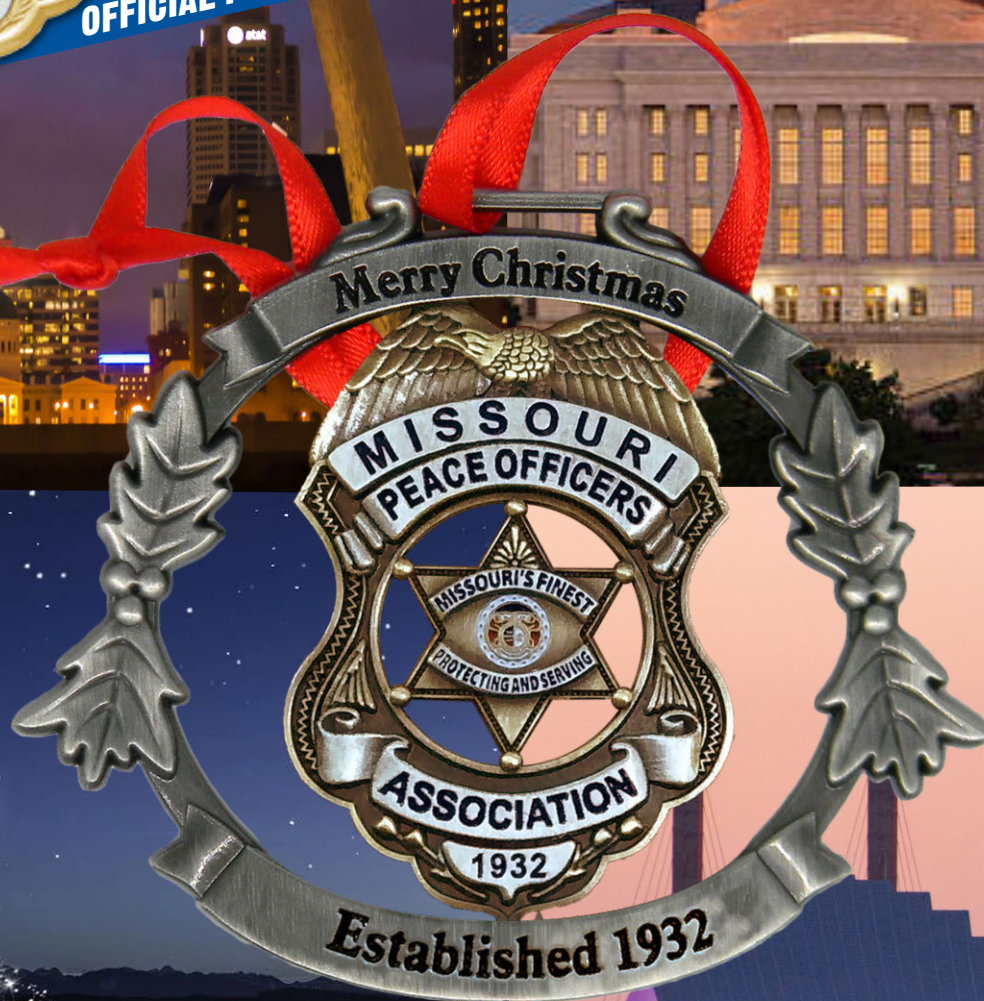




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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE MISSOURI PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
Volume 78, No 3 - Winter 2024





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LAW ENFORCEMENT



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Volume 78, Number 3 Winter 2024

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Happiest of Holidays to you and yours from the Missouri Peace Officers Association!

MPOA office phone numbers:

phone: 816.581.3767 fax: 816.581.3768
the.mpoa@mopoa.org

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bobronkoski@mopoa.org

ASSISTANT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Carla Bruemmer
the.mpoa@mopoa.org

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Law Enforcement encourages readers to submit articles and information for publication. Articles should be submitted in a Word document and *Law Enforcement* reserves the right to edit submissions. Readers are also encouraged to submit pictures and picture captions that portray Missouri law enforcement activities. Digital images must be a high resolution (300 dpi) and saved as a jpg or tif file. When taking pictures using a digital camera, it is important that the setting on the camera be set at the finest setting. This will ensure that the images will be taken at a high resolution which is important for magazine print. Articles in Word format and digital pictures may be sent to the.mpoa@mopoa.org.



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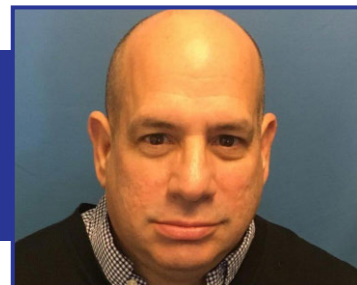
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WINTER 2024 / 1



President's Message

Thomas G. Kerns
U.S. Postal Inspector (Ret)



As the Christmas holiday approaches, I would like to say Thank You! Best wishes to all those who protect and serve every day. Please give yourself credit as you play a vital role serving your communities and making them not just better for them but for you and your family as well.

The job you do is dangerous and at times very difficult but also a blessing. As we all know the saying "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God." Take time away from the job to be with your family, tell them how much you care for and love them. You

make sacrifices all year long and your families support you every day as you head to the streets. I want to thank each one of you for all you do. As we head into 2025, we embrace the changes the New Year brings us. Stay healthy, stay vigilant, and most importantly stay safe. Have a joyous Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

God Bless.

Thomas G. Kerns is an April 1983 graduate of the Eastern MO Police Academy. He started his career as a Reserve Officer with the Woodson Terrace, MO Police Department. In 1984, he started as an Officer with the O'Fallon, MO Police Department. He served as a Patrolman, Detective,

Sergeant, Detective Sergeant and the Commander of the Criminal Investigation Division. In 1996, he left the Police Department and took an appointment with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. His assignment was to the St. Louis Division, Midwest Division, and the Chicago Division/St. Louis Field Office. During his tenure he was assigned to the Violent Crime Team, the Eastern District of Missouri Identity/Financial Crime Task Force. He was promoted to Supervisory Special Agent/Team Leader for the Violent Crime and later the Missouri Fraud/Child Exploitation Team. He retired in June 2016 to take a Corporate Security Position with the TJX Corporation. Tom is now the VP Fraud Investigations for Enterprise Bank & Trust.



From the Executive Director

Chief Bob Ronkoski

We are now into the holiday season; this year has flown by and 2025 should be an interesting year for law enforcement. As I travel around the state, I see so many small towns in Missouri that remind me of a Hallmark movie. The decorations around the cities and the festive spirit of Missourians remind me why I love living in Missouri. It will be cold and snowing soon and it looks like the deer around my neighborhood have a thicker than normal coat. Don't forget to send me pictures from your part of the state so that we can use them in our magazine. I'm looking for pictures from all around the state from urban to rural communities. We would like pictures of your cities and counties as well as lakes, rolling countryside and farms. If your law enforcement vehicles are in them, that's a bonus. E-mail them to me at bobronkoski@mopoa.org.

As a reminder to the command staff and department recruiters, we are continuing to offer the recruitment section in our *Law Enforcement* magazine. We are making room in our winter issue for an expanded section. Contact me at bobronkoski@mopoa.org for special pricing for multiple issues. The MPOA *Law Enforcement* magazine is distributed to over 1000 MPOA members and associate members, as well as all police agencies, sheriffs' agencies, and police academies across the state of Missouri.

The first annual MPOA "First Responder Appreciation Night" was held on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at The Rack House Kitchen Wine Whiskey Restaurant located at 5065 Highway N, Cottleville, MO 63304. All first responders (current and retired) and their guests received 10% off their entire bill and the

MPOF received a donation from the restaurant. We are planning to do this again in 2025 and possibly move it around to different areas of the state.

The 20th annual MPOF Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, May 9, 2025, at the Mules National Golf Club in Warrensburg, MO. Don't forget to register for the tournament and we are also looking for hole sponsors and donations for the raffles and bag stuffers. If you can't make it, please consider making a donation to help support the event. Donations will help the Foundation with our college scholarships and eighth grade essay contest awards as well as line of duty death benefits. You will find the registration form in this magazine. If you are on the east side of the state, please consider putting a team together and taking a road trip to the west side of the state for the tournament.

As always, the MPOA continues to concentrate on our priorities to grow our membership, increase our training, enhance our scholarships, and expand our law enforcement recruitment efforts. As an incentive to help us grow our membership in 2025, any MPOA member that recruits two new members for 2025 will receive a free membership renewal for 2026. I am always open to ideas from our members for additional priorities and projects. Please contact me with your suggestions. If you would like to make a donation to the MPOF, please consider including our organization in your yearly giving plan. Contact Carla at the MPOA/MPOF office for more information.

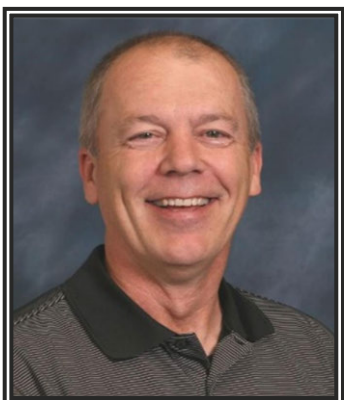
As I always say to all our active and retired first responders, take care of yourself and your mental health.



Watch your fellow first responders, currently working and retired, for signs of stress and mental health issues. It's our responsibility to ensure that they receive the mental health care they need.

MPOA Executive Director Bob Ronkoski currently serves as the Assistant Vice-President for Public Safety and Chief of Police for the St. Charles Community College and is currently serving as the Mayor of the City of Cottleville, Missouri. Bob previously retired at the rank of Lieutenant from the St. Ann Police Department. Chief Ronkoski has a bachelor's degree from Columbia College of Missouri and a master's degree from Lindenwood University in criminal justice administration. If you have ideas you would like to share with Bob about the MPOA & MPOF, please e-mail him at bobronkoski@mopoa.org.





Chaplain's Message West Side

Reverend James "JC" Beckner

Addressing Top Police Force Challenges in 2024

Please note: Cognyte is a global leader in the field of investigative analytics software. To read the whole article please check out the following web address Cognyte.com/blog/police-force-challenges-2024

Gilad Ben Ziv is the vice president of Cognyte. He addresses what he believes is the top six challenges for policemen in 2024.

He identifies: Recruitment and Retention, Information Overload, Community Relations, Cybercrime, Cross border Crime and Cryptocurrencies as the major challenges.

This list may or may not be everything that you deal with. The reality is that there are multiple issues facing every department and new issues seem to pop up daily.

Gilad Ben Ziv believes that addressing the issues you face requires a multifaceted approach that can be addressed through technology. I won't list all the particulars in this article, but you can go to his web site and read the complete article and see if what he says resonates with you.

While all of this can be very depressing and lead to coping mechanisms that can be harmful, let me encourage you to "Choose to Rejoice." I know it sounds odd and maybe even crazy. I am not there in your life and no there is no way I

can possibly understand what you face daily.

Consider this, Paul and Silas at midnight were praying and singing hymns in jail. They were singing to God, and other prisoners were listening to them. Acts 16:23

The point is that your joy in Christ should not depend on your circumstances. Joy comes from God, and it cannot be affected by what is outside of you.

The circumstances that Paul and Silas faced were terribly difficult.

They were falsely accused, arrested, beaten, and shackled in the darkest, coldest part of prison.

Don't let the circumstances of your employment (the six 2024 challenges) imprison your heart and rob you of the joy of your profession.

God loves you. Would you choose to allow God's Spirit to fill you with His joy that is unquenchable, and God can use your life to be an influence to all who watch you.

Blessings

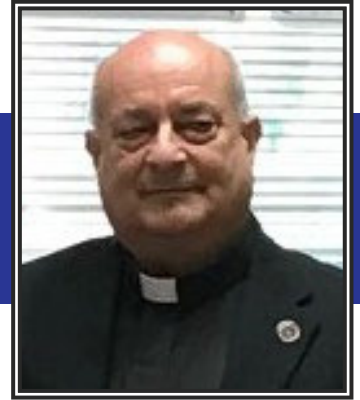
Chaplain J.C. Beckner

Gilad Ben Ziv is the VP Business Evangelist at Cognyte. He is responsible for helping law enforcement, national security, national intelligence and military organizations to hone their intelligence strategies and technology plans, through a profound understanding of their needs, challenges and threats.

Chaplain Beckner was born in Marshfield, Missouri and raised on a dairy farm. After graduating from Marshfield High School in 1971, he attended Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, Missouri and graduated with a bachelor's in art and a Minor in Christianity. He married Diane Hockett in 1975 and moved to Raytown Missouri. In 1978, they moved to Fort Worth, Texas where he began his Masters work at Southwestern Seminary. He then graduated in 1980 with a master's in religious education and served churches in Texas and Missouri. In 2002, they moved to Raymore, Missouri, and Pastored First Baptist of Raymore. Chaplain Beckner then received training in Police Chaplaincy through the International Conference of Police Chaplains. He served as a chaplain with the Raymore Police Department until moving to Ozark Missouri in 2019.



Father Leo J. Spezia



The man smiled and said, “You will not laugh at the same joke more than once, and rightly so. So why do you continually talk about the same problem?”

We need to learn to deal with stress and never sleep with it. If you can do something about it, just do it OR skip it and work towards your goal or else it will kill your spirit and your productivity.

Rev. Leo J. Spezia
MPOA Chaplain – East Side

the Permanent Diaconate for the Archdiocese. Father Leo is also a member of several national groups and organizations dealing with family services, Critical Incident Stress Management training, and support for law enforcement / fire/emergency service personnel – as well as specializing in PTSD. He is also a founding member of the Missouri Law Enforcement Funeral Team and the Missouri Fire Funeral Team (dealing with the line-of-duty death in Missouri for both fire and police.)





In Memory of MPOA member, Officer Phylicia Faye Carson, Osage Beach Police Department

Osage Beach Police Officer Phylicia Faye Carson, age 33, of Lake Ozark, Missouri died in the line of duty on August 31, 2024. She was born November 20, 1990, in Anniston, Alabama.

Phylicia was hired by the Osage Beach Police Department in June of 2023, and went on duty for the first time in September of 2023 after graduating from the Law Enforcement Training Institute through the University of Missouri Extension. She served diligently in her position as an officer, striving to help keep her community safe. Prior to joining the force, she was a proud stay-at-home wife and Mom to six beautiful children.

In her spare time, she loved taking the kids to their family farm, going deer hunting, and riding dirt bikes.

When she wasn't outdoors, she loved doing her girls' hair or creating index cards with powerful, encouraging messages and scriptures that she would leave around in hopes of making a difference in someone's life. She made a huge impact on so many people in the Osage Beach, Miller, and Camden county regions, but her greatest accomplishment was being a loving mom and wife. Phylicia was very grounded in her faith in Christ, and she and her family attend Calvary Chapel Lake of the Ozarks in Kaiser, where she was previously involved in the kids ministry program.

She married Grant Carson, a Miller County Sheriff's Deputy, on November 21, 2015, and he survives with their daughters Teighan, Raye, Emlyn, Roma; sons

Chevy and Rhenner. She is also survived by her parents Gerald and Donya (Menges) Johnson of Georgia; siblings Alexis Clark, Dustin Menges, Alyssa Lawless, Michael Devoe, Cassandra Headrick, Koren Devoe and Jessica Devoe; grandparents Patricia Fresh and Linda Banks, both of Georgia; In-laws Geoff and Amy Carson of Lake Ozark, Andrew, Audrey, Gillian and Alecia Carson along with many nieces, nephews and other extended family members and many friends.

Her smile could light up the entire world and she had the most contagious laugh that could make you happy on your worst day. She loved fiercely and unapologetically.



2025 MACLEA Membership Application

Missouri Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators
(Print or type and send in with your payment)

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Name: _____

Title: _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: MO ZIP: _____

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E-mail Address: _____

Membership Period: January 2025 through December 2025

Class of Membership (Check One):

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- ☐ **Associate Membership: \$30.00** (Non-voting Member)
- ☐ **Affiliate Membership: \$30.00** (Non-voting Supporting Member)

Please mail completed application with check (payable to MACLEA) to the following address:

**MACLEA - Missouri Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators
C/O Missouri Peace Officers Association
101 West McCarty Street - Suite 200
Jefferson City, MO 65101**

Carla Bruemmer, Executive Assistant E-mail: the.mpoa@mopoa.org - Phone: 816-581-3767

Remembering Missouri's Fallen Officers - Officers Who Have Given Their Lives for the Citizens of the State of Missouri

In this continuing series we look to remember the service and sacrifices of Missouri's fallen law enforcement officers. With each edition of this magazine, officers who have given their lives in the line of duty are featured.

Officers are selected at random, from various agencies throughout the state.

Let us never forget those who have come before us.

Sheriff Enoch B. Morelock

Sullivan County Sheriff's Office, Missouri End of Watch Sunday,
December 19, 1847

Bio

Age Not available

Incident Details

Cause Gunfire

Weapon Gun; Unknown type

Offender Not available

Sheriff Morelock was shot and killed while on duty.

Constable Charles B. Dorris

Summersville Police Department, Missouri End of Watch
Wednesday, July 18, 1888

Bio

Age 23

Incident Details

Cause Gunfire

Weapon Gun; Unknown type

Offender Sentence commuted to 25 years

Constable Dorris was shot and killed while transporting a prisoner to jail.

A few days later the suspect was apprehended in Houston, Texas. He was returned to Missouri, convicted of murder, and sentenced to hang. In January of 1893, after many delays for his execution, he and eleven others escaped from the Shannon County Jail. On February 17, 1898, he was captured on the Current River in Ripley County and returned to Shannon County. Three months later his sentence was commuted to 25 years and he was sent to the Missouri Penitentiary.

Park Policeman John Gardner

St. Louis Park Rangers, Missouri
End of Watch Wednesday, August 1, 1888

Bio

Age Not available

Incident Details

Cause Weather/Natural disaster

Park Policeman John Gardner was struck and instantly killed by a bolt of lightning at Lafayette Park during an afternoon electric storm. The storm caused considerable damage to the southwestern portion of St. Louis.

Police Officer Clyde Otis Moore

Springfield Police Department, Missouri
End of Watch Friday, August 1, 1930

Bio

Age 25

Tour 8 months

Incident Details

Cause Motorcycle crash

Officer Moore was killed in a motorcycle accident while escorting a fire truck to the scene of a fire.

During the response his path became blocked by a streetcar and a parked car in front of him near the intersection of Grant Avenue and Lynn Street. He attempted to drive his Harley Davidson police motorcycle over the curb but lost control and struck a utility pole.

Officer Moore's motorcycle was restored and put on display in the agency's museum. Officer Moore had been with the Springfield Police Department for eight months.

Deputy Sheriff Fred Douglas Slaten

St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, Missouri End of Watch Sunday,
March 21, 1943

Bio

Age 46

Incident Details

Cause Automobile crash

Deputy Sheriff Fred Slaten was killed in a vehicle crash at the intersection of Milwaukee Street and Saratoga Street in Meacham Park while responding to assist other officers who had responded to a fight in a tavern.

He was ejected from the patrol car and suffered fatal head injuries.

Deputy Slaten was a widow and was survived by his two children.

Data source: The Officer Down Memorial Page, Inc. (www.odmp.org), used with permission. Compiled by Scott Barthelmass, Sgt. (Retired) Overland Police Department, Ranger St. Louis County Park Rangers, Founder Missouri Law Enforcement Funeral Assistance Team, Board Member Missouri Peace Officers Association.

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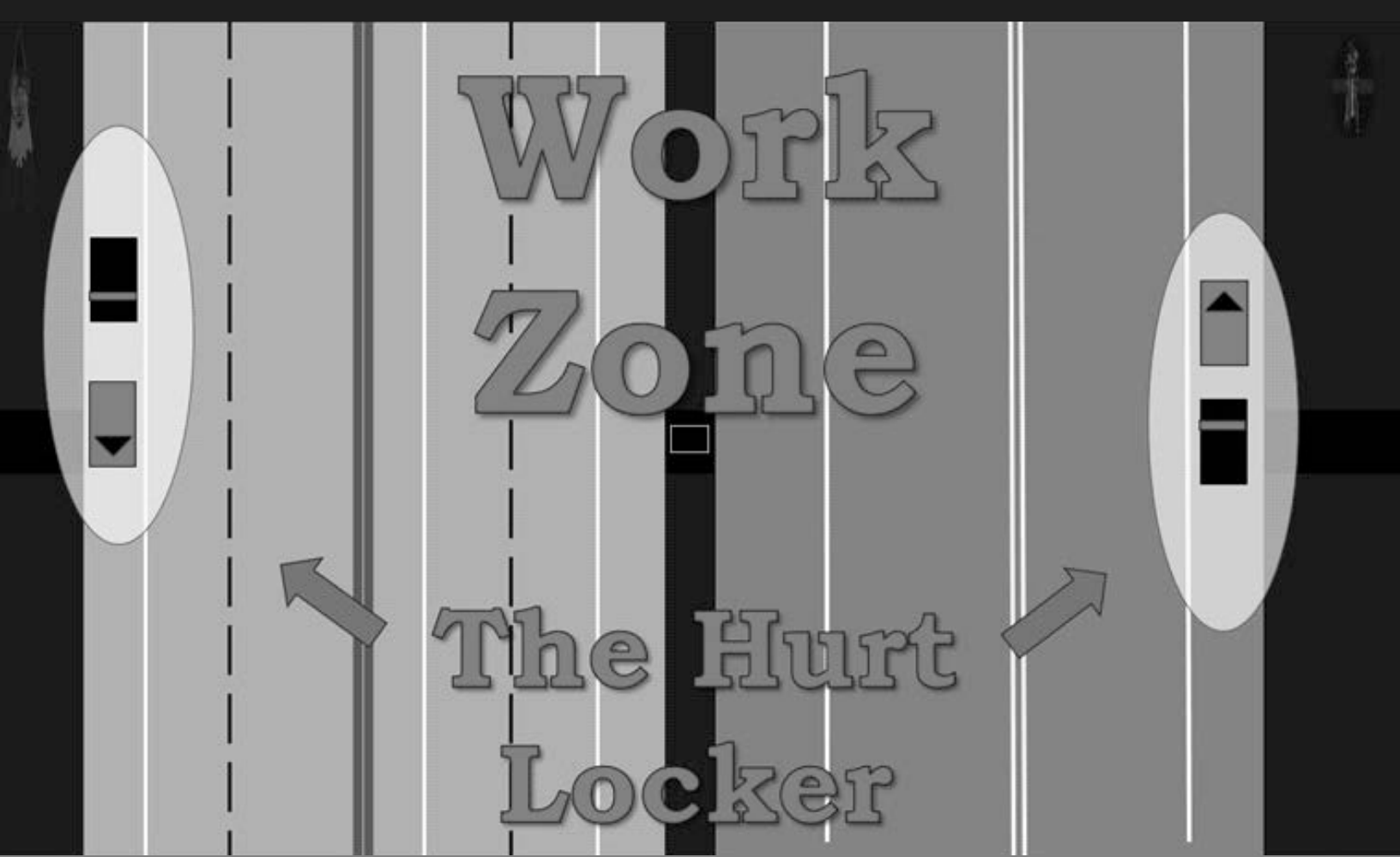
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The Hurt Locker (Part Two)

In Part One, we discussed the positioning of the patrol unit to provide as much protection as possible. Today, I would like to discuss vehicle approaches.

The passenger side approach can be used as a single or two officer unit. For the lead officer or single officer unit, once the radio traffic is complete, take a second to assess the suspect vehicle and occupants. Using properly adjusted mirrors and turning your head to check anything approaching from the rear, after checking your six, exit the patrol unit and walk behind (never between the cars) and pause at the back right of the patrol unit. This will provide cover if ambushed by the suspects. After pausing for

situational awareness, move to the front right, again using the cover the patrol unit provides, to assess the situation and the occupants of the vehicle stopped. Approach the suspect vehicle, staying to the right, and make contact from the passenger side window. After advising the reason for the stop and obtaining the documents from the driver, retreat to the passenger side of the patrol unit, get inside the patrol unit, and use the MDT, seated inside with the seatbelt worn. When finishing the contact, approach the passenger side, complete the encounter and return to the patrol unit by walking around the back and accessing the driver's door, making sure you're safe from vehicles

approaching from the rear. There may be those of you reading this and think this is overkill. My question is would you rather exercise overkill or be killed.

Gordon Graham in 2020 created a video, Today's Tip from Lexipol regarding a passenger side approach, (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LB7k7Y1Aj3w>). This is possibly the most compelling argument for using this tactic. I am an old school police officer, and it was drilled into me that all stops must be performed on the driver side. I have rolled over the hood of a violator vehicle as a passing car took the rearview mirror from the stopped vehicle where I was

standing (I would face oncoming traffic from the driver side window to maintain situational awareness). I have watched videos of police officers struck from behind as they performed a driver side approach without situational awareness. Later in my career I began the use of a passenger side approach and learned just how effective it can be. In Gordon Grahams tip, he discusses the pros and cons of both tactics. The pros for a passenger side approach is more compelling than a driver side and may keep you from being injured in the “Hurt Locker”. Again, the “Hurt Locker” is the area of the vehicle stop to include approximately 50 feet beyond the violator vehicle and 100 feet prior to the patrol unit. This is where officers continue to be injured or killed by distracted, fatigued, or impaired drivers.

In my seminars, I discuss, demonstrate, and provide videos to encourage the use of this tactic. The way I approach this session is by discussing two adversaries' officers face in conducting vehicle stops. First, the driver and passengers of the suspect vehicle. Very seldom do you know what that driver is involved or has been involved in. The driver is a threat until the officers feels the threat level has diminished. The second, vehicles passing through the “Hurt Locker”. These vehicles passing by are a serious threat to the officer on a driver side approach. To believe there is a true safe zone is a fallacy. The passenger side approach can be used to the advantage of the officer because most drivers believe the contact will take

place at the driver side window. Using the technique of stopping the patrol unit a car length, to a car length and a half behind the suspect vehicle, (you can judge this distance by positioning your patrol unit where you can see the road surface under the suspect vehicle) angled at approximately 45 degrees, wheels turned hard left will provide cover in the event the driver or passengers begin shooting. Over the last few years police officers have been ambushed during the approach to the suspect vehicle, because it seems to be open season on police officers. If a suspect begins sending rounds toward you and you have not exited the vehicle, there is a gear that will get you out. It is called reverse! If the suspect begins shooting, they will be shooting in the direction of the driver side, because that is where they believe you will be. When using the passenger side approach you would be at the back right of the patrol unit. Time is on your side so why would it hurt to pause at the back right of the patrol unit to gain situational awareness? You could also stop at the front right and use your observation skills to further discern the actions of the vehicle occupants. The approach time will place the driver in an uncomfortable situation. The driver will not know where you are and may begin trying to locate you. This will give you a tactical advantage. This may be a good time to discuss, never rush to failure. Law Enforcement officers are compensated by the hour, or salary, not by the task. With that in mind, why are we always in a hurry? I have been told agencies have their officers on a time clock for a vehicle

stop. Some use the Fourth amendment as the basis for hurrying through a vehicle encounter, *Rodriguez vs US* defines the reasonable length of a stop as time needed to complete the task. Taking your time to complete the encounter does not violate the Courts decision in *Rodriguez*.

When viewing the Lexipol video pay close attention to the story at the conclusion.

I submit to you that our tactics at times place us in a harmful situation. Using a passenger side approach, will minimize the danger from both adversaries, the suspect and passing motorists.

Please consider using this tactic as your standard operating procedure, and until next time, may God bless you and please be careful.



Garry Parker is certified as a speaker, trainer and coach through the Maxwell Leadership Team, the International Speakers Network, and the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

Garry is nationally recognized as a trainer and consultant in traffic safety, crash prevention, law enforcement tasks and emergency vehicle operation.

Garry is a motivational speaker, trainer and coach on communication and leadership.

Garry has been recognized for excellence in program development and presentation and has served as keynote speaker for many conferences around the country.



A Better Word than Honesty

*Posted on August 9, 2023 by James T. Meadows
(www.blog.reliableinsights.com)*

Submitted by MPOA member James “Jim” Meadows

Whether in our personal lives or our professional lives, our communication is the lifeblood of our relationships, and our relationships are the foundation of our leadership, and our leadership is the core of our ultimate success. Please note however, it all starts with our communication. That is precisely why giving diligent attention to all elements of our communication is in everyone's best interests.

Do we genuinely want to be honest?

We've all been there either as the perpetrator or the recipient or

both. Someone wants to garner attraction, be persuasive, drive home a point, close a sale, and then it happens. The conversation is prefaced with some version of these frequently used phrases: “To be honest with you, . . .” or “In all honesty, . . .” or “Honestly, . . .” or “If I'm really being honest with you, . . .”

I call these various phrases “honesty validators.” Somehow we believe by incorporating “honest” or “honesty” or “honestly” into our conversation, we thereby validate the truth of our words. After all, we

referenced the fundamental virtue of honesty and therefore it must be more convincing. This approach suggests the transmission of insider information to which other parties do not have access; a very special favor is involved. Because a very special favor is being done, we infer it must be based on honesty, truth, and integrity. At least those are the implications that usually run through people's minds. Unfortunately, all the above belies the presence of honesty, truth, and integrity.

Do we want to send an unintended message?

When we use honesty validators, an unintended, tragic, potent message is sent. By virtue of drawing special attention to the honesty of this communication, it implicitly sends the message that “yes, I’m being honest with you at this moment, but all my other past and future statements to you might be dishonest. So can you ever really trust me?” Perhaps that is why a very wise man once said let your yes be yes and your no be no. Adding certain qualifiers often undermines the integrity of the statement. Naturally, most people hear this and immediately declare, “No, I am being honest all the time!” Unfortunately, the unintended message contradicts that declaration, and it is the unintended message that has consequences with which we might not be happy.

If we are serious about the highest quality communication in our highest quality relationships driving our highest quality leadership, then let’s cease using these honesty validators. They merely communicate everything you actually do not want to communicate in your highest quality communication in your highest quality relationships driving your highest quality leadership.

Do we have a better word than honesty?

From repetition, habit, or example, we have all fallen prey to these honesty validators. If we genuinely want to refine our communication, then we must give deep attention to the words we use because like it or not,

words have meaning, and that includes the meaning we intend to convey and the meaning the recipient interprets (which may or may not be the same). Therefore, we must ask ourselves, do we have a better word than honesty that would convey the actual meaning we want to convey? What is a word that faithfully conveys the noble nature of our communication? What is a word that does not intrinsically taint the veracity of our tongue the moment we utter it?

As a lifelong communicator and writer, I have not been immune to this problem. Indeed, I have often been one of its many victims much to my frustration at the damages it causes when I succumb. Nevertheless, having given considerable thought to this perplexing challenge, I have arrived at a solution that works very well for me. Perhaps it will for you too.

Don’t be honest—be clear.

In these communication contexts, I believe the infinitely superior simple solution is to replace honesty validators with what I call “clarity validators.” Ultimately, honesty validators while thought to be indicators of truth, are actually indicators of falsehood. Clarity validators are indicators of truth. Ponder whether you are more comfortable with these clarity validators that were formerly written as honesty validators.

- ❖ To be clear with you,
- ❖ In all clarity,
- ❖ Clearly,
- ❖ If I’m really being clear with you,

Clarity validators do not destroy the core of your soul and virtue. If anything, they elicit respect, comfort, and confidence because the recipient realizes you are trying to add accuracy and precision to your communication. On the other hand, honesty validators fundamentally destroy the core of your soul and virtue.

People will typically forgive you for fumbling clarity because anyone can make a mistake. People have a much harder time forgiving you for fumbling honesty because honesty is a choice. Therefore, unless you actually want to reveal that your words cannot be trusted, then let’s eliminate honesty validators from our conversation and instead employ clarity validators.

Prepare for your mind’s battle.

If you embrace this clarity validator logic and determine to replace all your honesty validators with clarity validators, then prepare for battle! It took me a very long time to reprogram and reinforce all my autopilot statements in my cerebral language library. At times it was very frustrating because I often caught myself the moment after my honesty validators rolled off the tip of my tongue. Nevertheless, if you genuinely embrace the clarity validator logic, then you owe it to yourself and your audience to master this linguistic method. Eventually, you will succeed in replacing your mental library of honesty validators with clarity validators, and everyone will be better for it.

**Clearly, if I can do it,
you can too.**

NEW TO MPOA

The following members have joined the Association since the last edition was published.

Ballwin Police Department

Chief John J. Bergfeld

Clayton Police Department

Lieutenant Jeffery DeVorss

St. Louis City Sheriff's Office

Captain Timothy Hail

Town and Country Police Department

Sergeant Fred Yaakub

The following students have joined the Association since the last edition was published.

Cass Career Center, Harrisonville

Reagan Barton

Tyson Bell

Mia Brauer

Kiahna Bryant

Kelsey Budzick

Evan Campbell

Amaya Crowder

Caitlyn Curtis

Bryor Gipson

Jackson Glover

Nevaeh Greife

Katelyn Janish

Kendall Leyerly

Ava Little

Piper Martin

Alexa McCullough

Kaleah Merriman

Corey Mullin

Kashlee Murray

Emma Osborn

Tanner Schick

Adyson Schipper

Lilliane Seward

Nolan Smith

Skiler Smith

Charlotte Terrell

Alexis Wheeler

Mason Younce



Highway Safety Division Grant System

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation system that is safe, innovative, reliable and dedicated to a prosperous Missouri. www.modot.org

The Missouri Office of Highway Safety will be accepting applications for the 2026 Fiscal Year Law Enforcement Grants starting on January 6, 2025. These grants include: Impaired Driving Enforcement, Hazardous Moving Violation Enforcement, Non-Motorized Safety, Occupant Protection, Youth Alcohol Enforcement, Education Programs, and Data Projects.

Anyone wishing to apply should make plans to attend one of the application meetings listed below.

01/06/2025 1:00 PM

Highway Safety Application Meeting: Cape Girardeau PD, Cape Girardeau MO

01/07/2025 10:00 AM

Highway Safety Application Meeting: Chesterfield PD, Chesterfield MO

01/08/2025 10:00 AM

Highway Safety Application Meeting: Lee's Summit PD, Lee's Summit MO

01/09/2025 10:00 AM

Highway Safety Application Meeting: The Library Center, Springfield MO

01/10/2025 10:00 AM

Highway Safety Application Meeting: Jefferson City PD, Jefferson City MO

**You can register for the meetings by signing into the grant site at:
<https://gms.modot.mo.gov/frmLoginP.aspx>**



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

This is a new section of *Law Enforcement* magazine for job openings.

If you would like more information about advertising your employment openings in this section, contact Carla at the.mpoa@mopoa.org or at 816-581-3767.

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The Dunmire Family and Growth Industries

Behind every successful organization are community supporters! The Missouri Peace Officers Association and Foundation are no exception as we celebrate our 92nd year anniversary!

One of our long-time supporters is the Dunmire Family and Growth Industries. Growth Industries was founded in 1965 by Delbert "Del" Dunmire. Forever trying to right the wrong of bank robbery in 1958 for which he was punished at the age of 24, he pursued the American Dream. Growth Industries got its start in the garage of his Grandview home, which took off in 1975 with his first FAA-PMA (Parts Manufacturer Approval). The company was established with the goal of providing customers with

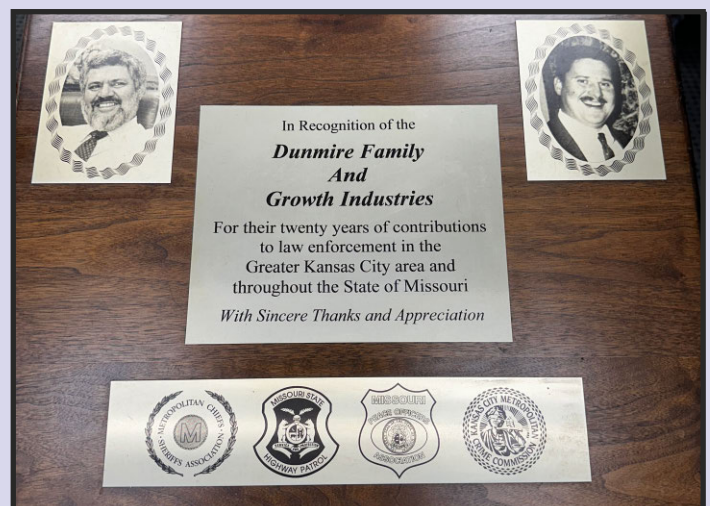
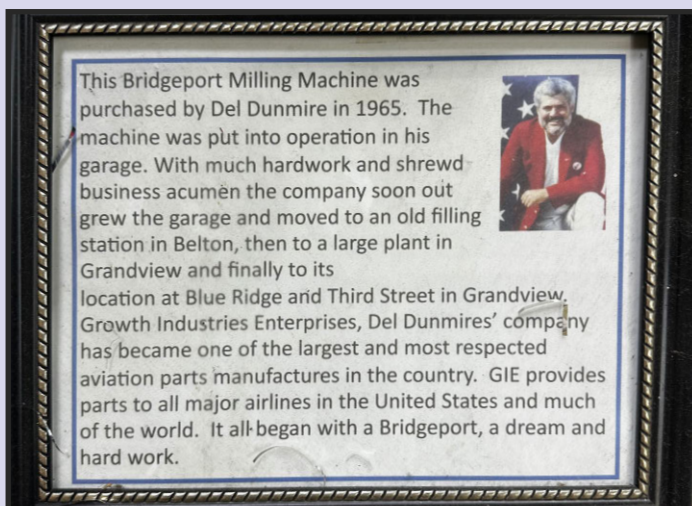
the highest quality parts, delivered when needed, and at the lowest possible price. Eventually, the company grew and manufactured replacement parts for all types of jet aircraft sold both nationally and internationally, and Del became chairman of Growth Industries, with plant facilities in Grandview, MO.

Over time, he was described as a pro-law enforcement executive who gave much to the state of Missouri. His unselfish deeds went somewhat unnoticed because he gave from the heart and expected very little in return. He vowed to make the law enforcement community better able and safer in order to serve the citizens of Missouri. This relationship came as a result of his

friend and associate, retired Secret Service Agent Ray Zakovich who introduced him to Missouri law enforcement leaders. For over 40 years, until his death in 2016, he donated nearly \$3.5 million to law enforcement efforts. Some of those donations included:

\$50,000 to the Kansas City PD to hire two analysts who received drug information and therefore relieved commissioned law enforcement officers to investigate drug cases in Kansas City.

\$25,000 to Central Missouri State University's Criminal Justice Department for seminars regarding a drug education program for law enforcement officers, school administrators, and chief law enforcement executives.



\$150,000 to the newly organized (at that time) Jackson County Drug Enforcement Task Force made up of Eastern Jackson County communities.

\$100,000 to help fund a crime study in the greater Kansas City area searching for the appropriate civic, government, or law enforcement group to select the consultants to oversee this project.

\$50,000 to the Grandview School District to investigate and develop a drug education program, especially directed at elementary school students, beginning at the kindergarten level.

\$10,000 initially and an additional \$50,000 to the Kansas City Crime Stoppers to be used as rewards for the TIPS hotline.

From 1987 – 1993, he provided over \$2 million to law enforcement through the purchase of semi-automatic rifles for the Missouri State Highway Patrol, equipping handguns for drug task forces and funding to establish these forces in seven counties to make them more effective and safer against a well-armed criminal.

The first drug sales tax ever in the United States started in Jackson County thanks to Del. His donation of \$250,000 to the county supported the sales tax effort. It passed overwhelmingly and is still in effect today. It provided additional drug officers, drug analysts, prosecutors, and judges, and set up treatment and educational centers. He also provided funding for drug education programs in the local schools.

\$50,000 donation to the Law Enforcement Memorial in Jefferson City which was dedicated in 1994 and stands today in honor of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Beyond the governmental realm, Dunmire's giving extends to other social organizations and causes: Children's Mercy Hospital, The Dream Factory, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and the homeless. The Kansas City Zoo was also graced with over \$250,000 to renovate the menagerie so that families could enjoy its atmosphere once again.

Del also attended numerous police board meetings locally and nationally, volunteering his support when and where needed.

The Missouri Peace Officers Foundation has long been a beneficiary of Del Dunmire's legacy

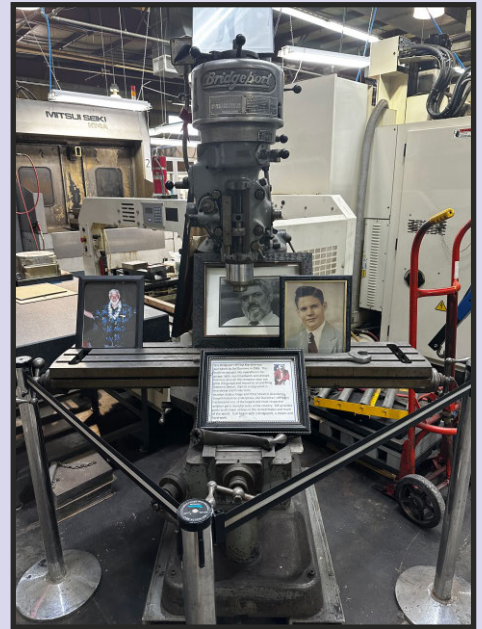
and Growth Industries' steadfast dedication to supporting law enforcement. For several years,


Del generously funded the breakfast at our annual conferences, a tradition that continues today thanks to the generosity of his daughter-in-law, Kim.

Growth Industries has also been an unwavering supporter of our annual golf tournament, with all proceeds benefitting the Missouri Peace Officers Foundation to support our Essay Contest and Scholarship Program.

Following Del's passing in 2016, his son Mark continued this tradition of support until his passing in March 2024. Today, the Foundation remains grateful for the ongoing contributions from Growth Industries, made possible through the continued generosity of Mark's wife, Kim, which help sustain our fundraising efforts.

Our gratitude for the decades of benevolence of the Dunmire Family is immense and the legacy of Del and Mark will never be forgotten. With Kim's love and continued commitment to the advancement of law enforcement, their legacy lives on.





Joseph S. Passanise is the Managing Partner of Wampler & Passanise, one of the Midwest's leading criminal defense firms. After earning his master's degree from Missouri State University, he studied at the University of London Imperial College where he obtained his MBA before graduating from law school at Washburn University.

Over the course of his career, Joe has been recognized by the Springfield Metropolitan Bar, the Missouri Bar, Missouri Lawyers Weekly, US News & World Report, Best Lawyers, and Super Lawyers.

He is a Fellow of the American Board of Criminal Lawyers and serves as a Missouri Board of Tourism Commissioner.

Governor Laws Signed Related to Public Safety and Juvenile Justice

by: Joseph S. Passanise

Missouri Governor Mike Parson recently signed several laws encompassing a range of modifications related to public safety that are of particular interest.

Jurisdiction of Juvenile Courts (Section 211.031)

- This act stipulates that cases involving juveniles accused of violating state law will be brought in the circuit court where the violation occurred, rather than exclusively in the Juvenile Court. Transfers can occur under specific circumstances.

Certification of Juveniles for Trial as Adults (Sections 211.072, 211.600 and 217.345)

- The age for certifying juveniles for adult trials is changed from 18 to 14-18 years for certain felonies. Additionally, children aged 12-18 are required to have certification hearings for dangerous felonies and any felonies involving deadly weapons.

Eligibility for Parole for Juveniles (Section 217.690)

- Juveniles sentenced to 15 years or more are eligible for parole after 15 years unless convicted of first-degree murder or second-degree murder under specific conditions.

Arrests for Traffic Violations (Sections 307.018 and 556.021)

- Courts are prohibited from issuing warrants for failure to appear for traffic violations. Instead, a notice will be issued for failure to respond, and the court will schedule a second appearance date before making any default judgment.

Motion to Vacate or Set Aside Judgment (Section 547.031)

- The jurisdiction for motions to vacate or set aside judgments is shifted to where the charges were filed instead of where the conviction occurred.

Conviction Review Unit (Section 547.500)

- Establishes a unit for investigating claims of innocence for any defendant, including those who plead guilty. Findings will be presented to the Prosecuting Attorney for the case or to the body requesting review. They do not have to be accepted or followed.

Persistent Offenders (Section 558.016)

- Expands the definition of persistent offenders to include those convicted of dangerous felonies as defined by law.

Minimum Terms for Armed Criminal Action (Sections 558.019 and 571.015)

- Modifies the minimum sentences for armed criminal action offenses, mandating a minimum of three years for a first offense and no less than five years for a second offense. Those convicted are not eligible for probation, conditional release, or suspended imposition of sentence. They are eligible for parole.

Cyber Crimes Task Force (Section 565.258)

- Creates the Stop Cyberstalking and Harassment Task Force to collect feedback from victims, Law Enforcement, victim advocates, and digital evidence and forensic experts. The Task Force will recommend the resources and tools necessary to stop cyberstalking and harassment.

Endangering the Welfare of a Child (Section 568.045)

- Modifies the current law to include that any person who knowingly encourages or aids a child under the age of 17 to engage in conduct that violates laws related to firearms will be guilty of a class D felony.

Blair's Law (Section 571.031)

- Blair's Law is named after Blair Shanahan Lane, an 11-year-old, who was killed by a stray bullet during holiday festivities on July 4th, 2011. Lane's mother, Michele DeMoss, has lobbied the state legislature since that time to create penalties for celebratory gunfire. Under this bill, reckless shooting will be a class A misdemeanor for the first offense and a felony for the second.

Unlawful Possession of Firearms (Section 571.070)

- Modifies the current law to escalate the penalty for unlawful possession of a

firearm to a class C felony unless the person has been convicted of a dangerous felony or has a prior unlawful possession conviction. It then becomes a class B felony.

Max's Law (Section 575.010, 575.353, 578.007 and 578.022)

- Creates penalties for anyone injuring or killing a Law Enforcement K-9. Lobbying efforts for this law began in 2021 after a K-9 named Max was shot and killed while on the job in St. Joseph.

Valentine's Law (Section 575.151)

- Creates penalties for those evading arrest at high speeds, creating the risk of serious injury or death. It is named for St. Louis Detective Antonio Valentine, who was killed in a high-speed chase in 2021.

Delivering a Controlled Substance (Sections 579.021 and 579.022)

- This makes causing a serious physical injury while delivering a controlled substance a class C felony. It escalates to a class A felony if death is caused.

Critical Incident Stress Management Program (CISMP) (Section 590.192)

- Adds 911 dispatchers, paramedics, EMTs, or volunteer or full-time paid firefighters as eligible personnel to receive services from the CISMP.

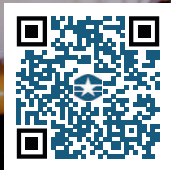
Civilian Review Boards (Section 590.653)

- Review Boards created by political subdivisions are limited to reviewing, investigating, making findings, and recommending disciplinary action against Law Enforcement Officers.

Expungements (Section 610.140)

- Modifies provisions related to the number of crimes a person can have expunged from his or her record. It stipulates that sexual conduct with a nursing facility resident in the 2nd degree, use of a child in sexual performance, promoting a sexual performance of a child, or cross burning are not eligible for expungement. The act reverts a person's status to that held before arrests, pleas, trials, or convictions that are expunged. It allows a person to answer "no" to an employer's inquiry about arrests, charges, or convictions of a crime.

All provisions become effective at the beginning of 2025.



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Missouri Peace Officers Association 2025 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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MPOA IS SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR THE:
HANK JOHNSON OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD,
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD, and
NON-SWORN LAW ENFORCEMENT CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Nominations for the Missouri Peace Officers Association annual awards are now being accepted. These nominations are for actions taken during 2024.

These awards will be presented at our annual conference luncheon on July 11, 2025.

The **Hank Johnson Officer of the Year Award** is given to a full-time or part-time law enforcement officer for exceptional performance. It may involve extraordinary valor, outstanding investigative work, or community relations. Nominees for the Hank Johnson Award need not be MPOA members for consideration.

The **Citizen of the Year Award** will recognize a citizen who has made a significant contribution to advance the cause of law enforcement in their community or throughout the state.

The **Non-Sworn Law Enforcement Civilian of the Year Award** will recognize a law enforcement civilian who has provided exceptional service through volunteer efforts or personal initiatives increasing the effectiveness of their agency.

All nominations should include documentation of the nominee's accomplishments.

Nominations should be in Microsoft Word format and emailed to Carla Bruemmer at the.mpoa@mopoa.org by May 28, 2025.

MPOA Highlights the Nevada Police Department

Contributors for this article include MPOA member, Retired Chief Graham Burnley, Nevada PD, Katherine Kerbs' Directed Study in 2012, Kaye Brittingham, and the Bushwacker Museum David A. Bateman, Christ Perry, James During, and William I. Fisher.

The City of Nevada was incorporated on March 3, 1869, and a town marshal maintained order in the community. As was common, in the absence of a large police presence, a group of vigilantes formed to ensure the safety of their town. They formed the short-lived Marmaton League at the end of the Civil War to keep the peace among the distraught Southern sympathizers.

Little evidence exists on how organized law enforcement developed in Nevada. As late as 1880, the town was still under the protection of a town marshal.

On April 16, 1881, Ordinance No. 23 was passed in the city of Nevada. It read:

In regard to police regulation.

Be it Ordained by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Nevada, as follows:

SECTION 1. That the mayor shall have power to appoint any number of policemen, not exceeding five, whenever in his judgment it may become necessary, whose duty it shall be to assist the city marshal in the preservation of order, and in the enforcement of the ordinances of

the city, and when so appointed their jurisdiction and authority shall be the same as that of the city marshal.

SEC. 2. This ordinance shall be in force from after its passage and publication in the Daily Democrat.

Passed April 16th, 1881

H. W. LINN, President Board of Aldermen.

Attest: G. S. HOSS, Clerk.

Approved. J. E. HARDING,
Mayor

By 1890, with the passage of Ordinance No. 23, a force had been formed with a Chief and five policemen. The Chief was James Bridgeford and his patrolmen included William C. Duren, David A. Bateman, Christ Perry, James During, and William I. Fisher.

In February of 1909, the Nevada Police Department had a bit of excitement. Both Chief Ed Owens and Mayor J.D. Ingram chased an alleged burglar around the Square. The sight was most amusing to pedestrians on the square. The man in question, who was caught, was accused of stealing \$20 and a revolver from Father Basil's apartments at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Clearly Owens and Ingram were dedicated to their service to the city, just like the many that came after them.

Nevada Police Department 1909



NEVADA POLICE, 1909. L TO R: BILL KENNEDY, Ed "Dutch" OWENS, WILLIAM BILLS, PATROLMAN POOL, AND STAN STENGLY. # 1180

Nevada Police Department 1951—Chief of Police R. A. Phillips



Sheriff Leslie K. Hunt of Vernon County, member of the Executive Committee, sent the editor two interesting photographs, shown above. A feature of the photographs is that R. B. Moore appears in both. In 1900 when the group of four was taken, he was chief of police (shown at the left). The other three were Jim McCarty, Andy Sheppard and George Abbott, policemen.

The photograph of the present police force shows, from left, standing: R. B. Moore, now police judge; Clyde Burnett, sergeant; Eddie Kerns, radio operator; E. J. Owens, radio operator; Floyd Minor, Louis

Cox, Delton Armstrong, Jr., patrolmen, and James Neville, city manager. Front row, from left: R. A. Phillips, chief of police; David Vaughan, radio operator; Preston Dixon, Vernon Eaton, Sterling Janes and Fred Wright, patrolmen.

The department's present equipment consists of a 1951 Studebaker police car with two-way radio, and a Harley-Davidson service cycle. Since he was chief of police, Moore served one term as sheriff of Vernon County, and worked off and on as a policeman until 1945, when he was appointed police judge.

As time progressed, the technologies used by the police department became increasingly important, perhaps more so than the human element. Law enforcement, as well as society, was forever changed by the invention and widespread use of the telephone. Telephones allowed policemen to keep in contact with the dispatcher using call boxes stationed on the street.

By 1951, this practice was made obsolete by the use of the two-way radio. As in many other fields, the telephone provided opportunities for women, though they did not hold the job exclusively. In Nevada, one such female dispatcher was Katherine Holmes. Holmes was not the first woman to work in the Nevada Police Department as a dispatcher; her predecessor was

Esther Chester. Chester was a dispatcher on a temporary basis for three years, before becoming the night dispatcher in 1957. Holmes was employed with the Nevada Police Department in the late 1950s and was no different than her male coworkers when it came to dedication to her community.

Nevada Police Department 1955 (Photo Courtesy of Kay Brittingham)

1955

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief Darrell Estes, Jr., Radio Operator Esther Chester, Radio Operator E. J. Owens, Radio Operator Glenn Webster, Sergeant Preston Dixon, Patrolman Stanley Brittingham, Patrolman Sterling Janes, Patrolman Wm. Henigsmith, Patrolman H. W. Wardin, Patrolman David Phillips, Lieutenant Walter Ketterman, Patrolman Fred Wright.



Chief Stanley Brittingham 1960-64 (Photos Courtesy of Kay Brittingham)



Nevada Police Department 1960:



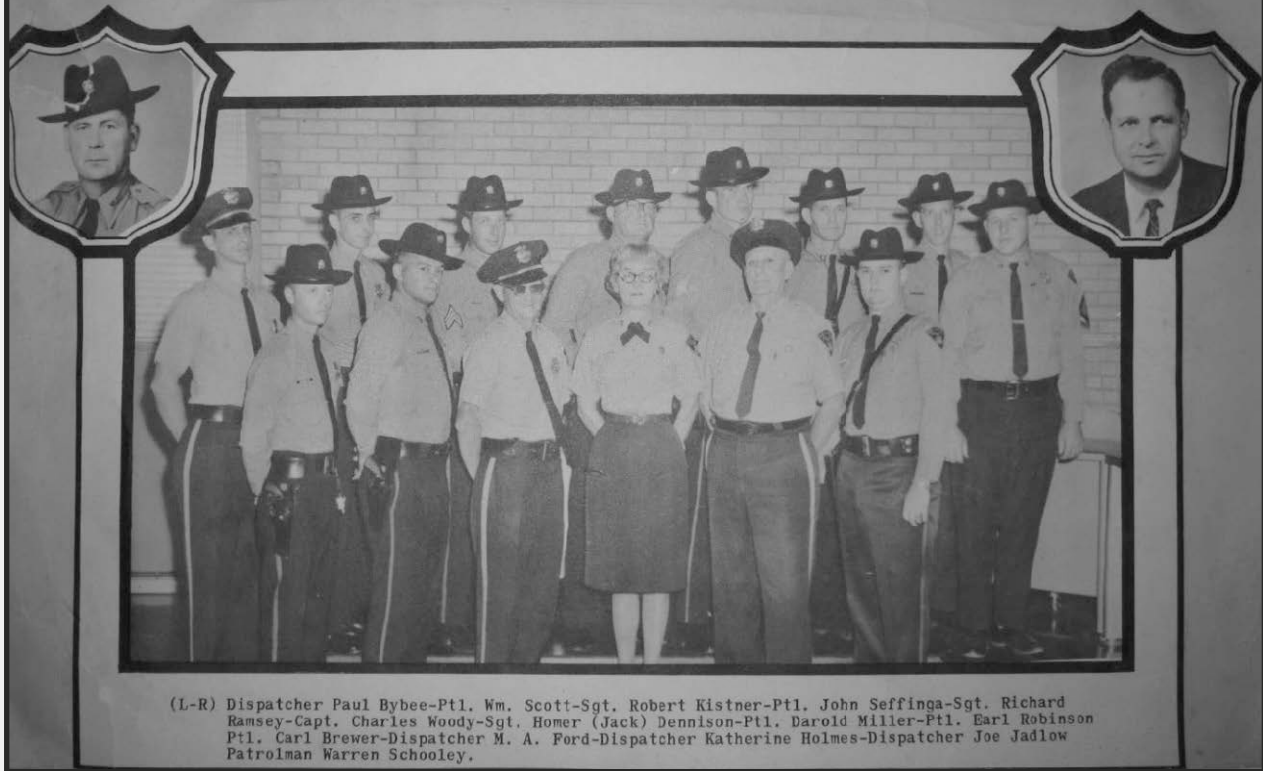
Instrumental in advancing the technologies of the Nevada Police Department into the 1960s was Chief Stanley Brittingham (1923-2008). Having served as an officer since 1954, Brittingham was promoted to lieutenant in November of 1960. He was promoted to the Chief of Police in November of 1962 and served until 1964. In his time as chief, Brittingham oversaw many transitions to the use of new technology. One such transition was the addition of “walkie talkies.” In January of 1963, the department received the new devices in order to communicate while on patrol. The “walkie talkies” could be used by officers doing security checks on buildings, as well as by officers in unmarked cars. The device measured “only eight inches in height and three inches in width.” With this new equipment, the officers could request backup, describe situations in front of them, and communicate with dispatch and other officers. Another major improvement was the return of a police dog. With the resignation of one officer, there was only one security officer for the downtown businesses in the evening hours. Chief Brittingham sought the purchase of the dog, which could do the work of two additional officers. Officer Raymond Bliss, the remaining

security officer, was to be the dog's handler and primary caregiver. The purchase of the dog, which was authorized by City Manager Richard Wilson, was to serve five purposes: “building and warehouse security; trailing of subjects, who have abandoned a car and are fleeing on foot; trailing of lost children and elderly adults; for prowlers in residential areas; and for major disturbances and riots.” According to Chief Brittingham, the Nevada area could expect up to a 92% decrease in crime with the addition of the dog to the force. These advancements helped move the Nevada Police Department into the technological age of the mid-twentieth century.

Even with the technological advancements made under Chief Brittingham, there were still several burglaries and attempted burglaries in the city of Nevada in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Chief Brittingham was a fine example of a police officer dedicated to his community. In the wake of this rash of burglaries, Chief Brittingham called all the police officers in for a three-hour conference to discuss what could be done to prevent more burglaries, especially in the downtown business district. It was resolved that a police officer would

be on patrol throughout the night in the business district, even if this meant calling on reserve policemen to fill the need. The community was becoming exceedingly frustrated with the lack of protection provided by the police department, and according to the *Nevada Daily Mail*, was encouraged by this step forward. The robberies in question spanned a five-year period, though the *Nevada Daily Mail* indicates there was an increase in robberies through 1964. In late December 1959, \$310 was stolen from Thorpe's Appliances. The police department utilized fingerprinting technology to attempt to catch the burglar, but the evidence was lacking and a conviction did not seem likely. In October 1960, two men from out of state attempted to rob the Nevada Distributing Company on East Austin Boulevard. Brittingham arrived on the scene shortly after they had broken a padlock on the east side of the building. Using his two-way radio, he called for back up and he and the other officers searched the building. The burglars were apprehended a short time later in the downtown area. Due to Chief Brittingham's quick thinking and the technology available to him, the police were able to capture the culprits.

Nevada Police Department 1964 – Chief Leon Dowdy



Nevada Police Department 1971 – Chief Floyd Minor



Chief Stan Spadoni 1973-78 – Police Safety Town



NEW TOWN OPEN — Participating in the grand opening of Nevada's Safety Town at Centennial Park are (from left) Leland (Hoss) Cartwright, highway safety program specialist with the Missouri Division of Highway Safety; Linda Carter, supervising teacher for the safety training program; Cliff Porter, Nevada

mayor; Stan Spadoni, police chief and co-chairman for the Safety Town program, and John J. Blevins, a Nevada policeman. All set for the opening of the first morning classes are Andy Russell (left), son of Mr. and Mrs. Rick Russell, and David Bunton, son of Dr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Bunton. (Hollar Mail Staff Photo)

Monday, April 11, 1977

In 1977, Nevada Police Department joined a national movement to educate preschool and kindergarten-aged children about safety when going to and from school. Police officer John Blevins was approached by Police Chief Stan Spadoni about becoming certified to teach this program in Nevada. Officer Blevins attended a national workshop in Kansas City to learn the program and prepare to implement it in Nevada. The program was held for the first time in 1977. Children were taught basic safety precautions including how to cross the street safely, how to read traffic signals, and how to

be aware of "stranger danger." A "mock-city situation" was created and with the help of local businesses, the Department was able to purchase twenty small bicycles to be used as "cars" in the miniature city. Blevins said the goal was for children to see police officers in a positive light and as people they could come to if they were in trouble. He said many children feared police officers or had negative opinions of them due to parental influence. The Safety Town program, he believes, was a way for children to become acquainted with police officers and understand that they were good people.

Officer Blevins also had many stories about his days on the Nevada police force from 1977-1980. It was Blevins who started a specific juvenile department within the police department itself. Blevins and the other officers conducted undercover operations and staked out popular hangouts to catch teenagers who were drinking underage or using illegal drugs. He said the operations were very successful because they were conducted with utmost secrecy. They were able to apprehend a significant number of teenagers. As part of training to head this juvenile task force, Officer Blevins attended the Highway Patrol drug

school. He also implemented a program similar to DARE, but before DARE was a national project. In June of 1978, an article was published in the *Nevada Daily Mail* detailing the efforts of the Nevada Police Department in the area of crime prevention and safety. The article cites Safety Town, as well as twenty hours of instruction in law enforcement subjects at Nevada High School. The Department received federal grant money through the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration for a new radar system, as well as money from the Missouri Uniform of Law

Enforcement System for a new computer terminal and “a camera, two radios and other investigative materials.”

Fast forward to 2012, the Nevada, Missouri, police department boasts nineteen full-duty officers and five civilian personnel. The crime rate in the area is very low, and the majority of the police work is in petty theft, domestic assault, and drug-related crimes. Over time, the Nevada Police Department has utilized technology to aid the human element in fighting crime and in their day-to-day operations. In the

early days, this technology was as simple as a police dog and guns. As technology progressed, the police department moved forward with fingerprinting techniques, “walkie talkies,” and computers. Even as technologies progressed, the police department returned to old techniques, such as the police dog. Technology has been instrumental in helping the Nevada Police Department keep Nevada a safe and peaceful place to live; equally important, however, has been the dedication, compassion, and integrity of its men and women.

Nevada Public Safety Building 2012



Nevada Police Station New in 2015 – In 2015, the Nevada Police Department was comprised of 24 total commissioned police officers and 3 detectives. Additionally, the department had the following programs in place:

- Grants – COPPS and SVAWA
- Fugitive Apprehension Task Force
- Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Watch
- Missouri State Professional Certification
- Crises Intervention Teams (CIT)
- Reduction in Crime Reports



Today's Nevada Police Department



Today, the Nevada Police Department is led by Chief Casey Crain and serves a population of approximately 8,500 residents within a nine-square-mile area. Their authorized number of officers is 24, and are supported by a staff of 4 civilian employees. The department is comprised of the patrol division, investigations division, and administration. Each area plays a vital role in the success of the department. The mission of the Nevada Police

Department is to deliver high-quality, professional police services to Nevada's citizens and visitors. Their primary goal is to take an innovative approach to crime prevention, traffic safety, and to generally improve the quality of life for their citizens.

~~~~~  
If you would like to highlight a law enforcement agency, in MPOA's *Law Enforcement* magazine, please contact the office at [the.mpoa@mopoa.org](mailto:the.mpoa@mopoa.org)

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**MAY 9, 2025**

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Hole #15 Closest to the Pin

Hole #17 Longest Putt

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### 50/50 RAFFLE

#### PLAYER PACKAGE

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Player 1 Team Captain

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Player 2

Player 3

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Only contributions of money or prizes  
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# First Annual MPOA First Responders Appreciation Night at The Rack House

The first annual MPOA “First Responder Appreciation Night” was held on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at The Rack House Kitchen Wine Whiskey Restaurant located at 5065 Highway N, Cottleville, MO 63304. Several members of the community and first responders participated, and The Rack House staff provided a perfect evening with excellent food, beverages, and service. All first responders (current and retired) and their guests received 10% off their entire bill and the Missouri Peace Officers Foundation received a donation from the restaurant. We are planning to do this again in 2025 and possibly offer additional locations in different areas of the state. Thank you to everyone that supported this event.





# The Missouri Office of Highway Safety announces new Kansas City and Northwest Region of Missouri Law Enforcement Liaison (LEL)



The Missouri Office of Highway Safety is pleased to announce that Doug Ruediger has been selected as the new Kansas City and Northwest Region of Missouri Law Enforcement Liaison (LEL).

Doug brings a wealth of experience to this role, having served with the Jefferson City Police Department (JCPD) since December 1996. After entering the police academy in January 1997 and graduating in April of the same year, Doug began his career in the Patrol Division. In 1999, he transitioned to the role of crash investigator, completing specialized training in crash reconstruction, and pursuing ongoing professional development in this field throughout his career.

In February 2003, Doug joined JCPD's newly established Traffic Unit, where his passion for traffic safety flourished. His dedication to advancing his expertise led him to successfully passing the Accreditation Commission for Traffic Accident Reconstruction exam in May 2007. He also became a certified Standardized Field Sobriety Tests instructor, teaching numerous classes and

sharing his knowledge with fellow officers.

Doug has been a prominent figure in law enforcement education, serving as an adjunct instructor for the Law Enforcement Training Institute in Columbia, MO, for approximately 10 years and for the Missouri Safety Center and Central Missouri Police Academy in Warrensburg, MO. His teaching portfolio includes crash investigation, RADAR/LiDAR operations, traffic law, and other traffic-related topics.

An active participant in the annual Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Advisory Council (LETSAAC) conference for many years, Doug joined the LETSAAC Board in 2014. He has served as a Region F Representative, Treasurer, and Board Chairman and remains involved with LETSAAC, particularly on the training committee.

Promoted to sergeant in September 2007, Doug initially returned to the Patrol Division before accepting the role of Traffic Unit Sergeant in June 2011, a position he held until his retirement on December 6, 2024.

Doug has already begun his new role as the Kansas City and Northwest Missouri LEL and can be contacted at [druediger.lelcnwmo@gmail.com](mailto:druediger.lelcnwmo@gmail.com).

The Missouri Law Enforcement Liaison Program, managed by the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) Highway Safety and Traffic Division, is a highway safety initiative aimed at reducing traffic-related fatalities, injuries, and crashes. By partnering with law enforcement agencies in Missouri and surrounding states, the program encourages participation in highway safety activities and promotes the enforcement of traffic safety laws, particularly focusing on impaired driving, occupant protection, and distracted driving.

Two additional LELs serve other regions of Missouri:

• **Brian Phillips**, Southwest Missouri:  
[bphillips.lelswmo@gmail.com](mailto:bphillips.lelswmo@gmail.com)

• **Art Amato**, Northeast, Southeast, and St. Louis regions:  
[Amato.LELEMO@hotmail.com](mailto:Amato.LELEMO@hotmail.com)

# Where Are They Today?

Hello, I'm Baylie! Since receiving the MPOA scholarship I have been up to a lot of things! Following my undergraduate degree, I continued my education at the University of Missouri to attain my Doctorate in Physical Therapy. In May of 2021, I graduated from the program and began my career as a pediatric physical therapist in Tampa Florida. After two years in the Sunshine state, I got offered and accepted a job at a world-renowned pediatric therapy clinic called NAPA Center in Denver. I provide intensive physical therapy to children from all around the globe who come to see our amazing team. I have fallen in love with helping children reach their full potential and achieve all their goals! The MPOA Scholarship has not only given me the opportunity to reach my dreams but has also allowed me to make an impact on so many little lives.

Baylie is the daughter of MPOA member, Captain Jeff Wilson, St. Joseph Police Department.



*Baylie was an MPOF Scholarship Recipient in 2017.*

## FACTS about MPOA

The Missouri Peace Officers Association is one of the oldest and largest associations of peace officers in the state of Missouri. Membership in the MPOA is open to all branches and ranks of law enforcement: chiefs and patrol officers; sheriffs and deputies; prosecuting attorneys; coroners; FBI, Secret Service, DEA, ASIS and ATF agents, railroad police; U.S. Marshals; private security; Missouri State Highway Patrol; Missouri Department of Conservation agents; and postal inspectors. Anyone who is actively employed in the field of law enforcement is encouraged to become a member.

An annual conference sponsored by the Missouri Peace Officers Association provides training sessions in current issues of law enforcement to keep members of the profession informed on new procedures. The conferences enable members to exchange ideas and encourages

cooperation among all groups of law enforcement. Additionally, the association sponsors training around the state aimed at improving officers' skill and knowledge in law enforcement topics of their interest.

A standing Legislative Committee comprised of a cross section of MPOA members encourages and supports the passage of stronger criminal laws.

A free exchange of ideas and experiences is encouraged to help members in solving local problems within each community.

The official publication of the Missouri Peace Officers Association, *LAW ENFORCEMENT*, has been in continuous publication since 1938.

This magazine provides a means of communication for MPOA membership and is continually



reminding citizens we serve of the work their law enforcement officers are doing in the protection of life and property. Each issue carries educational and instructive articles and reports on the activities of various member agencies. Advertising revenue covers all costs related to the publication.

Through united membership in the Missouri Peace Officers Association, these services help to raise the standards of law enforcement and to better conditions for officers in service to their communities.





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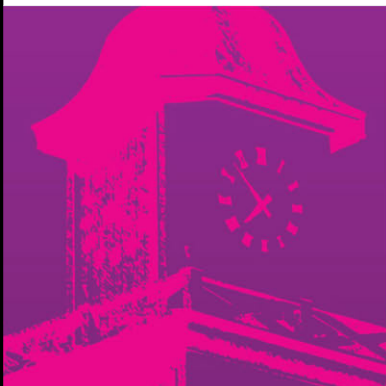
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