

THE 10-4

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CRANSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT RETIREE ASSOCIATION



FOUNDER and HONORARY PRESIDENT – RICO MACCARONE

July, 2022

NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN

TOGETHER WE SERVED



TOGETHER WE REMEMBER



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By Jim Ignasher

There's a line from the song "Freebird" by Lynyrd Skynyrd that goes, "If I leave here tomorrow, would you still remember me?" I suppose we've all wondered at one time or another if and how we will be remembered.

Every May during Police Memorial Week, the CPD honors those officers who are no longer with us by holding an impressive ceremony at the police station. For those who've never attended, the names of all departed officers are read aloud; a list that grows longer with each passing year. The department's honor guard, the chief of police, department brass, local dignitaries, and numerous civilians are in attendance.

You might be surprised to learn that not all police departments do this, which makes Cranston's ceremony all the more meaningful to the friends, family, and former colleagues of those who've passed on. They're grateful that officers presently serving on the department; officers who in all likeli-

hood never met any of us older retirees, care enough to take the time to pause and remember.

Have you ever considered just how many lives you touched during your career as a police officer? I believe the people that we helped surely remember us, even if they don't recall our name.

Since January of this year we've lost six of our brother officers: Sgt. Ronald Guilmette, Capt. Robert Brown, Det. Ray Flynn, Capt. John Smith, Det. Philip Caliri, and most recently, Off. Roland Manchester.

Another thing unique to the CPD is our memorial to deceased officers which once stood in front of the Atwood Ave. police station, and today is in front of the current station on Garfield Ave. As a point of fact, very few police departments anywhere in the country have such a monument.

At the time the memorial was moved to its present location, two additional "panels" were added to create more space, but unfortunately, we are starting to run out of room on the present memorial, and at some point

will need to consider our options. (Suggestions welcomed.)

All of us will one day have our name engraved on that memorial.

In addition to the memorial at the police station, there is the memorial page on the CPDRA website, where one can view obituaries and photographs of our departed members. As of this writing it contains 185 names.

Let's face it, we've all accumulated some miles on our odometers, and we're reminded we're not in our 20s any more every morning when we wake up. Therefore, let me leave you with some final thoughts: "Life's short—eat cookies", "Drive it like you stole it", and be grateful to God that we got to have a successful career as Cranston police officers—the finest police department in the country! And know that when we're gone, we won't be forgotten.

Take care and be safe.

PATROLMAN HENRY R. JOHNSON

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Staples, NK, RI

CPDRA Finances to Date:

Savings: \$1,795.75
Checking: \$9,411.74

Major CPDRA Expenditures to Date:

** Purchase of CPDRA Golf Shirts: \$1,824.00*

** Mailing out CPDRA Golf Shirts: \$125.45*

** Police Memorial Engraving: \$511.00*

As a reminder, please send in your 2022-2023 CPDRA dues by July 31, 2022.



You can send it to CPDRA, 374 Congdon Hill Rd., Saunderstown, RI 02874

On the night of August 12, 1930, Motorcycle Officer Henry Ralph Johnson was talking with two friends, Harvey Dwight and Barry Leonard, who were sitting in a car on Arnold Avenue at Narragansett Boulevard. While speaking with them, he noticed a man come out from between two houses.

In the 1920s, Edgewood was a neighborhood of wealthy Providence executives thus making it a prime target for burglars. None of the men had seen the stranger before so Johnson decided to question him. The man said he was from Providence, and was in the area "calling on his girl", but was unable to remember her name or where she lived. When Johnson attempted to take the man into custody, he suddenly pulled a gun and shot the officer point-blank in the abdomen.

Although seriously wounded, Johnson managed to draw his service revolver and return fire, but missed his assailant. The shooter, later identified as Daniel J. Dennis, ran down Narragansett Boulevard towards Pawtuxet and disappeared.

As the officer collapsed in the street, Harvey Dwight ran to find a house with a telephone, while Barry Leonard dragged the patrolman to his car and raced to St. Joseph's Hospital in Providence.

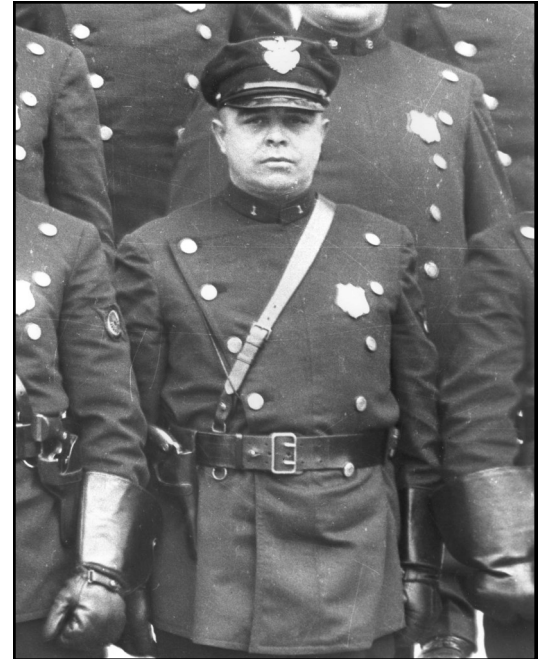
Within minutes, officers from Cranston and Providence were converging on the area while the state police set up roadblocks on the main roads. Three hours later Captain Henry (Clay) Debow, and Patrolman Michael Buzzard, spotted Dennis hiding near Pawtuxet Cove. As Dennis began to run from officers, Patrolman McElroy fired a shot but missed. Dennis then jumped over a wall injuring his leg and was captured. (One account states that Dennis was found "hiding" up to his neck in the water of Pawtuxet Cove.)

The gun used to shoot Johnson was never recovered, and is presumed to be at the bottom of the cove to this day.

Surgeons operated on Patrolman Johnson, but hypostatic pneumonia set in and he died on August 14, 1930.

Officer Johnson was known as "Mike" to his friends and family. He was born October 17, 1898, and was 32-years-old at the time of his death. He left behind a wife Grace, and a son Owen. He's buried in Pocasset Cemetery on Dyer Avenue.

Daniel Dennis was convicted of Johnson's murder on December 6, 1930, and was given a life sentence at the Adult Correctional Institutions where he died in August of 1952.



Patrolman Henry R. Johnson
Photo taken in 1929.

Ironically, Officer Johnson had been shot once before in 1928 when he interrupted a burglary on Strathmore Road.

While checking the home of a couple who were away on vacation he discovered three men ransacking the house. In 1928, policemen didn't have portable radios, so he hurried across the street and told neighbors to call the police station and send help. As he ran back towards the house, the three men rushed out and one began shooting. A bullet struck Johnson in the chin and was deflected down his neck and out through his shoulder. Johnson managed to fire off four shots at the fleeing burglars who escaped in a car parked on the next street.

Officer Johnson's life hung in the balance for a few days before he recovered, and later returned to work to continue patrolling the Edgewood area.

The three men were never caught.

Officer Johnson's name is on the memorial at CPD headquarters, as well as the National Police Memorial in Washington, D. C.

Rest in peace our brother.

New CPD Patches

Photos From The "Way Back" Machine

The CPD continues to release new custom "awareness" patches to be worn on officer uniforms. The latest awareness issues include: mental health, Downs Syndrome, special needs, community outreach, Special Olympics, diversity, gay pride, and support for Ukraine. Most patches have a matching challenge coin. All are for sale to the general public on a new merchandise website established by the department: <https://cpdcares.company.site>

One can even order patches and coin sets in custom frames for wall displays.



James Abbott



Vincent DiBiase



Sam Baligian



Sean Baxter

"Attention To Orders" —NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN



Retired **Sergeant Ronald M. Guilmette** passed away on January 29, 2022 in Sarasota, Florida. He was a Marine Corps veteran having served two tours in Vietnam prior to joining the CPD on July 1, 1969. During his police career Ron served in several specialized units within the department and earned several departmental commendations for outstanding police work.

Ron retired after 24 years of serving the citizens of Cranston.

Rest in peace our brother.



Retired **Officer Roland R. Manchester** passed away on June 15, 2022, at the age of 77. He was a U. S. Army veteran and dedicated member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. As a police officer he served in the patrol division and later as an accident investigator with the traffic unit. After retiring from the CPD Roland became an investigator with the Rhode Island Public Defender's Office. He is survived by his Constance of 36 years, as well as numerous children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Rest in peace our brother.

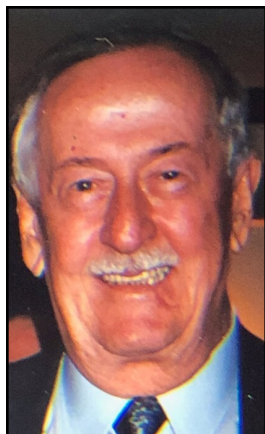


“Attention to Orders” - NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN



Retired **Detective Captain Robert H. Brown, Jr.**, passed away on January 11, 2022 at the age of 56. He was a loving father to his son Eric, and husband of Katherine (Morin) Brown, and son of retired Cranston Police Major Robert Brown, Sr. Bob Served the citizens of Cranston for 21 years, working his way up through the ranks and serving in various positions within the department before retiring in 2007 and taking a position as an investigator with the Rhode Island Department of Corrections.

Rest in peace our brother.



Retired **Detective Raymond C. Flynn, Jr.**, passed away on January 18, 2022 at the age of 86. Ray joined the department on March 28, 1961, and retired on July 2, 1985. he was educated in local schools and served with the United States Army. He is survived by his wife Judith, a sister, and several nieces and nephews.

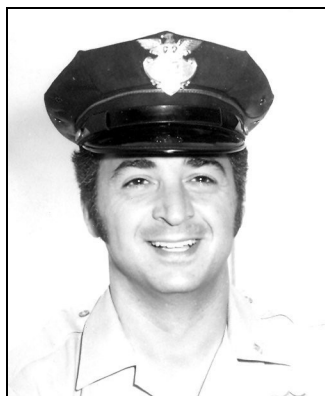
Rest in peace our brother.



Retired **Detective Captain John F. Smith, Jr.**, passed away on May 21, 2022, at the age of 83. John served the citizens of Cranston for 33 years during which time he served in the patrol division, the detective division and juvenile division. He was also a member of the department’s honor guard, and a marine Corps veteran.

In 1970 he was awarded the medal of valor for his part in a shootout with two armed gunmen who were in the act of robbing a pharmacy in Edgewood .

Rest in peace our brother.



Retired **Detective Philip F. Caliri** passed away on May 31, 2022, at the age of 85. Perhaps Phil is best remembered for his years of hard work in the juvenile division where he investigated many difficult cases. There were no templates or text books on how to deal with certain types of crimes in those days, but Phil’s calm and pleasant demeanor help to put complainants at ease. He also established the Youth Liaison Program in the city, traveling to speak to school kids as “Officer Friendly” .

Rest in peace our brother.

For those unaware, a memorial page has been created on the CPDRA website. So far there are 183 names listed. If anyone knows of any officers that should be added please contact us. Also, we are still looking for a photo of Officer Ray Wilbur.