



▶ MBPD RETIREE NEWS ◀

March 2009

Unity is strength for a better retirement

www.mbpdretirees.com

General Board Meeting

February 19, 2009 - Ark Restaurant

On February 19, 2009 at 12 noon a general membership meeting of the Miami Beach Police Retiree Association was held at the Ark Restaurant, 6255 Stirling Road, Davie, Florida with 32 people attending.

Present at the meeting was Vice President Lynda Veski, Secretary Vincent Aprile, Treasurer Charlie Seraydar, Trustees Fred Walder, Lisa Newland, and Joan Donnelly-Ochoa. Also past presidents Joseph Brownlow and Carl Ward. Additionally members Shelly Goldstein, Rocco DeLeo, Jim Burnette, Jason Psaltides, Jack Tighe (wife Amy), Artie Schickler, James Smith, Lenny Veski, Frank Azcarate, Ed Young, Judi Sherry, Bernie Winer (wife Rose), James Whitehead, Bob Bauer, Sam Gam, Lori Figliolia- Harris, Billy Rosenstein, Pearl Riley, Jack Mackie (wife Maria), and Tom Davis.

Bernie Winer advised that Past President Joe Brownlow was celebrating his 75th birthday today.

Vinny's Breakfast

On January 30, 2009 a breakfast was held at the 84 Diner with 17 people attending.



They were retired officers Fred Walder, Robert Bauer, Kevin Graham, Lisa Newland, Jim Burnette, Greg Strong and his wife Maritza Fonseca (retired Crime Scene Tech.), Samuel Gam, Vinny Aprile, Lynda Veski, Mike Bauer, Charlie Seraydar and his daughter, Ashley. Also active officers Pat Quinlan, Howard Zeifman, FOP President Alex Bello and retired firefighter Tom Columbano.

Retirees Midstate Meeting

It is that time of year again, and the Miami Beach Police Retirees Mid-State Meeting in Orlando has been set for April 17-19, 2009! Please call to make your reservations early!!!! Room rate is the same as last year at \$119!

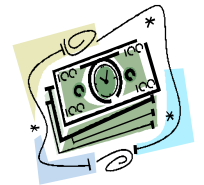
Here are the details and menu will follow as the date gets closer: Embassy Suites Hotel, 8100 Lake Ave, Orlando, FL 32836. Telephone 407-239-1144

RESERVATIONS:

Reservations will be made by: Individual Call In no later than Wednesday, March 18, 2009. After that date, you agree that we may offer unused rooms held in your block to other customers to reduce our losses and your obligations under the performance clause. Reservations requested by your attendees after this date will be accepted based upon availability. Room and tax will be paid by individuals.

Widow's Checks

For the past few years the Miami Beach Police Retiree's Association along with the Miami Beach Fraternal Order of Police have sent checks for \$100 each to widows of retired officers who are receiving a pension of \$600.00 or less a month. This year the checks were sent to seven widows who are receiving \$800.00 or less.



March Birthdays

Jimmy Booth, Charles Garabedian, Larry Hankoff, Don Hasley, Joe Matthews, Jim Mahle, Jose Martinez, Michael Miller, Art Melson, Wally Neumann, Timmy O'Regan, Bill Thrall, President Billy O'Neil, Earl Ostreicher, Danny Reid, Tony Sabatino, Jim Scarberry, Judi Sherry, Michael Somberg, Steve Sulich, Lou Reilly, Charles Reed, Steve Robbins, Robert Wilson, and Nancy Wein. Another retiree celebrated his 80th birthday, and is entitled to free dues was TEVEY WOOLFE, who served from 1959 to 1993. He also served his full time in patrol.

Tighe reports

The two melees at Dade High schools where police had to use lasers to break the fights, then having parents criticize the police action reminded me of a similar incident action. It also shows Chief Rocky Pomerance at his best. The original task force worked in civies driving unmarked vehicles. One night while most of the units were driving the north end, one ran into such a fight at the drive in on the west side of Normandy Isle. Being so close the task force units were the first on scene. In attempting to stop the fight, we ended fighting some of the participants, then arresting them. An elderly couple followed to the station then demanded they speak to the Chief about police brutality. Rocky had the couple in his office listening about one of our officers beating a person to the ground then kicking him. While making the complaint, a young man passed the doorway.

Immediately, the woman yelled that the person was one of those who kicked and beaten by police. Rocky had them write a summary of what had occurred. After they wrote their stories, Rocky had the youngster the couple were complaining about return to his office where he identified the "victim" as Officer Pete CORSO. Then he thanked the couple telling them they would be called as witnesses against the persons arrested; the elderly couple were never heard from again.

Membership cards

Those members that pay by check please send the \$25.00 to Charlie Seraydar at 5701 SW 134th Ave, Southwest Ranches, Florida 33330. The checks should be made out to the Miami Beach Police Retirees Association. If you would like to change to having the money taken out of your paycheck, email me at Vin455@myacc.net and I will mail you a deduction form.

Also if you have turned the magic number of 80 years old please notify me as your dues will then be free.

MBPD Retirees

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2009 State Ride - March 28th through April 4th



Honoring Law Enforcement Officers Killed in the Line of Duty
Ever thought about riding the State of Florida?
This is your chance!



March 28th and 29th Travel the East Coast of Florida
Ride starts at Circle K in Hollywood, Broward County
with a speech from Broward Sheriff Al Lamberti

March 31st and April 1st Travel the Panhandle of Florida
Meet with Governor Crist at 11:30am in Tallahassee then Lunch
with us at Capital City Harley-Davidson on March 31, 2009.

April 3rd Travel the West Coast of Florida

Finale on April 4th
At the PBA Hall in Ft. Lauderdale where all raffle prizes will be drawn.

Ride for 1 day or for all 6 days!
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www.sgtchrisreyka.com
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And All Law Enforcement Officers Who Have
Made The Ultimate Sacrifice

FOP sponsored “chili cook-off” teams “decomp chili” kills the competition

Submitted by Officer Alex Bello

Congratulations to Det. Erben, Det. Rivero, Det. Busquet and Ofc. Jenkins on placing second overall at the 99.9 KISS Country Chili Cook-off event held at C.B. Smith Park on Jan. 25, 2009. This was the first year that the Miami Beach FOP sponsored a team, and we are pleased to announce that their famous “DECOMP CHILI” killed the competition. The event benefited the Boys and Girls Clubs of Broward County. I would also like to thank all the members who attended the event as well as those who supported the team.



2nd Annual Nautica South Beach Triathlon

Submitted by Planning & Research Manager Michael Gruen

The 2nd Annual Nautica South Beach Triathlon presented by Toyota will again be partnering with St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Miami on April 5, 2009.

The event which will begin and end on the beach consists of a 1/2 mile swim, 18 mile bike ride and 4 mile run.

If you are interested in participating in this triathlon, please visit the event website for additional information regarding the Corporate Challenge at: www.southbeachtri.com.



Wall of Honor Ceremony

Please join the Miami Beach Police Retiree’s at the Wall of Honor set for March 26th, 2009 at 11:00am in front of the Miami Beach Headquarters.

The ceremony is held every year to add the names of the recently Retired Officers to the Police Department Wall. Parking is available at the P.A.L. Building and transportation will be available to take you to the Station. After the Ceremony, lunch will be served at the P.A.L. Building courtesy of the F.O.P. Lodge # 8, the P.A.L., Miami Beach Police Department and the Retiree’s Association.

Last year was a tremendous turnout and we look forward to seeing you all there.



THANKS!

Dean Adler contributes website design and maintenance services for www.mbpdretirees.com (see Dean’s ad on page 10 of this newsletter) from Cops and Firefighters in Business (CFB) as well as his mortgage business in Weston, Florida. Dean also donates the graphic design and printing services for this newsletter.

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2009 FOP installation dinner and banquet

On January 24, 2009 the Miami Beach Fraternal Order of Police held its installation dinner at the Rod and Reel Club on Miami Beach with 260 people attending. This was the largest turnout since the late 1970's.

The retirees who were present and received firearms were Bobby Bauer, Lou Fata, Samuel Gam, Kevin Graham, Robert Jenkins, Paul Lupien, Richard Mendoza, Gregory Strong and Dennis White. Also receiving firearms but not in attendance were Walter (Vinny) Campbell, Eddie Feigenblatt, Robert Hundevadt and Charlie Weaver.

Besides the above listed retirees who attended, additional retirees present were Dave Allen, Vinny Aprile, Al Boza, Jim Burnette, Jack Mackie, Pete Matthews, Joe Matthews, Lisa Newland, Billy O' Neil, Romilio Perez, Eugene(Buddy) Petit, Ellen Roelofs, Charlie Seraydar, Alan Solowitz, Jack Tighe, Fred Walder, Dennis Ward and Bernie Winer.

Alex Bello was sworn in as the new FOP President along with the rest of the FOP board.

The Laurie Wander Spirit of Life Award was presented to John Walsh. John Walsh's son, Adam was abducted and murdered twenty years ago from the Hollywood Mall. John Walsh then began and still hosts America's Most Wanted. The case was closed the end of 2008 when the Hollywood Police Department officially named Ottis Toole as Adam's killer. John Walsh was not present for the award but it was accepted by Joe Matthews. In a letter from John Walsh he thanked the FOP and especially thanked Joe for his assistance in the Adam Walsh investigation stating that without his help Ottis Toole would not have been named Adam's killer nor would the case had been closed by the Hollywood Police Department.

The FOP member of the year was Robert Silvagni. Rob has been on the executive board for many years along with numerous FOP committees.

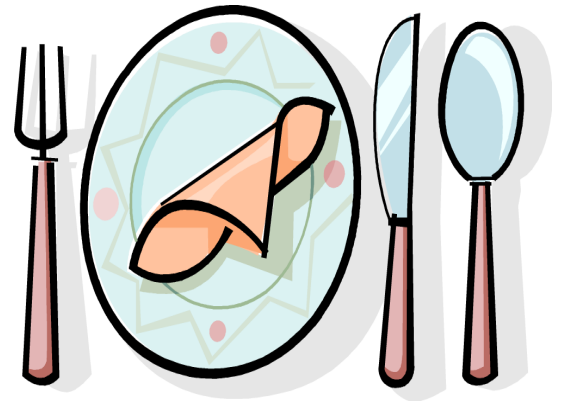
The Officer of the Year Award was presented to Officer Anthony Ferbeyre who was involved in numerous arrests including an Armed Robbery and help saving people from an apartment fire.

In Memoriam

GILBERT, BOB (3/4/19-2/23/09) died Feb. 23 after a long illness leaving behind his spouse of 65 years (Joan); four living sons (Edward, Jerry, John and Tom); granddaughters Robyn and Sarah, Lora, Ashley and their mothers Mary, Debbie and Joani respectively. Preceding him in death were his firstborn son Rob Jr. and grandson David. A native Miamian and graduate of Gesu Catholic School, Bob's great loves were his family, flying, boating, model airplanes, ham radio and ballroom dancing. He served as a radio officer in the Merchant Marines, a flight radio officer - then later a radio technician - with Pan American Airways (1942-1957) after which he was employed by the City of Miami Beach as its communication technician until his retirement in 1974. Bob enriched the lives of all those he loved. Surviving representation will gather at Holy Family Catholic Church in North Miami at 10 A.M. on Saturday, March 7th to bid him farewell. To visit this Guest Book Online, go to www.MiamiHerald.com/obituaries.

SPAGNOLA, CHUCK - The pension office notified us that retired Officer Chuck Spagnola died at the end of January. Chuck would have been 90 years old later this year, he was born in 1919. He served from 1949 to 1970. I remember Chuck being a quite person and I cannot remember him ever losing his temper. He was a pilot also and when he learned I worked weather when in the Navy, he would question me what type of clouds and guess what altitude. He never was promoted but worked patrol, then the desk toward the end of his police career. He moved to California after his retirement and every so often would send me a note about something I had written

I think it was five years ago that thee organization began a policy of sending holiday checks of a \$100 to six widow who were receiving a less than six hundred dollars a month Three years ago the FOP matched our donation. Then we added four more widows, getting less than \$1,000 a month, with the FOP again matching our donation. Through this donation we, and the pension board, learned Mrs. George GORHAM had passed away two months ago. Her husband George GORHAM was an ID Officer who served from 1942 to 1970.



Meet the retirees...Officer Greg Strong

By Samuel Gam

Greg Strong's name was and is synonymous with one thing: Traffic enforcement! As a motorman on the Police Department, he struck fear in the hearts of many motorists (and some cops). When Greg stepped out in the street, he usually had a portable laser unit in one hand and a ticket book in the other. The numbers on the blinking laser unit display most certainly signaled doom for most motorists. If Greg stopped someone, 97% of the time, they were getting a ticket. And rightfully so, Miami Beach has some of the worst drivers in the entire country. Greg's retirement has definitely left a huge void in terms of traffic enforcement on the Beach.



In addition, Greg's vast, textbook knowledge of the traffic laws and other various traffic related issues had been invaluable to his co-workers. I recall being in court one day, testifying on a speeding case. The guy I cited had driven his sports car through a school zone at about fifty miles per hour. He (like many motorists we encounter these days) was a real jerk, and I wanted to get him good! Unfortunately, I used the wrong statute number on the ticket and was on the verge of losing the case. Greg stood up and saved the day for me. Acting almost as MY attorney, he quoted me the correct statute number from memory, instructed me to amend the citation, and then got the magistrate to go along with it! He was extremely well respected in court and his word was good as gold. The jerk shuffled away with a five hundred dollar fine. I can think of many other examples where Greg went out of his way to make life easier for his co-workers. Another good example is the "pocket sized" traffic statute guide he created for the entire Department. We needed one that was easy to use and contained the most commonly used traffic violations, and Greg came through for us!

Gregory Strong was born in Cincinnati, Ohio in July of 1952. Until the age of ten, he lived in the North College Hill section of Cincinnati, and then moved to Miami in 1962. Greg attended Southwest Miami Senior High where he played junior varsity football and varsity basketball. Greg later went on to join the United States Army and was assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, North Carolina from 1973 until 1976.

In 1977, Greg graduated from Florida International University with a BS in Criminal Justice. Some of his jobs during and after college included the following: Investigative clerk for the Miami Division of the FBI, and ditch digger for a sprinkler

**Don't miss our special
letters and comics**

pages...

NEXT!



Ms Trina Mellon 2/17/09

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you once again for your generous check. It was a very pleasant surprise.

I also am sorry that I did not write & thank you last year. I saved the address with the intent of thanking all of you. When I sat down to write, found I apparently either misplaced or lost it, sorry.

Once again thank you

Respectfully

Trina Mellon
8172 Ladoga Ave
Jct. Fl. 32217



2-19-69

To President William O'Neil Miami Beach Dept of Police and
To President Alejandro Belto Miami Beach Fraternal Order of Police

When I opened your letter and saw those generous checks again - I was so surprised!! You have a truly loving group of people in your organizations!! This really touched my heart!

I am so fortunate that my husband worked for the Miami Beach Police Dept. because even tho he died 23 years ago, I still receive a pension from his job with the M.B. Police Dept.!! It has been a comfort to me! It gives me peace of mind knowing I can depend on that. Your gifts are really appreciated! I assure you I will use them well and enjoy them!

That was so nice of all of you.

Thank You So Much!!
Madeleine Ward

**16 Wonderbrook Drive
Kennebunk, ME 04043**

February 21, 2009

William O'Neil, President
Miami Beach Police Department Retirees, Inc.
Alejandro Bello, President
Miami Beach Fraternal Order of Police
William Nichols Lodge #8
5801 SW 134th Ave.
Southwest Ranches, FL 33330

Gentlemen:

I am writing on behalf of my great aunt, Barbara M. Riles, to thank your organizations for your generous "Christmas Donation" checks. She is ninety-seven years of age and these two checks were such a wonderful bonus to help with some of her expenses.

I would like to also take this opportunity to ask you to please change her mailing address in your records.

FROM:

Sterling House
2232 Dora Avenue #144
Tavares, FL 32778

TO:

**Barbara M. Riles
16 Wonderbrook Drive
Kennebunk, ME 04043**

Again, thank you so much.

Sincerely,


Carole M. Krueger

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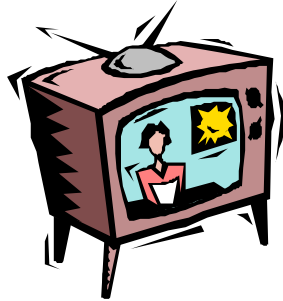
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