



LAW ENFORCEMENT[®]

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE MISSOURI PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
Volume 80, No 1 - Spring 2026



"IN THE LINE OF DUTY"

I NEVER DREAMED IT WOULD BE ME,
THE BADGE NO LONGER ON MY CHEST,
MY NAME FOR ALL ETERNITY.

I SLEEP NOW IN ETERNAL REST,
RECORDED HERE AT THIS HALLOWED PLACE.

MY SWORD I PASS TO THOSE BEHIND,
ALAS MY NAME, NO MORE MY FACE.

AND PRAY THEY KEEP THIS THOUGHT IN MIND.

"IN THE LINE OF DUTY" I HEAR THEM SAY:
I NEVER DREAMED IT WOULD BE ME.

MY FAMILY NOW THE PRICE WILL PAY,
AND WITH HEAVY HEART AND BENDED KNEE:
MY FOLDED FLAG STAINED WITH THEIR TEARS.

I ASK FOR ALL HERE FROM THE PAST,
WE ONLY HAD THOSE FEW SHORT YEARS.

DEAR GOD, LET MY NAME BE THE LAST!

GEORGE HAHN





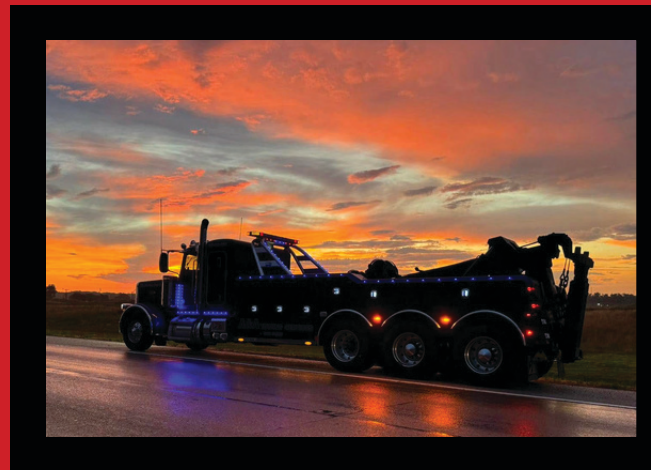
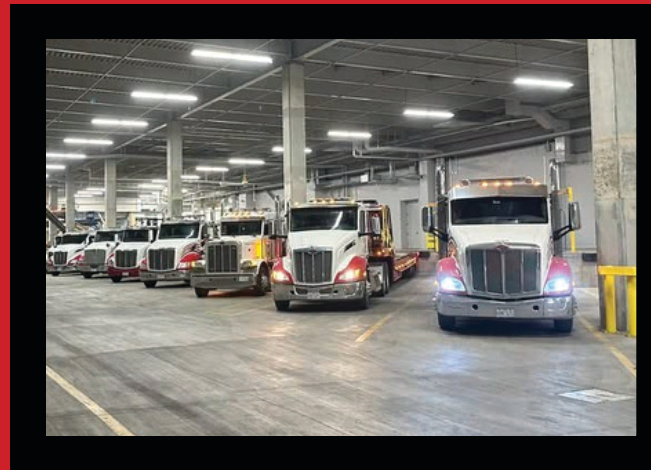
Cardinal Legacy Towing Group

"Leading Towing Forward, One Company at a Time"



TOWING SERVICES

Cardinal Legacy Towing Group delivers comprehensive towing and transport solutions with a growing nationwide footprint. Backed by experienced professionals and dependable, well-maintained equipment, our teams provide light, medium, and heavy-duty towing, recovery, and equipment hauling for customers across the country. From passenger vehicles and commercial fleets to buses, tractor-trailers, and specialized equipment, we have the capability and expertise to handle complex jobs safely and efficiently. Wherever the call comes from, Cardinal Legacy Towing Group is ready to respond — anytime, anywhere.



CARDINALLEGACYTOWING.COM

SAINT LOUIS | KANSAS CITY | NAPLES

LAW ENFORCEMENT



Official Publication for the **Missouri Peace Officers Association**
Volume 80, Number 1 Spring 2026

COLUMNS:

- 2 **President's Message**
- 3 **From the Executive Director**
- 4 **Chaplain's Message, Rev. Leo J. Spezia**
- 5 **Chaplain's Message, Rev. James "JC" Beckner**

Front Cover Photo: As National Police Week nears, may we never forget our fallen officers.

MPOA office phone numbers:
phone: 816.581.3767 fax: 816.581.3768
the.mpoa@mopoa.org

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Mr. Tom Kerns,
Ret. US Postal Inspector

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Captain Dave Billings
Raymore PD

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Sergeant Anthony "Nino"
Consiglio, Gladstone PD

CHAPLAIN WEST SIDE

Reverend James "JC" Beckner
Ozark

CHAPLAIN EAST SIDE

Father Leo Spezia
Eureka

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chief Bob Ronkoski (retired)
bobronkoski@mopoa.org

ASSISTANT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chris Chapple
the.mpoa@mopoa.org

ARTICLES:

- 7 MPOA 2026 Membership Application for Membership
- 8 Remembering Missouri's Fallen Officers
- 9 Facts about MPOA
- 10 New to MPOA
- 12 2 + 2 = 5
- 14 A Civilian's Thoughts on LETSAC
- 15 Employment Opportunities
- 20 24th Annual Golf Tournament
- 21 In Memory
- 22 The Eureka Police Department: Small Agency, Big Impact
- 26 Effective Strategies in the Recruitment, Retention, and Career Development of Crime Scene Investigators
- 28 So Many Crosses, So Little Concern!
- 30 LETSAC: What is that?
- 32 MPOF and BackStoppers - Freedom Walk For Charities 2026
- 33 Tom Shaw Foundation Freedom Walk
- 34 2026 St. Louis Show-Me-Classic
- 35 MPOA / MPOF Annual Business Meetings

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Sgt. Scott Barthelmass
St. Louis County Park Ranger
Chief Graham Burnley (retired)
Nevada PD
Officer Chandra Kelly (retired)
Olathe PD
Major Rob Hays
Clay CO SO
Major Lafayette "Gene" Lacy (retired)
Missouri State Highway Patrol
Major Dale Schmidt (retired)
Missouri State Highway Patrol
SA Carl "Dutch" Schultz (retired)
FBI St. Louis
Chief Dave Starbuck (retired)
Grain Valley PD
Captain Jon Romas
Creve Coeur PD
Captain Scott White
Missouri State Highway Patrol

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chief Jimmy Wilson
Raymore PD
Kevin Garrison, President
Protective & Investigative Services
St. Louis
Lt. Col. Mike Hand (retired)
Kansas City Police
Chief James Huff (retired)
UCM Director of Public Safety
Chief Larry Joiner (retired)
Kansas City Police
Lt. Col. Raymond Lauer (retired)
St. Louis Metro Police
Chief John McGovern (retired)
Excelsior Springs Police
Chief Gary McMullin (retired)
Weatherby Lake PD
Col. Ron Replogle (retired)
Missouri State Highway Patrol
Chief Kris Turnbow (retired)
Raymore PD
Chief Michael Wiegand
Eureka PD (retired)

Editorial guidelines for articles in *Law Enforcement*:

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.



Law Enforcement magazine is published April, August and December and is the official publication of the Missouri Peace Officers Association, INC., 101 West McCarty, Suite 200, Jefferson City, MO 65101. Membership dues (including Law Enforcement magazine) \$30 per year Single copies \$4 with checks payable to "MPOA" mailed to the HQ in Jefferson City. Products and services advertised do not carry MPOA endorsement. The MPOA reserves the right to reject content of any copy. The Executive Committee, Advisory Committee, Officers and editors neither endorse or guarantee completeness or accuracy of material published that is obtained from sources considered reliable, nor accept liability resulting from the adoption or use of any methods, procedures, or statements recommended or complied. ©Copyright 2012. All rights reserved by the Missouri Peace Officers Association, Inc.

Chief Bob Ronkoski (retired)
Executive Director/Editor

Chris Chapple
Editorial Assistant

Mike Haynes
Director/Advertising

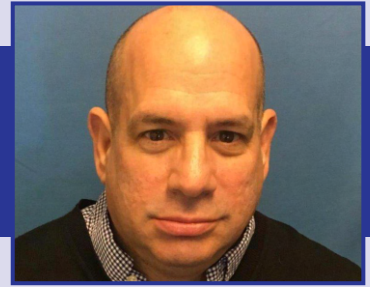
Susan McMichael
Graphic Design

SPRING 2026 / 1



President's Message

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



As we prepare for National Police Week May 15th through May 21, I want to remind you to take the time and review the "Fallen Officers" in our magazine. We must never forget the ultimate sacrifices made by courageous officers in service to their communities.

In Missouri thus far this year we have lost 3 officers, Christian County Deputies Michael Hislope and Gabriel Ramirez and St. Louis City Police Officer Greg Triplett. While we pray for them, their

families, friends and all who knew them, they paid the ultimate sacrifice protecting their communities. As in John 15:13 "No great love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for others".

Remember that National Police Week is a time of remembrance and celebrating the men and women who serve with integrity and bravery. This is the week that tells the stories, sacrifices, and the families we all belong to. It is our duty to keep their memory alive and honor them.

Our magazine has the stories of the fallen, take the time to read their stories and not about their sacrifice but how these brave men lived. This is why the Missouri Peace Officers Foundation provides a \$1000 death benefit to the beneficiary of any member killed in the line of duty.

Let's do our part by attending any memorial services in our area during Police Week to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice honoring them and their service. God Bless the Peacemakers!!





From the Executive Director

Chief Bob Ronkoski (retired)

With 2025 in the rearview mirror, it is hard to believe that we are already four months into 2026. This has been a year that will be full of changes and new ideas. I am hoping to take our organization to the next level with a few changes and event additions to our schedule.

First, I would like to thank Carla Bruemmer for her service to the MPOA and MPOF. When I took on the challenge of the Executive Director's position five years ago, Carla had the task of keeping me on track as the Assistant to the Executive Director and the person that had to run the daily operations in the MPOA office in Jefferson City. Carla officially retired on March 1, 2026, but will remain as an advisor to continue to help us during the transfer of her duties to our new Assistant to the Executive Director, Chris Chapple. Chris has been a dynamic addition to the MPOA team, and I look forward to working with her to keep our organization moving forward.

Our MPOA magazine is one of the best law enforcement publications in the state and we are continuing to offer the recruitment section in the "Law Enforcement" magazine. There is special pricing available to Missouri police agencies. Contact me for more information at bobronkoski@mopoa.org. 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 21st annual MPOF Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, May 8, 2026. The cost remains \$100 per player, \$400 for a foursome. That covers greens fees, golf cart & lunch. The tournament will be held in our normal location at the Mules National Golf Club in Warrensburg, MO. Donations will help the Foundation with our college scholarships and eighth grade essay contest awards as well as line of duty death benefits.

The Missouri Peace Officers Foundation and BackStoppers/Guns and Hoses have been selected by the Tom Shaw Foundation to be the recipients of their annual fundraiser this year, the "Tom Shaw Foundation Freedom Walk for Charities." This year's event and walk will be held on Sunday, October 11, at the Good News Brewing Company on Hwy 94 in Defiance, MO. More information about the event will be provided in this issue of the "Law Enforcement" magazine. Also, later this year we will have another dine out for MPOA/MPOF event somewhere on the east side of the state.

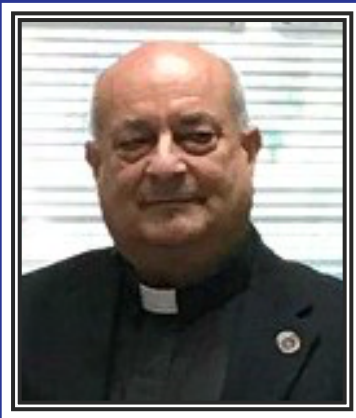
The cost of membership to the MPOA has been extremely low for many years and we are not able to keep up with inflation. We need to increase our dues for membership to cover the rising cost of operating the organization. The Executive Board voted to increase the membership dues in 2027 from \$40 to \$45 and again in 2028 from \$45 to \$50. The increases over the next two years will help us to maintain



our financial obligations. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the MPOF each year to assist us to continue to offer the scholarships and other needed programs throughout the year. Any amount would be appreciated.

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 is our responsibility to ensure that they receive the mental health care they need. I hope to see you all at the fundraising events throughout the year.

MPOA Executive Director Bob Ronkoski recently retired from his position as Assistant Vice-President for Public Safety and Chief of Police for the St. Charles Community College and is the prior Mayor of the City of Cottleville, Missouri. He previously retired at the rank of Lieutenant from the St. Ann Police Department. Bob is currently serving on the Board of Trustees for St. Charles Community College. 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 East Side

Father Leo J. Spezia



Most Sacred Heart Church
Eureka, MO

A boy once asked an old man what the secret to success is. After hearing the boy's question, the sage told the boy to meet him in the river in the morning and that he would give him the answer there.

In the morning, the man and the boy began to walk towards the river. They continued towards the river, passing the tip of the water that covered their nose and mouth. At this moment, the sage put the boy in the water.

As he struggled to get out, the wise old man continued to push him further down. The boy felt a fish slide down his leg and squirmed to rise even stronger. The man finally raised the boy's head so he could take a breath. The boy gasped as he inhaled a deep breath.

The old man said, "Why did you fight when you were underwater?" The boy replied: "Air!" The man said, "There you have the secret to success. When you want to succeed as much as you wanted air when you were underwater, you will. That is the only secret."

Moral: Success begins with the desire to achieve something. If your motivation is weak, your results will follow suit. Think about what you want most in life and work to achieve it. Don't let your surroundings or other people influence the things you want. Just

because swimming fish are comfortable with being underwater doesn't mean you are.

Rev. Leo J. Spezia

MPOA Chaplain – East Side

Father Leo was born on "The Hill" in St. Louis, Missouri in 1950 and ordained from Kenrick Seminary in May 1976. He resides in Eureka and has the honor of being chaplain for law enforcement agencies on the federal, state, and local levels in Missouri and the chaplain of the St. Louis County & Municipal Fire Academy. He enjoyed being the Director of Family Ministry / Family Life for the Archdiocese of St. Louis from 1979-1992, and is presently the Spiritual Director for 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.)



Chaplain's Message West Side

Reverend James "JC" Beckner



A "Tamarisk" Tree

I read a verse in the Bible that got me to thinking about trees in relation to law enforcement. I did not think there was any possible way to connect the two. I was amazed that I had not even considered the following which you can find on Google.

Trees and law enforcement intersect in several ways, ranging from direct patrolling of forested areas and environmental crime investigation to influencing urban crime rates and acting as a metaphor in constitutional law.

Here are the primary connections:

1. Conservation and Forest Patrol

Law enforcement officers, such as forest rangers and conservation police, manage, protect, and patrol forested areas.

- **Crimes Investigated:** They handle crimes including illegal hunting/fishing (poaching), vandalism, unauthorized

camping, littering, and timber theft.

- **Federal/Environmental Crime:** Agencies like the U.S. Forest Service investigate major crimes, including illegal marijuana grows on federal land and forest arson.
- **Timber Protection:** Law enforcement investigates "timber trespass," where individuals illegally cut and steal valuable trees, such as walnuts or oaks, from private or public land

2. Protecting Natural Resources and Wildlife

- **Poaching Prevention:** Conservation agents patrol areas to prevent illegal fishing and hunting, which threatens wildlife biodiversity.
- **Resource Protection:** They manage the harvesting of forest products to ensure it

complies with regulations designed to prevent over-extraction.

- **Endangered Species Protection:** Protecting ecosystems to preserve habitats for endangered or threatened species.

3. Public Safety and Education

- **Visitor Safety:** Rangers patrol parks and forests to ensure the safety of hikers, campers, and visitors.
- **Compliance Patrol:** Unlike typical policing, forest officers often take a community-oriented approach, educating the public on how to behave in nature and respecting conservation efforts.
- **Response:** Responding to incidents in remote areas where traditional law enforcement cannot easily go.

4. Specialized Tools and Techniques

- **Aerial Patrols:** Agents use helicopters and drones to detect illegal poaching sites or timber harvesting operations from the air.
- **Technology:** Using surveillance and sensor technology to monitor vast areas for prohibited activity.

These agents are frequently authorized as sworn police officers with specialized knowledge in environmental law, combining traditional police skills with biology, ecology, and forestry expertise.

So why all this talk about trees and Law Enforcement? Have you ever heard of the “Tamarisk” tree?

In the book of Genesis chapter 21:33 the following words are recorded: “Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beer-sheba, and there he called on the name of the Lord, the Everlasting God.”

This specific type of tree is mentioned only two other times in Scripture. I Samuel 22:6, and I Sameul 31:13.

Tamarisk trees are extremely slow-growing, often taking up to 80 years to mature. Their shade has been found to be 15% cooler than other shade trees.

Why would Abraham travel into the desert just to plant this Tamarisk tree? No one was there. He would not live long enough to enjoy it's shade. Why would he do this if it would not benefit him?

When Abraham planted this tree, it was as an act of faith and dedication to leaving a legacy for future generations. This tree served as a permanent, living reminder of God's covenant with Him and to his children, grandchildren and future generations.

It would be years later that the nation of Israel would pass by here and be able to enjoy the shade of that tree.

Abraham did this as a way of showing that God will bring his descendants here, a place of comfort for them.

So, what does a Tamarisk tree have to do with Law Enforcement. Not much. But it can cause you to stop and think

about what you are going to leave behind? What will your legacy be? What are you building today in your life that will benefit your family and future generations?

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.





Missouri Peace Officers Association 2026 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

New or Renewal

**I wish to become a member of the Missouri Peace Officers Association,
Entitled to all the services, benefits, and privileges extended to members thereof.**

Dues \$40 per year (January 1 – December 31)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Agency: _____

Preferred Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

(To receive updates, training, events, items of interest, invoice when paying by credit card, etc.)

Cell: _____ Office: _____

Renewal: _____ New Member: _____ Associate Member: _____

Sponsored by: _____, MPOA Member

Title: _____

Agency: _____

Please make check payable to: MPOA

Mail to: Missouri Peace Officers Association
101 West McCarty Street – Suite 200
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Questions: (816) 581-3767 Email: the.mpoa@mopoa.org



To pay by credit card #: _____ Exp: _____

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.

Police Officer Ephraim Hibler

St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, Missouri

End of Watch: Sunday, May 26, 1850

Age: Not available / Tour: Not available / Badge: Not available

Incident Details Cause: Gunfire / Weapon: Officer's handgun / Offender: Sentenced to death

Police Officer Ephraim Hibler was shot and killed by one of two men he had arrested for vagrancy.

The subject grabbed another officer's gun and opened fire, killing Officer Hibler.

Both men were convicted of Officer Hibler's murder and sentenced to death on September 24th, 1850.

Officer Blaize Alyxander Madrid-Evans

Independence Police Department, Missouri

End of Watch: Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Age: 22 \ Tour: 2 months / Badge: 1744

Incident Details Cause: Gunfire / Weapon: Gun; Unknown type / Offender: Shot and killed

Officer Blaize Madrid-Evans was shot and killed when he was dispatched to the 2300 block of South Northern Boulevard to check for a wanted subject at a residence at about 11:30 am.

As officers encountered the wanted subject the man opened fire and critically wounded Officer Madrid-Evans. Other officers on the scene returned fire and killed the subject.

Officer Madrid-Evans was transported to a local hospital where he succumbed to his wounds later that evening.

Officer Madrid-Evans had graduated from the academy only two months earlier and was still in field training. He is survived by his parents and fiancée.

Parole Officer John D. Luck

Missouri Department of Corrections, Missouri

End of Watch: Tuesday, December 28, 2021

Age: 57 / Tour: Not available / Badge: Not available

Incident Details Cause: COVID19 / Incident Date: Not available

Parole Officer John Luck died as a result of contracting COVID-19 while serving at the Division of Probation and Parole, District 4C at 1730 Prospect in Kansas City.

Parole Officer Luck had served with the Missouri Department of Corrections and previously with the Louisiana Department of Corrections. He is survived by his wife, six sons, and his sister.

Police Officer Daniel Francisco Vasquez

North Kansas City Police Department, Missouri

End of Watch: Tuesday, July 19, 2022

Age: 32 / Tour: 2 years / Badge: Not available

Incident Details Cause: Gunfire / Weapon: Rifle; AR-15
Offender: Sentenced to death

Police Officer Daniel Vasquez was shot and killed while making a traffic stop near the intersection of 21st Street and Clay Street at about 10:40 am.

The driver of the vehicle shot Officer Vasquez before fleeing. A backup officer who arrived at the scene began CPR before Officer Vasquez was transported to a nearby hospital. He succumbed to his wounds a short time later.

The subject who shot him turned himself in at the Kansas City Police Department approximately three hours later. He was convicted of first-degree murder, and the jury recommended a death penalty. In 2025, a judge sentenced him to death.

Officer Vasquez had served with the North Kansas City Police Department for two years. He is survived by his mother, father, two sisters, a niece, a nephew, and a fiancée.

Officer Phylcia Carson

Osage Beach Police Department, Missouri

End of Watch: Saturday, August 31, 2024

Age: 33 / Tour: 1 year / Badge: 916

Incident Details Cause: Vehicle pursuit
Weapon: Automobile / Offender: In custody

Officer Phylcia Carson was killed in a vehicle crash at about 1:30 am while responding to assist another officer who was pursuing a vehicle.

Her patrol car left the roadway and struck a tree on Highway A near Toronto Springs Park Road. A Camden County Sheriff's Office deputy discovered her patrol car on fire in the tree line.

The driver of the vehicle that was being pursued crashed a short distance away and was taken into custody. He was charged with aggravated fleeing a stop, resulting in death.

Officer Carson had served with the Osage Beach Police Department for one year. She is survived by her husband and six 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, and Board Member Missouri Peace Officers Association.

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.

NEW TO MPOA

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

Associate Member

Mr. Thomas Vitale

Allied Universal Security Services

Security Officer Ian Sneid

Blue Springs School District

Officer Tom Hammond

Officer Chip Taylor

Edina Police Department

Raymond W. Bumbales, Jr

Gladstone Police Department

Officer Madison Cockerham

Officer Gaige Monahan

Officer Justin Noll

Officer Zachary Usher

Harrisonville Police Department

Officer Whitney Barrett

Officer Silas Barrett

Officer Matthew Mayo

Officer Bryce Mullikin

Officer Cole Stillman

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

Comm. Spec. Madisyn Roman

Deputy Cody Buckholz

Deputy Thomas Bullington

Deputy Brandon Craddock

Deputy Joshua Deal

Deputy Michael Gregory

Deputy Natasha Howard

Deputy Lucas Lansing

Deputy Quinn Miller

Deputy Tyler Murphy

Deputy Luke Parker

Deputy Valon Thompson

Deputy Logan Throckmorton

Lee's Summit Police Department

Officer Jake Dinkins

Liberty Police Department

Officer Trent Braley

Officer Nathan Callaway

Officer Katilin Feagins

Officer Gary Kolek

Officer Matt Smith

Officer Paul Tribble

Officer Matthey Weaver

Pevely Police Department

Brandon E. Bumbales

Raymore Police Department

Officer Avery Woodfine

Shrewsbury Police Department

Lieutenant Todd Melugin

Smithville Police Department

Officer Jack Cooley

Officer Jennifer Hudson

Officer Isaac Sullivan

St Charles Community College PD

Officer Michael Morton

Officer Rebecca Reimers

Sullivan Police Department

Officer Trevor Young

Supreme Court Marshals

Deputy Marshal Thad Wilson

Town & Country Police Department

Sergeant Steven Doll

Trenton Police Department

Officer Sloane Ferguson

Officer Russell Morris

Officer Bryce Sinclair

University of Central Missouri DPS

Officer Kenneth Harwood

Officer Kaylee Sanders

Officer Bryan Scott

Officer Sarah Taylor

Officer Jordan Wittmaier

Jewish Federation of St Louis Security

Security Officer Kahlia Ali

Security Officer Jason Barnett

Security Officer Stacy Caine

Security Officer Jody Collman

Security Officer Donald Grayson

Security Officer John Kuykendall

Security Officer Todd Mooney

Security Officer John Reynolds

Security Office Matt Rodden

Security Officer David Selph

Security Officer Anita Sanders

Security Officer Jacob Strum

Security Officer Marcus Thompson

NEW STUDENT MEMBERS

Carthage Technical Center

Anna Corcoran

Bailey Fresquez

Jazlynn Gomez Cabrera

Kaudence Harms

Sandy Juarez Chavez

Christopher McCulloch-Baker

Betssi Mejia Ordonez

Alex Murphree

Karen Najarro Chinchilla

Wrynlee Nichols

Angely Ordonez Oxlej

Hayden Paz Hernandez

Alex Revolorio

Alice Reyes-Mojica

Isamar Rodas

Victoria Schmidt

Steve Serious

Caidin Wessel

Heavenlnee Wilson

Crowder College

Jonah Davidson

Jaeron Ganoung

Joel Gonzalez

Continued next page.

NEW STUDENT MEMBERS *(continued)*

Angelica Guerra Ortega
Caleb Hill
Jaiden Holman
Charles Jackson
Savannah Machupa
Maxwell Morin
Patricia Perez Alvarado
Alexcia Ramirez
Anthony Towns
Kannon VanSlyke
Chance Vearrier
Debora Villafane
Noah Wagoner

Career & Technical Center at Fort Osage

Mia Braley
Ethen Farias
Adalade Fulk
Braydon Gant
Makenzie Gillum
Anya Hafner

Brooklyn Herrington
Cara Hinkle
Ryan Hinrichs
MaKayla Hughes-Simms
Kaitlyn Kariker
Dustin Lor
Kyle Murphy
Katie Musto
Marissa Ralls
Avery Stumpenhous
Isaac Ward

Herndon Career Center

Bowie Autry
Hayden Bernard
Jack Brownlee
Charisma Dewitt
Donovan Duncan
Enrique Esparza
Jayvion Henderson
Owen Hernandez
Gia Hider

Anna Holmes
Ragen Jackson
Jayveon Jacobs
Aisatu Jallow
Javion Johnson
Jayden King
Selena McBee
Kyoto McCoy
Paige McDowell
Alexandria Mobley
Adrian Mosley
Nilya Moore
Theodore Noel
Christopher Ritterhoff
Gabrielle Seamster
Brooklyn Seek
Kyleigh Smith
Duquane Sutherland
Jaden Vazquesz
Ashe Watson
Julianna Wright

**LAW
ENFORCEMENT**[®]
Magazine wants
your NEWS!

If you have moved,
received a new email,
changed jobs, recently
been promoted, received
an award or retired, we
want to know. Send your
news to
[the.mpoa@mopoa.org!](mailto:the.mpoa@mopoa.org)



Moving?

For fastest service, attach old mailing label in this space. If mailing label is not available, print your old address in the above box along with zip code.

Print your NEW address below:

NAME

ADDRESS 1

ADDRESS 2

CITY

STATE

ZIP

Mail this form to: Missouri Peace Officers Association,
101 West McCarty, Suite 200, Jefferson City, MO 65101

2+2=5

As we begin 2026, it is almost unbelievable what has happened to the United States of America. George Orwell described a similar society in the book *1984*. I am not sure I would have wanted to be privy to this guy's dreams. He seemed to have a crystal ball to see what would happen in the future.

I know 2+2, does not equal 5, you know it and the main character in the book "Winston" knew it too. Independent thinkers and common sense is not viewed as favorable in a dystopian society.

America is digging deeper into a dystopian state. Here are a few examples.

Hands up don't shoot! Well as it turned out the phrase that went

viral was based upon a lie. Brianna Taylor was not killed while lying in her bed. George Floyd died of a drug overdose. These three events led to the war on police, war on authority, the unraveling of society. We watched as police administrators and ranking members of law enforcement knelt with the BLM, as cities burned, police precinct houses abandoned and allowed to be looted and destroyed by the mostly peaceful protesters. In my home state the Texas Capitol was vandalized, patrol units destroyed, protestors hurled rocks, bricks, frozen water bottles, and human urine at police officers. All the while police officers were told to stand down and do not engage. We watched

as radical thinking citizens attacked people and destroyed property, all the while claiming their victimhood. And why not? The President of the United States (several years back) made the statement that police officers acted stupidly, and that African American and Latino's are overrepresented in being stopped by the police. That statement opened the door for radical thinking people, to fight, resist during lawful engagements, ambush and kill Americas police officers.

2+2=5.

Criminal behavior has been placed on a sliding scale. Less than \$750 theft is not really a crime. Resisting during a lawful



engagement is acceptable, but if shot it must have been something the police officer did. Fleeing from a police officer is acceptable behavior because certain demographics are overrepresented in being stopped by law enforcement. A man can be a woman, or woman can be a man. Men can have babies. A human can identify as an animal and demand their employers provide litter boxes in the public restrooms. A person can demand public assistance and not work. EBT and SNAP recipients make sure their nails, hair, and eyelashes are professionally done. Some of Americas service veterans live on the street after returning from combat missions in some third world armpit, suffering from post-traumatic stress and unable to receive the assistance they need.

2+2=5

I guess by now you can tell I live by conservative values. I believe in God, have accepted the forgiveness from the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I stand for the Flag and

the National Anthem; I kneel for Jesus and the cross. I believe if you do not work and you do not have a mental or physical condition; you must provide for the needs of your family. I believe children should be disciplined, not abused and should be taught respect for authority beginning with their parents.

I served in the Marine Reserve and as a Texas Police Officer for more than 45 years. I am retired but still feel as though I have something to offer. I pray for the safety of our Government, the Military and our Law Enforcement.

I know there will be those who disagree with me, and that is OK, but while you have the right granted by the constitution to disagree, I have the right to share my beliefs.

2+2=4

"May the Lord bless you and keep you; may His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; May he lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace" (Numbers 6:24-26).



Garry Parker

Garry Parker has over forty-five years of law enforcement experience in Texas, retiring from the Department of Public Safety in 2009 and later from the Texas Municipal Police Association in 2020. He is commissioned as a Special Ranger and certified as a speaker, trainer, and coach through several organizations including the Maxwell Leadership Team. Garry is nationally recognized for expertise in traffic safety, crash prevention, law enforcement, emergency vehicle operation, communication, and leadership. He has delivered keynote speeches at conferences nationwide and received awards for program development and presentation from both state and national organizations. If you are in search of a speaker for your event, please reach out to me.

Contact:

www.garryparkerandassociates.com



Please support the advertisers who help make this publication possible.



Special thanks to our advertisers!

A Civilian's Thoughts on LETSAC

By Joe Jones



When I was a young child back in the 70s, I remember being terrified of the police. Despite all the adults and my grade-school readers that told me, “The policeman is your friend,” I was somehow convinced that mere eye contact with a cop would wind up with him hauling me off to jail. I can remember sitting in the back of the family car wishing my father was driving slower so that we didn't get pulled over—an event I was convinced would culminate in my dad being whisked off to jail.

Of course, as I grew older, I began to see things differently—probably all those Hardy Boys books I read. I learned that law-enforcement officers are there to protect and serve and that is exactly what they do. From the officer who drove me home after I'd disabled my car in a high school crash on a drizzly afternoon, to an uncle who rose to the rank of major in the Highway Patrol, I respected and looked up to those in the profession. The ridiculous “Defund the Police” movement of the early 20s only solidified my support and admiration for law-enforcement in general. But all that was years ago.

Now I've come to work in MoDOT's Highway Safety Division. The nature of that job demands regular interaction with law enforcement. After my first LETSAC meeting (which was virtual) I walked across the hall to one of our program managers and told her, “These cops are my kind of people!” And that's exactly what they are. I grew up with six brothers and being around these guys with their constant ragging of one another, love of firearms, and dedication to a job well-done, was just like being back on the farm back in the 80s.

So, I was looking forward to my first LETSAC Conference. But I had one small problem—I wasn't a policeman. It didn't take me long to realize that I didn't have to be.

The conference opened with a bang as Sherriff Mark Lamb told the crowd that success in law enforcement and traffic safety didn't depend on bold heroic gestures. Rather, the little—seemingly mundane—things we do every day help us lower the numbers of fatal and serious injury crashes on our roads. He paid particular attention to the scourge of impaired driving that took the life of his adult son, daughter-in-law, and grandchild. That same plague snuffs out the lives of well over 10 people each month here in Missouri. You don't have to be a police man to want an end to that.

Impaired driving is a huge problem for highway safety professionals and an ongoing battle for law enforcement. That's why I was surprised to see defense attorney Travis Noble on the agenda. This man's legal practice revolves around finding impaired drivers not guilty, and he's darn good at it. I would have expected the roomful of traffic safety enforcement officers to be fuming at his presentation, but they weren't. In fact, they were listening with rapt attention and taking notes as Travis detailed, step-by-step, those little elements that can tear a DWI case apart and set an offender free. I saw Noble's years of experience on the other side of the legal system provide a huge amount of intel that the officers could use in their everyday work on our side.

Then there was Kent Williams from Breach Point. This former

Chicagoland Police Chief spoke on the dangers of the police culture and the way the constant trauma can fracture the personal and professional lives of officers. If undealt with, this stress can eat an officer alive and usually consume those around him. He poured out his story and offered a solid methodology for coping in a healthy manner. The talk was riveting, and I soon realized that I didn't have to be a cop to fit in—that the truths he was detailing were universally applicable to anyone who deals with any sort of stress on a regular basis.

Jason Schechterle wrapped things up with his presentation titled “Burning Shield.” As a fairly new Phoenix police officer, Jason was hit by a taxi traveling in excess of 100 mph and pinned in his burning car. Quick access to post-crash care saved his life, but he was severely burned, and the wounds permanently altered his appearance to an unrecognizable extent. But it didn't dampen his spirit. His message was one of confronting difficulty head on and never giving up even when things get tough—especially when things get tough. I didn't have to be an officer to understand that lesson either.

The conference content was great. But to me the best part was getting to spend some time in the world of these law enforcement professionals. It's a world filled with troubles and trials that the general public never see. But it's also a world of triumph, valor, and fellowship that I can't wait to experience again this coming summer.

**Law Enforcement Traffic
Safety Advisory Council**



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

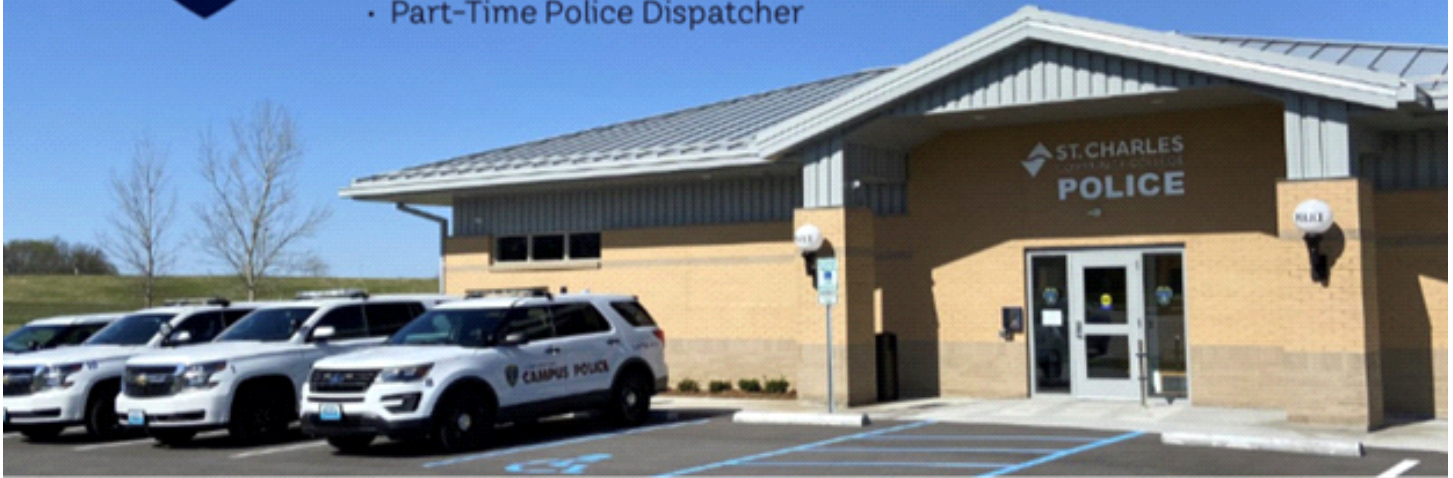
This is a new section of *Law Enforcement* magazine for job openings.

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.



WE ARE HIRING

- Full-Time Police Officer
- Part-Time Police Officer
- Part-Time Police Dispatcher



For more information call 636-922-8545 or visit stchas.edu/jobs

4601 Mid Rivers Mall Dr, Cottleville, MO 63376

MISSOURI CAPITOL POLICE

BE A PART OF THE MOST UNIQUE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN MISSOURI!

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Apply Today!

www.mocareers.com/dps

Tuition Paid in Full at Partner Academies
Lincoln University LETA &
University of Missouri LETI

Department-Issued Uniforms
& Equipment Provided

Ongoing In-Service and Specialty
Trainings Provided

Generous State Benefits Plan



New
Commissioned
Salary
\$53,487

MCP
now offers
ANNUAL
retention step
increases!

New
Academy
Salary
\$41,372

Contact Us

573-751-2764

www.mcp.dps.mo.gov



ARE YOU AN *Experienced* POLICE OFFICER?

Are You Ready to Take Your Career to the Next Level?

The Wentzville Police Department is hiring to fill multiple openings. Apply now to join our growing team!

✓ Take-home Car Program

✓ 13 Paid Holidays

✓ L-6 LAGERS Pension Plan

✓ Five Extra Personal Days

✓ All Equipment Provided

✓ On-Site Fitness Center

Plus, Specialized Opportunities:

✓ Join specialized teams such as SWAT, the Drug Task Force, the County Fugitive Team or train to serve as a Federal Task Force Officer.

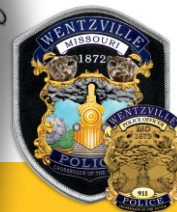


**Starting Hourly Rate:
\$34.38 to \$39.54**

APPLY TO MAKE THE CHANGE TODAY!

Bring your experience to a Police Department that values your skills and offers room to grow. Learn more and apply at www.wentzvillemo.gov/Careers or call Lt. Schoolcraft at (636) 639-2133.

New Public Safety Center Coming 2027!



Serving the community takes teamwork,
versatility, and dedication.



**A UNIFIED,
CROSS-TRAINED
PUBLIC SAFETY TEAM**
in the St. Louis metro area

In our Public Safety Department, team members in the St. Louis metro area are cross-trained to serve as a police officer, firefighter, and EMT, creating a unified response to emergencies and community needs.

This model allows our department to deliver exceptional service while providing employees with a **challenging, rewarding, and diverse** public safety career.

Join us and make a difference!

www.desperesmo.org/jobs

HR Contact for more info:

314-835-6107



WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT



NOW HIRING



Be part of a nationally recognized university police department, that values professionalism, integrity, and community engagement.

Qualifications

- ✓ U.S. Citizen
- ✓ Valid Driver's License
- ✓ High school diploma/GED
- ✓ Active POST - State of Missouri license or eligible for licensure in Missouri
- ✓ Certified Police Officer (1 Year)
- ✓ Must be able to pass a physical agility test

APPLY TODAY!

More Information:

 +314-935-5555



MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL DETERMINATION

IT'S IN OUR DNA.

**MSHP Accelerated Academy.
\$73,824/year
No relocation**

Apply at [MOTROOPER.COM](https://www.motrooper.com)

3 Years Prior Law Enforcement Required

The Missouri State Highway Patrol is an Equal Opportunity Employer



LEARN MORE

In Memory



MPOA member, Retired Major Dale Buschmann, passed away on Tuesday, December 30, 2025. Dale was a long-time member of the Missouri Peace Officers Association for 34 years, joining in 1991.

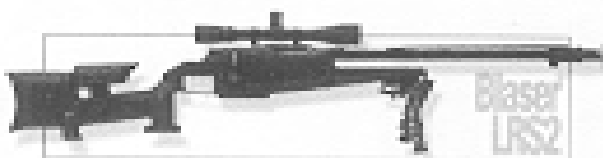
Dale was enlisted in the United States Army Reserve from July 1966 – July 1971.

Dale's professional life was defined by his 30-year career with the Missouri State Highway Patrol, which began on February 1, 1968. He initially served Troop C in Kirkwood for 26 years, rising through the ranks to become Captain and Commanding Officer of Troop C in 1988. In 1994, he was promoted to Major and served as Commander of the Administrative Services Bureau at General Headquarters in Jefferson City until his retirement in 1999. Dale founded the first Special Emergency

Response Team for Troop C and was a graduate of the U.S. Secret Service Dignitary Protection School and the FBI National Academy.

He is survived by his wife, Beverly; his children, Nicole Dawn Buschmann and Erik Christopher (Amanda) Buschmann; two grandchildren, Jacquelyn McKenzie and Charles Alexander; his sister, Karen (Ron) Ferkol; and a large extended family of in-laws, nieces, and nephews.

SIG SAUER LAW ENFORCEMENT SALES



Arms Mart Inc.

SINCE 1990 • BUY • SELL • TRADE

GUNS, MODERN BLACK POWDER AMMO, RELOADING SUPPLIES
SIGARMS • OLYMPIC • KIMBER • BENELLI

Tue - Fri: 10am-8pm
Sat & Mon: 10am-5pm
www.armsmart.com

21200 E. Truman Rd.
Independence, MO 64056
Phone: 816-796-5800

The Eureka Police Department: Small Agency, Big Impact

“Policing is not about the size of your agency, it's about the strength of your people, the trust of your community, and the standards you hold yourself to every single day. If we invest in our people, hold ourselves accountable, and never lose sight of who we serve, everything else will follow.”
— Chief Michael Werges



In today's law enforcement environment, agencies are challenged to do more than ever before to strengthen community trust, integrate evolving technology, support officer wellness, and deliver measurable results, all while operating with limited resources. The Eureka Police Department in Eureka, Missouri, demonstrates that excellence in policing is not defined by size, but by vision, leadership, and commitment.

With just 30 commissioned officers and four civilian staff, the department has built a culture rooted in professionalism, innovation, and service, one that consistently delivers outcomes often associated with much larger agencies.

A Legacy That Shapes the Future

Founded in 1958, the Eureka Police Department operates under a unique and deeply community-focused model. The agency is led by an elected City Marshal who serves as Chief of Police, ensuring direct accountability to the citizens it serves.

In more than six decades, the department has had only four Marshals, reflecting a rare level of stability and continuity in leadership.

Today, that role is held by Chief Michael Werges, whose career embodies the department's commitment to developing leaders from within. His journey began in 1989 as a Law Enforcement Explorer while attending Eureka High School. A lifelong resident, he went on to earn a football scholarship to Missouri State University before

returning home, attending the police academy, and beginning his career with the department in 1997.

Chief Werges was mentored and prepared for leadership by his predecessor, Chief Michael A. Wiegand, who served the community for nearly four decades. That legacy of mentorship continues to shape the department today, ensuring that leadership is not simply assigned, but developed with purpose.

Investing in the Mission

In 2025, the department entered a new era with the opening of a state-of-the-art Government Center, named in honor of Chief Wiegand's service and lasting impact.

The facility represents more than a modernization of space; it is a strategic investment in people, training, and performance. Designed to meet the demands of contemporary policing, it provides officers with the resources necessary to train, collaborate, and operate at a high level.

From advanced training environments and upgraded operational spaces to enhanced security systems, every aspect of the facility supports the department's mission. Central to that vision is a first-class fitness center, reinforcing the belief that officer wellness is foundational to safety, decision-making, and service.

Technology with

Purpose Technology at the Eureka Police Department is not adopted for its own sake it is implemented with purpose,

aligned to outcomes, and fully integrated into daily operations.

Over the past year, the department has streamlined its systems into a fully integrated AXON-based ecosystem. Body-worn cameras, in-car cameras, and TASER 10 devices are all connected through the AXON Fusus platform, enabling real-time information sharing, seamless evidence management, and enhanced situational awareness.

This foundation is strengthened through the deployment of FLOCK License Plate Readers and advanced digital forensic capabilities. Investigators utilize platforms such as Cellebrite and CellHawk to extract and analyze mobile device data, while also leveraging geofence and location-based technologies to establish timelines, identify suspects, and build stronger cases.

In the field, the department's Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) program provides 24-hour aerial support. Equipped with night vision and thermal imaging and supported by trained pilots across patrol squads, UAVs enhance situational awareness, reduce risk during critical incidents, and improve operational outcomes.

Together, these systems form a cohesive and strategic approach that empowers officers, enhances investigative precision, and strengthens public trust.

A Commitment to Excellence

Professionalism requires constant evaluation and growth. The Eureka Police Department has embraced that responsibility

through its transition to accreditation with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

This effort includes the modernization of more than 150 policies and procedures, aligning the department with nationally recognized best practices. More importantly, it reflects a mindset that excellence is not a destination, but a continuous process.

Strength Through Partnership

Recognizing that modern investigations require collaboration, the department has strengthened its partnership with the Jefferson County Crime Lab by assigning a full-time sergeant.

This provides direct access to digital forensics, DNA analysis, toxicology, and drug analysis, enhancing efficiency, improving case coordination, and strengthening investigative outcomes.

Wellness as a Foundation for Performance

At the heart of the department's success is a clear understanding: officers perform at their best when they are supported as people.

Eureka has implemented a comprehensive, integrated wellness approach that includes annual mental health check-ins, peer support, on-duty fitness opportunities, and early intervention systems focused on support rather than discipline.

This is not a collection of programs it is a unified philosophy that recognizes wellness as essential to readiness and resilience.

Leadership That Builds Leaders

Leadership within the Eureka Police Department is intentional.

Chief Werges carries forward the mentorship he received by investing in the next generation of leaders. That commitment is reflected in the department's command staff.

Captain Michael Tapp and Lieutenant Brett Grittini are both graduates of the Missouri Police Chiefs Command College, demonstrating a commitment to professional development and leadership excellence. Captain Tapp is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy, bringing advanced training and a broader perspective to the organization.

Across the department, education is valued, with 67.86% of personnel holding a college degree, fostering a culture of critical thinking and continuous improvement.

Performance That Matters

The department's approach is producing measurable, meaningful results.

In 2025, Eureka officers:

- Responded to 26,318 calls for service
- Investigated 519 motor vehicle crashes
- Made 559 custodial arrests
- Conducted 4,138 traffic stops

Beyond activity, the department consistently delivers exceptional investigative outcomes. The Eureka Police Department routinely achieves clearance rates exceeding 80% in both crimes against persons and property crimes far surpassing national averages, which typically range between 50–60% for crimes against persons and significantly lower for property crimes.

These results are driven by a deliberate strategy that integrates technology, training, and collaboration. Tools such as AXON Fusus, FLOCK License Plate Readers, and advanced digital forensics platforms like Cellebrite and CellHawk provide investigators with the information needed to quickly identify suspects, establish

EUREKA

M I S S O U R I

timelines, and build strong, prosecutable cases.

Strategic enforcement efforts have also contributed to a significant reduction in motor vehicle thefts from 23 in 2022 to just 3 in 2025.

Equally important is how those outcomes are achieved. A strong emphasis on professionalism, training, and de-escalation has resulted in a low percentage of use-of-force incidents.

A Community-Centered Approach

Policing in Eureka is grounded in partnership.

Through initiatives such as the Community Camera Registry Program and the use of PowerDMS PowerEngage, the

department maintains open lines of communication with the community it serves.

This commitment to transparency and engagement is reflected in a 95.45% citizen satisfaction rating, an indicator of trust built through consistent, professional service.

Looking Ahead

The department's future is guided by the same principles that have shaped its success:

- Completing CALEA accreditation
- Expanding training and leadership development
- Strengthening officer wellness initiatives
- Continuing to leverage

technology to improve outcomes

Conclusion

The Eureka Police Department stands as a powerful reminder that excellence in policing is not determined by size, but by purpose.

Through strong leadership, intentional investment, and a commitment to both its people and its community, the department has built a culture of professionalism, accountability, and service.

It is a model worth recognizing, a standard worth pursuing, and a source of pride not only for Eureka but for the law enforcement profession as a whole.



Effective Strategies in the Recruitment, Retention, and Career Development of Crime Scene Investigators

Detective Clay Peeler (Ret.) CSCSA
Crime Scene Unit – St. Louis County Police Department

Crime Scene Investigators (CSIs) are critical to and an integral part of any successful investigation or significant event. Their skills in the documentation, evaluation, interpretation, and event reconstruction lay the foundation for all subsequent review. Those potential reviewing entities may include Crimes Against Property/Persons, Internal Affairs, Crime Labs, M.E./Coroner, DFS, Federal Agencies, Prosecutors, Civil Litigators, and Civilian Oversight. CSIs require

professional development, attributes, growth potential, and retention support practices to remain viable. The below listed are defined core strategies that identify and support the CSI's successful introduction, development and career growth within their agencies.

Professional Development / Training. Initial exposure through Academy Training must be taught by an experienced CSI practitioner who presents with

enthusiasm, shares successes with visual reinforcement, and demonstrates the vital function of CSI. If the recruit expresses interest in CSI, we can leverage that to influence their career trajectory. Once they have some “street time” (minimum two to three years), have experienced working with scene investigators, understand relevant expectations, obligations, responsibilities prior to transfer of investigative authority, and take an active role, supervisors may initiate the



discussion of functional expansion into a CSI position. On a cautionary note (whether commissioned or civilian), the agency must realistically prepare them for scene investigations. Incidents may be horrific, disturbing, difficult, stressful, exhausting, and uncomfortable but they have to complete all their objectives. The agency must teach, demonstrate and support stress identification, self and social awareness, intervention, and healthy downloads.

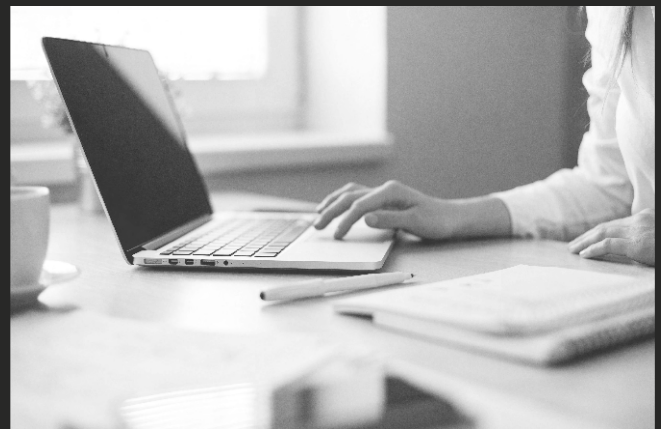
Attributes. Complex, multi-level, rapidly unfolding and high stress scenes require the CSI practitioner to demonstrate drive, adaptability, creative thinking, dedication, ethics, empathy, and confidence with humility. Gratification must come from the knowledge that they gave their best effort, their contribution was valuable to the investigative team, and their professional performance was a significant factor in reaching successful event resolution.

Retention. Board Certification in CSI must be mandated and maintained. As the submission of evidence for forensic examination will be reviewed by discipline-specific certified analysts, it is imperative that the CSIs seizing it, shall also be professionally certified. Professional certification enhances credibility during judicial review and courtroom presentation. Documentation (Digital Imaging) that is completed for other certified disciplines including Canine, Bomb and Arson, Digital Forensics, Forensic Pathologist, etc. must be conducted by certified investigators to maintain standardized methodology.

Support. CSI support by Command Staff is imperative. In order to effectively and properly document and process scenes, investigators require appropriate equipment and supplemental tools to meet their objectives. Requests for additional or upgraded equipment, based on the CSI's training and experience, must meet identifiable, justifiable, and realistic needs.

If the experienced CSI desires a transfer to another specialized unit or seeks promotion, then encourage their request for professional growth. Transfer considerations and/or promotions should be based on standardized performance documentation, to include the areas of work ethic, seeking additional responsibilities, peer mentoring, and knowledge of policies and procedures.

When these strategic recommendations are incorporated at a personal and an agency mission level, the CSI component will be successful. The investigator gains confidence, respect, and a professional reputation for themselves, the agency, and ultimately the community they serve.



So many crosses, so little concern!



So many crosses, so little concern!

How many times have you driven by a roadside memorial like that in the picture? How many times did it not register to you that a family lost loved ones at that very location?

I have a dear friend “Sheriff, John Wetzel (retired) Oklahoma County,” at a speaking event I attended he referred to “The acceptable way to die in America.” He was not speaking about crime or illness; he was talking about car crashes. On average 40,000 Americans are killed each year in traffic fatalities. That is about 102 per day. The National Highway

Traffic Safety Administration and traffic professionals are aware of the death toll; however, few others do.

I have served as a law enforcement officer in Texas for more than 45 years. My early career was spent on patrol. My primary function was traffic safety. I arrested and filed cases on speeding, distracted, unbelted, drunk, and impaired drivers. Many times, those who were apprehended were angry with me because of something they caused. I investigated traffic crashes where death came to a driver because of a poor

decision. The automobile in the hands of a human is the most effective killing machine known to man.

My later career was spent at conferences, assemblies and classrooms trying to educate drivers to make better decisions. As a presenter I was ecstatic if I reached 25% of those in attendance. The glaring reality, most believed my presentations were a waste of their precious time.

Today I travel across the country still trying to educate drivers to make sound driving decisions. I emphasize the importance of

focus in the operation of a vehicle. As I travel around, I take note of all the roadside crosses and memorials. The way I see it, only those affected personally notice.

The problem is identifiable. I have a friend in Kansas that explained the problem very accurately. "Moral Disengagement." Drivers know the rules, they just refuse to follow them. They do not understand their actions behind the wheel influence those with whom they share the road. How many times have you driven in traffic and had a driver speed by or whip around you, for you to stop beside them at the next traffic light? Or you notice a driver not wearing a seatbelt, or children crawling around in the back seat or sitting in the driver's lap? You notice a vehicle weaving in the traffic lane and realize that driver is using their phone? And let us not forget, drivers who feel the

need to stop by the bar and get tanked up before going home?

The solution is simple. Focus on the task of driving. Follow the rules. Wear your seatbelt, do not become distracted with anything inside of the vehicle and do not drive impaired by alcohol or drugs.

The four E's of traffic safety: Engineering, Education, Enforcement, and Emergency Services. These are the foundation of eliminating the senseless death on our nation's roadways.

Engineering: building safe infrastructure. Reduce the opportunities for vehicles to cross paths. Utilizing traffic signals, regulatory signage, and road markings.

Education: provide sound strategies for drivers to follow reducing the danger to themselves or others.

Enforcement: making use of the 4

D's. Data, where the crashes occur. **Disruption:** high visibility enforcement, marked vehicles patrolling the areas identified by the data.

Displacement: with high visibility in the right locations, drivers will either comply or drive elsewhere.

Dedication: stay visible, stay active, but most importantly stay there.

Emergency Services: provide expedited lifesaving medical care.

All of these are in place and have been for decades. So why are we still having the problems?

Invincibility. Crashes happen to other people. American drivers need to take the simple solution and make it a habit every time they get behind the wheel.

Perhaps, one day the roadside memorials will be a thing of the past. So many crosses, so little concern.



Garry Parker

Garry Parker has over forty-five years of law enforcement experience in Texas, retiring from the Department of Public Safety in 2009 and later from the Texas Municipal Police Association in 2020. He is commissioned as a Special Ranger and certified as a speaker, trainer, and coach through several organizations including the Maxwell Leadership Team. Garry is nationally recognized for expertise in traffic safety, crash prevention, law enforcement, emergency vehicle operation, communication, and leadership. He has delivered keynote speeches at conferences nationwide and received awards for program development and presentation from both state and national organizations.

If you are in search of a speaker for your event, please reach out to me.

Contact: www.garryparkerandassociates.com

LETSAC

What is that?



officer **training**
deputy **purpose** **safety**
council **traffic**
enforcement **police**
trooper **letsac**

The Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Advisory Council (LETSAC) is a collaboration of highway safety professionals that provide recommendations, direction, guidance, and information/training to the law enforcement community in the State of Missouri.

LETSAC works to provide essential training for law enforcement across the state, as well as recognize the accomplishments of those in the highway safety field.

The LETSAC Conference is scheduled for July 20, 2026 through July 24, 2026 at the Wyndam Executive Center in Columbia, Missouri. To register for the conference, please visit www.letsac.com.

Tint Master

CUSTOM WINDOW TINTING

Lifetime Warranty • Free Estimates • Fully Insured
Residential • Commercial • Security Film
Autos • Boats • RV's

www.tintmasterkc.com

816-468-TINT (8468)

913-648-TINT (8468)



Locally Owned & Operated
By Rob Baker



Keeping Kansas City cool for over 30 years

MADD™ MISSOURI

END IMPAIRED DRIVING. TOGETHER, WE SAVE LIVES.

MADD Missouri works to save lives, support victims, prevent underage drinking, and support law enforcement across our state.



VICTIM SERVICE PROGRAM

Compassionate support, resources, and hope for victims and survivors.



YOUTH PREVENTION PROGRAM

Evidence-based education that empowers youth and parents to make safe, informed choices.



SUPPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT

Proud partners in advancing traffic safety and reducing impaired driving.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAMS MADD OFFERS:

mo.state@madd.org | 314-426-1595

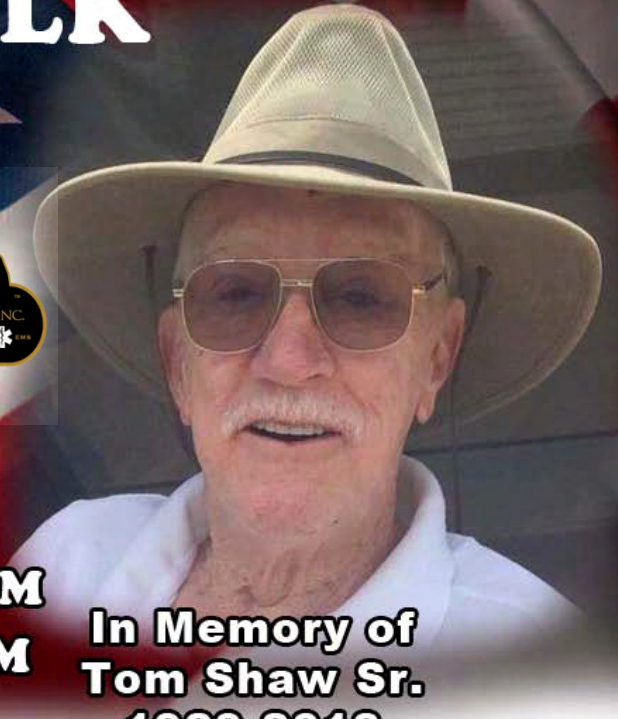
NO MORE VICTIMS.
TOGETHER,
WE SAVE LIVES.



From L to R: Kurtis Barks representing Guns 'N' Hoses, Tom Shaw Jr of the Tom Shaw Foundation, Bob Ronkoski, the Executive Director of Missouri Peace Officers Association, Ralph Turney with the Tom Shaw Foundation.

The Tom Shaw Foundation has selected the Missouri Peace Officers Foundation and the BackStoppers (Guns 'N Hoses) as the recipients for their Freedom Walk for Charities for 2026. The event will be held at the Good News Brewing Company, 2886 S. MO Hwy-94, in Defiance MO on Sunday, October 11, 2026. You may register online at www.tomshawfoundation.org or on the day of the event. Pre-registration is preferred so that the proper size t-shirt is available upon check in. Registration is also available on the date of the event starting at 8:30 am. The dedication ceremony begins at 10:00 am and the walk begins at 10:30 am. Please consider registering for this event or making a donation to the Tom Shaw Foundation. It's as easy as scanning the QR code on the Tom Shaw Foundation Freedom Walk flyer on the next page!

Tom Shaw Foundation FREEDOM WALK for Charities



**Sunday
October 11th**

**Registration starts at 8:30 AM
Ceremony begins at 10:00 AM
Walk begins at 10:30 AM**

**In Memory of
Tom Shaw Sr.
1929-2018**

Good News Brewing Defiance, Missouri

For more information visit TomShawFoundation.org

Scan to donate,
sponsor or
register.



A 501(c)(3)



**ENTERPRISE
BANK & TRUST**

**MID RIVERS
NEWSMAGAZINE**



**ASSET PRESERVATION
INCORPORATED**
A Leading National IRC §1031 Qualified Intermediary

2026 St. Louis

SHOW-ME CLASSIC

POLICE SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

HOSTED
BY:

Missouri
LAWMEN



Saturday & Sunday

August 8th & 9th

O'Fallon Family Sports Park

Missouri Lawmen - MOKAN Guns - Metro Detroit - Dayton
Metro - Sacramento Razorbacks - PAPD Twins - NY
Empire - NY Express - NYPD Finest - San Antonio Law -
Chicago Metro - Great Lakes - LAPD Blue & more.....

Funds are raised through this event for the Missouri Peace Officers Foundation, which manages educational endeavors, line of duty death benefits and scholarships for Missouri Officers and their families. Thank you for your support!

www.MOPOA.org



What: *Annual Business Meetings, Membership Meeting, & Awards Luncheon*

Membership Meeting @ 11:00 a.m.

Luncheon @ 11:45 a.m.

When: *Friday, July 10, 2026*

Where: *Jefferson Bank – Westhues Hall
700-A Southwest Boulevard
(corner of SW Blvd and MO Blvd)
Jefferson City, MO*

Guest Speaker: *TBD*

Awards presented during the luncheon:

Hank Johnson Officer of the Year

Citizen of the Year

Non-Sworn Law Enforcement Civilian of the Year

RSVP by July 1 at the.mpoa@mepoa.org

Board Members will be accounted for separately.

All other MPOA members attending need to RSVP.

LibertyRV

MIDWEST'S LARGEST FOREST RIVER
EXCLUSIVE DEALER

816-415-CAMP(2267)

330 N 291 HWY LIBERTY, MO 64068
OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK MON-FRI 8AM-6PM SAT 8AM-5PM

WWW.LIBERTYRV.COM

**WE ADVERTISE OUR
PRICES HONESTLY**

ADMINISTRATION FEE	\$0
PREP FEE	\$0
DESTINATION FEE	\$0

WOLF PUP

GREY WOLF

CHEROKEE

ALPHA WOLF

ARCTIC WOLF

WOLF PACK

SABRE

SPIRIT

ROCKWOOD

Columbus



**Please be sure to
support our
MPOA Advertisers!**



**PROMOS.
PRONTO**

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

www.promospronto.com

Promo Products | Decorated Apparel | Online Stores



MISSOURI LAGERS

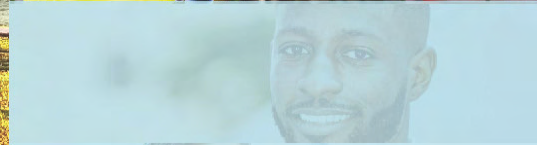
A Secure Retirement for All

**YOUR SECURE FINANCIAL FUTURE
STARTS WITH MISSOURI LAGERS**

Retirement Benefits
Survivor Benefits
Disability Benefits



MOLAGERS.ORG



Funeral Homes

North
Terrace Park



South
Longview



Park Lawn Funeral Homes



Park Lawn Funeral Homes




MUEHLEBACH
FUNERAL CARE



Cemeteries

North
Terrace Park
Glen Ridge

South
Memorial Park
Longview

10% Savings on Prepaid Services for Active Duty, Retirees, and their Spouses.

- **Funeral Services • Caskets • Vaults • Cremations**
- **Cemetery Property • Markers**

**Special Financing Available*

Contact us today for your free planning guide and consultation.

Pre-paid services are fully refundable in the event that a public servant loses their life in the line of duty.

101 West McCarty St.
Suite 200
Jefferson City, MO 65101

**WE SALUTE
THOSE WHO
PLAN AHEAD.**



IF YOU DRINK, DON'T DRIVE.

**DECIDE TO
RIDE**

Anheuser-Busch
MADD | Uber

©2015 Anheuser-Busch, St. Louis, MO