

THE 10-4

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CRANSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT RETIREE ASSOCIATION

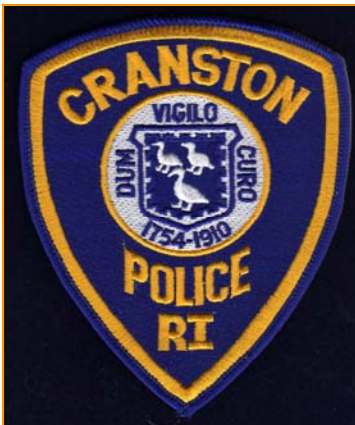


FOUNDER and HONORARY PRESIDENT – RICO MACCARONE

Issue 15, Volume 2

July, 2020

TOGETHER WE SERVED



TOGETHER WE REMEMBER



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A MESSAGE TO OUR RETIREES

Greetings one and all, and hopefully everyone is enjoying a peaceful and safe summer.

Sadly, this spring we lost three of our retired members: Sergeant James Cooke, Detective Robert Nunes, and Detective Christopher D' Ambrosio. (See page 4 for more details.) Due to Covid-19 concerns their wakes and funeral services were private so we were unable to say our good-byes in person, but we should remember to keep them in our prayers.

Their names will be added to the memorial at the police station.

On June 2nd the city of Providence experienced a riot which resulted in vandalism, arson, and injuries to police officers. The following evening the entire Cranston Police Department was activated due to reports of possible further trouble in Garden City and Warwick. Fortunately there were no further problems.

We are living in a time when law enforcement agencies are under attack and threatened with de-

funding. How or when this will end is uncertain. Therefore we must consider very carefully who we vote for in the upcoming November election.

At this time its unknown when or where the next face-to-face meeting of the CPDRA will be, but we will strive to keep everyone informed of any new developments regarding the Cranston Police Department and pension news.

In the meantime, take care, be safe.

RETIREES OF THE MONTH



Maj. George Carello



Ptl. Roland Manchester



Ptl. Ralph DeBlasio



Ptl. Donald Bucci

CPD History Project Still Progressing

In recent weeks twenty-five more vintage photos were professionally enlarged, framed, and hung in the police station. The response among younger officers has been positive. The department is still requesting any old photos or memorabilia that we retirees might like to share. All photos will be scanned and returned. If interested in contributing please contact Inspector Tom Okolowitz or Detective Robert Santagata.

NEW K-9 INSIGNIA BEING WORN

Honorary President:

Rico Maccarone

President:

Peter Sepe

Vice President:

James Perry

Secretary:

Gertrude Fitta

Treasurer:

Mark Sepe

Managing Editor, 10-4

James Ignasher

Board Members:

Philip Caliri

Richard Gallo

Gary Nottarianni

Vincent McAteer Sr.

Floyd Smith

Printing:

Staples, NK, RI

CPDRA Finances to Date:

Savings: \$1,795.75

Checking: \$ 10,809.23

CPDRA DUES INFO:

As a reminder, please send your 2020-2021 dues to:

CPDRA

374 Congdon Hill Road
Saunderstown, RI 02874

Your \$25.00 check or money order should be made out to CPDRA.



CPD K-9 officers are now

The history of utilizing dogs for police work likely dates to the earliest days of law enforcement, and it's possible that Cranston constables of the 18th and 19th centuries did so, but this is only speculation as such documentation is non-existent.

The earliest known use of a dog by CPD officers was in 1920 when Lieutenant Clay Debow used his Irish Setter named "Lady" to track a fugitive through the woods around the state institutions.

Lieutenant Debow was later promoted to Captain and served as the department's second-in-command. At that time the department was organized under a two-platoon, twelve-hour-shift system, with some officers working days, and the rest on nights. Captain Debow was an avid hunter and outdoorsman who commanded the night shift, while Chief Jim Miller was in charge during the day. Captain Debow enjoyed working the night shift so he could pursue his hunting and fishing activities during the day. At one time he could have been chief of police, but turned the promotion down so as to remain on nights.

It wasn't until the summer of 1961 that the department established its first K-9 unit, and officer William Loux and a German Shepherd named "Duke" were the first members.

The newly formed K-9 unit was so successful that the following year Chief Fouchecourt added Officer Warren Edman and his dog Rex.



Officer William Loux and Duke

In

1963 the department bought a Ford station wagon for exclusive use of the K-9 officers, capable of carrying two dogs and two officers at the same time. Later that year the four more officers and dogs



Ptl. Warren Edman

were added to the unit to ensure 24-hour coverage by K-9 officers.

Although the K-9 unit had proven its worth, a management study of the department conducted by a Chicago firm determined that it wasn't needed, and the entire unit was disbanded in 1965.

In the late 1990s there was a renewed interest in re-instituting a K-9 unit, and in 2000, Detective John Lamantia became Cranston's first K-9 officer since 1965.

Today the department's K-9 division presently consists of three officers and three dogs.



Det. John Lamantia

Photos From The "Way Back" Machine



L to R: John Ryan, Jake Moretti, Paul Rousseau, Sam Baligian, Tom Dodd, Jim Ignasher, Craig Pieranunzi, Bill Burroughs, Dick Robinson. Photo taken January 3, 1993, Sam's last day on the job.

Send us your photos and we'll publish them!



L to R: Mike Douglas, Robert Brothers After Hurricane Bob, 1991



L to R: Dave Greene, Joe Pelosi, Ed Campbell, Jack Hilton



L to R: John Schaffran, Ronald Blackmar



L to R: Honor Guard members Ray Quirk, Kevin Grant, Paul Rousseau, Mark Sepe, Vincent Maccarone.



“Attention to Orders” - NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN



In each issue of the 10-4 Newsletter, we take the opportunity to honor those CPD members who are no longer with us, and who continually placed their lives on the line to serve and protect the citizens of Cranston, R.I.



Sgt. James Cooke

Sergeant James S. Cooke, passed away peacefully on April 3, 2020, at the age of 81.

Jim was a veteran of the U. S. Navy, an avid golfer, sports fan, and beach lover. He spent the last 14 years of his life in Lakeland, Florida, enjoying the warm climate and the occasional hole-in-one.

He was married for 40 years to his late wife Margaret with whom he had four children; Jay, Tracey, Lisa, and James.

Rest In Peace our brother.



Det. Robert Nunes

Detective Robert J. Nunes passed away on April 15, 2020 at a nursing home in Providence. He was the beloved husband of Rose (Cortez) Nunes for 62 years.

He was born in Providence, (one of eight children), the son of Joseph and Rita Nunes. Before joining the police department he served with the U. S. military in Korea. He was appointed to the police department on December 3, 1956, and was a graduate of Bryant College. He served with the CPD for thirty years before retiring in 1986.

Hi is survived by his wife, two daughters, four grand children, and thee great-grand-children. Rest in peace our brother.



Detective
Christopher D'Ambrosio

Detective Christopher D'Ambrosio passed away peacefully on May 1, 2020. He was the husband of Myrna (Rodyn) D'Ambrosio for 26 years.

Chris joined the police department in 1966, and retired as a detective in 1988. During his career he was assigned to the Attorney General's Special Task Force on White Collar Crime.

After leaving the department he began an new career as a teacher for the North Kingstown School Department where he taught English, Wold Literature, and Drama & Film. He also taught English and Criminal Justice at CCRI.

Chris was also an author, and wrote several human interest stories that were published in *The Providence Journal*. Rest in peace our brother.

Rest in peace our brother.



Sgt. Anthony Massimino

Sergeant Anthony J. Massimino passed away peacefully on Monday, August 3, 2020 at his home surrounded by his family. He was the beloved husband of Carol (Kishdoian) Massimino for the past 61 years.

Born in Providence, he was the son of the late Italo and Olympia (Carcieri) Massimino. He was also a U.S. Air Force Reserve Veteran.

Tony joined the department in 1967 and proudly served the citizens of Cranston for 29 years retiring at the rank of Sergeant.

Besides his beloved wife, he is survived by his loving son Anthony J. Massimino II and his wife Tina, two sisters and brother-in-law, son-in-law Michael Sepe, and two grandchildren. He was also the loving father of the late Michael Massimino and Nancy Sepe. Rest in peace our brother.