Act stipulates that crossing the border illegally is a misdemeanor offense that carries a penalty of up to six months in prison for first-time offenders. Although versions vary among agencies, police officers swear an oath to uphold the Constitu-

tion and laws of the United States as well as those of their state and locality. Sanctuary status puts police officers in a moral dilemma, weighing the decision between upholding their oath of office or placating the political preference of their governing bodies.

That's why the Texas legislature preempted local jurisdictions' sanctuary laws with passage of SB4, signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott in 2017.

Recently, former Stanislaus County, California, Sheriff Adam Christianson echoed President Trump's call for stricter border security as he criticized the state's sanctuary law. The California policy, signed into law in 2017 as SB54, prohibits local law enforcement from notifying or sharing detained immigrants' information with federal immigration agents when immigrants are not accused of serious criminal charges. "Law enforcement was prohibited because of sanctuary laws and that led to the encounter with Officer Singh," said Christianson, whose office led the shooting investigation. "The outcome could have been different if law enforcement wasn't restricted, prohibited, or had their hands tied because of political interference."

As Kern County, California, Sheriff Donny Youngblood, whose officers captured Arriaga, recently said: "When you tie our hands and don't allow us to work with our federal partners and communicate with our federal partners about people who commit crimes and who are in this country illegally, we're going to have incidents like

this, not just on police officers, but on the public that we serve and protect."

These sheriffs and all law enforcement executives in America have a right to be outraged. There are nearly 1 million criminal aliens in the United States — that is, illegal immigrants who have committed additional serious crimes beyond immigration violations and identity theft or fraud — with final orders for removal but not enough officers or resources to enforce the orders. Arriaga is yet another example of a criminal alien who might have been detained by local authorities and then picked up by ICE.

Sanctuary laws often hide criminal aliens in the shadows of our communities, which allows additional ancillary and peripheral crime in neighborhoods and make it more dangerous for local law enforcement officers on the street. Sanctuary laws have no positive benefit to the country; in fact, they offer negative outcomes, including but not limited to:

- Undermining local and state law enforcement authorities' ability to keep the peace;
- Preventing ICE from picking up criminal aliens within a 48-hour period;
- Making ICE arrests more dangerous because they take place in the community instead of in a jail, resulting in unknown conditions and potentially injurious outcomes for officers and bystanders;
- Compromising federal immigration opportunities for those following the legal system to come into the United States;

- Costing billions of dollars a year in social services for criminal aliens and their family members;
- Jeopardizing court cases of aliens released into the community who fail to show up for hearings;
- Adding to the U.S. inmate population, and the associated costs, when criminal aliens are jailed for their additional crimes.

All these issues — and others associated with sanctuary laws — have come to a head in our communities and become a significant public threat. Law enforcement officers on the street should view this threat as a clear and present danger to themselves.

Police officers never fail to learn from the death of a fallen officer; it is one way to honor their ultimate sacrifice. The lesson from Officer Singh's death is clear, and ignoring it would

be a dishonor to him and his family while making those who serve us in law enforcement more vulnerable to harm. (Article courtesy of thehill.com)

Bernard B. Kerik was the first deputy and commissioner of the New York City Department of Correction, from 1995 through 2000, and a signatory to the Right on Crime Statement of Principles. As NYPD commissioner from 2000 through 2001, he oversaw its response to the 9/11 attack. He pleaded guilty in 2006 to ethics violations and was fined, then pleaded guilty in 2009 to eight federal charges, including tax fraud and false statements, which led to his 48-month sentence in a federal prison. He founded The Kerik Group, which provides clients with homeland security, police and correctional training, criminal justice and prison-reform strategies.



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Courtesy of the Officer Down Memorial Page



A Football Player's Greatest Loss: CORPORAL BETTY DUNN SMOTHERS

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

On January 7, 1993 Corporal Betty Dunn Smothers, a 36-year-old mother of six and Baton Rouge Police Officer, was shot and killed in the line of duty, as she was caught in an ambush while completing a money drop for a local grocery store, where she worked part time and in uniform to help support her six children. Her killer, Kevan Brumfield, sat on death row for nearly two decades after his conviction, but in 2015 the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Brumfield's intellectual disabilities prevented him from being executed based on the 2002 United States Supreme Court ruling, *Atkins v. Virginia*, citing that it is a violation of the 8th Amendment to execute the intellectually disabled under cruel and unusual punishment. Many critics of the Circuit Court's decision argue that the court erred when coming to their conclusion, because Brumfield was a known drug dealer operating under his full mental capacity to do so and then methodically prepared and premeditated his attack on Corporal Smothers.

However, Corporal Smothers' character would not want those closest to her to dwell on the injustices associated with her death, but rather see the legacy she left behind. It's a legacy that has an unusual relationship to the National Football League,

one that has been overlooked ever since a subpar quarterback in San Francisco decided to take a knee. A story that begins with the murder of hero and a then 18-year-old high school football star named Warrick Dunn receiving word that his police officer mother was murdered in the line of duty and that his football career was over because he would need to look after his five younger siblings.

When the story first broke, the city of Baton Rouge was not going to allow another tragedy to happen to this young man, and rather than Dunn giving up football, the city rallied behind his family and helped support him so that he could live his dream. With his mother as a guiding angel on his shoulders, Dunn was able to secure a football scholarship at Florida State University, where he was an expected standout that caught the attention of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who ended up drafting him in the 1997 NFL draft. Dunn's NFL career would go on to last twelve seasons, first earning the 1997 Offensive Rookie of the year and then three trips to the Pro Bowl.

Despite his success on the field, Dunn has done much more off the field that awarded him with an opportunity to keep his mother's legacy alive. While in the NFL, Dunn was viewed as one of the most generous players in the league, which was at-

tributed to his upbringing and the love his mother had for him and his siblings as well as the love of her community and those in need. To this day, Dunn remains partnered with Habitat for Humanity, through his nonprofit organization "Homes for the Holidays," which helps place struggling single-parent families in their own homes. This charity is in honor of Cpl. Smothers, and her legacy lives on through the work of her son, who achieved peace with the loss of his mother by first visiting Brumfield while he sat on death row and forgiving him for killing his mother, and now by offering a helping hand to those in need. That's something that his mother did daily and that other police officers continue to do. 🌍

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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TRAINING

Lt. Erik Baum's Advanced Interview and Interrogation Course

By George Beck, Ph.D.

Erik Baum, a retired lieutenant from the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office, stays active through teaching and mentoring officers. Lt. Baum, known for his interrogation skills in Bergen County Law Enforcement, who garnered confessions from the most difficult suspects, explains the key to successful confessions is training—learning the skills required to gain an advantage. The more techniques an officer perfects, the more effective he or she becomes when sitting across the table in an interview room or on the street conducting a field interview. Communication, interrogation and interview techniques are critical in these make-or-break moments.

The old days of a detective sitting across the table from a suspect in a dimly lit room with a cigarette hanging out of his mouth looking to pound the confession out of a suspect are long gone. Nowadays, there are proven legal techniques that are teachable, and officers are finding them essential to do their jobs effectively.

As an active duty detective and while retired, Lt. Baum continues to offer his Interview and Interrogation course to officers near and far. It is among the most highly

sought training courses offered. With the national reach of Trap Find LLC, Lt. Baum is continuing his mission to provide officers with the skills they need to take the bad people off the streets and give justice to victims.

Blue Magazine: When officers begin your course, what is the major misconception about the art of interrogation?

Lt. Erik Baum: The first misconception about interrogation is that it involves sitting across from a suspect and asking a series of questions regarding their guilt to the crime under investigation in hopes the person will confess. The process starts with establishing rapport and analyzing the person's non-verbal and verbal behavior to help us initially form an opinion as to whether we are talking to a truthful person or a deceptive person.

Second is the belief that what's seen on police television shows is even remotely an accurate depiction about how an interrogation is conducted. Believing that yelling, raising your voice, making threats or coercing a person will result in a suspect confessing is a complete fallacy. Never should a law enforcement officer resort to any of these tactics believing they will be successful in obtaining a confession. And if by chance a confession was obtained, it would be very difficult in a court to justify those tactics, especially since under the New Jersey State Guidelines, you are required to electronically record all criminal suspect interviews.

What are the main differences between interview and interrogation?

As it pertains to my instruction of law enforcement interview and interrogation, an interview is what I define as a non-accusatory and non-confrontational conversation with someone in order to obtain information from that person relevant to your investigation, as one would do with a victim, witness or even a possible suspect. An interrogation is more of an accusatory and confrontational conversation with someone in order to elicit and obtain the truth

from the person who is deliberately withholding the truth.

What would you say are the most important characteristics someone needs to have to be a successful interrogator?

First and foremost is sincerity. The person I'm interrogating needs to believe I'm real and genuine as a person and that I truly do care about the person I'm interrogating. Second is patience and persistence. You must be able to be patient and understand that a person who committed a crime rarely will just sit across from a law enforcement officer and immediately confess to the crime, and since that is the case, one cannot immediately give up the interrogation because the person didn't immediately confess. You must make a mental commitment to not put a time frame on how long you may have to conduct an interrogation.

How important is room setting when interrogating in the police station?

Extremely important. The very first thing I do before knowing I will be talking to any suspect is arrange the room in the manner that is conducive to being able to successfully conduct the interrogation. I want the person I'm interrogating to focus on one thing and one thing only—me and nothing else in the room.

People lie to hide the truth, what techniques can steer suspects toward the truth?

This is the most basic question that any law enforcement officer wishes to know when it comes to interrogation. What's the secret? There is no secret. It takes the three basics of law enforcement we all rely upon: our training, education and experience. Law enforcement officers must always continue to expand these fundamental principles even with interviews and interrogations. Also, an understanding of human nature as it pertains to self-preservation. When confronted with the possibility of being found guilty of committing a crime, people will resort to self-preservation in order to protect themselves from the penalties associated with being caught committing the crime. The easiest method for someone to protect himself or herself is to lie and deny



(L-R) John-Robin Quelch, Lt. Baum and Phillip Aronow during a recent Top Gun course

the truth about what they did. Therefore, we must make every effort to tap into that person's feelings and emotions and through our interrogation, find a way to help them truly feel better about being honest and being truthful regardless of the possible consequences.

What are additional significant points (in brief) that are covered in your course?

The course is geared to teach officers everything they need to know about how to conduct proper interviews. We discuss preparation for the interrogation. We go over the characteristics of a successful interviewer and interrogator. We discuss all the effective steps to conducting a successful interrogation. We go over behavioral analysis: verbal (statement analysis) and non-verbal behavior. We present in length how understanding human behavior pertaining to truth and deception helps us learn why people lie, and teach how to overcoming these reasons. Miranda and constitutional rights are taught to give students the necessary legal requirements. We also discuss custodial and non-custodial interrogation legal guidelines. As you can see, the course is packed with everything a student needs to be successful. At the end of the course, the students are equipped with the right knowledge to get the interview and interrogation job done. 🌐

Blue Magazine commends Lt. Baum for his efforts to continue to train officers to increase the quality and productivity of the law enforcement profession. The next Advanced Interview and Interrogation course will be held on February 13, 2019, at the East Rutherford Police Department in New Jersey. You can find more information about Lt. Baum's upcoming course at Trapfind.com

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Why do some cops drive like shit?

By Lt. Patrick J. Ciser (Ret.)

Guess I got your attention huh? Many of you know I'm right; we just don't like to talk about it. But why, and it's probably a smaller number than it seems, do cops violate so many motor vehicle laws when they are being paid to enforce them? Hey, everyone screws up once in awhile, including me, but let's have an honest discussion and look inward to correct these character flaws.

Among the general population, there's always going to be a certain percentage of drivers that consistently violate motor vehicle laws; it's what they do. Is it because they're ignorant of the law, arrogant, or both? I used to tell cops under my command that assholes who commit crimes also drive like assholes, because it's in their DNA, so be sure to pull these idiots over, and you just might find criminal activity afoot. You would think that a smart crook wouldn't speed away from a robbery and draw a lot of attention. But a lot of these idiots can't

turn their aggressive/arrogant behavior on and off, and they're probably not going to grow a brain anytime soon. Ignorance of the law is another problem. People take the written driver exam at age 16, and many by the time they're in their 20s are riding the left lane doing 50 mph. Then when you stop them, they claim ignorance of the law. But when they no longer use a blinker, zigzag in and out of traffic, and routinely hit speeds of 90 mph plus, it's usually arrogance.

But when an off-duty cop, someone who should know better, is imitating a rocket ship after his 1500-2300 shift on Rt. 80 or the Garden State Parkway etc. it's a problem! I'm not going to mention actual speeds here that were reported to me as the Watch Commander on midnights by irritated State Troopers, but I think you can all imagine what I'm talking about. If it takes me an hour and 15 minutes to get to Seaside Heights, or an hour and a half; what the "bleep" difference does it make? Some

people, including cops, crank it up a little when they're late for work, and this can be a forgivable foible. But do you have to speed leaving work when there's no time clock to punch, or line-up to attend? Many people drive emotionally, and again, this includes cops!

Cops can't claim ignorance of the law, as they study traffic laws at the academy. Recognizing that cops are people first, I have to attribute their poor driving habits then to "emotional" driving and/or arrogance. I suggest using your cruise control more often, and set it at a "reasonable" speed.

Remember, if you speed excessively with your PBA or FOP Shield in the window, you make us all look bad.

ON DUTY DRIVING:

I've been involved in more high-speed pursuits than most; 36 in 1992 alone actually, so here's a tip to the new guys. If you're sitting on the shoulder of a highway, listening to a chase that's coming your way, DO NOT! I REPEAT! DO NOT! pull out to get involved until the primary and backup units pass you at warp 6. Now if you see the flashing lights approaching and you want to pull out ahead of time riding the right lane at 60, then go for it. I've had cops with limited chase experience pull out on me, and believe me, it's NOT FUN!

Another quick tip: If you're arriving at a medical, domestic or other similar call, whatever side of the street the first unit double parks on, that's the side you need to park on. Just leave enough space between your bumpers that any of you can still pull out quickly and unimpeded. I've seen cops all hyped up, block the road and be unable to get out when the "actor" runs from the house and jumps in a car a few doors down. I've also seen cops block the street, not allowing an ambulance or fire engine to get through.

And pa'leeease, try to stay off your cell-phone while driving. We're developing a reputation of being hypocrites. Pull into a parking lot if you really need to take a call. Another thing that irritates me is when I see cops pull in a parking space at a diner, rather than back in. Remember, you're never in a hurry to arrive, but you might be in a hurry to leave. Be safe out there! 📵

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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Police officer Chateri Payne
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Our Fallen Sisters: A Brother's Tribute

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

In a politically correct society, we often hear women calling for more gender equality, but in our society, the society of law enforcement, these words are hardly spoken. Some may ask why is that? I think this can be summed up in two answers. The first, our sisters who hold the line alongside our brothers are “Bad Asses.” For the second, refer to the first answer. In 2018, females accounted for approximately 13% of the United States’ law enforcement population, a profession that is male dominated by 87%, yet those in the lady’s locker room at shift change aren’t speaking of gender inequality, because they are too busy saying, “Send me, I will go!”

On January 10th, 22-year-old rookie Police Officer Natalie Corona received the call of a motor vehicle crash, and like any other call, she went. A routine call even for a rookie officer. However, this was not routine, as an unknown monster stood in the dark savoring his lust for the blood of a police officer. Unfortunately, Corona

fell victim to the evilness that awaited her arrival, as she was caught by surprise and shot multiple times. In an eerie resemblance, we learned that Police Officer Chateri Payne was shot and killed just the day before Corona.

Shortly after putting on her uniform, Payne exited her home and set out to go toward her calling, the calling of helping those in need. However, she never made it past her driveway as she was later found shot multiple times lying next to her vehicle. Like Corona, Payne was also 22 years old. Corona completed her field training in December of 2018, while Payne completed hers in November of 2018. At the time of this story it appears that both officers were the target of an unimaginable ambush at the hands of a coward, who wouldn’t dare challenge either of these two warriors to a fair fight.

What’s most troubling and difficult to accept is that both officers were in their early twenties, because as they say, that’s when

you have your whole life ahead of you. Perhaps these are some of your best years, as you live free, climb the ladder of success, and work toward accomplishing your goals, all while securing your future with the hope of one day raising a loving family. Images of Corona and Payne depict all the above, as we see two young women living free and accomplishing their goals, but their story is no fairytale and the ending is a far cry from being happy, as their journey was tragically cut short.

Theologian, Lynn H. Hough (1920), said it best, “Life is a journey and not a destination,” implying that we can choose our journey, but our destination is unfortunately often chosen for us. In this case, both Corona and Payne chose their journey and lived it to its fullest, knowing full well the risks associated with it, but they continued the path anyway, defining their strength and courage along the way.

In closing, I would be remiss not to mention at the time of Corona’s death there



were five officers killed in the line of duty thus far this year and that Corona and Payne account for 40% of those killed. An alarming statistic going into the new year, since we know women only account for 13% of the law enforcement population. Of the remaining 13%, I can only say to you that you are part of something special, and your courage is admirable, not only because you chose to become law enforcement officers, but because you choose to stay and fight the evil among us.

May the sacrifice of Corona and Payne serve as an example to other young women chasing their dreams, whatever those dreams may be, and perhaps one day we may even see a few of them standing the BLUE LINE alongside our brothers and sisters out on the beat. 🇺🇸

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.



THESE OLD POLICE BOOTS

By Deon Joseph

Had to retire these old boots. Man if they could talk. They would speak of a time years ago when they could protect citizens from the worst of our society. They'd attest to walking families to shelter, and the elderly to housing. To running after those who caused fear and harm. They would speak of helping me stand even if it was alone to speak truth to power, to be able to do things no one thought could be done.

They would tell stories of the flights of stairs I ran down from a roof to catch a drug dealer hiding under the guise of homelessness to drop of drugs to drug programs. Doors I had to kick down to rid hotels of pushers. Protests I had to stand for hours in, for cowards who only felt powerful in large groups as they verbally abused me for something that happened in another part of the country.

Fights I had to protect the weak. Tours I gave to educate politicians, college students, and activists with hopes that my truth would help those with the means to make changes based on truth, not idealism.

Boots that bravely walked into a juvenile hall to tell young Black and Latino boys that they were valuable and loved. Engaged in prayer vigils for the homeless. Boots that would brag about kicking 80 drug dealers out of a recovery zone, and brought down one of the biggest drug dealers twice by walking toward building bridges of trust with my community. A community that was once indoctrinated to fear me. Boots that walked tirelessly on the block to the chagrin of the predatory element. Boots that gave the homeless and recovery community six years of safety that they deserved like any other community. Boots that have been spat on, cursed at, and even prayed over. I guess the latter is how I stayed above water and unsinged by fire.

I can't even hand them down as they have holes in them and the souls are worn. Hell. They probably hurt me more than they help anyone now a days. Gotta let them go. I can't just throw them away. Yet I cannot live or walk in the past.

I threw on my new boots yesterday. The new boots did not feel the same at first. They looked nice though. I felt sorry for them as I shuttered at the new era they would be walking in. An era where they will be resisted at every step towards creat-

ing a safe environment based on the reality of where they tread, by those who are supposed believe in law and order.

Yesterday I took my new boots for a spin in this new era. As I drove down one of the last streets in my area that has not been completely decimated by blight and blatant criminality, I saw a man with a broken leg laid out on the sidewalk. Someone assaulted him and robbed him of his crutches. These new boots went to a hospital. They got him some crutches and provided them to the man.

Good job new boots. I think we will get along just fine. It won't be easy. But the man in the boots refuses to give up so easily. We got some more walking to do. 🌐

Deon Joseph is a 23 year veteran of law enforcement in Southern California - 21 of those years working in the homeless community to create an environment conducive to change for those in recovery, as a Lead Officer. He's been recognized for his work locally and nationally, and news stories and documentaries surrounding his work in crime fighting and community relations, featured him. www.deonjoseph.org.



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A Dynamic Duo's Pursuit of

Humanitarianism

By Julia Torres



Photo credit: Holli Long

Though new to the humanitarian world, Off Road United's enormous potential will surely bring forth unparalleled achievements. The zeal and passion found behind the scenes is attributed to co-founders Christine Johnson and Holli Long, whose hearts of gold are likened to individuals who stop at nothing to make a difference in their fellow man's life.

Perhaps it was Chrissy's hard-knocks start—teen pregnancy, single parenting, no college—that developed her passion to assist her brother and sister. However, it is growing up in a very small Fairfax, Vermont town where the K-12 school totaled 1,000 students, that Chrissy first learned of altruism from her mom, who had been a rescue squad volunteer.

Little did she know how that lesson would develop when she'd married years later, having her entire life changed on that following Father's Day, June 15, 2003.

Sgt. Michael W Johnson, her brother-in-law and a member of the Vermont State Police was killed in a routine traffic stop gone bad, leaving behind a loving family—wife, 3 children, mother, father, 3 brothers, 2 sisters, several nieces and nephews. Blessings often come unannounced, though, and it was due to this deeply sad incident that they were introduced to Concerns of Police Survivors, COPS. At last, people existed who understood the family's unbearable experience, catapulting Chrissy's future.

Fundraising began within 5 years, and participation in COPS Walk, Harpers Ferry, a 25-mile walk to honor the fallen, allowed her the opportunity to meet hundreds of others who had also lost an officer in the line of duty.

Chrissy vividly recalls, "The trauma of losing a loved one in the line of duty

never goes away, however, the more I got involved, the easier it was to try and help others and provide even a little glimpse of hope beyond the scope of Concerns of Police Survivors."

Her strong sentiments and goodwill enabled over \$100,000 to be raised for the organization from 2008-2013. A short time after, Chrissy—who had spent 10 years reliving the tragedy with her husband—separated and requiring a change, moved to Florida to regroup. It is in life's challenging moments that growth most occurs.



Photo credit: Chrissy Johnson

Six months later, Chrissy felt without purpose when her substantial pay cut, mundane full-time employment, and very limited family nearby crossed her mind. And then the switch—a friend who'd been a Virginia officer asked her to volunteer in Daytona at one of the largest jeep events in the country, Jeep Beach at the 4 Wheel to Heal vendor booth (A nonprofit organization that helps injured military transition into the US on off-road Jeep trips).

A new world of off-road fun, friends, and many whom she now calls family inspired her to purchase a Jeep, #Blackdiamondjeep. Its name grew as she traveled through Florida to participate in Jeep rides,

rock crawling and anything relatable, but the essence of helping others was missing.

Hence contacting one of her best friends, Holli Long, a tender-hearted oncology nurse at Ocala Regional Hospital, mother of 4, an avid jeeper and the missing link. It is no surprise that Holli—who has been a nurse over 20 years—has always heard "a calling" to help others. Perhaps her father and uncle, who were each WWII Army veterans, spearheaded Holli's path. Thankfully, the inspiration was not for naught.

Since the age of 16, Holli had always wanted to become involved in the Jeep community, and in 2012, her husband Phillip nudged her into doing so, helping her realize her desire. Phillip, however, is not her sole motivator.

She also draws motivation from her children and step-children, Zackery 19; Brooklyn 15; Chase 24, a firefighter and the family's local hero; and Hunter 19, respectively. This haven of love and optimism continues to drive Holli's pursuit of benevolence.

It was when Johnson and Long brainstormed on humanitarianism that they officially planned their 1st annual off-road event of Kraw'n For The Fallen. The goal was to invite as many survivors, law enforcement, and extended family for a weekend of fun, food, laughs, and entertainment to create memories that would be invaluable when most needed. Their 1st year efforts brought \$22,000 for 9 survivors, 100% donated to COPS; 2nd year provided \$65,000 to 18 survivors; 3rd year led to the number of jeeps doubling, totaling 838 and raising \$132,000 for 57 survivors. The 4th annual Kraw'n for the Fallen raised more than \$100,000 once again. Aside from the monies gathered, a huge accomplishment

included the 100 survivors who registered; the agencies represented; and the many law enforcement present to support.



Photo credit: Chrissy Johnson

Although the funds raised and donated to COPS helped more than 47,000 families, Chrissy and Holli perceived that something was missing when COPS could only donate to Law Enforcement families who lost an officer in the line of duty. They questioned what would happen to those who became injured or ill, which then began their quest to bridge that gap and become a 501c3 non-profit. The blessing came in December 2017 when the IRS recognized their non-profit.

Their 2018 recipients were happy, grateful and humbled to have not been forgotten. Some of the recipients included: National

take the LEAD Day, which led to the distribution of thank you packages to approximately 20 departments throughout Florida and South Carolina; In collaboration with Ring Roofing, Polk County Sheriff's Charities, and Central Florida United Way, Off Road United replaced the roof damaged by Hurricane Irma of

Polk County retired Officer Larry Cavallo, who had been previously diagnosed with pancreatic cancer; for Jimmy's Fight, a fundraiser for a fireman that had a brain tumor, a car wash was organized in conjunction with the fire department enabling the family to receive over \$10,000.

Many similar stories and causes are what propels Off Road United to continually honor the lives of those who willingly place their lives at peril.

If you'd like to become involved with Off Road United, check out the following links and contact Chrissy or Holli: info@offroadunited.org, <https://youtu.be/KdIYeky1924>, https://youtu.be/TGovDe4_gAw, <https://youtu.be/V9dkDuAetqg>, <https://youtu.be/tE1uPR5eQFM>



Photo credit: Chrissy Johnson

Julia Torres earned a Master of Science in Homeland Security with a certification in Terrorism Studies from Fairleigh Dickinson University; a Jersey City State College, K-12 Teacher Certification; and a Bachelor of Arts Visual Arts from Rutgers University, where she enlisted in the Army Reserves. Upon graduating Rutgers, she began a career in law enforcement, and later volunteered for the Gulf War. Once home, she worked undercover until retiring in 2001 due to a Gulf War illness. Since then, she has done volunteer work, acted, and written two non-fiction books.



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The Next GENERATION

By Joel E. Gordon

The best way to predict the future is to create it. - Abraham Lincoln

When my youngest son recently turned 21 and began to drive for our local ambulance service, already having volunteered with our local volunteer fire company for the past three years, I found myself reminiscing about my own calling in choosing law enforcement over a career in fire or EMS and thinking in greater detail about our future generations' choices for their own career paths.

Way back when I was a single rookie cop, I remember some veteran officers saying if you're looking for a date, tell any prospective companions that you're a paramedic, or better yet firefighter, but don't admit that you're police. "People have more respect for firefighters" they would say. (Fortunately, I found a special lady who loves her law enforcement officer).

I have seen many words used to describe these honorable professions in public safety such as: loyal, brave, trustworthy, courageous, strong, honored, dedicated, rescuer, heroes, fearless, warriors, guardians and protectors to name some which describe all three areas of emergency responders being police/fire/EMS. The words smoke and fire really belong solely to the fire service, however.

My son, as a firefighter, has already experienced the heat, smoke and flames of a burning structure. I always thought that he would follow in my footsteps as a law enforcement officer, but it may turn out that he will follow more in his mom's former path. She was an ambulance driver herself many years ago. While my son is still evalu-

ating fulfilling a dream to become a West Virginia State Trooper, recent continued and seemingly unrelenting vilification of our police has given him some pause and reevaluation in that goal. Either way, the calling to public service runs in our family and is clearly in his blood.

In my case, in a different time and era, I had no doubt that I preferred a career in law enforcement. I had that belief reinforced on a cold winter dayshift. While on patrol, I was frantically waved down by a woman along the road. "Help me, help me" she said. "My grandchildren are in the house and it's on fire!"

I immediately called out at the location and was quickly met by another officer as I grabbed my hat. We quickly entered a burning row house whose kitchen was ablaze. Immediately, although attempting to use my hat as a filter, I began to get choked back by the heavy smoke. We were of the belief that the children were on the second floor and we made it about halfway up the stairs until the heat and smoke became too overwhelming. As we turned to head back toward the exit I felt something strike me in my chest. Exiting the front door hacking and coughing from smoke inhalation, I saw a small kitten jump off my chest area from my winter uniform coat. It turned out that the grandchildren weren't in the house after all but around the corner at a friend's house. The fire department was quickly on-scene extinguishing the fire, returning me to service after having at least saved the kitten. To this day I am hopeful that I will never again be in a burning building.

Other more numerous incidents in-

volving medical emergencies from assaults, gunshots, stabbings, accidents and natural causes for which I found myself to be the first responder on-scene left no doubt in my mind that fire and EMS services were best left to others. I was always glad when an ambulance arrived to take over any medical emergency. I have seen amazing lifesaving procedures performed in the back of ambulances by dedicated EMTs and paramedics.

I know that many law enforcement families besides mine also have future generations wanting to answer the call of others in need of help. It is my hope and prayer that each makes the best decisions for their own career paths and that success and safety follow them in all the days of their lives.

We all must strive to make a positive difference in ways that we think we have the most to offer. In my own case, I remain hopelessly devoted to law enforcement and continue to work toward a 2020 campaign for Preston County, West Virginia, sheriff. I do have one suggestion to those now beginning their own public service career paths. Keep a daily journal of your experiences and thoughts. Someday you'll be glad that you did. You may even write your own memoir as you look back upon the career you created some day.

Kudos go out to all of our deserving and brave firefighters, EMTs, police officers, sheriff's deputies, dispatchers and paramedics. We have great respect, love, concern and admiration for all of you.

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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College Costs What?!

By Geoffrey J. Rejent



When I sit around and reminisce about my days in college, I rarely think about the costs. Sure, I remember how much it cost for me to complete my undergraduate degree. I also remember how much it cost me for my Master's degree a few years after that. However, I don't dwell on the costs because they seem like a drop in the bucket compared to higher education costs now. I went to a private college in upstate New York. My alma mater's tuition has more than doubled in less than twenty years.

If you think that this tuition increase is an isolated situation, think again. According to U.S. News and World Report, the average costs for private college tuition and fees for the 2018-2019 school year was \$35,676. The average public college tuition and fees for in-state residents was \$9,716 and \$21,649 for out of -of-state students. If these numbers seem staggering, they're not. I checked a few "State schools" in New Jersey and their numbers were significantly higher. I also found the same significantly higher costs for private institutions in New Jersey.

College tuition and fees have increased on average per year anywhere between approximately 2.5% to 3.0% above inflation rates. Once you factor in inflation rates of approximately 2%, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, tuition and fees are increasing between 4.5% to 5% each year. Room and board rate increases were also similar to tuition and fees increases. The bottom line is that total college costs are increasing at a rate of 5% a year. Do you have children who plan

on going to college or attending some type of post-secondary educational institution? How are you going to help them pay for it? Don't fear. You have options for saving for educational expenses. Three of the most popular ways of saving for college include the following options: Coverdell Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs), 529 College Savings Plans, and traditional savings/money market accounts.

A Coverdell Educational Savings Account is a trust or custodial account set up to pay for qualifying education expenses for a designated beneficiary of an account. The beneficiary must be under the age of 18 or be a special needs beneficiary. The account can be funded at a maximum of \$2,000.00 per year. Therefore, if you establish an account the year your child is born, you can contribute up to \$36,000.00 into the account over the 18-year timeframe. Your investment has the potential to grow without any penalties as long as the funds are used for qualified educational expenses. Money invested into an ESA can be invested in mutual funds, exchange traded funds, bonds, or individualized stocks.

A 529 College Savings Plan is another option for investing for educational expenses. A 529 plan is a tax-advantaged savings plan for education costs. Contributions can be invested in funds offered by the plan. Management costs, fees, etc. vary depending on the plan and which company administers the plan you choose. A 529 plan does not necessarily have to be set up in the state in which you reside. Some states offer tax deductions for contributions; however,

New Jersey does not offer a tax deduction. I suggest you research popular 529 plans and look for one that is performing well. Some plans in certain states are performing better than others.

Another option for saving for educational expenses is to use a savings or money market style account. The benefit of using a money market or savings account is that the money placed into such an account is FDIC insured and you won't risk losing money. That being said, your ability to grow that money is severely diminished due to the current interest rates offered by most banks and credit unions. Most savings or money market accounts are earning percentages equal to or even less than inflation rates. Assuming that the earnings rate is on pace with inflation, you may still be losing value on each dollar you save because college costs increase each year. If you are a short-time saver (i.e. you only have a few years until you need access to educational money), a savings or money market account may be a better option because you won't have to worry about market fluctuations or investment performance.

The goal of this article is to make you aware of a few of the most popular options for educational savings. By no means is this an exhaustive list for covering education costs. An even smarter and more diversified way to save for college costs would be to utilize all three options. If you have children or you are planning on having children in the near future, now is a great time to start researching the options that will work best for you and your situation. 🌐

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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SETTING the BAR

By Michael D. Boll



For years, the government has had a poor reputation for providing veterans the necessary resources and proper assistance required. Many veterans in need get completely frustrated with the VA (Veterans Administration) and seek elsewhere for help. Unfortunately, countless veterans just give up and take their own lives because they feel no one is out there willing to help them.



When we started our “Mobile Outreach” team, numerous veteran charities told us about the great work that was being done in Bergen County. In 2016, Bergen County was able to end veterans’ homelessness and provide employment for over 200 of them. This remarkable feat was spearheaded by my friend and teammate, Ariel (AJ) Luna. AJ is constantly assisting our veterans in need and is completely dedicated and committed to making New Jersey the best in veteran programs.

AJ can accomplish so much because he is always looking to improve and doesn’t have an ego. He brings fresh and new ideas for veteran programs and is making a difference. There are a large number of people in government positions who will just half-ass their job and provide poor assistance to veterans.

It’s a breath of fresh air to see someone like AJ willing to do whatever it takes to help our veterans live a better way of life.

This man is a true hero to our veterans, and so many can learn from him.

AJ is originally from Brooklyn, New York and enlisted in the U.S. Army as a communications soldier at the start of 2000. After he left the Army in 2002, he joined the NY National Guard, where he was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004-2005. While serving in the National Guard, AJ was pursuing his bachelor’s degree at Brooklyn College. He recently completed his Masters in Administrative Science with a concentration in Nonprofit Organizational Development from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

In 2007, AJ received the opportunity to run a program at the NYC College of Technology. In a period of two years, the Veteran Services Office assisted over 500 veterans. One of AJ’s philosophies in servicing veterans is making sure useful information is passed on to veterans via email newsletter, VA publications and referrals to other veteran services.



In 2009, AJ came on as the new director of veteran services for Fairleigh Dickinson University. Students had access to one of the most knowledgeable individuals about the new Post 9/11 G.I. Bill. AJ was involved with the group “Student Veterans of America” back in 2008. This was one of the key groups that helped lobby to pass the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill. AJ sits on the board of directors for “Vets4Vets,” a nonprofit group

that hosts free peer support workshops for Operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom veterans to talk about their service. In June 2010, FDU was the first university in the country to host a peer support workshop on its campus. AJ is also involved with other organizations that include the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, the NYC United War Veterans Council and the CUNY Veterans Steering Committee.

This experience and advocacy work has landed AJ multiple media appearances within the last year which included appearing on former CNN anchor’s Lou Dobbs final program and Fox 5 Good Day Street Talk to discuss veteran issues.

After a successful tenure at FDU, AJ has recently been appointed by Bergen County’s new County Executive, James Tedesco III, as the new Director of Veteran Services for Bergen County. AJ focused his efforts on housing, employment opportunities, and good service referral providers. In August of 2016, the County of Bergen became the 28th community in the U.S. to have effectively ended veteran homelessness. AJ has also been able to build relationships with employers to secure 109 employment positions for veterans since 2015. AJ also instituted the VA Work Study program in Bergen County, which allowed the county to hire part-time student veterans as interns to augment the Division of Veteran Services. One key position that was created was the Homeless Veteran Liaison position. This position allowed us to have a veteran work at our shelter to identify veterans and to develop plans to get those veterans into permanent housing. 🌐

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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Slow down, God is with You



By Chris Amos

I will never forget my first roll call. I had graduated from the Norfolk Police Academy just a few days earlier. The academy was six of the worst months of my young life, up to that point. I was so tired of being tired, being sore, being yelled at – sometimes in English, but often with words I had to look up later, none of which were compliments. I came into policing during a time when it was understood that I needed the police department a lot more than the police department needed me. If I washed out there was a boatload of young, eager men and women ready to take my place. Police departments didn't travel the country seeking candidates, candidates sought out the police department.

Even now, 32 years later, I still remember the musty smell of that first roll call. I can still see the water stains on the wall, the paint flakes that had fallen to the ground and the insulation peeking out from behind dangling ceiling tiles. That first roll call was on a Friday night at 2200 hours. I was assigned to the First Patrol Division, Blue Sector. The senior guys on my platoon were right out of central casting. They were big, they were intimidating, they were no-nonsense, most were Vietnam vets. The center-

piece of our badge was a tall sailing ship, Norfolk has always been a port city and home to the largest naval base in the world. The rite of passage every rookie faced was to have his ship sunk by the senior officers on the platoon. The sinking of your ship and the bruised chest that would accompany it for days were worn with pride. That tradition has long since stopped. I suspect a rookie made a complaint with Internal Affairs.

I remember Joe, Mike 1, Mike 2, Randy, Frank 1 and Frank 2. I remember Jimmy, Lee, A.J., and Walt. I remember all of them. It's funny, if someone had asked me to name my favorite teacher during my school years or in college, I couldn't give you a name. If they asked me to name five teammates on my football or basketball teams, I'd come up empty. But ask me about that first platoon and I could spit out their names as if it was just yesterday. Friends, that is the brotherhood and sisterhood found in law enforcement. I have memories from those earlier years in school, but none compare to the fights, the pursuits, the violent mobs I encountered, or the trips to the ER--as a patient, during that first year.

As I look back, I must tell you I would not have changed a thing. Not the night I head-butted my cruiser's windshield after my partner rear-ended the car in front of us. Not the night I chased a suspect two blocks on foot before realizing my gun had fallen out of my holster. Not the night I made my first DUI stop only to realize, while giving the suspect a standard field sobriety test, my Field Training Officer had abandoned me, choosing to pursue two cars that raced past our location. I asked the suspected drunken driver to give me a lift to where my FTO's pursuit ended and we'd call it even. After dropping me off, the guy had the nerve to ask me for gas money. People haven't just gotten stupid. They've always been that way. I wouldn't even change the night I was shot twice trying to make an arrest. No, I

willingly spent the best years of my life wearing a gun, a badge and a uniform, and would gladly do it again.

Friend, as I look back, I see God's hand guiding me, protecting me, prompting and providing for me in ways I was too young and dumb to see at the time. I retired in 2014 and now preach the Good News of Jesus Christ. Among those in my church are retired and active duty captains, lieutenants, sergeants, SWAT cops, dive team cops and gang squad investigators. Hey, we even have a deputy chief and a sheriff who drop by from time to time. If only we would have acknowledged the hand of God in those early years as quickly and boldly as we do now.

Friends, the law enforcement journey is unlike any, but please know the God who created you and called you into this journey is very much a part of your journey. I encourage you to slow down just long enough to see beyond the flaking paint, water stains, and dangling ceiling tile. See beyond the screaming drunk, the arrogant supervisor, the entitled snowflake. See beyond the pedophile in your back seat, the taxpayer who is reminding you he pays your salary, the crowd that is much quicker to pull out their phones to record you than to offer a hand to help you. Slow down and see beyond them all and realize God Almighty is with you.

See you at the finish line! 🏁

Chris Amos is a retired officer and former spokesperson for the Norfolk Virginia Police Department. He is currently the pastor at Chr1st Fellowship Church in Norfolk. He is married for 30 years and is the proud father of three children, two of whom are police officers. He serves as the volunteer Chaplain for Norfolk Police Dept. and Norfolk Sheriff's Office.



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The Pendulum

By Julia Pyrah

“Don’t worry,” I told the young airman in my Tech School. “I’m sure Minot won’t be that bad.” I secretly crossed my fingers behind my back. As I sat in the classroom with newbies fresh out of Basic having just received their orders, I made my finest attempt to reassure the airman. Normally, he was the jovial one. Today, not so much. “Look, I’ve never been to that particular base, but North Dakota neighbors Minnesota, where I grew up. It’s an incredibly picturesque area.”

He still didn’t look convinced.

“OK, sure. In the winter you’ll need to plug in your car at night- and you’ll freeze your ass off. But you’ll love the summers!” Suddenly, the entire class looked up at me, stunned, as if I had just slapped his face.

“What?” I asked. “Plug in your cars? Oh, it’s a heater that keeps the oil warm so it will start in the morning.”

“Don’t worry, sergeant. We won’t say anything,” another student said. “But some people get really offended over language like that.”

What the...? Where am I?

Sometimes I couldn’t tell if it was because it was fifteen years later from when I went through the Navy, or if was because I was now in the Air Force. Or both? They were always having meetings now, asking how we felt. Were we looking out for our fellow airmen? Did we feel our voice was being heard? It was very feelings-oriented. Sometimes this was good. Sometimes it was ridiculous.

In the Navy, as one of three enlisted aircrew females in the squadron, we were always treated well -- but I always felt a bit... inconvenient. It was because of me they had to censor their jokes and clean up the Playboys.

Fifteen years later, in the Air Force,

there wasn’t even a mention of Playboy. Clearly, they didn’t even swear. This was an adjustment. Suddenly, I was the offender. As much of society right now, the offensive pendulum had swung so far to the other side; it was hard to see. And I was pretty sure, as with most extremes, it wasn’t all good. I was proud of how far we’d come. But I was also worried for the future on different levels.

In Basic Training, “piss” is now the worst profanity uttered by the MTIs (Military Training Instructors). The slew of expletives my Division Commander used to describe my mother far exceeded this. MTIs are only allowed to administer 20 pushups at a time. They have to wait an hour after airmen eat to physically condition them. While these rules, I’m sure, came into place as the result of an incident, as most rules do, it stunned me to hear that this was how we were preparing our military for real-world combat situations. This wasn’t college where the luxury to be offended is afforded. This was training young men and women to become warfighters. What kind of endurance will our military have in field operations if they cannot perform more than 20 pushups at a time? Would the enemy really hold off an attack because one just ate an MRE in the field? And I can bet the enemy will be using uglier words than piss. There’s a good chance the enemy would be offensive.

The military had become kinder, gentler.

In my memoir, *What They Don’t Teach You in Deer River*, I wrote to specifically (and humorously) describe what it was like (for me) to use the “head” (Navy talk for bathroom) on the P-3C Orion aircraft during flight operations. The “head” was basically a closet with a free-standing urinal.

Now as a Department of Defense contractor nearly twenty years later, I work with the P-8 Poseidon, the successor aircraft. One of the greatest highlights that I love to point out to anyone going through P-8 training is that aircrew now have luxurious capability to sit down to use the facilities -- and to flush, versus carrying the urinal down the ladder and dumping in the hangar toilet -- an extremely unpleasant task for the junior aircrew.

Talk about progress! This, is a great change.

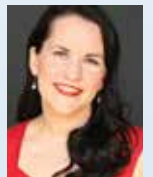
So where do these changes leave us?

Thankfully, physical standard tests have maintained challenging levels. And it makes my heart happy to know that discrimination will not be tolerated in the military. There are many resources in place for those who have been treated wrongly, or have been a victim of any sort. These situations are now taken very seriously.

I’m relieved that this generation of young women won’t even know that there was a time they were thought of as more of an inconvenience, rather than an equal.

And I am beyond thrilled that women on planes are also now able to sit our asses down in the head- just don’t use the word ass. 🌍

Julia Maki served in the Navy as an aircrewman aboard P-3Cs. Afterwards, she settled in Maryland with her husband where they both work



*for the Department of Defense. They have three children, which are the inspiration behind her four children’s books. She also has written a memoir, *What They Don’t Teach You in Deer River*. Julia currently serves in the Air National Guard. Information on her books can be found at www.juliamaki.com.*



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By Dr. Jim Ford.

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Contact Professor Dr. Jim Ford at the College of Saint Elizabeth for more information. Dr. Ford can be reached at jford@cse.edu or (973) 290-4324. It should be noted that CSE's Graduate Program in Criminal Justice is ranked 14th in the country by U.S. News and World Ranking.



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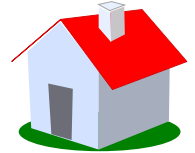
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Tips for Buying Your First Rental Property



By Fasil Khan

Investing in property is a solid way to increase your net worth and vary your portfolio. My own experience has shown me that investing in a rental property will also bring in additional monthly income, increasing financial security.

Purchasing your first rental property can seem like a daunting task, but with a bit of planning, this is an achievable goal. Listed below are some of my favorite tips to remember when getting started in investing in real estate.

Before buying any property, rental or otherwise, it's best to know just how much you can afford when it comes to out-of-pocket expenses, including mortgage payments, taxes and previously accrued debt. The lower your debt-to-income ratio is, the better your starting position will be for taking on a rental property.

While income generated from renters should be set to cover the costs of the mortgage and property taxes, plus general maintenance, there will be additional costs to be covered in the way of repairs, appliance

replacements and updates. Having an established savings account to cover expenses will help alleviate the stress of unexpected costs.

Another key component to keep in mind is the need for a larger down payment. Unlike traditional mortgages, a loan for a non-owner-occupied property calls for a higher down payment, often around 20%. This may seem like an intimidating goal to achieve, but there are some different options which can help toward purchasing your first investment property.

One way you can lower this figure is to purchase a multi-unit dwelling such as a duplex or four-plex where you can live in one of the units. Being owner-occupied, the required minimum down payment will be less. If you're planning to move or are ready to buy a home, consider a multi-unit property to get started on a real estate investment portfolio.

There are also crowdsourcing funding options, where other investors help you achieve your real estate goals. While you won't own the property alone, the costs of

purchasing and upkeep will be less, as these are spread among all owner investors.

I also recommend careful consideration of the actual property you plan to rent. Starting with a lower-cost home will make it easier to gain from the investment, a \$150,000 house will be easier to pay off than a \$300,000 one.

The saying Location, Location, Location still holds true. Neighborhood factors should also be considered, such as area amenities like parks and entertainment options, quality schools, the job market and comparable property values. These factors can help ensure solid equity growth of your investment.

Fasil Khan is a Paterson Police Officer and Real Estate Agent at Keller Williams Village Square. He enjoys helping his fellow law enforcement officers with the purchase of investment properties, as well as general selling, purchasing needs. Have questions? Connect directly by calling 201-739-7397 or email: fkh@khanrealestateteam.com.



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REMEMBRANCE

Article & Artwork by Jonny Castro

*Officer
Natalie
Corona*

On January 10th, we lost another one of our sisters in blue. Officer Natalie Corona, from the Davis (California) Police Department was gunned down while she stopped to investigate a traffic accident. Officer Corona had just graduated from the Sacramento Police Academy this summer and her father, a retired Sheriff's Deputy, had the honor of pinning her badge on her uniform. She recently completed the field training program and had been working by herself for two weeks. Officer Corona is remembered as being full of life and energy, and was known for her infectious smile. She was a rising star among the small Department of 60 officers. Officer Corona was 22 years old. 🌍



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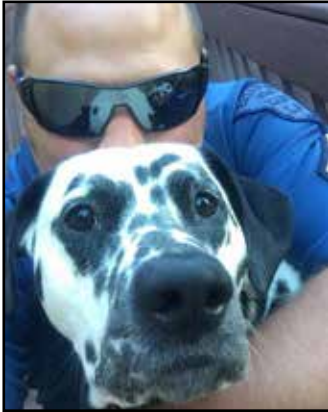
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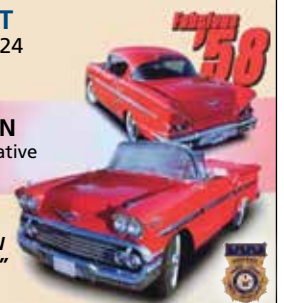
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