



June 2011 Issue

MBPD RETIREE NEWS

"Unity Is Strength For A Better Retirement"



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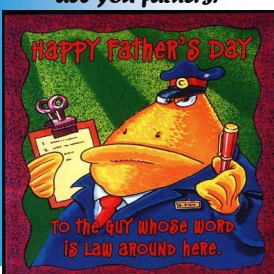
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Special Days in June 2011

- 6/14 Flag Day
- 6/19 Father's Day
- 6/21 Summer Begins

Happy Father's Day to all you fathers!



Sam's Corner... "A Collection of Disorganized Thoughts"

Hey my friends! Hope the month of May was peaceful and relatively uneventful for you. As we get into June, I would like you to know that I have a confession to make; I usually wait until the last minute before I begin writing my column. Reasons? First off, laziness, and second, sometimes stuff happens toward the end of the month that I think needs to be written about.

Of course, I have a very good reason to have waited until the end of May to start my column because I wanted to see how the annual Memorial Day Weekend fiasco would play out. This year was the 10th anniversary of the "invasion" that started in 2001 and I was there, along with many of you reading this now.

As I've said before, and I'll say it again...Not to be "politically correct", because that's not what this is about; many good people from all walks of life come to Miami Beach for Memorial Day Weekend. They party and they have fun. The difference is that they are decent, law abiding people. I've met them and had my picture taken with them. To my knowledge, those pictures have NOT ended up on porn sites because I swear I had my clothes on each and every time.

And then, you have the "other" element. The thugs, troublemakers, thieves, and low-lives that believe they can come to Miami Beach and treat the city like their own personal toilet and garbage can. The ones that feel that laws don't exist, and that they can do whatever the hell they want anytime they want.

If you think this is a "black" thing...Well folks, it ain't. If you've worked the midnight shift on South Beach anytime in the last 10 years like I have, (or Pete Bitume, George Lerra, Steve Stuart, Doug Reid, Bill Godfrey, Lynda Veski, etc..), you'd have seen a wide variety of demographics acting like idiotic, drunken, lawless fools. MDW just brings more of them because they feed off each other.

According to my sources, it seems that this year may have quite possibly the worst Memorial Day Weekend they have experienced. Although arrests are down significantly from what they were several years ago when they peaked at over 1,000, arrests for more violent crimes are up. Minor violations are being ignored to concentrate on more serious crimes. Is this good or bad? Throughout the years, the command staff has tried to come up with ways to "tweak" the Department's response to situations. First by having a "zero tolerance" approach and

"setting the tone", to supposedly this years approach which I understand was "don't sweat the small stuff."

I'll have to admit, I really don't know which approach works best, because none of them seem to work really well. When you have 200,000 people packed in an area that was not designed to handle that type of population, and 50,000 of them are potentially violent criminals, there can't possibly be enough cops to make them all behave. It's just not going to happen. The officer involved shootings that took place last weekend were something that I feel was bound to happen at some point. The one thing that surprises me is that it didn't happen more often. I would hope that if anyone disagrees with me on anything here, that they would please let me know. I'm expressing opinions, but I welcome contrasting points of view.

The City of Miami Beach it seems is finally wondering out loud whether or not the annual Memorial Day Weekend invasion is ruining the city and its reputation and whether or not they should begin taking steps to curtail it. They seem to be moving in the direction of the latter. I don't know how they are going to do that. How are you going to tell thousands of people "you can't come here, we don't want you

Continued on pg 2



Sam's Corner... Continued from pg 1

anymore". You could hurt their feelings! Commissioner Jerry Libbin spoke of "taking our streets back".

Hey guess what? I have a funny story for you. In 2001, the year of the first Memorial Day Weekend "party", a bunch of us were standing in front of the Amoco Gas Station at 14th Street and Collins Avenue. We were forced to close it and secure it with crime scene tape. It seems that the nice tourists decided to raid the convenience store and steal everything, starting with cases of beer.

A live truck from local news station WSVN -Channel 7 pulled up and out popped a camera man and a reporter by the name of Charles Billi. He started trying to interview cops, but most walked away. He then approached Doug Reid who promptly told him-"I ain't talking to you, talk to him!" while pointing at me. Me?? I'm not a Public Information Officer? When Billi approached me and opened his mouth, I was able to instantly understand why Doug refused to deal with him. He was uppity and obnoxious. His words to me were-"Somebody has to talk to me, because if we can't get your point of view, we'll have to use ours, and it may not look good for you guys." What? A threat?!

So, I went for it. I told Billi I would give a statement on camera. I wasn't really worried about getting in trouble at that time, since we all had this kind of "wild west" mentality thing going on. We were also feeding on it. I made a statement on camera for all to see; don't remember my exact words, but it was something like "these people are out here fighting, stealing, and drinking...That's unacceptable, *we're taking our streets back!*" Sound familiar, why did it take 10 years for a City Commissioner to say the same thing? Billi was satisfied and finally went away.

Later that evening, our crew went to Master's Pizza at 17th and Alton and gathered around the TV, waiting for Channel 7

news to come on. When it did, my "press conference" was one of the first items to air. I got pats on the back and a huge round of applause. That was my fifteen, well... 20 seconds of fame.

During those Memorial Day Weekends, I did see some very interesting trends in automotive decorations that I had never seen before. I saw cars with shiny chrome rims almost bigger than the ones on tractors. And there were these stickers on the side windows with the size of the rims. Is that some kind of federal law I wondered? The stickers didn't just advertise the size of the rims, there had to be some sort of declaration as well such as "my rims are bigger than yours, ha ha ha." Well, it didn't actually say *that*. It was more like-"22 bitch"! Do you catch my drift? And then there were the decals alongside the bottom of the doors, usually something referring to money, drugs, or women, for example: "\$\$\$ Easy money shake your booty." Some folks have just too much time on their hands.

Window decals are popular though and many people have them. I have them on my truck; PBA, FOP, American Flag, the thin blue line...patriotic and cop stuff. I've noticed a proliferation of cute little decals people are pasting on the backs of their



(mostly) SUV's of little cartoon people and animals. I've even seen little flip flops too. I'm not sure exactly when they mean, but I think if there's a little cartoon man, woman, boy, three girls, and two cartoon dogs, it means that's what their family consists of.

What if you're single like me? I guess I

could put a little cartoon guy on my back window. Would people be sad for me? What if I put a cartoon guy on my back window with several cartoon women with red "X's" on them? Would they get the hint? Have you ever seen a cartoon guy with a cartoon lamb or goat? Stay away from that car. A cartoon guy and two or three cartoon women. What's he got that I don't have? Don't answer that!

The "baby on board" signs are starting to gain popularity again. I know what that means. It means "I have a baby in my car, so try not to rear end me at 97 mph". Great, so that means I have less rights because I don't have a baby in my car? How about if I make up a yellow, diamond shaped sign and put it in my back window that reads "I don't have a baby on board, but I still don't want to get rear ended at 97 mph?" Do you think they'd listen?



When Bill Rosenstein was doing his stand up comedy acts, he had this prop during the time those signs first became popular. It was baby doll nailed to a piece of plywood. "Baby on board", get it?? Ha! I thought it was funny, ok? What was not funny was the time I went to one of his stand up comedy shows and made the mistake of sitting too close to the stage. I was wearing a red Hawaiian shirt and I looked like a tourist. Big mistake. The abuse I took from Bill and the other comedians for the next three hours was relentless. I needed counseling after that. Anyway, thanks for reading and I'll see you next month. Remember, start of 2011 hurricane season, so stock up and be prepared.



2011 Police and Firefighters Fishing Tournament

Submitted by Officer Larry Marrero (From the MBPD Official Bulletin)



This year's Police and Fire Fishing Tournament will be held on Saturday, July 9, 2011, at the Miami Outboard Club on Watson Island. Proceeds from this event will be

raised for the Police Athletic League (PAL).

The Captains meeting will be held on Thursday, July 7, 2011, at 5:30 p.m., also at the Miami Outboard Club. Entry fee per boat will be \$200 which includes meal tickets and tournament shirts. Additional tournaments shirts will be \$20.00 and additional meal tickets will be \$15.00.

Please see any committee member below for Registration Forms and Official Rules. You may also obtain copies at the Property and Evidence Unit. Feel free to contact Officer Marrero for additional details at (786) 344-8879 or ext. 5492.

The Committee Members are: Larry Marrero, Art Martineau, Robert Lanier, Lorenzo Han,

Rocky Morgan, Raul-Busquet, Eddy Garcia, Alex Bello, Nelson Gonzalez (Fire Dept), David Anderson (Fire Dept.)



Praise To the Troops

Submitted by Chief Noriega (From the MBPD Official Bulletin)

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincerest gratitude to all Miami Beach Police Department personnel for their outstanding performance during the 2011 Memorial Day Weekend. Due to everyone's professionalism

and continued commitment to public safety excellence, the Police Department once again successfully overcame this extremely challenging holiday weekend. Of utmost importance was the fact that there were no significant injuries to any police personnel during this period, and officer safety remained the highest priority throughout as it should each and every day. Also, as re-

ported internally as well as by the media, this administration stands firmly behind all of the officers involved with this weekend's two officer involved shootings. Thank you all once again for your tremendous efforts as well as personal sacrifices, which we all must make in order to protect the community we serve.



MBPD Honor Guard at Police Week in Washington DC

Submitted by Chief Carlos Noriega (From the MBPD Official Bulletin)

During this year's Police Week ceremonies in Washington D.C., the MBPD Honor Guard escorted the U.S. Honor Flag to Washington D.C. and posted the U.S. Honor Flag at the Pentagon with a combined

honor guard consisting of MDPD, FHP, ICE, Washington State Police, and the Pentagon Police. The MBPD Honor Guard also posted as a Color Team for the arrival of the Unity Ride participants as they arrived at the Pentagon Memorial and attended the National Candle Light Vigil. The ceremonies ended on Sunday 5/15/11 (which is National Peace Officer Recog-

nition Day) with the MBPD Honor Guard having the privilege of carrying the US Honor Flag and leading the escort team with the National wreath to the National Police Memorial. Honor Guards from all fifty states were present and surrounded the memorial during the arrival of the US Honor Flag and the National wreath for the ceremony. This was an



incredible honor bestowed on our Department in the presence of countless agencies from around the country as well as abroad. Congratulations to Captain Causey and our Honor Guard, and also a special thanks to FOP President Alex Bello and the Executive Board for their huge participation representing the MBPD at the National Police Week ceremonies.

Thoughts On Tom Skinner

By S. Gam, Editor, MBPD Retiree's Newsletter

Oh, oh, he's writing about Tom Skinner. Why? Well, as many of you might know, Tom Skinner, retired Captain was convicted of doing some pretty bad stuff in the Florida Keys. This is not, I repeat, not a "trash Tom Skinner" article. My personal policy is that I will not trash a fellow retiree in our newsletter. If I don't have anything good or positive to say, I will not say it.

I worked with Tom on the street and at some point later on, he was my Captain. He was a good Captain; treated me right and didn't micromanage me. In my opinion, he got the job done and when I worked for him, things worked like clockwork.

As cops, we tend to get coldhearted toward people and situations, even toward our own. Yes, Tom did some bad things and he just got convicted. He's going to pay for the rest of his life, in one way or another, as are his victims. Yes, there are victims..And he can say that he's a victim too and there is nothing I can say about that.

As human beings, sometimes we are pushed to the limit. We have all been in times of crisis, whether it be over wives, girlfriends, husbands, boyfriends, kids, jobs, or whatever. We do our best to handle those situations. If we can't, we try to ask for help. We usually don't cross the line. If we do, we

can end up like Tom. That's not a good thing.

I'm sorry about what happened to Tom. As far as I remember, he was a good guy. Now he's a convicted felon and possibly an inmate for life. I guess that's the way it has to be. All involved, Monroe County Sheriff's Dept and Monroe State Attorney Dennis Ward did what they had to do and did it well. No choice, had to be done.



The message here? We all have people we can turn to in times of crisis. Turn to them. Look at the MBPD Retiree's website. Look up the member list. Find old friends. Call them. Call a counselor. If worse comes to worse, drive to the damn police

station and tell the first cop you see you're a retired cop and you feel you're going to do something bad. Tell them you need help. They will help you. If not because you're a fellow cop, because they have to. But don't take it to the next step. Why? Well, ask Tom Skinner if you can.

I really wish him the best, even though I know it won't help. His life is now a nightmare. I don't condone what he did; just sorry it had to get to that point.

Note: Toms actual name is William Thomas Skinner, we called him "Tom".

Request for Information

As I reported last month, active duty Officer Hector Fernandez is interested in restoring a car to look like an MBPD Police car from the 50's or 60's. He would like to know what type of cars were used in the 50's and 60's; were they Fairlanes, Galaxies, Falcons? Other? Was the light mint the correct colors? Or were they two tone? What type/color of lights..Red? Blue? There is a restored MBPD Police car out there that is brought to events but according to him it's not to specs. It's a 1955 Dodge. Please e-mail me at sam0444@yahoo.com. Thanks.

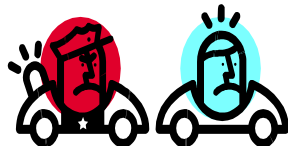
In response, we received a couple of e-mails from retirees which should go a long way in helping Hector with his project:



Burt Greenberg wrote:

"My name is Burt Greenberg, I came on in 1957 and left in 1962 to return to New York. I remember the cars as being black and white and had a stick shift transmission. I drove a 1955, 2 door stick shift Ford, it was called an "alley car". I do remember that the accident car was a green and white station wagon, with automatic transmission. I don't know when the colors were changed to black and white".

.....And from Gene Toreky:



"In the early 60's, the cars were all green with a red "bubble gum" light on the roof. Of course later we got the bar lights. At first we had some '63 Dodges with push button automatics and in '69 we got all new Chevy's. Then, we got Fords with white roofs and green bodies. Eventually, we got cars with the "Post Office" red and blue stripes, and we all laughed".

Gene e-mailed some photos which we'll try to post here. If I could get a few photos of 50's and 60's MBPD cars, it would be terrific. Refer to the e-mail above and if you need my address, I'll send it to you.

MBPD Plymouths, 1971 Perhaps?



The Idiot Corner... Thanks to Retiree Wally Newmann



This is the latest Idiot List

1. WILL THE REAL DUMMY PLEASE STAND UP?

AT&T fired President John Walter after nine months, saying he lacked Intellectual leadership. He received a \$26 million severance package. Perhaps it's not Walter who's lacking intelligence.

2. WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS.

Police in Oakland, CA spent two hours attempting to subdue a gunman who had barricaded himself inside his home. After firing ten tear gas canisters, officers discovered that the man was standing beside them in the police line, shouting, 'Please come out and give yourself up.'

3. WHAT WAS PLAN B???

An Illinois man, pretending to have a gun, kidnapped a motorist and forced him to drive to two different automated teller machines, wherein the kidnapper proceeded to withdraw money from his own bank accounts.

4. THE GETAWAY!

A man walked into a Topeka, Kansas Kwik Stop and asked for all the money in the cash drawer. Apparently, the take was too small, so he tied up the store clerk and worked the counter himself for three hours until police showed up and grabbed him.

5. DID I SAY THAT???

Police in Los Angeles had good luck with a robbery suspect who just couldn't control himself during a lineup. When detectives asked each man in the lineup to repeat the words: 'Give me all your money or I'll shoot', the man shouted... 'that's not what I said!'

6. ARE WE COMMUNICATING???

A man spoke frantically into the phone: 'My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only two minutes apart'. 'Is this her first child?' the Doctor asked. 'No!' the man shouted, 'This is her husband!'

7. NOT THE SHARPEST TOOL IN THE SHED!

In Modesto, CA, Steven Richard King was arrested for trying to hold up a Bank of America branch without a weapon. King used a thumb and a finger to simulate a gun. Unfortunately, he failed to keep his hand in his pocket. (*helloooooo*)!

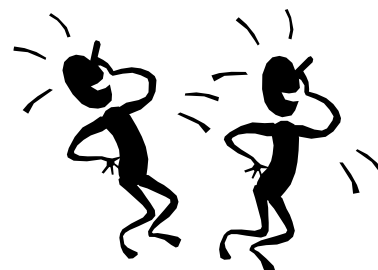
8. THE GRAND FINALE!!!

Last summer, down on Lake Isabella, located in the high desert, an hour east of Bakersfield, CA, some folks, new to boating, were having a problem. No matter how hard they tried they couldn't get their brand new 22 foot boat going. It was very sluggish in almost every maneuver, no matter how much power they applied. After about an hour of trying to make it go they pulled into a nearby marina, thinking someone there may be able to tell them what was wrong. A thorough topside check revealed everything in perfect working condition. The engine ran fine, the out-drive went up and down, and the propeller was the correct size and pitch. So, one of the marina guys jumped in the water to check underneath. He came up choking on water, he was laughing so hard.


NOW REMEMBER...THIS IS TRUE.

Under the boat, still strapped securely in place, was the trailer!


AND THESE PEOPLE VOTE AND HAVE CHILDREN!!!



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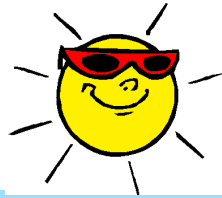
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June



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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Vinny Aprile

Dave McLaren

Frank Azcarate

Charlie Metscher

Ed Bason

Bob Moorehead

Yetta Brodie

John Murphy

Mark DeFusco

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