



▶ MBPD RETIREE NEWS ◀

June 2007

Unity is strength for a better retirement

www.mbpdretirees.com

June Luncheon

The June luncheon will be at "Roasted Pepper," 9893 Pines Boulevard, Pembroke Pines, (at the rear of a shopping center that includes Dunkin' Donuts and Kentucky Fried Chicken) on Thursday, June 14th starting at Noon. Cost will be \$13 per person. This meeting is called to vote on the bylaw for 80 year olds. This affects 20 members at this time and I THINK IF THEY LIVE CLOSE, THEY'LL COME TO THIS LUNCHEON!



Any member in good standing (dues paid) for five years or more, will be declared a life member upon reaching their 80th birthday and will no longer be required to pay dues.

Vinny's Breakfast

No luncheon or breakfast is simply sitting down and eating. Conversation and memories also are a large part of it. At our end of the table, conversation included the City of Hialeah in the old days; the two MIAMI HERALD reporters, Edna and Joan, who both started with the Miami Beach paper whose name I've forgotten (happens with old age); the competency of Brass both old and new; Armed Services experiences; then, finally past police stories. I was glad to see John DEVANEY, whose father was Police Chief when I was. Bill ARWOOD called my cell while we were eating and DEVANEY too the phone and belittled him. Attending were DEVANEY, Vinny APRILE, Billy O'NEAL, Jim BURNETTE, Don FREEMAN, Alan SKOLNICK, Wally NEUMANN came late, active officer Pat QUINLAN and myself.

From the members...

John JONES sent this letter...On behalf of my wife, Ethyl and my daughter Jordan, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to you all of your support. Bernie WINER was kind enough to forward many of your notes and furnish me with your addresses and I am in the process of sending thank you notes. However, I wanted to be certain to reach everyone and express my thanks and relate to you how humbled I am by your generosity, your encouragement and your prayers. I'll mention one of the notes as it is representative of all the others and illustrates the selfless character you all share, your prayers, thank you! Retiree Jess WEBB wrote, "just an ole retiree (1970) who still considers Officer Jones to be one of my guys." To say that, I was moved by this and all the other expressions of gratitude for all you have done for our membership in the structuring of our present pension and health trust but the enormity of your sacrifice and foresight in securing these benefits for us all was lost on me as a 24-year-old rookie back in 1989. As I have gained perspective, I now realize the enormity of what you accomplished and have to come to fully appreciate it. So, for all your sacrifice, your support, your prayers, thank you. Sincerely, John. Editor's note: we collected \$4,910 for his daughter's college expenses.



Death

Sergeant of Police Curtis HOBSON passed away March 23rd. He served most recently in the Identification Bureau from 1941 to 1969.

Condolences

Our condolences to Rocco DE LEO on the loss of his 85-year-old mother who must have had a good life. She had 13 grandchildren.

Help Wanted

I need two people once a month to help me address, seal and mail these newsletters. Usually, the last day of the month. Call 954-431-2928. Thank you!



Mid-State Meeting

If you believe the motive for this meeting is to bring those living North of Broward County the chance to meet and reminisce with old partners and workers, this meeting was a failure when only Jim CASEY and Bill ARWOOD attended. Still the meeting went well, and those attending endorsing a return to the hotel next year, citing the service from the hotel. Attending were President Joe BROWNLOW, Vice President Lynda VESKA, Secretary Vinny APRILE, Treasurer Charlie SERAYADAR, Trustees Bill O'NEAL, and Wally NEUMANN, Jim BURNETTE and his wife, Lisa NEWLAND, who has retired, Lenny VESKI, John VAN VRANKEN, Past President Carl WARD, Don HASLEY and myself. We expected more to attend, even thought some would come for the dinner only.



Hospitality Room was busy with everyone trying to identify officers in pictures I turned over to APRILE.

The hotel was excellent, the free breakfast and the two happy hours went well with our group congregating at both affairs.

The dinner, a buffet, was superb, roast beef, chicken marsala, with sides, salad and dessert. After all were fed, the chef cut the remaining roast beef and left it for those wanting seconds.

After dinner, all were at the Hospitality Room so the meeting was held Saturday night instead of Sunday. Two important topics were covered. The motion to excuse members in good standing (dues paid) for five years and 80 years of age, requires a bylaw change, motion made, seconded and passed that such change be made. Then a motion was made, seconded and passed that we return to the hotel next year.

Notes

Even with a map off the Internet, the hotel was hard to find. You noticed it when driving South of I-4, but getting to it was a hassle. I went into two shopping centers before finding it at a dead end. Our suite was a living room, with fridge and microwave, then the bedroom with a door between. When we went to bed, we closed the door. At 7am, an alarm went off, I pounded on every button the clock in the bedroom without success, then Amy went to the living room. On looking out the window, she saw a fire truck with firemen in bunker gear entering the hotel with the kitchen help dressing in their whites standing outside. Before we could get dressed, the alarm was turned off. However, that meant the whole hotel went to breakfast, causing a line where they cooked your eggs. Amy and I had the idea of going to the Disney Luau dinner but when the hotel tried to make reservations, found the first opening was next Tuesday. Instead, we went to Mickey's Marketplace and had dinner on a steamboat. Good, but expensive. A mass of stores with restaurants, we ended up buying at the Irish store. Saturday, the group broke up with some attending the tourist's parks while Amy and I sat by the poolside and read. We had a lot of booze and sides left over from the Hospitality Room because of the lack of attendance.

With AmyAnn, John F. and his family, we went to Somerset, Pennsylvania for a daughter's graduation from nursing school. The Somerset area is where Flight 93 went down on September 11th. We visited the site. The plane went down on private property but the owner is asking an arm and leg for it. At the site, a single American flag is displayed. A short distance away, the County has filled in their land for an observation point. It has nine foot high, fifty foot long common wire fencing facing on one side, filled with emblem, notes and all kinds of articles hanging on both sides. Above it are four flags, one an American type striped flag with 93 instead of the stars. Another had the usual American flag with the words, "Flag of Honor" under it and the names of the passengers inscribed within the stripes. Facing the site are benches, each with the name of a passenger, including one Japanese man whose name is in English and Japanese. In front of the observation site are foot high dolls, one representing each passenger. A place of greed, by the owner of the property and national pride for the passengers. GOD BLESS AMERICA.

***MBPD Retirees
Newsletter is
published by the
Miami Beach***



***Police Department
Retirees Associa-
tion, 12954 NW 132nd Street,
Miami, FL 33411. The newslet-
ter is written by Jack Tighe.
The graphic design and print-
ing services are donated by
Dean Adler of Cops and
Firefighters in Business
(www.cfbnetwork.com). Dean
also contributes website
design and maintenance
services to MBPD Retirees (see
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this newsletter). For advertising
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Changes

Bob LEVY, 1204 Wealey Plantation Drive,
Duluth, GA 30096, phone number to
follow.

John CLEMENTS, 19120 SW 248th
Avenue, Homestead, FL 33031,
kopskamp@bellsouth.net

Rich BARRETO, 603 Burton Drive,
Tavernier, FL 33070

Laurence FEINGOLD, aslanf@aol.com

New offers in Surfside

Surfside's Police Department not only has new police officers, new cars and new specialized training, it also has a new Assistant Police Chief with vast experience. The new man is our own Major John DiCENSO who replaces Deputy Chief Shawn O'REILLY. DiCENSO, 53, is a 29-year veteran with the Miami Beach Police Department. He retired from his position as Chief in the Patrol Division last month. He is a former colleague of Surfside Police Chief David ALLEN, who also recently came to Surfside from the Miami Beach Police Department. ALLEN said DiCENSO will be a mentor to the officers. "We're very fortunate to get someone with his experience and knowledge," ALLEN said.

DiCENSO's annual salary is \$90,000 plus benefits. According to Town Manager, W.D. HIGGENBOTHAM, ALLEN, who was named Interim Chief in October and given the job permanently in January, said he was excited about the changes. "Our officers are young and dedicated and I'm enthusiastic they will be trained in various specialized areas," he said, referring to the K-9 and SWAT training.

Those officers selected for SWAT will train with both the Miami and Miami Beach Departments while in-house candidates also are being interviewed for K-9 training, ALLEN said.

ALLEN said the purpose of SWAT training is to have officers available who will know what to do if a critical situation occurs, citing an accident in April, where a standoff following an aborted bank robbery shut down a section of Arthur Godfrey Road. CONGRATULATIONS TO JOHN DiCENSO, WE KNOW HE'LL MAKE US PROUD!



The MIAMI HERALD "Beach Kid" works way up to "Top Cop."

As a kid, Carlos NORIEGA hung out at his father's Miami Beach auto parts store, learning a family business he figured he'd run someday. Some of the regulars were cops, who over time, steered him in a different direction. Now, Assistant Chief Noriega, 47, has become the Miami Beach's Police Department top cop, at least for the time being. NORIEGA has been involved for many years in key decisions made in running the Police Department. City Manager Gonzalez said, "He is supported by the command staff, the rank-and-file and the union." Outgoing Chief DELUCCA says NORIEGA would be a good choice to replace him. "He understands the goals and where we're heading. He's a caring boss and he's a Beach kid who cares about

...TOP COP continued on page 4

Congratulations

Congratulations to Jackie and Carl WARD who will be grandparents in September when their oldest granddaughter gives birth.

To Milton LEWIS who becomes 90 years old! He's back in North Carolina for the summer.

News?

Got an interesting or fun story to tell? Please contact WOOLDRIDGE at askfredanything@aol.com or call 561-624-4395.



Dean Adler contributes website design and maintenance services for www.mbpsdretirees.com (see Dean's ad in this newsletter) from Cops and Firefighters in Business (CFB) as well as his mortgage business at Bankers Mortgage Trust in Sunrise, Florida. Dean also donates the graphic design and printing services for this newsletter. www.cfbnetwork.com

Happy Birthday

Vinny APRILE
Frank AZCARATE
Ed BASON
Yetta BRODIE
Mark DeFUSCO
Tony DOMINGUEZ
Phil JOHNSON
Art KLINE
Milton LEWIS (God bless!)
Julian LINDENAUER
Mario MARTINEX
David McLAREN
Charles METSCHER
Bob MOOREHEAD
John MURPHY
Charles SERAYAR
Irwin SOLOWITZ
Elayne WOLFENSON



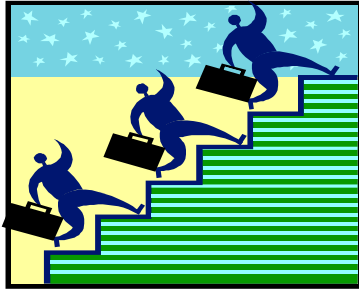
Note: We have several Retirees to interview, but this letter is so long we will print them next month.

the City. Fraternal Order of Police, Robert JENKINS, says, "He's more than qualified. He worked his way up. He's very upfront and people respect him." NORIEGA says he will focus on the "Quality of Life issues because that's where most of our complaints and efforts are." He added special events will continue to be a challenge. here that doesn't stop, Memorial Day weekend.

He was born in Cuba, to the United States as an attended South Beach School, St. Patrick Middle Beach Senior High. His DiLido Island, his father, minor league pitcher for the Brooklyn Dodgers, ran Miami Beach Auto Pars for 25 years. Carlos earned an Associate's Degree from Miami Dade Community College, and worked for his father, but foresaw auto parts chains would doom the independents. He made a lot of friends who were police officers and they'd always say, "Why don't you join up?" He thought about it but didn't take it seriously, then started thinking, "You know what? Maybe public service is something I want to do." He joined the Miami Beach Police Department on March 14, 1984, serving in the Patrol Division, which he later headed. He also earned a Bachelor's Degree from St. Thomas University and a Master's Degree from Florida International University, both in criminology. The year before he became a cop, tragedy struck his family, his sister and only other sibling, KATHY, was killed after a head-on collision with a truck on Alligator Alley. She lingered for several months on life support before dying at Mt. Sinai, never regaining consciousness. NORIEGA says that loss changed him as a cop. "There's nothing more difficult than doing next-of-kin notification," he said. Families came into criminal investigations when he was a detective. "It's gut-wrenching, heartbreaking and mentally and emotionally draining to see people break down and realize suddenly that they had a son and a daughter and they've now lost everything. You have to have compassion but be professional and be strong."

His second year on the job, he was named "Officer of the Year," then was transferred to undercover Narcotics. He also has worked in Internal Affairs, Property and Evidence Unit, the Technical Services Division, and was heading the Violent Crimes Unit when designer Gianni Versace was murdered in 1987. Only once has he questioned his career choice, that's when his partner, Scott RAKOW, 28, was shot and killed during an undercover sting in 1988. He actually thought, "Is it worth doing? Is law enforcement really for me?" But, he realized the death was a tragedy but it had no bearing on what he was doing. "I enjoyed what I was doing. I enjoyed what I felt I had a calling and I had a passion for it."

Carlos and his wife of 22 year, Sally, an emergency room trauma nurse in the Hollywood Memorial Hospital, have a son and a daughter at Weston's Cypress Bay High School, a son at FIO and a boxer puppy. He coaches an Optimist Club youth team in Cooper City. He and Sally unwind by dancing. "Our jobs are very stressful and we don't really talk about our work that much at home. I'm a firm believer that family is a priority. You have to have a life outside of the department."



We have a season January 1st through

NORIEGA, came infant. He Elementary School and Miami family lived on Joseph, once a

From Richard Barreto

While I would never trade the memories and great stories of my life with the POLICE Department, I have found there is a good life after police work. Two years ago, Dee and I bought a fifth wheel camper and traveled across the country, through Canada and up into Alaska. Actually, we did the Alaska part with Eddie BASON, Mike GRANT, Dale LASSITER, and Keith STRICKLAND. We had an incredible time to say the least.

We have built a new home in Tavernier, in the Keys and have since moved there full-time. Our former house, the only one we ever owned, was bought by my son Steven. He lives there with Jenny PINDER (Danny PINDER's daughter).

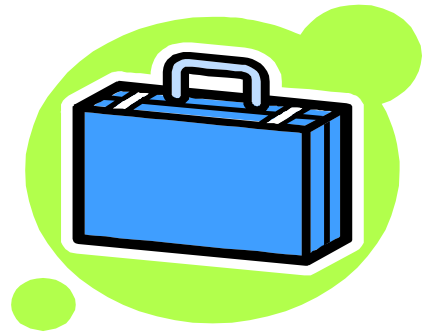
When I retired, I formed my own consulting firm which really took up more time than I wanted it to. Eventually, I unloaded all my clients but one and then took a shot at the Chief's job in Coral Gables. It came down to me and one other person from the County. Little did I know the Mayor's law partner went to school with my opponent. NEED I say more on the subject other than some things happen for the best?

I have learned not to feel guilty about now working and now really enjoy retirement. I recently was elected to the Board of Directors for the Tavernier Community Association, so I'm not entirely out of touch with what's going on where I live. Our daughter, Kellie, is graduating from Florida State in April and will be applying to veterinary schools around the country. We carry the loss of Cory like a heavy burden, but time has tempered the pain. After two hurricanes, our oldest, Steven, started a roofing business with two partners and they are doing fantastic.

Dee and I will be leaving this June for a return trip to Alaska, where we hope to root out some of the smaller towns and see the places we did not see on the last trip. It looks like Mike GRANT and Keith STRICKLAND will be going also. Life is good.

Meet the Old-Timer

Officer Bill ARWOOD and wife Tammy recently took a trip to preview possible areas to have a final move to in the future. Stopping first in Franklin, NC to visit relatives, Bill contacted Jerry Milligan on April 11th. Jerry was very busy with tax preparations as he works for H&R Block for tax season and he was swamped. Bill and Jerry met for breakfast at Sunset Restaurant and had a great time reminiscing, even though they never worked together on the same shift, there was still common camaraderie and a sense of only days ago when they were working on the Beach.



Jerry showed Bill his home which is just on the outskirts of the city on approximately seven acres. The home was a fairly new multi-level, sitting in a very picturesque setting halfway up a hillside. The grounds were manicured. A tour of the inside of the house revealed a lovely decorated home and though none of Jerry's family were present at the time of Bill's visit, you could sense that there was a lot of love in the home. What husband gives their wife a yard tractor for their anniversary? (Especially when she is expecting a ring?). Bill was very impressed and envious of the property and lifestyle. Jerry said they love Franklin, NC and are very happy. His wife, Julie, is a nurse in a local hospital.

The visit flew by. Jerry had to get back to work. Bill would have liked to have spent more time there, but...

Leaving Franklin, they drove to Shenandoah Valley, VA arriving at their lodge in the Sky Bryce Resort area. They spent the first several days in a storm with high winds causing many trees to snap causing power lines to break. They were without power for several days. Luckily, they had a fireplace. After the first two days without a shower (no hot water...only icy cold water) they decided to pack an overnight bag and head down the road to Harper's Ferry, WV which is a National Historic Park famous for the John Brown incident in Civil War history. It was a very quaint yet rugged area dating back to when George Washington surveyed the area. Bill and Tammy walked the town and abandoned the Railroad Bridge and had a beautiful sunny day.

Asking several of the locals for P.O.I history and places to eat, they were advised by several to drive to Shepherdstown for quaint shops and wonderful eateries. They ate at "Yellow Brick Bank Restaurant" which is at the crossroads as you enter downtown. You can't miss it! The food was wonderful, almost at a gourmet level. Bill had an oyster poorboy which was dusted in a flavorful cracker meal and Tammy had Coquille St. Jacques, a delicious entrée of scallops and mushrooms in a sherry cream sauce topped with seasoned breadcrumbs. Yummy! It was served with a light salad of spring greens and a raspberry vinaigrette...can you taste it? Can you believe that in a small out of the way town?

After walking the town (maybe an hour), they drove 15 minutes out of town to Antietam Battlefield. There is a 20-minute film you can watch prior to doing the driving tour. It was very interesting if you are into Civil War history. The single, bloodiest day of the Civil War took place on this battlefield. Towards the end of the day and tour of the battlefield, Bill walked up into the "Mumma Family Cemetery" located within the Battlefield Park. While reading the gravestones (one of Bill's hobbies) and while no one else was in the cemetery except for ONLY Bill, he heard several very unusual sounds, neither natural nor man-made, which caused him a hasty retreat to the car.

After verifying they had power restored to their condo, they headed back to Shenandoah Valley. Bill had taken his Retirees Directory and began to look to see who was located in the area. He realized that Charlie REED lived no more than ten minutes away in the town of Edinburg. Bill called Charlie and after a few seconds of Charlie trying to place his voice and name to the ghost of the past, Bill invited himself to Charlie's for a quick visit.

Bill and Tammy drove over to Charlie's acreage only to find out that him and his wife, Suzanne, had just arrived home from the Dulles Airport from being gone for several weeks. Suzanne had been out West visiting friends and family, and Charlie had been on a job as a security consultant. They were both very cordial, gracious and welcoming even though they had just arrived home from a long trip. Charlie showed them his spread. He has approximately 17 acres on top of a hill in a meadow, lush green grass, beautiful 360-degree view, nice house, large storage garage, equipment barn and cattle barn. They were very envious of this peaceful place. Bill showed Charlie his MPBP Scrapbook and they exchanged war stories. It was a great common camaraderie. Bill and Charlie had worked together on the same midnight shift for several years.

After great conversation, Charlie invited Bill and Tammy to dinner the next day. They met at the Braxton Restaurant in the Bryce Ski Resort. It was a very large lodge-type restaurant. Dinner was great and they also found out they were celebrating Suzanne's birthday.

When the check arrived, Charlie grabbed it quickly and insisted on picking up the tab. Bill argued and finally agreed to let Charlie pick up the tab and Bill leave the tip. That was unexpected but very gracious of Charlie. They had great conversation that evening.

...ARWOOD continued on page 6

Leaving Shenandoah Valley and heading South on I-81, they stopped at Staunton, VA to see the Frontier Living History Museum. The cost was \$18 for two with an AAA discount for the tour which consisted of a 15-minute film on the history of the area. It is a Living History Museum with live period actors depicting the people who immigrated to the area. There were real homes and farms that had been brought over from Germany, England, Ireland and Scotland. They also had a real farmhouse, barn, spring house, etc. transported from the local mountain to this museum to show the influences of the immigrants who became the early American Pioneers. They actually raise animals and crops on the museum property. They shear the sheep, comb the wool and spin it into yarn, which they make goods from and actually sell in the gift shop. They also butcher cows and pigs and hang the meat in the smokehouse and actually cook it and eat it. They do everyday things just like "back in the day." It was very very interesting and worthwhile.

Leaving that area, Bill made contact with Mario MARTINEZ who lives in Spencer, WV, only to find out that Mario was back in Miami due to a death in the family. Our condolences!

They continued into Tennessee on Route 40 and made contact with Marty DRUCKER and his wife Zury who are now living in Cookesville, TN. Bill and Marty worked the midnight shift for several years together. They all met for lunch at Cheddars Restaurant. Great lunch! Marty expressed how much they really loved the area. He is involved in umpiring softball and for a time, he rode as a Reserve with the local Sheriff's Department. Zury works for Averitt Trucking Company. They advised they really love their life there.

Bill and Tammy were invited to Marty's home which is on the outskirts of town. They have a 5-acre lot with a stone house, nicely landscaped and secluded with trees and rolling meadows. It was a beautiful home.

The ARWOOD's expressed that they were looking for different areas to possibly move to in the near future and Marty insisted on showing them the area. Everyone piled into Zury's car and Marty begin the tour of Cookesville and surrounding areas. The area consists of rolling hills, newer subdivisions, and homes ranging from \$200K to up to \$1 million. Marty advised that Peter MARTINEZ had moved to the area a year or more ago and also that Sunday Brown and her husband unknowingly moved directly beside of Peter. What are the odds of that? It was meant to be.

Marty drove by Pete's and Sunday's neighborhood. Sunday Brown was outside doing yard work. They stopped and rolled down the window and asked if she knew where Miami Beach was. She looked stunned and then started laughing. Bill hadn't seen Sunday Brown since his retirement in 19909. Sunday and Bill were happy to see each other again. They had attended the same high school in Orlando even though it was several years apart.

After a few minutes of catching up, Sunday advised that Pete lived next door and thought that he was home. They all walked over and knocked on the door. Pete opened the door and invited everyone in. After introductions to Pete's wife, he showed Bill and Tammy his huge beautiful brick home sitting on an acre or more with a vacant lot behind his house, which is available to any interested retiring MBP officer. Pete's home was beautifully decorated inside. His wife had a huge collection of angels and it was very comfortable and homey. Pete is very involved with the church and he and his wife said how happy and relaxed they are there. Their daughter will be getting out of the Navy and will soon be joining them.

After visiting for an hour, Marty showed the ARWOODs Burgess Falls State Park. This is a MUST SEE if you are ever in the area. There was a bit of hiking involved, but absolutely worth all the stops. It was a sight to behold. Leaving the Falls, they all returned to Marty's house and agreed to meet for dinner later at Logan's Steakhouse. Marty and Bill exchanged war stories. Bill pulled out his MBP Scrapbook. The camaraderie and fellowship was very pleasant.

This concluded the Miami Beach Retiree rendezvous. Bill and Tammy continued on their own exploring different areas of Tennessee which included Dandridge Lake and the City of Dandridge, which is still a fairly undeveloped area. They came upon Falls Creek State Park which is another awesome Tennessee State Park. It is actually a resort. It consists of a lake (allowing only un-motorized boats), a swimming pool area, riding stable, golf course, campsites, cabins and an inn and restaurant. Being that is towards the end of the day, they decided to stay the night there. The rates and restaurant were reasonable and the food was great! The facilities were very serene and tranquil. What a great find!

On their return trip home, the Arwoods stopped by Franklin, NC again. They programmed Jerry Milligan's address into the GPS (thank goodness for GPS) which took them to Jerry's front door. Upon arrival, they observed Jerry and Julie and their hopeful potential future son-in-law in the garage area. Jerry smiled walking out of the garage while recognizing their car. He said he was glad they could stop by again. Bill apologized for just dropping in unannounced but that was just how he operated. The point of the return trip was so Tammy could see Jerry and Julie's property because Bill hadn't quit talking about it and saying that it was Tammy's Dream House. He was right! Julie gave Tammy a tour of the house while Jerry and Bill chewed the fat and exchanged more war stories. Jerry looked much more relaxed after living through the tax season and said he was happy to be working on chores around the house. Bill advised Jerry of their travels and all the officers he had seen during the past two weeks. In conclusion, Bill said that everyone seemed very settled and comfortable in their lives and much more relaxed and happy post-MBPD.