

THE 10-4

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CRANSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT RETIREE ASSOCIATION



FOUNDER and HONORARY PRESIDENT – RICO MACCARONE

Issue 16, Volume 2

April, 2021

TOGETHER WE SERVED



TOGETHER WE REMEMBER



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A MESSAGE TO OUR RETIREES

For those that do not have email and did not receive the Colonel's departmental update, here is a recap of what he wrote.

The following officers have retired or resigned over the past year: Lt. Mark Freeborn, Detective John Ryan, Detective Jean Slaughter, Detective Wayne Cushman, and Officer Julie Furgasso. Detective Paula Duffy announced she is retiring on May 7, 2021. We would also like to welcome Officer Michael Rocchio who graduated from the Municipal Police Academy in December 2020 and has completed the Field Training Program.

The following officers were promoted in 2020: Lt. Matthew Kite to Captain, Sgt. Joshua Dygon to Lt., Sgt. Brian D'Amico to Lt., Officer Alex Travers to Sgt., and Detective Thomas Pariseault to Sgt.

In meeting the demands of innovative recruiting our department was second to none. First, the recruitment team conducted in-person recruitment drives at various locations across the city and greater Providence area. They also filmed recruitment videos (in Spanish and English) and used multiple advertising platforms to include social media, websites, radio ads, billboards, and two orientation sessions were held via Zoom. With all results completed, oral board exams will be forthcoming. Just a great job by the department and the officers who contributed their time and effort to this outstanding recruitment and test process.

For those of us who remember our old cruisers, wait until you hear this. Six of eight new cruisers have been placed in service that will have an updated emergency light and siren system. Also included will be a new design for the center consoles that will house

printers. I guess writing reports are a thing of the past.

The following officers and civilian were recognized in 2020 for going above and beyond the call of duty:

Officer Andrea Comella—Distinguished Service Award.

Detective Robert Tortorella—Distinguished Service Award.

Officer Jason Dagnese—Distinguished Service Award.

Officers Jason Dagnese, Russell Henry III, Brad Duclos, Jeremy Machado, Jon Quaranto, and Austin Smith—Chief's Letter of Recognition.

Dispatcher Ryan Palmer—First Class Citation.

Over the past year, our brave men and women of the CPD have continually faced many unique challenges. And through it all they have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

Keep up the good work

MY PERSONAL THANKS TO EVERYONE

To all of you that either left a voice mail on my phone, sent me an email

or text message, please accept my personal thanks for your concerns and kind

words. Things are slowly but surely getting better. Thanks you again.

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: \$10,442.22
Total: \$12,237.97

DUES INFO

We are currently collecting dues for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. You can send your \$25.00 check or money order to:

CPDRA
374 Congdon Hill Rd.
Saunderstown, RI 02874



ORIGINS OF THE CPD TRAFFIC DIVISION



Cranston Police Traffic Officers — Circa 1960

It's interesting to note that even before the advent of the automobile in the early 20th century, complaints of reckless and speeding vehicles were received by the CPD. For example, in the late 1800s unofficial and unauthorized horse races took place on Reservoir Ave. between Park Ave. and the Providence city line.

In 1895 Chief John Bigbee detailed a bicycle officer on Narragansett Blvd. to apprehend "speeding bicycles".

According to a *Cranston Times* news article, in 1900 Chief Bigbee designed the city's first traffic control and speed limit signs. The signs were in the shape of a diamond.

By the mid-1920s automobiles were a common sight on Cranston's roads, and many drivers saw no need to pay attention to speed laws. Thus the department's first traffic division was created. On June 26, 1926, the headline of the now defunct *Cranston News* read, "Police Wage War On Auto Law Breakers".

The traffic division initially consisted of four men, each of whom rode a motorcycle and wore boots and breeches, as well as the traditional flying-winged-wheel insignia on their uniform. Motor cycle helmets didn't come into use until much later, so officers wore their regular duty caps.

By 1929 the traffic division had been expanded to six men.

By 1957 the traffic division had grown to eleven men, which included two sergeants and a lieutenant.

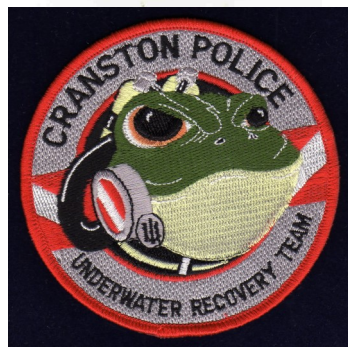
In 1959 Cranston became the second police department in the state to utilize radar to enforce speed laws. This was considered "cutting edge" technology for the day.

Being assigned to the traffic division was considered a preferred assignment because one didn't have to walk a foot post, and could travel the city at will.

The traffic division was largely disbanded in the late 1960s due to an outside management study done on the department that concluded that such manpower could be better utilized elsewhere. By the 1970s the department only had two traffic specialists. It wasn't until 2001 that a sergeant was added to the division and members of the unit were trained in "accident reconstruction", which is an additional 280 hours of training in crash investigation.



New Patches



Current patch worn by the CPD Dive team. Designed by John Grasso

The CPD has issued three new uniform patches all of which are pictured at left.

In December of 2020 officers wore a Christmas themed insignia depicting a lighted Christmas tree and wreath. It also carried the date 2020, which opens the possibility that a different version could be issued this year.

For March of 2021 officers had the choice of wearing a patch honoring St. Joseph's Day, or St. Patrick's Day.

The patches have been well received by the officers and the public, and ideas are in the works for future issues such as one commemorating Police Memorial Day in May.

Many officers have dedicated at least one uniform shirt with Velcro on it to make for easy transference of the patches as they are issued.

The patches were issued in conjunction with matching challenge coins,



Off. Fred Simmons

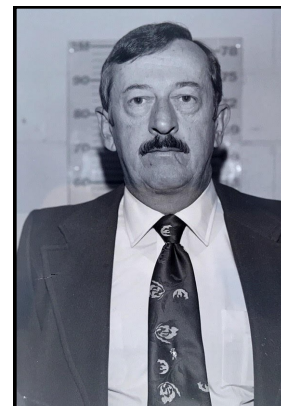
Photos From The "Way Back" Machine



Det. Sgt. Louis Corvese as a young traffic officer.



Sgt. Ron Guilmette



Det. Ray Flynn



Members of the CPD Dive Team—1991

L to R: Mike Gunson, Sean Baxter, Glen Gilkenson, Ron Martin, Mike Cuddemi, and Mike Dailey.

The Dive Team was established in December of 1986 by Officer Fred Simmons in response to two drownings which happened in Cranston that year.

Send us your photos and we'll publish them!



“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.



PATROLMAN
SEVERINO R. VALLETTA



CAPTAIN
PATRICK J. McCARRON



PATROLMAN
FRANCIS J. McELROY



PATROLMAN
JOSEPH H. MIELE



PATROLMAN
HAROLD E. GREENHALGH



PATROLMAN
HARRY BAXENDALE

At present, we have been updating the Memorial Page of the C.P.D.R.A. website, attempting to include officers who were overlooked, or do not have a photograph to go along with their name and obituary information. We are currently looking for a photograph of retired patrolman Raymond Wilbur who passed away in 2007. Can anyone help?
