



# ▶ MBPD RETIREE NEWS ◀

D e c e m b e r 2 0 0 8

*Unity is strength for a better retirement*

**www.mbpdretirees.com**

## Vinnie's Breakfast

On Friday, November 14, 2008, breakfast was served at the 84 Diner with 26 people attending. Attending were Charlie SERAYDAR and his wife, Nancy; John and Cathy TIGHE; Bobby and Mike BAUER; Tommy LEDERMAN, Jim MAHLE, Paul LUPIEN, Joan and Oldy OCHOA, John VAN VRANKEN, Pat QUINLAN, Billy O'NEIL, Lisa NEWLAND and Jimmy BURNETTE, Bobby JENKINS, Rocco DELEO, Carlos DEVARONA, Billy ROSENSTEIN, Ellen ROELOFS, Alan SKOLNICK, Samuel GAM, Vinny APRILE and retired FF Tom COLUMBANO and his son.

The next breakfast will be held on Friday, December 12 at 9:30am at the 84 Diner. All are welcome to attend. Hope to see you there.

### Pension Update

*Important information received by mail from the City of Miami Beach:*

The City of Miami Beach Employee Benefit Department is currently reviewing the records of all retirees in an effort to guarantee the information contained in your file is both complete and up to date.

A review of your file revealed the appropriate beneficiary designation for your Retiree Life Insurance was not on record. Without your beneficiary information, in the event of your death, the benefit payment provided by the Retiree Life Insurance plan may be delayed or paid to an individual you did not intend to receive the benefit dollars.

Enclosed you will find a Beneficiary Designation Form. To guarantee your Retiree Life Insurance benefit is paid to the appropriate individual in a timely manner, please complete the form and return it to this office.

Should you have any questions regarding the completion of this form, please call Employee Benefits at 305-673-7526, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention and completion of the form.

Sincerely,

City of Miami Beach  
Employee Benefit

*Beneficiary form on page 5*

## Sam's Corner- "A Collection of disorganized thoughts"

I love hot dogs. I all but stopped eating donuts. Having to listen to all those smart alecky remarks and "donut" jokes over the years have really taken their toll on me. So because of that, I really don't care for donuts anymore. I will eat one, but only under duress.



I love hot dogs (did I say that already?). I eat about 2 or 3 a week. There's nothing like sitting on the back patio on a cool breezy Florida afternoon with a glass of wine in one hand, and a good hand rolled hot dog in the other. I don't like mustard on my dogs, only catsup. Don't care what you say; it's a free country bubba!! You want mustard on yours? By all means, knock yourself out. And, I don't like the all beef ones. You know, the high quality Hebrew Nationals, or Sabretts. I like the hot dogs that are made with pork, chicken, turkey, veal, beef, rabbit, aardvark, and about 16 other creatures. They are scrumptious.

*SAM'S CORNER, continued on page 2...*

I was at Wal-Mart and ran across these off brand franks on sale for 69 cents, you know, the ones made with different kinds of meat. So I bought a few of those packs. I ran a "3" home with my hot dogs, anxious to tear open the package, heat those suckers up and make myself a treat. You know how they advertise those Ballpark franks that "plump when you cook them"? Well these shrink. By the time I finished cooking those hot dogs, they had shrunk to the size of Vienna sausages. And they had the strangest flavor too. Something like a mix of baloney, oatmeal, and grits.



The moral of the story of course is: "You get what you pay for". Was there really a point to this story? No, not really. So, why am I sharing this with you? Do I really want to expose myself to embarrassment and ridicule...over a darn hot dog? Perhaps I do. I just want you folks to know I'm eating healthier these days. And eating healthy means I'm staying away from donuts and opting for the good stuff. Hot dogs!

Now that I've embarrassed myself by wasting space talking about hot dogs, let me talk about a serious subject. I'm glad they've started doing television reality shows about workers other than police officers, fire fighters, doctors, and ugh! Lawyers! In the last couple of years or so, I've seen a slew of new "reality" shows about chefs, ice road truckers, construction workers, lumberjacks, tow truck drivers, high school principals, and crab fishermen, just to name a few. Now that I'm retired, I really get to sit back and enjoy these shows. After all, there are other workers out there risking their lives besides cops and firemen. Some of those jobs appear to be much more dangerous than police work. For example, I think I'd rather answer a robbery in progress call than drive a semi tractor trailer loaded with building materials across a frozen Canadian lake. At least I KNOW what I'm getting myself into. Who knows when that ice is going to crack and dump you into a frozen lake?

How about being a teacher or high school principal? Look at a student the wrong way or give him a "c" when he thinks he should have gotten an "a" and you're dead meat. These kids carry guns and knives to school. And where's your backup? At least cops can call for help on the radio. How about these poor lumberjacks? If a lumberjack isn't careful, he could cut that tree the wrong way and boom! All of a sudden he's crushed like a bug. You see, there are jobs that are more dangerous than police work. Perhaps not as glamorous. But not everyone craves the limelight like we do. Oh man, did you ever hear so much crap in your lives??

Some people just want to put in an honest 8, 10, or 12 hours day without much fanfare. I'm glad they are finally getting the credit they're so richly due. For years, workers all over this country have worked hard and put their time in with little recognition. It's about time they finally got some.

Finally, I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Many of you I'm sure are looking forward to the holiday season. I personally think it's a pain, especially since Christmas has become so commercialized over the years. But, I'm not here to put down the holidays, I want to talk about motorcycles. Unlike wintertime in other parts of the country, winter is great motorcycle riding weather in Florida. No snow, crisp cool, clear days. And I get to wear my black leather jacket. So I look cool, sort of. I started riding a motorcycle back in the early 80's, when a buddy of mine bought a used Honda 350 on impulse. I was intrigued and asked him to teach me how to ride. Eventually I bought my own. Started with a 750 and worked my way up to an 03 Honda Goldwing, which is an 1800 cc Touring bike. After my divorce, I eventually had to sell the bike. I was without a bike for over a year until a few weeks ago. I purchased a used Goldwing and I'm back in the saddle! Next month, I'll talk about how it feels to have a motorcycle again and about some of my trips and escapades. I'll also tell you about the time I crashed in the Carolina Mountains. I'm sure you can't wait to hear about it, although I suspect some reading this newsletter already know the story. Until then, Happy Holidays and I'll see you back here in 2009.

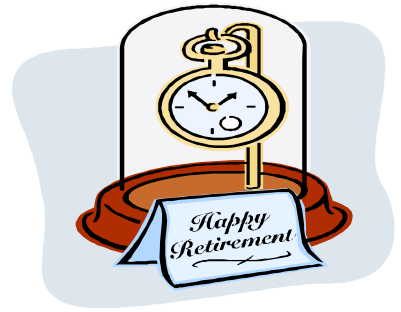
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# Meet the Retirees

## Retired Sgt. Richard Mendoza

Sergeant Richard (Rick) Mendoza followed me (Sam Gam) into the magical world of retirement in the latter part of this year. In fact, he retired along with Greg Strong and Bobby Jenkins. They had a “triple whammy” party at the Shelbourne Hotel that was actually a lot of fun.



Rick was born in 1955 and raised in Miami. He attended Miami Killian Senior High. He attended Miami Dade Community College and then Florida State University. Rick explained that he had a “double major,” Criminology and beer drinking. He excelled at one of those. You have to guess which! He wanted to be a police officer for as long as he can remember, so he prepared himself by acquiring a degree in criminology.

When the time came for him to start applying for law enforcement jobs, Miami Beach was the natural choice for him. Rick was close to the Press family and recalled Herman Press talking about how much he enjoyed working there, so he decided to apply. At the time, qualified applicants were being hired in droves by many local departments due to the Mariel boatlift and the associated rise in crime. Rick was hired in February of 1981 and entered the police academy.

From the moment he began his training, Rick excelled. He became a class leader while attending his “BLE” training. Rick graduated and hit the streets. He quickly became an FTO and enjoyed various assignments such as Motors, Crime Suppression, and SIU. Rick and I worked together in patrol and in Crime Suppression during the crazy Mariel boatlift days. I must say, we did have a blast in those days. One of the things Rick really did well at was taking drugs off the street. Much of what I learned about drug enforcement was from him.

Rick was promoted to Sergeant in 1992 and continued his excellent work, first helping to develop a field training program, then transferring to SIU where he spent 10 years, many of those assigned to the South Florida Impact Money Laundering Task Force.

During Rick’s tenure with the Miami Beach Police Department, he collected an array of awards, including five outstanding service awards, six times as officer of the month, several unit citations, and Officer of the Year.

As his retirement date drew near, Rick and his wife of 23 years, Ivette, began looking at properties in Georgia and North Carolina. Soon after his retirement, they wasted no time “getting out of Dodge”. They found a beautiful home in north Georgia, near the town of Blue Ridge. Now that he’s officially retired, Rick has no intention of looking for another job right now. He’ll be too busy spending time with family, riding his Harley (now that’s what I’m talking about!), taking care of his property, and enjoying long range mountain views from his hot tub.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Derby Brennan, Chris Dee, Leslie (Scotty) Forsyth, Lou Fata, Mel Garvey, Irwin Goodman, Robert Hanlon, Tony Holt, Jason Psaltides, Joan Donnelly-Ochoa, Richard Pelosi, Ted Schempp, Steve Stuart, Lewis Sugar, William Teasdale, John H. Tighe, Gene Toreky, Carl Ward, & Robert Williamst

## THANKS!

**Dean Adler contributes website design and maintenance services for [www.mbpdretirees.com](http://www.mbpdretirees.com) (see Dean’s ad on page 5 of this newsletter) from Cops and Firefighters in Business (CFB) as well as his mortgage business in Plantation, Florida. Dean also donates the graphic design and printing services for this newsletter.**

**[www.cfbnetwork.com](http://www.cfbnetwork.com)**

Rick and Ivette have three children. Melissa, 28, living in Austin, Texas. Erica, 19, a sophomore at Florida State University, majoring in education. And last but not least, Andy, 23, living in Washington, D.C. and in his 2nd year of law school at George Washington University.

When I spoke to Rick, it was apparent that retired life is already agreeing with him. He and his wife had just gone to a Christmas tree farm and picked out a nice 10 foot tree for a hundred bucks. They met neighbors Skip (retired from MBFD) and Patty Evans (retired LT, MBPD) for dinner at a local restaurant. Rick was also driving his youngest daughter to the airport in Atlanta for her return trip to Tallahassee. Did I mention it was snowing?

On a personal note, I enjoyed the years I worked with Rick. He was one hell of a great cop and a good friend for more than 25 years, and I look forward to visiting him in north Georgia. Best wishes to him and his family in his retirement. If you want to get in touch with Rick, feel free to e-mail him, he would love to hear from you.

His e-mail address is: [78fsu@bellsouth.net](mailto:78fsu@bellsouth.net)



### **Robert Jenkins**

Robert Jenkins was born on January 22, 1961 in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. At the age of 5 his parents divorced and he moved to Miami Beach. Bobby attended South Beach Elementary, Ida Fisher Middle School and Beach High. When he was 10 years old he joined the Miami Beach Police Athletic League where Dick Tobin was the Executive Director and started boxing. Bobby advised that he was running the streets some until Tommy Hunker and Steve Long's "firm hands" persuaded him to join the Police Explorers at the age of 14. Tommy Hunker had become the Executive Director of the PAL. In 1979 through a grant Bobby was one of 50 people hired as a police helper. He oversaw the police helpers who were hired to assist at pedestrian crossings and enforce jaywalking due to the high number of pedestrian accidents. After 7 months he began delivering the mail around to the different city offices.

On September 18, 1981, Bobby joined the Police Department and had John Tighe as one of his TA's in BLE 64. Bobby had a ride along while in the academy with Dave Young. After graduating the academy his only FTO was Alan Seres. During his career Bobby rode patrol, and was a traffic homicide investigator. He was in charge of fleet management, rode motors from 1985-1988 and again in 2001. Bobby has been FOP president since January 2002. Even though he retired on September 30, 2008, he will remain FOP President until the election in January 2009. Bobby was a DRE section leader for the IACP from 2004-2008 and also District Director (Dade/ Monroe County) of the FOP.

During his career Bobby was officer of the month three times and received the Medal of Valor for his involvement in the Ernie Febbraio police shooting of an armed robbery/shootout that occurred on June 30, 1993.

Bobby stated that one of his greatest accomplishments besides all his work as the FOP President was being awarded the Fraternal Order of Police Florida State Lodge Member of the Year for 2008 for his work on numerous committees for the state lodge.

Bobby has two daughters, Jennifer, 17 years old in 11th grade and Samantha, 15 years old in 10th grade both attending Cooper City High School.

Bobby, as the FOP President, has been very active in assisting the Retirees Association with different events throughout the years.

If you wish to contact Bobby he can be reached by e-mail at [RJAIU@aol.com](mailto:RJAIU@aol.com)

Good luck and congratulations on your retirement. ....

# Retiree Name

## To the City of Miami Beach

In the event of my death, after my retirement from the City of Miami Beach, I designate in the order named, if surviving, the following name person or person as the beneficiary or beneficiaries.

\_\_\_ Under the terms and provisions of the Group Insurance Contract

### To the Board of Trustees, Employee's Retirement System

\_\_\_ I hereby designate, in the order named, if surviving, the following name person(s) as my beneficiary(s) under the terms and provisions of Section \_\_\_ of Ordinance No.

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Relationship Birthdate

Address:

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Relationship Birthdate

Address:

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Relationship Birthdate

Address:

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Relationship Birthdate

Address:

5 \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Relationship Birthdate

Address:

6 \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Relationship Birthdate

Address:

Circle and connect the numbers of joint beneficiaries, surviving joint beneficiaries will share equally.

*Remarks and special instructions:*

Witnessed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Witnessed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_