

NOVEMBER 2010
ISSUE

www.mbpdretirees.com



Miami Beach Police Department

MBPD RETIREE NEWS



"Unity Is Strength For A Better Retirement"

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



Inside this issue:

Sam's Corner - 1-3
Disorganized Thoughts & 6

FOP in action! 4

News Capsules 5

November Birthdays 6

A Tribute to Fred
Walder 7

Ads / Sponsors 8

Annual Holiday Party 4
December 3rd
See Details Inside!

I've always loved the month of November, not because it's the beginning of the "holiday season", but because it's usually when the weather starts to change in South Florida. It usually gets drier; and usually gets cooler. Well, it's been unusually hot and humid here, and that is really "tee-ing" me off. It's bugging me, getting my goat, and causing me undue anguish and untold days and nights of nagging, unfavorable distress and angst. Obviously there's nothing I can do about it except perhaps move. I guess I could relocate to North Carolina or Georgia

like many of you have. But then, I'll be complaining about the cold and it just won't work out for either of us. So..I'll stay for now.

There's much more to share about my big September adventure, but first I wanted to share with you a heart-warming story about something that happened to me when I was working a mid-night shift on South Beach several years ago. I can't for the life of me remember whether or not I related this story before, so I'm going to tell it again because it begs to be told.

I was cruising south on Collins Avenue at about 4 a.m. It was a weekday so things started to slow down around that time. Traffic was light. It was then that I noticed a large, brown, shiny object on my hood directly in front of me. It had two little white eyes and really, really long antennae. I immediately identified the object as a well fed and healthy South Florida Palmetto bug. You know? The kind that fly? Everyone knows I hate those things with a passion. I actually fear them a little. Why? They can't hurt me right?! Ugghhh! But never mind that! Now it's on

Continued on pg 2

Veteran's Day

Honoring All Who Served...



“A Collection of Disorganized Thoughts”.... *Continued from pg.1*

my hood and it's staring at me through the windshield!

As a supervisor, it was my duty to immediately formulate a plan of action to deal with this crisis, or, *critical tactical situation* as they say in the “business”. So, I immediately gunned the engine and drove toward 5th Street. Then, I went west on 5th and got on the MacArthur Causeway. I can't really recall how fast I drove, but I swear I did not violate the speed limit, which under common law at that time and that hour was set at 85 MPH.



That little critter hung on to the hood for dear life with his ugly, nasty little sticky feet until I reached Palm Island, then he broke free and landed right on my

driver's window.

Are you kidding me? Now, not only was his slick little body protected from the airflow that blew him off the hood at 85, no, I meant 40 miles per hour; but he was now next to my face, separated by a thin layer of glass, which incidentally could explode at any moment, causing him to land on me and crawl in my ear, which would ruin my evening.

It was time to reassess, as they say in the “business”. East-bound traffic was extremely light, which was a good thing for me. I turned around and sped up to 110 MPH, uh, I meant 40 MPH (you get it folks, just play along with me)! That little repulsive creature was really impressive the way he hung on to the window, finally disappearing from view. I was not satisfied. He could have just crawled into a crevice in my light bar to hide until I exited the car, only to leap on me and crawl into my

ear to exact his revenge upon me.

I was going to do everything in my power to prevent this from happening. So, I drove to City Shops where I knew they kept a water hose, stopped my car and waited. I sat in my car for 10 minutes, scanning the exterior for evidence of my tormentor. After a while, I took a deep breath, said a little prayer, opened the door and jumped out, backing up from my car about 10 feet. After carefully walking around and looking at the exterior, I grabbed the hose and sprayed the car down with about 250 gallons of water. I wish it had been RAID, but it probably would have ruined the paint. The rest of the night was uneasy, to say the least.

On a brighter note, before I continue with the story of my great vacation adventure, there was something I overlooked in the last newsletter. One evening while visiting my friends in Dothan, Alabama, I was relaxing in my hotel room watching the late

news. The station I was watching was WJHG (NBC) Channel 7, covering northwest Florida. The weekend news anchor was none other than Erica Rakow. If you'll recall, she recently graduated from the University of Florida with her Bachelors of Science degree in Telecommunication.

As I watched Erica deliver her newscast, it became apparent that her level of skill and passion for delivering the news will take her to great places. You can learn more about her by logging in to <http://www.ericarakow.com>. We are proud to have her as part of our law enforcement family.

There are few things I like better than to travel by car, or in my case, pickup truck. Some places are carbon copies of others, which is downright boring. Interstate exits are for the most part, all alike. Sometimes I think this country should be named the United States of McDonalds,

Continued on pg 3

“A Collection of Disorganized Thoughts”... Continued from pg.2

because every exit off the Interstate has one; some even have two. In order to really enjoy this country, you have to get off the “beaten path” and look beyond the Interstate exits. Of course, you have to be prepared for the bizarre, out of the ordinary and sometimes wacky sights. In many parts of the country, things just don’t change. It’s fascinating to me when I pass an old farmhouse and I see an old tractor that stalled out, probably in 1932, and was never restarted, will never be restarted, and will probably be sitting in the same place in 2132.

Then there’s that darn fence. You know the fence? The one that has evenly spaced wooden poles, and three (or four) lines of barbed wire that stretch from one side of the country to the other on both sides of the road? That fence is everywhere! It’s in the country, in the hills, and in the mountains. Who

put that fence up? Why does it have to be everywhere? You probably weren’t even paying attention to it, but next time you’re traveling, take a look at it. Very strange.

Last month, I left off in Arizona. While in Arizona, my friends took me on a side trip to the Grand Canyon, a place I’d never been to before. The trip took all day from Phoenix but it was well worth it. Wow, what a place! What a view! It’s sad that I had to wait 50 years to finally get to see it, but you know what they say



(and they say it a lot), better late than never.

This month, I continue my journey, traveling

north toward Denver, Colorado. There’s no doubt Colorado is a beautiful state. My brother Ruben and his wife Jann were visiting his daughter in Denver. The plan was to pick my brother up in Denver and travel with him for a few days, which is what we did. Denver was a nightmare in that much like any other major city these days, there is extensive road construction going on. This made travel through there frustrating. We spent the night in Denver and fled the very next morning, ultimately headed toward a place called Post Falls, Idaho, where we would visit with an old friend of mine.

Since my brother lives in South Dakota, I don’t get to see him as often as I’d like. Traveling with him was a wonderful experience; and since we’re both jokers, being in the same truck together for miles and miles was also a barrel of laughs! We drove into Wyoming and real-

ized by looking at the map that we were headed right through Yellowstone National Park. This is another place I never had a chance to visit, so needless to say I was excited to get to finally see it. After a few stops, we made it to Old Faithful Geyser. My brother and I walked to it and sat down on one of the long benches, waiting for the eruption. We waited, and waited, and waited; then waited some more. I was getting bored. Then it happened, the geyser erupted, spraying over a hundred feet in the air. Yes I know, some of you have probably seen it a hundred times, but not me! First time, with my brother next to me. One of those experiences you cherish forever.

Another great experience, amongst many on this road trip was a place we stayed at. I cannot remember where we were, but we pulled into a small town in the mountains,



MBPD Retirees Annual Holiday Party

Mark your calendars and plan on attending! This year, the party will be held in the beautiful *Treetop Ballroom* at **Jungle Island**. Jungle Island is on the North side of the MacArthur Causeway, just prior to entering the City of Miami Beach.

Date: December 3rd, 2010 Time: 6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. With a cocktail hour from 6:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. Cost: \$30.00 per person

Menu

Starters: The Sunset Buffet, a selection of international cheeses and tropical fruit garnish, wild field greens, classic Caesar salad with parmesan, fresh mozzarella with plum tomatoes, marinated mushrooms.

Entrees: Grilled salmon or mahi-mahi, "the freshest catch of the day", roast sirloin of beef with hunters sauce, chicken piccata, garden fresh vegetable, rice pilaf, and special potatoes with a really fancy name that I can't even pronounce.

Dessert: Apple strudel, banana bread pudding, key lime squares, double chocolate-chocolate cake.

Send your checks made out to the **Miami Beach Police Retirees Association** to:
Charlie Seraydar - 5701 SW 134th Avenue, Southwest Ranches, Florida 33330.

The FOP in action! Letter to Commissioner Libbin from FOP President Bello

This needs no explanation:

Dear Commissioner Libbin:



I have read the statements made by you to the press regarding your intent to refund money to taxpayers at year's end. My question to you, Mr. Commissioner, is what about the families, the spouses, the children of the employees of the City of Miami Beach who gave up \$15 million in wage and benefit concessions based on the City's assertion of financial need? Will they be part of the refund program so they can pay their household bills, their mortgages, their children's educational needs, and their medical needs? You must not that the reductions that came from the City employees are greater than the impact of the property tax changes.

Commissioner Libbin, either the City had the financial need or did not! If it did not, then the City employees have been misled into providing the substantial concessions agreed upon. Your actions are a slap in the face to employees and their families who stepped up to the plate when called upon to assist the City. Particularly, when you consider that the refund will be based upon cuts made to manpower and employees being asked to do more with less. It is time to stop the political posturing and realize your actions have real consequences for real people. Those people include the City of Miami Beach employees and their spouses and children.



News Capsules....

ARE WE MEETING YOUR NEEDS?

This newsletter can entertain and be informative. We want it to be both. Retirees are a strange breed; some want to know about current events happening within the Miami Beach Police Department, while others could care less. Some love to hear cop stories and nostalgia, while others would rather forget. We try to provide a little something for everyone. We are limited to how many pages we can print a month but that of course could change. The Miami Beach Police Retiree's newsletter staff wants to know what *your* needs are; whether it be entertainment, information, ads, nostalgia, biographies or whatever else. If there's something you want to see in the future, please don't hesitate to contact me at sam0444@yahoo.com, or anyone in the board of directors. We strive to make the newsletter started by Jack Tighe the best it can be.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

There will be an executive board meeting on Wednesday, November 10th, at 12:00 Noon at the Weston Diner (located at the shopping center, northeast corner of Weston and Griffin Roads). The main topic of discussion will be the holiday party. E-mail Vinny Aprile if you will NOT be able to attend

PROMOTIONS AND NEW HIRES AT MBPD

Congratulations to the following officers who were promoted at a City Hall ceremony on Friday, October 22nd, 2010: Charlie London to Captain, Bruce Johnson to Lieutenant, Shannon Madison to Lieutenant, Alberto Estraviz to Lieutenant, Luis Sanchez to Sergeant, Jovan Campbell to Sergeant, and Mishart Torres to Sergeant. In addition, the police academy graduated three new Beach officers the day before. Congratulations to BLE Class #270 graduates Char Rodriguez, Jeanette Quijano, and Miguel Romain. We wish them all the best in their new endeavors.

MBPD HEALTH TRUST/ TAX RETURN DOCUMENTS CLARIFICATION

The only information required from tax return documents will be the members name and the names of any dependants which the member wishes to provide insurance coverage for. The intent is to show they are legally claimed as dependants on last year's (2009) tax return. The Miami Beach Fraternal Order of Police Health Trust does not need any other information or pages from your tax return documents. Please do not provide an entire copy of every page of your tax return, and please redact (cover up) any other information (such as your social security number, date of birth, income earned, deductions, alimony, refunds, etc.) If you have any questions, contact Gary

Kluger at 305-673-7806 or at his e-mail which is: garykluger@miamibeachfl.gov.

HEALTH TRUST MEMBERS/ RE-ENROLLMENT

Re-Enrollment packages have gone out to the members. These are crucial, and if you have not received one, call either Maria Mulet at 305-595-4040, Extension 1080, or Isabel Gonzalez at the same number but extension 1100. This must be done immediately! The closeout date is November 19th, but may be extended if necessary.

A NOTE ABOUT PERSONAL MEDICAL INFORMATION (PMI)

Included in the enrollment packages will be medical release waivers. While we (the Health Trust) are unable to require that you sign the release, you need to know there is a high likelihood that at some point United Health Care may be unable to pay your claims. This occurs frequently and for numerous reasons involved with everyday claim adjudication. When UHC is unable to resolve the issue, they bring the issue to the Trustees for resolution assistance. *Many times it is you, the member, who brings the issue to the Trustees after your claim is denied.* A signed release form allows the Trustees the ability to obtain necessary PMI to provide assistance in reaching a decision on the issue. Without the signed release, the Trustees will not be able to help you with your claim.

Remember, the Trustees do not see PMI on a routine basis, as PMI is handled by United Health. When PMI is necessary it is specially requested from UHC and is claim specific. The Trustees NEVER have global access to your medical information. UHC will never release PMI to the Trustees without the need to know, and a signed release form. Please sign the form!

FACEBOOK PAGE

We have started a closed Face book page titled "Miami Beach Police Retirees". This page will enable us to post photos of events such as the holiday party, wall ceremony, etc.. The reason the page is "closed" is to protect those members who are working again in a sensitive or undercover capacity.

POLO SHIRTS

If you're interested in obtaining a polo shirt, we are preparing to place an order for them. They are made by "Outerbanks" and are available in black, ash gray, light blue, and pink. They feature a badge with "Miami Beach Police Retirees Association" embroidered around the badge. The cost is \$32.00 dollars for small, medium, and large. Sizes 2x and up cost \$3.00 extra. The association needs a minimum order of 24 shirts to get started. If you're interested, send a check made out to the Miami Beach Police Retirees Association to President Vinnie Aprile @ 200 NW 121 Ave, Coral Springs, Florida, 33071.

"A Collection of Disorganized Thoughts".... Continued from pg.3

looking for a place to stay. The motels were quickly filling up, and we were getting worried that we weren't going to find anything, but we did. It was old, rustic, and clean. The best feature of this old motel was the river in the back, and an old fire pit surrounded by benches. The motel provided firewood while I provided my brother and myself with liquid refreshments. As night fell, so did the temperature. Since my brother is a Fire Captain, he naturally took charge of fire while I provided security (yeah, right!!)

There we were, sitting around the fire, listening to the rush of the river. By 10 P.M. It was about 45 degrees and we had a little "buzz" going. Along with the rush, the crackle, the breeze, and the



buzz, it was time to turn in. My brother put the fire out and we retired to our room. I slept better that night than I had in years!

The next morning, we continued on our trip and eventually made our way into "big sky country", or the great State of Montana. Just like Colorado, Montana is also a beautiful state. One thing I noticed, or *didn't* notice as I traveled through it was the lack of law enforcement, particularly the highway patrol. We did not see one trooper on the highway throughout our entire passage through Montana. This was a stark difference from states such as Texas and Arizona, which were jam-packed with visible law enforcement presence. Nevertheless, I took it easy, being careful not to drive more than 10 miles above the posted limits. I had good reasons, one; I was not in a hurry and two; I wanted to enjoy the scenery.

As we entered the State of Idaho, again, beautiful! We noticed many old towns, similar to those you'd see in the north-east part of the country. What history and what people!

Polite, relaxed and friendly. Frankly, I'm not used to it, being from South Florida. The different attitudes reflect in the way people drive. I wasn't concerned with getting run off the road, or getting shot at, or even getting pulled over. My main concern was getting so fixed on the beautiful scenery that I fail to pay attention and run off the road!

My friends, it's time to pull over for the night. I wish you all a happy and healthy Thanksgiving and I will continue this adventure next month. Look for the December issue for the last part of my 8000 mile adventure. Let's not forget to pay tribute to the brave soldiers, past and present, who have fought for our freedom; as we also **celebrate Veteran's Day this month**. Good night.

November Birthdays

Jon Anderson
Richard Barreto
Gary Bergert
Bert Bernstein
Al Boza
Mark Fidler
Don Freeman
Ken Glassman
Jack Gordon
Chuck Hayes
Curtis(Glenn) Hodges
Jack Krolak
Fran LaRosa-Ferla
Dale Lassiter



Paul Lupien
Tony Marten
Jimmy Mazer
Emmett Miller
William Murray
Buddy Petit
James Preston
Tom Ratner
Joe Roussell
James Smith
Barry Stamp
William Webb
Tom Weschler
Lou Youngman

*A Tribute to Fred Walder**by: S. Gam*

Frederick G. Walder passed away on October 4th, 2010 at the age of 79. The first time I met Fred was of course when I was a rookie. My memories of the first encounter are hazy, but positive. He was a detective, and I remember thinking that he had the biggest mustache I'd ever seen on a real human being. Now, I had seen pictures and drawings of characters from the 1800's that had similar mustaches, but this was the first time in person. Of course, I also remembered how kind he was to me, and that was back in an era when rookies were "shunned" until they proved themselves, which I had obviously not done. Yet.

The second time I met Fred was months later. I was patrolling Alton when a Corvette passed me at a high rate of speed on the left lane. What?! I'm in a police car! I pulled it over. I was mad. When I approached the car I saw it was that guy with the big mustache. He was all smiles,

"Remember me"? He asked. I did. I knew at that point I like I liked that Vette and I liked Fred. Of course, I gave him a break.

There were also many things I didn't know about Fred, such as his military service and his love of horses. Fred was in the Air Force and was an avid horseman, a bronco rider, and bull rider. Of course his love of adventure is well known. Fred especially loved Corvettes and owned them for as long as anyone can remember. In fact, I believe I heard a story of a time he decided to buy a Mercedes instead. He was miserable, and traded it for a Corvette.

A service was held for Fred at Boyd-Panciera Funeral Home in Hollywood on Thursday, October 7th. A very touching tribute was presented by his Mason brothers. Prior to writing this tribute, I went online with the purpose of learning more about the Freemasons, of which Fred was a member for many, many years. I found information, but it was so extensive, that I decided to keep this simple. Without a doubt, the presentation was well done and extremely tasteful and riveting. The gentleman who spoke on behalf of the other brothers did a fantastic job. Also, thanks to Charlie Seraydar and members of Fred's family for sharing their thoughts as well.

The funeral home was kind enough to provide me with a copy of the sign in sheet. For those who were not able to make it, I'd like to share the names of some of the retirees and active officers who were there. Please accept my apologies, but some of the names are hard to read, so if you were there and do not see your name here, or if you didn't get a chance to sign in, feel free to let me know.

Retired/Active Miami Beach PD attendees: Charlie Seraydar and Family, Bill & Jeanne O'Neil, James (Smitty) Smith, Joe Basler, Glenn Hodges, Jack & Maria Mackie, Drew & Maria Bunnell, Frank & Hank Azcarate, Bill & Pearl Riley, Lynda & Lenny Veski, Paul Lupien, Samuel Gam, Carlos DeVarona, Vincent Aprile, Joe Brownlow, Mike Hochstadt, Nancy & Rocco DeLeo, John & Mona Moore, Lisa Newland & Jim Burnette, Louis Reilly, Patrick Reilly, Alex Bello, Jon Anderson, Ray Chambers, Don McGavern, Joan Ochoa, John Millican.

Fred was accompanied by Charlie Seraydar to New Jersey and was buried alongside his parents. Bill Thrall drove from Tennessee to be at the service. Rest in peace Fred, we will miss you.



Basler's Academy of Real Estate

1685 West 68th Street
Suites 205, 206, 207
Hialeah, FL 33014
(305)828-2669



Antoinette Basler Instructor- Permit Holder

AVON

TINA GABER

Independent Sales Representative

305-298-7328

305-868-0342

TinJcqs@aol.com

www.youravon.com/tgaber



PERSONAL INJURY - MEDICAL MAL-PRACTICE

ATTORNEY CHARLES APPEL, PLLC

30 years experience

8925 SW 148 Street
Suite 200
Miami, FL 33176

Tel: 305.256.8191
Fax: 305.256.8171
Cell: 305.724.8128



www.cfbnetwork.com

Buying or Refinancing?

Call Dean Adler

www.cfbnetwork.com

Bankers Mortgage Lending

(954)558-0302 Cell

(954)838-0084 Office

(954)838-9084 Fax

dadler@cfbnetwork.com

Law Offices

LAURENCE FEINGOLD

Professional Association
(Former City Attorney)

FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION TO
ALL MBPD RETIREES
407 LINCOLN ROAD, SUITE 708- MIAMI BCH., FL 33139
DADE (305)538-1686 FAX (305)538-7875

Miami Beach Fraternal Order of Police

William Nichols Lodge No.8



999 Eleventh Street
Miami Beach, FL 33139
Telephone: 305.534.2775
Fax: 305.534.5901
Beeper: 305.882.7496

ROSEN SWITKES & ENTIN P.L.

ROBERT L. SWITKES
ATTORNEY AT LAW

407 LINCOLN RD., PENTHOUSE SE
MIAMI BEACH, FL 33139
TELEPHONE: 305-534-4757
FACSIMILE: 305-538-5504

110 SE 6 ST., STE#1970
FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
TELEPHONE: 954-653-0457
FACSIMILE: 305-538-5504

RSWITKES@ROSENANDSWITKES.COM
WWW.ROSENANDSWITKES.COM

JOAN DONNELLY OCHOA
REALTOR



ESSLINGER . WOOTEN. MAXWELL, INC., REALTORS

2000 MAIN STREET, WESTON, FL 33326-3691
CELL: 954-554-4895 OFFICE: 954-515-0100
FAX: 954-515-0200 DIRECT: 954-659-1050
OCHOA.J@EWM.COM
WWW.JOANOCHOAREALTOR.COM

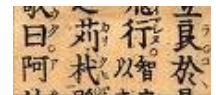
The Fred Wooldridge you never knew
Read His book...

"I'm Moving Back to Mars"

Buy it from your local book store,
Amazon, Barnes and Noble or Borders



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

Gerry Mackey - Author
E-Mail: Mackyg2007@yahoo.com

Available at:
Amazon.com, Barnesandnoble.com

