



Happy
St. Patrick's
Day!



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"Unity Is Strength For A Better Retirement"



MBPD RETIREE NEWS

March 2010 Issue

Sam's Corner "A Collection of Disorganized Thoughts"

Did you ever wake up with an itch in your back, but you can't scratch it because it's in a place you can't get to? Doesn't that annoy the bejesus out of you? (Is "bejesus" actually a word?) Well, it happened to me this morning and I thought I would share it with you. It's not a disorganized thought per se, but it's definitely something that has no place in this or any other publication or newsletter. Sometimes I do like to break the rules, and I thought today would be a good day to do just that.

Let me expound on the issue for a moment, then I'll drop it. Why, but why does

that itch have to be in a place where you can't get to it? Why can't it be right there! Like for example, near the belly button, so you can just reach down and scratch it? I don't have the answer to these questions. I'm not an "itch-ologist", heck; I'm not really even an author. I'm just trying to make a silly point about the complexities of the human body. I failed miserably.

During one of those few moments when I actually had some free time on my hands, I downloaded the retirees list off of the Internet. You know what the Internet is; that wonderful

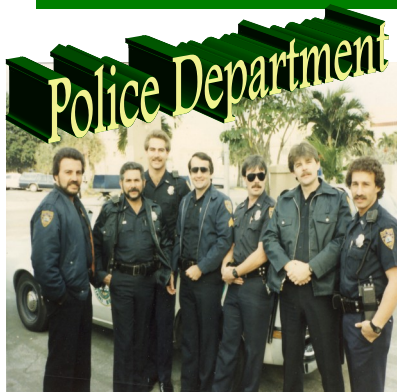
technological invention that former Vice President Al Gore singlehandedly invented on his spare time when he wasn't hovering high above the earth in a hot air balloon sewing the Ozone layer shut. While carefully studying the roster, which incidentally used up 17 pages of good printer paper, and 6 gallons of really good printer ink, I noticed something very interesting; our retirees are spread out all over God's good earth. This gave me an idea!

What do you all think of this? First of all, one of my disclaimers; I have not checked with the Miami

Continued on pg 2

Miami Beach

In the 1980's ...



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Off. Scott Rakow
(rest his soul) &
Det. Sam Gam



Lenny Alamo
and Dean Adler,
CST, 1980's



Sam's Corner

Continued from pg 1



Sam's Corner... Disorganized Thoughts



*"just in time
to see about
60 smiling
faces"*

Beach Retirees Association Board of Directors on this one. The good thing is that they don't really get to read this until it's mailed to them. Better to beg for forgiveness than ask for permission. Most of the activity surrounding our organization centers around the South Florida area, which is understandable. We're all retired from the Miami Beach Police Department. Miami Beach after all is in South Florida. And, most of the retirees live in South Florida. This means that those of you living elsewhere miss out on the "action". Not that there's much action at Vinny's breakfasts, but you never know.

I propose that once or twice a year, the retirees living in South Florida charter a large bus, pile in and visit retirees living elsewhere in the country. We could hit the road for about two months. What do you think Mark Bray would say when he looks out his window in Whitefish, Montana at 6 am on a Sunday morning and there's a tour bus coming up the road with 60 of us coming to visit? Oh, sorry, we forgot to call first! Better put on a BIG pot of coffee Mark!

I'm equally certain that Mark Hallman would be delighted to see us, just as he's sitting down to dinner with the fam-

ily in Franklin, Tennessee. A little toot on the horn of our bus would bring him to the front door just in time to see about 60 smiling faces plastered up against the bus windows. Hope you've got some extra pasta and garlic bread! After leaving Mark's house, we'd motor on over to Monterey, TN and have some coffee with the locals; Gerry Mackey, Dave McLaren, Marty Drucker, and Herman Press. We could even travel a little further east and "hook up" with Woody Lucius.

After leaving Tennessee, we'd head west and make the rounds, visiting Bill Lamb in Brownsville, Texas. Tom Godbold in Corpus Christi, then Phil Kromsky and Mickey Kabakoff in Henderson, Nevada. There's some more retirees listed in Texas, as well as California. I think there's even one in South America somewhere, living the "vida loca". Heading back east, we'd have a blast paying visits to several retirees living in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia; among them Doug Reid, Tony Holt, Rick Mendoza, Chuck Hayes, Vinny Mulshine, Scott Morgan, Alan Seres, Jaime Rezzonico, Gene Toreky, Fred Wooldridge, Ray Yeager, and many, many more!

Another brilliant idea I came up with is to charter an airliner, something like a 747, and fly around the country,

picking up retirees along the way. Then we'd fly to some remote, tropical island and have a giant beach party. Billy O'Neil could pilot the airliner; he's a pilot isn't he? As long as he promises to stay away from Everglades City (tell you about that later, shhhh). Wait a minute! I think at the last general membership meeting, Charlie Seraydar announced that the organization has about 50 million in reserves. Why can't we just buy our own airliner and have it customized to our specs? Don't you think I have a wonderful imagination?

Well, enough of that! Speaking of air travel; one job I wouldn't have in this day and age is TSA (Transportation Security Administration) Officer. Aside from the fact that they're on their feet all day, which wouldn't work for me since my "dogs" are worn out, it seems to be a stressful, thankless job. I saw an episode of "60 Minutes" on CBS that illustrated the difficult job the TSA has trying to ensure the safety of the traveling public. They gathered a bunch of TSA employees together to get their perspective. Naturally, just as those of us who are or have worked in law enforcement, they spoke of the abuse they have to take from the public who are fed up with being ques-

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Sam's Corner

Continued from pg 2

are fed up with being questioned, corralled, poked, prodded, scanned, and searched.

I see both points of view. As an infrequent traveler, I have run across TSA employees who were polite and professional, and those who were downright rude. Being in the business I'm in, I try to put it into perspective. Some people can really get to you, and I'm sure day after day of being spoken down to by impatient travelers can really fray nerves. Then, every time some incident occurs such as the one that occurred last year, where some knucklehead tried to set off an explosive in-flight, security levels are raised; and travelers are subjected to even more scrutiny.

Of course, besides travelers, airport security personnel really bear the brunt of this. I don't see any end to this. As long as there are terrorists who are willing to die to destroy this country, there will be higher levels of security, and more inconvenience to the general public. That's why I still like the tour bus idea.

What is this fascination with Tiger Woods and his love life? Ever since the man crashed his truck into a tree near his home in central Florida, there has been an unusually intense amount of interest in his marriage, career, and indiscretions. Obviously I cannot speak for all of my readers, but for my part, I really could care less how many affairs he's had, or whether or not he plans to return to golf, or the fact he's in "rehab" for sexual addiction, or whether or not he apologizes for his actions. Who is this guy? He's a good golfer. Big whoopee-doo! Do we really need to know that he can't keep his putter in his pants? I mean, how does seeing his name on the front page every day for 6 weeks enhance the quality of our lives? Is this dude a hero? Is he a role model? I think not! Why the heck am I writing about him? I guess I kind of find it fascinating that others find him so interesting.

Finally, I had the privilege of working with and supervising John Jones back in the 90's. John was the All-American, meat and potatoes surfer type. A good looking guy that many guys dreamed they could look like. Not only that, he

was intelligent, knowledgeable, and extremely articulate. If there was a guy who could get his point across, both verbally and physically, it was John. An avid athlete who always seemed to live life to its fullest, John was into just about everything. I recall him talking about buying a kayak and paddling around the ocean on his days off. He was also one of those guys who was really good to have around when calls went bad. John never backed down from a confrontation and fought bad guys with everything he had. This was also true when he was diagnosed with cancer. John's cancer became the "bad guy" in his body and John fought the bad guy for years, refusing to back down. John lost his battle last month, leaving behind his wife, daughter, family, and many, many good friends and colleagues. He will be missed.



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On February 16, 2010, members of the Miami Beach Police Department, Miami Police Department, and the United States Air Force came together along with friends and family to honor and celebrate the life of **OFFICER JOHN JONES**. John lost a courageous five and a half year battle with cancer at the age of 46 on February 9, 2010. The celebratory mass was held at St Patrick's Church on Miami Beach. John retired in 2009 after a 20 year career with the Police Department due to his illness. Prior to joining the Miami Beach Police Department, John was a member of the United States Air Force where he attained the rank of Sergeant. He was honorably discharged in 1988. While with the Air Force, he also met his wife, Ethyl. In 2006, John was awarded the Laurie Wander Spirit of Life Award by the Miami Beach Fraternal Order of Police. John is survived by his wife, Ethyl, a Commander with the Miami Police Department; their daughter, Jordan; his parents; brother, James, and sisters, Beth and Carol.



Memorial

GEORGE
KRIMINGER

In The News

DEATH OF GEORGE KRIMINGER

George Kriminger passed away on Saturday February 20th, 2010 in the morning at his home in Ocala, Florida. Funeral Services were private. His son Craig said George was cremated and his ashes were scattered in the Everglades where he enjoyed spending his time. On Sunday evening, friends and family were gathered at George's favorite watering hole toasting to George's Life. May he Rest in Peace.

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION FOR RETIREES

Certain government retirees who receive a government pension or annuity payment in 2009 may be eligible for the Government Retiree Credit. The *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* provides this one-time credit of \$250 for certain federal and state pensioners.

Here are seven things the IRS wants you to know about the Government Retiree Credit:

- You can take this credit if you receive a pension or annuity payment in 2009 for service performed for the U.S. government or any U.S. state or local government and the service was not covered by Social Security.
- Recipients of the Making Work Pay Credit will have that credit reduced by any Government Retiree Credit they receive.
- The credit is \$250 for individuals and \$500 if married filing jointly and both you and your spouse receive a qualifying pension or annuity.
- You must have a valid social security number to claim the credit. If married filing jointly, both spouses must have a valid social security number to each claim the \$250 credit.
- You cannot take the credit if you received a \$250 economic recovery payment in 2009.
- This is a refundable credit, which means it may give you a refund even if you had no tax withheld from your pension.
- To claim the credit, you must complete Schedule M, Making Work Pay and Government Retiree Credits, and attach it to your Form 1040A or 1040.

(Sent by Al Boza, source: Miami Herald Action Line, 02/17/10)

DENTAL INSURANCE CARDS

If you did not yet receive your Metlife PPO or Metlife Safeguard DHMO insurance cards, you may call Metlife at 1-800-942-0854. Let us know if you have any questions regarding cards or coverage and we'll try to point you in the right direction.





In The News

Continued from pg 4

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The General Membership meeting was held on Thursday, February 11th, 2010 at Romeu's Cuban Restaurant in Southwest Ranches (near Pembroke Pines). The attendees are listed as follows:

Executive Board:

Vinnie Aprile, Lynda Veski, Charlie Seraydar, Joan Donnelly Ochoa, Billy O'Neil, Pat Ryan, Lisa Newland and Fred Walder

Members:

Artie Ganz, Frank Azcarate, Samuel Gam, Pearl Riley, Jim Burnette, Carl Ward, Jason Psaltides, Ed Young, Shelley Goldstein, Bobby Bauer, Billy Rosenstein, Ken Dudenhofer, Jack Mackey, Jimmy Whitehead, Judy Sherry and Rocco DeLeo. Hope we didn't miss anyone. As usual, we had a good time and the food was good as well.

Some of the items discussed were:

*"Thank You" letters from widows for holiday checks were passed around.

*Wall Ceremony (see next entry).

*Details of next annual holiday party. The date is set for December 4th, 2010 at Jungle Island on the MacArthur Causeway in Miami. It will be an open bar, with the organization picking up \$25.00 of the cost and members paying \$40.00 per person. More information or possibly changes to follow later.

*Death of retired Officer John Jones.

*Discussion regarding the husband of Michelle Patrick-Harris (Services Division-Payroll), who suffered a stroke. Michelle's husband has since passed. Our thoughts go out to Michelle and her family.

*Update on condition of Police Dispatcher Jessica Pereyra. She was rushed to the hospital with an unknown medical condition. You may contact the station at 305-673-7901 for an update on her condition.

*Under "new business", Billy O'Neil would like the organization to consider having a semi-annual dinner to replace the mid-state conference. Billy and Lisa Newland will look into proposals for this event and report back to the membership.





In The News

Continued from pg 5

THE BREAKFAST CLUB

For those of you still living in the South Florida area *and* still interested in Miami Beach politics, you are invited to attend "The Tuesday Morning Breakfast Club" every Tuesday (of course) at 8:30 A.M. The location is David's Cafeteria, 1654 Meridian Ave. Miami Beach. There is no charge for attending the Breakfast Club and everyone is welcome. David Kelsey is Moderator for the Breakfast Club .

For more information contact David Kelsey . To be placed on the Breakfast Club's mailing list, contact Harry Cherry. Both can be reached at TuesdayMorningBreakfast-Club@Yahoo.com. Visit our new web site at www.MBTMBC.com (Miami Beach Tuesday Morning Breakfast Club).

Of course, we could combine the Tuesday morning breakfast club with Vinny's breakfast and *really* p—s off a bunch of people!

REMINDER-"WALL OF HONOR" CEREMONY

Chief Carlos Noriega personally extends an invitation to you to attend the Miami Beach Police Retiree's Roll of Honor Ceremony. The ceremony will take place on Friday, March 26th, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. in front of Police Headquarters. A luncheon will be held immediately following the ceremony in the community room located on the first floor of the station. Afterwards, a health insurance information session will be held in the 2nd floor training unit. Parking is limited and will be available at the bagged meters on 11th street from Washington Ave. to Pennsylvania Ave.



Wall Of Honor
Ceremony
March 26th



Month of March



Jimmy Booth
Charles Garabedian
Larry Hankoff
Don Hasley
Joe Matthews
Jim Mahle
Jose Martinez
Michael Miller

Wally Neumann
Timmy O'Regan
Bill Thrall
Billy O' Neil
Earl Ostreicher
Dan Reid
Lou Reilly
Charlie Reed



Steve Robbins
Tony Sabatino
Jim Scarberry
Judi Sherry
Michael Somberg
Steve Sulich
Robert Wilson
Nancy Wein

Itsy Bitsy Little Buck Stories, Part 1

By: Buck Griscom



Editor's Note: I've been sitting on this material for a long time and I apologize to Buck Griscom for taking so long to get this published, but you see Buck, I had to make sure the Statutes of Limitation had run out on some of this stuff! (Edited for content). S. Gam.

I have taken the liberty to include a few true humorous stories about mischievous members of the M.B.P.D. One has to turn his clock back to days when the job was still fun. Golly, we had so much fun for 30 straight years!

The Gotham Hotel Heist

Once upon a time at the Gotham Hotel on 13th Street, a 'street friend' of Bucks tipped him off to a planned armed home invasion. Two bad guys, both ex-cons planned to tie up the hotel owners, a man and his wife, steal their new car and the rent money, and drive 2,700 miles to California. They also planned to rape and rob along the way, whenever the mood struck them. So, the couple were moved out while multiple officers positioned themselves inside the apartment and around the building. At about 3 a.m. the two crooks entered the apartment, one armed with a knife, the other with a gun. Buck called out, "halt, police"! One of the crooks yelled back "aw shut up"! His response was met with gunfire. He was cut down with 00 buckshot from a double barrel shotgun. The other chap fled the apartment with cops in



pursuit. As they exited, bullets whizzed all over the place. The accomplice was taken into custody. No cops were reportedly hurt. Buck reported his partners that night (not a complete list) were newly promoted Sgt. Emmett Miller, Billy O'Neil, Pete Corso, Bill Godfrey, Dick Izzo, and Tommy Wilson. Buck reports that when the survivor was tried in court, he claimed that he would have given up had he heard "halt, police". He claims he heard "help, police". He was convicted anyway. After that, Buck started saying "freeze, police", so in the future, there would be no confusion.

Tony Marten, the toll runner

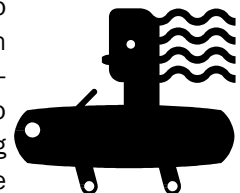
Driving a city car, on duty, on major official business, Marten consistently refused to run any toll booths. Then one day, the Gods were with me and blessed me. Marten was driving, since he refused to ever let me drive. My assigned Plymouth was hospitalized. The spare we were in was a Chevrolet. The Chevy's dashboard indicator, which showed what gear you were in, was missing. Approaching the toll booth, I was actually able to shame Marten into running the dime toll (first time ever). As Marten faked tossing the dime into the basket, I snatched the keys from the ignition and dropped them on the floorboard. Then I laid on the horn, thus alerting the toll takers, and the hundreds of other motorists around us of a toll cheater. At the top of my lungs I also screamed "he's running the toll



booth"! Marten was in a panic, scratching around the floorboard to find his keys; sweat pouring out of every gland. Keys found BUT, Chevy would not start. Why? Dash indicator showing what gear you were in was missing. Marten was not in park or neutral. Finally, Marten got the car moving. Away we sped, disappearing over the horizon. I was laughing so hard, I almost wet the seat!

Following too closely

Southbound on Northeast 2nd Avenue, at approximately 20th Street in the City of Miami. I am seeking revenge for numerous felonies Marten has committed against me. Sisters Destiny and Fate are again on my side. I am the lead car. Holding up three fingers signaled Marten to switch to channel three. I whisper into the microphone. Marten said "Buck, I can't hear you". I whisper, "get closer". The fool did. Emergency brake pedal talks me into locking up rear wheels. No brake lights when applying emergency brake. No anti-skid braking systems in those days. Marten locks up all four wheels as he drives up the sidewalk to avoid rear-ending me. Marten is raising hell at me! BUT, like I told him, "following too close, is what Miami PD would have cited you for."



Stand by for more 'Buck' stories next month!



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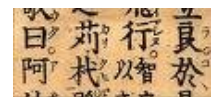
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*When rookie South Beach
Police Officer Katie Maguire
agreed to work undercover, the
exceptionally tall and attrac-
tive woman had no idea what
was in store for her. Follow
the adventures of our uniquely
gifted heroine as she journeys
along her destiny's path.*



**A Necessary End:
A Katie Maguire novel**

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