

# THE 10-4

## A NEWSLETTER OF THE CRANSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT RETIREE ASSOCIATION



FOUNDER and HONORARY PRESIDENT – RICO MACCARONE



December, 2021

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TOGETHER WE SERVED



TOGETHER WE REMEMBER



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As we approach the last few months of 2021, I want to take a moment to share some thoughts on the status of our association and some other information you may find interesting.

Presently, the CPDRA is in a sound financial situation with \$10,384.19 in our checking account and \$1,795.75 in our savings account for a total of \$12,179.94. Over the past two years we have continued to increase our membership and maintained our police memorial which honors our departed comrades. While I hate to admit it, we are all getting old and as much as we've enjoyed our camaraderie and accomplishments, we must focus on the future. I truly hope that all CPD retirees, past and future, will help us maintain this association that was started by the late Detective Rico Maccarone to benefit all of us.

Although we have not had a meeting in a long while, I am hoping to schedule one during the third week in April. Depending on the availability and the permission of Colonel Winquist, I'd like

to have it in the community room of CPD headquarters. One of the main topics of discussion will be the membership's approval to some updates of our current by-laws and the future of the CPDRA.

With the exception of Major Robert Ryan's personal info, all names of those retirees who passed in 2021 have been engraved on our police memorial. However, I am currently working with people from Solito Monuments to have Major Ryan's info completed ASAP.

Recently we had a X-Cops breakfast at the Cranston Diner which was sponsored by the CPDRA. I must say that it was a fantastic turnout and great to see so many retirees there. Presently we're planning for another X-Cops breakfast on December 21, 2021 at the Cranston Diner at 08:30am to celebrate Christmas and bring in the new year (2022 has to be better than 2021). For those attending, please contact me via cell phone or via email to let me know you'll be there **no later than December 16, 2021**. If there is enough of us, I will call and try to reserve

the back room for us. We'd also like to begin having our monthly X-Cops breakfast to start in January which is held on Tuesday of the third week of each month. It is a great time; to include some fantastic stories on how some of us saved the city from some dangerous criminals.

As always, keep in mind the brave men and women in blue who put their lives on the line every day to keep Cranston safe for everyone. In turn, we'd also like to thank all CPD employees for their hard work and dedication to our great department.



No, this is not Santa but CPDRA officer Ralph DeBlasio wishing you a happy holiday.

From my family to yours, have a great holiday season and a better 2022.

**Honorary President:**  
*Rico Maccarone*

**President:**  
*Peter Sepe*

**Vice President:**  
*James Perry*

**Secretary:**  
*Gertrude Fitta*

**Treasurer:**  
*Mark Sepe*

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*Floyd Smith*

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*Staples, NK, RI*

**CPDRA Dues Reminder:**

*If you have not sent your 2021—2022 CPDRA dues, please send a \$25.00 check or money order made out to CPDRA to:*

*374 Congdon Hill Road  
Saunderstown, RI 02874*



**HOW CRANSTON'S TRAINING ACADEMY EVOLVED**



(Left) In 1963, a former flower shop became the first training classroom for the CPD.

(Below) How many recall that the CPD once had two Thompson .45 Cal. machineguns in its firearms inventory?

Chief James Miller established the first in-service training school for Cranston police officers in 1936, a move that was considered extremely innovative for the time. Up until this point, Cranston trained its new officers the way most Rhode Island departments did, by pairing a rookie with a senior officer for a few days or weeks. After that, no further training had been required.

I once had the opportunity to talk with Terrance McKaig, who came on the department in February of 1936. He related how his firearms training consisted of going with a sergeant to a wooded area off Phenix Ave. and shooting a .22 pistol at a target taped to a tree. Times were certainly different. (Off. McKaig served for ten years before accepting a position with the FBI.)

In 1956, Chief Louis Fouchecourt established the first recruit training academy, which most of us recall having to pass as part of our job application process.

In 1963, Chief Fouchecourt obtained the site where the present-day Cranston Police Training Academy is located.

The site, which was once a quarry, was initially used as a shooting range. Not long afterward, a one-room building to be used as a classroom was added.

The first classroom was actually a former flower shop which stood on



Capt. J. Howard Gibbs & Mayor James Di-Prete—Circa 1966

Wellington Ave. that was slated for demolition. The chief arranged for it to be moved by the city to the range, where it still sits today.

A few months later a cinder block building was constructed next to the classroom building.

By the 1980s the department was in need of larger training facilities, and a modern classroom building was constructed on the site in 1989.

In the ensuing years Cranston's training academy has grown to include more classroom buildings, a secondary shooting range, a repelling tower, and obstacle course.



New Patches



The CPD has recently issued new specialty patches. The re-designed Breast Cancer Awareness, Down Syndrome Society of Rhode Island, and the 911 Memorial patch were issued in September and October. The 2021 Christmas patch is being worn this month.

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, and are available to retirees. All proceeds go to charity.

The Christmas patches are \$20 each, and proceeds will go to buy presents for disadvantaged children in Cranston.



Photos From The "Way Back" Machine



Bill Macomb



Steve Lytle



Allen Hall



Joe Fillion



Sgt. Ron DesJarlais—1969

The cruiser is a 1967 Plymouth. Photo taken at a car accident on Reservoir Ave.



Unknown officer in front of the Auburn Apartments on Reservoir Avenue. The cruiser is a 1963 Ford. Note the single "cherry" light on the roof and black and white paint scheme.

Send us your photos and we'll publish them!





## ***“Attention to Orders” - NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN***

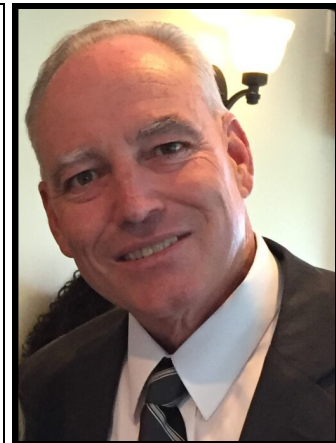


In each issue of the 10-4 Newsletter, we take the opportunity to honor those CPD members who are no longer with us, and who continually placed their lives on the line to serve and protect the citizens of Cranston, R.I.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Retired CPD Major Robert W. Ryan who passed away on October 7, 2021, at the age of 59 after a long illness. Bob joined the CPD on July 8, 1988, and during his twenty-six years of service he rose through the ranks eventually retiring as the department's second-in-command in May of 2014.

Bob was an avid sports player, and played for the department's baseball team.

Rest in peace our brother.



**Cranston Police Baseball Team—1991**

Front Row, L to R: A. Davis, V. Maccarone, M. Castelli, B. Ryan, T. Palmer  
Second row, L to R: E. Evans, M. Cuddemi, M. Douglas, C. Jones, P. Podedworney  
Back Row, L to R: R. Brown Sr., M. Chalek, J. Scichilone, R. Maccarone, R. Brown Jr.